

Mrs. Audrey Savin.



THE MAN WITH THE STICK

By CLARENCE L. HAY

(By Short Story Pub. Co.)

Mr. Felton is a keen student of character, but not keen enough to know that the Pittsburger is never so wide awake as when he runs over to New York to wash his face and get the soft-coal smoke out of his eyes.

MR. FREDERICK FELTON, known to the plain-clothes force of Mulberry street as "Chicago Fred," leaned against the polished bar of the Bijou cafe and rested his chin on the knob of a fat cane.

A stout man slouched carelessly by, brushing roughly against Felton as he passed.

"Two suckers from Pittsburgh down the mahogany," he whispered. "The two in the zebra rigging."

Mr. Felton gave no immediate indication that he had heard. He did not change his position, and he continued to gaze listlessly at the talking groups. The fat man lurched down the room and, seating himself at an empty table, ordered a cocktail.

Presently the man with the cane stirred himself. He stood upright, picked up his gloves and sauntered in the direction taken by the man who had given him the information. But the deep-sunken eyes were extremely watchful. Mr. Felton scented game.

Half-way down the room, two overdressed young men were disputing loudly. Felton halted within a yard of them and busied himself in lighting a cigar. The occupation gave him an opportunity to listen to the dispute.

"It was Jack Hickey played that year," cried the eldest of the two. "He was—"

"You're wrong! It was Murphy," interrupted the other. "I'm willing to wager, I'll bet—"

Chicago Fred, holding a lighted match in his fingers, leaned slightly forward. "At Pittsburgh?" he queried. "Pardon me, I overheard your argument."

The two men turned. "It was at Pittsburgh," answered the eldest. "Last year when the 'Tigers' played—"

"Then you are right," murmured Mr. Felton. "It was Jack Hickey. I know him well."

The fat man leisurely sipping his cocktail, eyed the three stealthily. The "butting-in" act performed by Chicago Fred interested him greatly, and he breathed a compliment into his glass as he noted how successfully his pal had performed the trick.

And Mr. Felton deserved a compliment. He backed his assertions concerning Hickey with such a mass of detail that the younger man acknowledged that he was in error and, as a proof that his acknowledgment was sincere, he invited the arbitrator to drink with himself and his companion.

Felton accepted, but when the drinks had been served he remembered that he was suffering from a sprained ankle, and using the injured limb as an excuse for preferring a sitting position, he adroitly steered his two companions to the table where the fat man was sitting.

That person shook himself out of an apparent slumber and, wonderful to relate, found, after listening to a story that Mr. Felton had related to the two young men, that he knew one of the principal characters. He seemed childishly overjoyed at making this discovery and he insisted on the three joining him in drinking the health of the absent one. Mr. Felton and the two young men laughingly consented, and the conversation grew louder.

After some fifteen minutes had passed, Chicago Fred thought of an appointment and, with evident reluctance, took leave of the three and hurried away, leaving the fat man and the other two in the midst of a hot dispute over baseball. The fat man as a conversationalist ranked high, and he cemented the newly formed friendship with every word he uttered. He proved himself a baseball authority of the first order and the other two were apparently delighted with his freely delivered judgments and speculations.

In a lull in the conversation, some few minutes after Felton's departure, the fat man discovered that Chicago Fred had forgotten his walking stick, and he laughed heartily as he picked the cane up from the floor and exhibited it to the two others.

"It's only a cheap pole," he gurgled. "It's a fifty-cent—"

He stopped suddenly and a look of surprise spread over his fat face. He had, while twirling the stick around in his fingers, accidentally unscrewed the knob of the top, disclosing a little receptacle containing a ten-dollar gold piece.

"Gee!" he gasped. "He keeps his bank here!"

The two young men examined the stick with evident curiosity, while the fat man showed much excitement over the discovery. He chuckled loudly and pointed to his own smartness in making the find.

"We'll have a lark," he gurgled, winking knowingly at the other two. "We'll take out the coin and hold it, and he'll get a shock when he comes back for the stick."

The elder of the two gave a laughing assent and put the gold coin in his pocket. The stick, with the knob replaced, was then put back in the same

position it occupied when the fat man had discovered it. That person chuckled continually as he watched the door for the expected arrival of Felton, and his excitement marred the brilliancy of his conversation.

It wasn't a long wait. Chicago Fred came bustling back inside of ten minutes, and he stepped swiftly across the room and grasped his cane.

