

A MYSTERY

By F. A. MITCHEL

Billings was a commercial traveler. Troubled with insomnia, he would often get out of bed in the middle of the night and walk the streets. One night he was walking thus in a quiet old town in New England. There were houses in the place fully 200 years old. Billings was an educated man and appreciated the antiquity about him. He fancied one house to be the old tavern and that the bar was still there concealed by a curtain. Another house must have been that of a nabob, for the front door was elaborately made.

Billings wandered about in the moonlight wondering about the different places and occurrences that might have taken place in them. Apart from the rest was a house which both from its construction and tumbledown appearance must have been older than any he had yet passed. Whether it was occupied or not he could not tell, for like all the rest of the houses it was dark. Billings stopped before the front door to admire it, its side lights, its arched lights above and the antique head-work on it, wishing that he could re-work it and use it on his own house in his home city.

Suddenly the door opened. There was no sound from the old hinges and it seemed that the door moved of itself. But in another moment a face appeared in the opening, the face evidently of a young girl, though since she was in shadow Billings could not see her distinctly. She beckoned to him, but did not speak. He drew near her and she whispered:

"A tragedy has occurred here. A man has been stabbed. I and my sister are alone. I wish you would come in and help us."

Billings had no inclination for what was asked of him, but the girl's voice was so soft, a nearer view showed her so comely, that he entered the vestibule. There was no light, and when the door was closed behind them it was pitchy dark. The girl took Billings' hand to guide him, and a cold chill followed her touch, which was icy cold.

"Will you strike a light?" he asked.

"Oh, no. I would not attract the attention of the watch for the world."

Billings would have retreated, but was ashamed to do so. Besides, the cold grip on his hand would not be easily shaken off. He suffered himself to be led through a spacious hall and up a winding staircase. On reaching an upper hall the girl opened a door and led the way into a bedroom.

The windows were open, and the moon, which was an hour high, cast a flood of light into the room, illuminating with its pale light a four post bedstead with canopy overhead and valance beneath. Beside it knelt a woman, and on it lay a man, who appeared to be dead. The light of the moon gave a ghastly hue to his features, and he was stiff and stark.

It seemed to Billings that the costumes of both the women corresponded with the antique furniture. Both wore white caps on their heads and kerchiefs around their shoulders and across their bosoms. Billings stood looking on the scene in wonder and horror.

"We must remove the body before day," said the girl.

"Why so?" asked Billings, secretly knowing what he said.

"He was killed. He who killed him was a near relative. He has fled, but should the tragedy be discovered he would be pursued, and if captured he should have to endure another death. Feeling that we must have a man to help us and seeing you from the window about to pass the house, I stepped down and called you. You will not betray us, will you?"

"Certainly not. But—"

"Oh, don't say that you will not help us. We are two women with no man to rely on. You and I can carry the body to a secret closet. We can put it in there for the present, and it can be removed later."

Billings' brain was in a whirl. The girl went to the bed, drew away the woman kneeling beside it and, taking the lower part of the body, motioned to Billings to take the heavier part. Then the two carried it to an adjoining wainscoted room. The girl touched a spring in the wall. A panel rolled aside, revealing an empty space. They threw the body in, closed the panel and left.

The next thing Billings remembered was standing without the door of the house, hanging on to an iron railing. He seemed to have awakened from a dream. He staggered into the street and looked up at the house. It was dark and silent. Then he ran as if to leave his frightful experience behind him. On reaching his hotel he went to his room and threw himself on the bed. In the morning he awakened, feeling as if all his strength had oozed out during the night.

During that day he made inquiries about the house he had visited and was told that it was called the Berwick house, from the family that had lived in it a century or more before. It had been empty for years.

Billings related his experience to several persons and persuaded them to go to the house with him and force an opening to the closet where he had helped deposit the body. They did so and found the skeleton of a man.

What the tragedy had been no one knew, nor had any one ever heard. Evidently it had been concealed. There was, however, a tradition of one of the Berwick family who had mysteriously disappeared.

Innocence is better than repentance, an unspilled life better than pardon.—Blaney.

A Slight Absentmindedness.
"How are you getting on as the presiding officer of your new club?"
"Pretty well," replied the emphatic woman.

