

22 Trails to Two Moons

there on a black horse. He sees me and he turns right away over the top of that leetle hill. But I know him. Before, in this town, I have seen him. His name is —— ” he bent toward Agnew’s ear and whispered a name. The sheriff’s eyes narrowed and a fold of skin ridged the cleft above his nose.

“ Then I find Jed Monk there in the road ’bout half mile from his house. Two bullets; one through his head, one by the third button of his shirt. And on his head —— ”

“ Same mark as the others? ” Sheriff Agnew put in quickly.

“ On his head, where it lies a leetle by the side, is a stone ’bout as big as this,” Old Man Ring marked off his thumb with fingers clamped below the first joint, “ ’bout as big as this, that stone lying there on his head.”

“ The stone on the head — yes, the stone on the head,” muttered Agnew. And you saw him — you got a good look at him, so ’s you could go before a grand jury and swear to the name of the Killer? ”

“ By dam, I saw him gude! ” The withered sheepman was roused to his first enthusiasm by the prospect of playing center stage; of appearing before that mysterious body called