"I'm lucky!" he cried, turning to his late companions. "I was afraid you three might have left the cafe and thus given a person of loose morals a chance to annex my cane."

"Is it worth annexing?" asked the fat man quietly.

Chicago Fred turned and stared at the questioner.

"It might not look it to you," he said coldly, "but I'll wager a trifle that any sane man in the cafe will give me ten dollars for it."

The fat man passed a quick wink to the two young men as he reached out his hand for the cane. After examining it carefully he handed it back and, with cool insolence, remarked: "It's worth seventy cents at the outside."

Mr. Fred Felton became violently excited. He pulled a roll from his pocket and started to peel off bills with nervous fingers. The taunt stirred him.

"I'll bet you a century," he cried, angrily.

"What about?" asked the fat man.

"I'll bet that the stick is worth ten dollars to any one in the room," screamed the owner.

The fat man gave a slight whistle to signify his surprise at the other's heat, and again passed a quick wink to the two sitting opposite. The wink carried the hint that there were many good dollars belonging to Mr. Felton that might be gathered in by an enterprising person.

"I have only fifty dollars with me," drawled the fat man, "but if one of our friends chips in for another fifty we'll cover your hundred and bet that the stick is not worth ten dollars, I'm hanged if I don't."

Mr. Frederick Felton and his fat pal received a surprise when they saw the eagerness with which the elder of the two Pittsburgers jumped at the suggestion. The firm of Felton & Co. generally experienced a little trouble at this point, and inwardly they voted the other the greater of suckers as he placed five ten-dollar bills on the pile.

"I'm in," he laughed, carelessly. "I'm betting just for the fun of the thing. Now, sir, will you kindly find the jay in this room who will give ten dollars for the stick?"

With a nervous smile on his face, Mr. Frederick Felton advanced to the table and unscrewed the knob of the stick. The three watched him keenly.

Felton gave a little start of simulated astonishment when he found the receptacle empty, and a smile started to ripple the fat features of the man who had abstracted the coin. But Chicago Fred was not dismayed. He had looked into that empty receptacle on many occasions when the circumstances were precisely similar, and yet his confidence had not deserted him. With an airy flourish he turned the stick in his hand and, unscrewing the ferrule end, shook the cane over the table.

Nothing fell out of it. Chicago Fred paled slightly and shook the stick fiercely. When he turned the cane to look into the opening, the elder of the two Pittsburgers reached out and put a big hand on the pile of notes.

"There's nothing in that end either," he laughed, as Felton looked into the empty hole. "While your fat partner was waiting for your return to play us for a brace of suckers I managed to get that other ten-dollar piece out of the bottom end, so I've spiked your gun. I've seen the trick before, see."

Chicago Fred glared angrily at the three, while the fat man's profanity was seriously interfered with by the astonishment brought about by the turning of the tables.

"Here!" cried the Pittsburger, jerking two ten-dollar gold pieces towards the owner of the cane. "Here's the two coins your pal and I took out of the stick. Now, I'll give our fat friend his own fifty back, but I'm keeping the century that you plunked because you were so sure of that coin being in the bottom of the cane. If you object I'll call a cop. Skidoo! Next time you have a sucker on the line, watch the stick."

When Chicago Fred turned the first corner, he stopped five minutes to curse the intelligence of his fat partner who had allowed a "come on" to take a cool century from the smartest bunco man in Manhattan. And the fat man could not reply because he had not recovered from the shock.

Johnson's Island Prison for Southern Officers

It is said that no prisoner ever escaped from Johnson's Island, which was used as a prison camp during the Civil war. This historic island lies at the mouth of Sandusky bay, in Lake Erie. Captured Confederates were interned there. The grounds were enclosed with a fence 12 feet high, with a platform top, upon which sentinels paced to and fro, day and night. The island was used almost exclusively as a prison for officers, the total number confined there from first to last aggregating over 15,000. The first prisoners were taken there in April, 1862, and in September, 1865, the last of them were sent to Fort Lafayette, and Johnson's Island was abandoned as a prison post. The men confined at Johnson's Island represented the flower of the chivalry of the South. They were largely professional men and planters, among them being many who were prominent in science, literature and art.

POULTRY

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT IS STIMULUS TO HENS

The use of some form of artificial lighting is a stimulus to laying hens because it offers more hours of daylight and increases food consumption. Its use is now generally accepted not as a proposition of fooling the fowls, but of lengthening the days and partially duplicating spring conditions. There is some criticism of the use of lights due to the apparent bad results on the health of the birds that is often noticed in the winter.