"No trouble with parliamentary points?"
"Not much. The only difficulty I have is to remember that you must hold on to the gavel and hammer with it instead of throwing it."—Washington Star.

Movie Instead of Movv.

It is a significant development of English spelling in the circles of the uneducated that the word used to represent in short form moving picture has taken the form movv. The plural moving pictures was reduced to the childish form movvies in deference perhaps to the growing intelligence of the patrons of those works of art. And then when occasion arose to use the singular it was not spelt as the spelling book rules would make it, movv, but movvie. And we read of the movvie show. The ending "ie" has always been popular in pet names, as in Abbie, Annie, Carrie, Fannie, Jennie, Josie, Katie, Lottie, Mattie, Billie, Johnnie, Willie, etc. The spelling with "y" is later and in some names less common. Carrie is seldom Carry, and Annie is never Any. The ending "ie" was formerly pronounced in these names as it is in field, but shorter and with a secondary stress—"Jen-nie," "Wil-lie," etc., so "little Billiee." It is the popular spelling in bonnie, collie, liddle, lassie, birdie, doggie, mouse and other words of Scottish and nursery associations.—Simplified Spelling Bulletin

Notice of Final Settlement.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

In the matter of the estate of John D. Whitehead, Deceased.

Public notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, the final account of his administration of the estate of John D. Whitehead, deceased, and that the Court has fixed Monday the 21st day of May, 1915, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the court room of said court at the county court house in Jacksonville, Jackson County, State of Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said account and for the settlement of said estate.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified and required to make or file their objections to said account on or before the time aforesaid, fixed for the hearing and settlement thereof. The date of the first publication of this notice is April 24, 1915.

M. L. BALDWIN,
Administrator of the estate of
John D. Whitehead, Deceased.

Administratrix' Notice.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON.

In the matter of the estate of Francis M. Grainger, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, her final account of her administration of said estate and that Monday, the 3rd day of May, 1915, at the hour of ten o'clock A. M., thereof, at the County Judge's office in the county court house, in Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, has been appointed by the court as the time and place for hearing objections to said report and the settlement of said estate thereon.

MAYNIE GRAINGER,
Administratrix.

Dated and first published April 3, 1915.

Notice to Creditors.

Notice is hereby given, that E. J. Smith the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of W. M. Smith, deceased, by the County Court of Jackson County, Oregon, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified, to the undersigned administrator, at his residence in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, or at the law office of H. L. DeArmond in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, on or before six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Date of first publication is March 27th, 1915.

E. J. SMITH,
Administrator.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

W. A. Turner and Jennie Turner, Plaintiffs,

vs.

William Ulrich, John E. Mahan sometimes known as E. J. Mahan, Forest F. Mahan, E. Hal Mahan, et al., Defendants.

By virtue of an execution and an order of sale duly issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, and dated the 7 day of April, 1915, in a certain cause there in wherein W. A. Turner and Jennie Turner as plaintiffs were rendered a judgment against the defendants John E. Mahan, Forest E. Mahan and Ethel Mahan, for the sum of Seven Hundred Thirty (\$730.00) Dollars with interest thereon from the 3rd day of April 1915 at the rate of 10% per annum, and Seventy (70.00) Dollars costs, which said judgment was enrolled and docketed in the Clerk's office of said Court in said County on the 3rd day of April, 1915, and is of record in Volume 22, of

the Circuit Court Journal at pages 519 and 520 thereof.

I am commanded by said execution and order of sale to make sale of the real property hereinafter described, to satisfy the judgment, costs, and accruing costs of this sale. I will therefore, on MONDAY, MAY 10th, 1915, at the hour of 10 o'clock, A. M., at the front door of the Court House in Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, offer for sale and will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, all right, title, interest and claim that the said defendants had in and to said property on the date of said mortgage or have since acquired, to-wit: Lot No. One (1) in Section 17, Township 39 South, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian, in Jackson County, Oregon.

All of said property will be sold at said time and place to satisfy the judgment, costs and accruing costs of this sale.

Dated this 8th day of April, 1915.

