

Nothing Venture

by Patricia Wentworth

Chapter 21
DANGEROUS TEA PARTY
At lunch Jervis made the sort of polite conversation he would have to a guest, and immediately after lunch he went out. The day had turned to heat; the last of the haze was gone, and fierce sun beat down upon the dining ground; far away on the horizon heavy piled up clouds suggested thunder.

Nan took a book to a seat on the shady side of the lawn, but she did not read. The book lay on her lap, while her thoughts moved restlessly about the broken bridge. She had a shock, and it had left her shaken. Jervis had been as near death as he could ever be until death took him. She did not think of how near she had been herself. She thought of Jervis taking that long step forward on to the bridge, of the bridge cracking, of the violence of its fall, and of the roar of falling water.

She opened her book at random and began to read. The words passed over her mind like water passing over a stone; they left no mark. She shut the book, and saw Jervis crossing the lawn toward her with Bran at his heels.

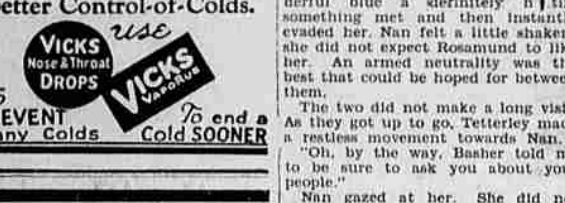
"Well—" he said, "I've had the men down at the bridge."
Nan turned to face him. Bran came over to her and put his head in her lap.

The wood was rotten. The spray from the fall had rotted it. As a matter of fact Benham—that's the carpenter—reminded me that I had spoken to him about having it overhauled, but of course I didn't think there was any particular urgency."
Nan looked down at Bran and stroked his head. She did not speak. She had a picture in her mind of a lightning flash, and of Robert Leonard against a black background of trees.

"Benham made a thorough examination of the broken timbers. I think you suggested that they had been tampered with by Leonard."
"Yes—I did."
"Then I think you ought to withdraw that suggestion. If the timbers had been partly sawn through the marks of the saw would show. There aren't any marks."
Nan did not speak. She gave him a steady look, and then went back to stroking Bran.

A little dark color showed in Jervis' face.
"You made what amounted to an accusation."

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word, and she did not see him till dinner.
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(To Be Continued)

LOSTINE PERSONALS

By Mrs. Wm. Wiggins (Observer-Contributor)

LOSTINE (Special)—A number of neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley Monday evening to help him celebrate his 61st birthday anniversary. Pinnacle was the pivot of the evening. George Tilton presented Mr. Poley with a burlesque present which the crowd enjoyed. There were 19 presents. At a late hour a political luncheon was served. Present were Mr. and Mrs. George Tilton, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Haun, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. James Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Caudle, Mrs. William Wiggins, Mrs. William Magee, Mrs. Irvin Whitmore and Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Poley.

O. J. Poley accompanied George Wart to Portland Wednesday. He will visit his brother, Anson Poley, as well as attend to business.

Arley Thompson entertained the High school pupils Saturday evening at the home of his sister, Mrs. Loyd Chapman. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman served refreshments at a late hour. The Ladies Aid met Tuesday at Mrs. Dwight Purington's, the afternoon being spent working for the sale on election day.

Fred Edwards and Lefe Hammack made a business trip to La Grande Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Forester became violently ill Tuesday night. They think they were poisoned by some candy.

A party of women spent a delightful evening Wednesday at the home of Mrs. O. J. Poley. Bridge was the diversion of the evening. Those present were Misses: Poley, Leonard, Leonard, Irvin Whitmore, Bert Caudle, Mark Crow, Charles Whitehead, William Wiggins, Sanford Chapman, Norman Winnings, and daughter, Miss Leola Holmes and the hostess. At the close of the evening refreshments were served.

George Wart got a late start on his trip to Portland Wednesday. As he was ready to start something went wrong with his truck and he and Dean Crow went to La Grande for repairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hook have returned from a trip which took them to Washington, D. C., and then through the southern states returning via California. They were gone approximately six weeks and report a wonderful time.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Hudson, of Milton, have been visiting the past week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bieder.

Oliver Woods drove out to Imbler Saturday after a load of apples.

A special school meeting was held at the school Saturday evening on the budget. This is the second meeting held for this purpose this year.

Ernest and Clifford Winnings returned last week from a hunting trip on which they succeeded in getting a fine buck.

Ernest Shipley and brother Harry, drove over from Iona last Thursday and spent the week at the Earl Allen home. Mrs. Shipley, who had spent the past two weeks here, returned home with them.

Delbert Wart has been nursing a badly infected hand.

The freshmen class acted as hosts at a rotary party Friday evening, with the student body as guests. Sandwiches and cocoa were served.

Van Bowtell, of Elgin, and his uncle from Nevada were calling on Earl Allen Thursday. They are looking for a location and visited a number of farms in this locality.

Mrs. Jay Lewis entertained the bridge club Wednesday, with Mrs. J. A. Eustison and Mrs. Sam Pace of Enterprise, and Mrs. George Woods as guests. Mrs. Irvin Whitmore will entertain on Wednesday.

Miss Clea Carter had as her guests, over the weekend, her cousin, Evelyn Murray, of Enterprise.

Mrs. Sam Magee has been called to Trout creek by the serious illness of her father, James Bloodsworth.

Bible study under the direction of Rev. Mr. Williams is held each Monday evening at the S. L. Magill home with an invitation extended to all.

George Williams continues to be very ill at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Singletary and infant daughter have been visiting at the James Bloodsworth home on Trout creek.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Strader, of Wallowa, were Sunday guests at the Earl Allen home.

The Neighborhood club met Thursday afternoon in the church basement and spent the time working on quilts.

Mrs. C. E. Thomas served refreshments at the close of the evening.

The Community club met Friday with Mrs. Sanford Chapman. The club voted to take up a study course of some of the noted authors. A review of Pearl Buck's book was given by the hostess and was very interesting.

Mrs. Joe Caudle had charge of the entertainment and some clever numbers were given. Refreshments were served.

Mrs. Charles Whitehead and daughter Margaret, accompanied by Mrs. Irvin Whitmore and Mrs. Wm. Wiggins drove out to La Grande Saturday.

Mrs. M. Crow and Mrs. Orval McCord went to Joseph Friday afternoon where they sang at the funeral of Mrs. Lloyd. Mrs. S. L. Magill furnished the piano accompaniment.

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