W. H. SINGLER, Sheriff,
By E. W. WILSON, Deputy.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale in Foreclosure.

Kate McAndrew, Plaintiff,

vs.

Sallie C. Pilcher and Mason J. Pilcher, wife and husband, and Newton Tinker, Defendants.

By virtue of an Execution, dated the 27th day of March, 1915, and a decree and order of Sale duly issued out of and under the Seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, in and for the County of Jackson, in a certain cause therein wherein Kate McAndrew as Plaintiff, recovered on the 23rd day of March, 1915 a judgment against the defendant Sallie Pilcher for the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred (\$1200) Dollars with interest thereon from said 10th day of February, 1914, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum and Ninety (\$90.00) Dollars attorney's fee, and the further sum of Thirty-nine (\$39.00) Dollars costs which judgment was enrolled and docketed in the Clerk's office of said Court in said County on the 23rd day of March, 1915, and is of record in Volume 22 of the Circuit Court Journal at pages 481 and 482 thereof.

I am commanded by said Execution and order of sale to make sale of the herein after described real property to satisfy the judgment, attorney's fee and costs and the accruing costs of sale, I will therefore on

Monday the 3rd day of May, 1915 at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the front door of the Court House in Jacksonville, Jackson County State of Oregon, offer for sale and will sell to the highest bidder for cash, subject to redemption as is by law provided, all the right, title and interest which the above named defendants had on the 26th day of May, 1913, or have since acquired, in and to the following described real property situated in Jackson County, State of Oregon, to-wit:

Lots numbered Five (5) and Six (6) of Block numbered One of Newtown Addition to the City of Medford, Oregon, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder of said Jackson County, Oregon.

All of the above property will be sold at said time and place in the manner provided by law for the sale of real property under execution to satisfy the judgment in favor of the Plaintiff, together with attorney's fees, costs and accruing costs of sale.

Dated at the office of the Sheriff in Jacksonville, Oregon, this 27th day of March, 1915.

W. H. SINGLER,
Sheriff of Jackson County, Oregon.

By E. W. WILSON, Deputy.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

Joseph Martin, Plaintiff,

vs.

Charles McGougan and Violet McGougan his wife, and Lincoln McCormack as administrator with the Willamette of the estate of Whitcomb Field, and Parker Barnes Field, Jr. on infant, and Bradford Simpson Field, an infant, and Parker B. Field, Henry C. Field, Ellen L. Field, E. Russell Field, Caroline S. Callender, and Ellen L. Field and Phillips Ketchum as Executors and Trustees by and under the Will of Whitcomb Field, deceased. Defendants.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, that by virtue of a decree, judgment and order of sale duly made and entered in the above entitled court and cause on the 27th day of March, A. D. 1915, wherein above named plaintiff recovered judgment against above defendants Charles McGougan and Violet McGougan for the sum of \$381.31 with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent per annum until paid, and for the further and additional sum of \$17.72 with interest thereon at 6 per cent per annum until paid, and for the costs and disbursements therein taxed at \$65.85 and for the further accruing costs, and wherein it is further decreed that the deed and bond for deed described in plaintiff's complaint therein, is and constitutes a mortgage upon the hereinafter described property, and wherein it is further decreed that said mortgage be foreclosed and the property herein described be sold as upon execution and that the above named defendants and each and all of them be forever foreclosed of any right, title or interest therein.

Now, therefore, pursuant to said judgment, decree and order of sale and by virtue of an execution issued pursuant thereto by the clerk of, and under the seal of the above entitled court, of date April 9th 1915, I have levied upon and at 10 o'clock A. M. on the

10th DAY OF MAY, 1915, at the front door of the Court house at Jacksonville, Jackson County, State of Oregon, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property and all right, title or interest of the above named defendants therein, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy aforesaid judgment, costs and accruing costs, to-wit:

Lot One (1) and Two (2) in Block numbered Six (6) of the Pierce Sub-division in Township Thirty-seven South, of Range One West, of the Willamette Meridian, in Jackson County, State of Oregon.

Dated at Jacksonville, Oregon, April 9th 1915.

W. H. SINGLER, Sheriff,
By E. W. WILSON, Deputy.

Citation.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF JACKSON.

In the matter of the Estate of K. Fields, deceased.

Citation to heirs non-resident an unknown.

To George Beck, Will Beck, and all unknown heirs of the said K. Fields, deceased.

In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County, in the Court room of the Court House of said County at Jacksonville Oregon, in said County, on or before four weeks from the date hereof, and show cause, if any you may have, why the real property belonging to said Estate, should not be sold and order of sale for the same should not be made forthwith, as in the petition of the administrator of said Estate prayed for, said land being situate in township 38, Range four West of the Willamette Meridian, in section seven therein, and described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of said section thence running North 14 rods, thence East 22 and 6-7 rods, thence South fourteen rods; thence west 22 and 6-7 rods to place of beginning, containing two acres more or less.

Witness the Hon. F. L. Tou Velle, County Judge of the above entitled Court.

Dated March 26, 1915.

F. L. TOUVELLE,
County Clerk.

By FLORA THOMPSON, Deputy.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

J. C. Brown, Executor of the Estate of Josephine Edmonds, Deceased, Plaintiff,

vs.

Ernest A. Heffer, et al, Defendant.

By virtue of an execution and order of sale duly issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon in and for the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, and dated the 13th day of April, 1915, in a certain cause therein, wherein J. C. Brown, Executor of the Estate of Josephine Edmonds, Deceased, as Plaintiff, recovered a judgment against E. A. Heffer and Kate Heffer his wife, for the sum of One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-two and 77-100 (\$1992.77) Dollars with interest thereon from said 5th day of December, 1914, at the rate of 8 per cent per annum and One Hundred Ninety-five (\$195.00) Dollars Attorney's fee, and the further sum of Thirty (\$30.00) Dollars costs, together with the accruing costs of sale, which said judgment was enrolled and docketed in the office of the Clerk of said Court on the 5th day of December, 1914, and is of record in Volume 22 of the Circuit Court Journal at pages 66 and 67 thereof.

I am commanded by said Execution and Order of Sale to make sale of the hereinafter described real property to satisfy the above named judgment, attorney's fees and costs and accruing costs of this sale, I will therefore on

Monday, 15th Day of May, 1915, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the front door of the Court House in Jacksonville, Jackson County, State of Oregon, offer for sale and will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, subject to redemption as is by law provided, all the right, title and interest of the defendants above named, in and to the following described real property situated in Jackson County, Oregon, to-wit:

An undivided one half interest in the East half of the Southwest quarter and the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 14 Township 37 South Range One West of the Willamette Meridian.

All of said undivided one half interest in and to the above described real property will be sold at said time and place in the manner provided by law for Sheriff's sales under execution to satisfy the judgment above named, together with the attorney's fees costs and accruing costs of sale.

W. H. SINGLER, Sheriff,
By E. W. WILSON, Deputy.

Simmons for Publication.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY

Kenneth B. Barnett, Plaintiff,

vs.

O. R. Chaffee, T. S. Hutchings and O. C. Boggs, administrator of the estate of Guy Chaffee, deceased. Defendants.

To O. R. Chaffee and T. S. Hutchings, the above named defendants: IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON:— You and each of you are hereby notified and required to appear in the above entitled court and cause and answer the complaint of the plaintiff now on file therein against you, within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons which is the 3rd day of April, 1915, and if you fail to appear and answer within the time required, for want thereof the plaintiff will take judgment against you for the full sum of \$200, and plaintiff's costs herein to be taxed.

This summons is served upon you by publication in the Jacksonville Post, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in Jackson County, Oregon, once a week for six consecutive weeks, by order of Honorable F. M. Calkins, Judge of the above entitled Court, said order having been made on the 30th day of March, 1915.

Date of first publication, April 3rd 1915.

GUS NEWBURY,
Attorney for Plaintiff.

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14 Portland Passenger..... 8:20 A. M.
16 Oregon Express..... 5:20 P. M.
12 Shasta Limited 2:17 A. M.
Extra fare train.

SOUTH BOUND TRAINS.
13 California Express 10:45 A. M.
15 San Francisco Express. . . 4:00 P. M.
11 Shasta Limited..... 3:20 A. M.
Extra fare train.

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