Some poultrymen feel that if hens are fully matured by fall and are bred to lay no artificial stimulation is needed. Egg production from some flocks will bear out this attitude, but where comparative tests have been made between flocks lighted and unlighted there is no evidence to prove that lighting causes a greater chance for contracting disease.

Lighting offers an opportunity for greater food consumption, making possible the manufacture of more eggs," says Prof. A. G. Phillips of Purdue university. "Late maturing pullets may be pushed along profitably by lighting in October. With pullets maturing early, a fall molt may be delayed and high-priced eggs obtained. In such a case there is usually a let-up in production followed by a molt in December or January.

"Where pullets mature normally in October and are in good condition of flesh, it may not be profitable to light them until November or December or possibly not at all. When eggs are wanted in January from the older hens that have molted in the fall, the use of lights may be applied between January 1 and 15.

"An easy time to turn on the lights is at 4:00 a. m., using an ordinary alarm-clock alarm key to connect the switch. The extra feed offered at this time should be grain consisting of corn, wheat and oats and it may be scattered in the litter the night before. At 7:30 or 8:00 a. m. more grain should be fed. A mash hopper containing 50 pounds bran, 50 pounds four middlings and 30 pounds tankage, should be open all the time. About three times as much grain of mash should be fed when lights are used."

Sprouted Oats Will Aid Health of Winter Flock

Green feed during the winter months will encourage egg production and promote the health of the flock. Cabbage or sprouted oats are especially recommended.

Sprouted oats have the advantage of being easily available on most farms. Trays for sprouting oats, made about two inches deep and two feet square with bottoms of plaster lath, are convenient. The trays are supported on an upright frame or rack provided with cleats so that the trays will slide in and out. A four-inch space is allowed between trays.

A rack five feet high will accommodate ten trays or enough for two or three hundred birds. The sprouter is kept in a furnace room or other place where the temperature is 60 to 70 degrees.

Two or three pounds of dry oats are soaked overnight and placed in a tray each day. They can be sprinkled frequently and allowed to grow from one-fourth to one inch in length before feeding.

Maturity in Seven Months

About seven months are required for a chicken to grow to maturity. During that period of growth its feed goes to the making of bone, flesh and feathers. When it becomes mature its feed goes to the making of eggs. If a bird matures and commences laying in the fall she will continue laying all winter if properly cared for. Birds that are still growing when cold weather comes will usually commence laying late the next spring.

Poultry Notes

Provide plenty of clean nests for the laying hens. Grade your eggs for uniformity in size, shape, and color. Keep out the cracked, dirty, small, and very large eggs for home use. Gather the eggs in a well-padded pall or basket and reduce breakage. Use only sound, strong, standard packages and pack the eggs properly.

Sell eggs to a buyer who pays for quality or buys on a graded basis. When your eggs are of best quality and the buyer purchases them on a case-count or "nest-run" basis, you get less than they are worth.

Keep the nests clean and market clean, fresh-looking eggs. It spoils the sale of eggs when they are marketed in an untidy condition.

Use the small, dirty and cracked eggs at home. They have a lower market value but are entirely satisfactory for immediate home use.

Keep the eggs in a cool, clean, fairly dry place until marketed. Heat causes deterioration in quality and evaporation of moisture from the egg. Dampness causes the eggs to mold.

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Pillows Not of Pine. The forest service says that pine needles are not generally used in making pillows. While the pillows are called "pine pillows," the needles are generally those of the balsam fir, or spruce—either red, white or black spruce. No special time of the year is specified for gathering these needles, since they are evergreens.

The Perfume Bearers. And because the breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes, like the warbling of music) than in the hand, therefore nothing is more fit for that delight than to know what be the flowers and plants that do best perfume the air.—Francis Bacon.

Ordinary Matches a Menace. Don't allow employees to use any but safety matches. As an inducement, furnish them at wholesale prices, yourself. The presence of ordinary or parlor matches in their pockets is a constant menace.

Tough on Babies. Four mothers were arrested and six escaped in a raid recently by the police of Cardiff, England, to stop the wheeling of baby carriages on the pavements.

Racing Items. It's a sad thing to the lover of the horse to see the passing of that noble animal, particularly if the one he has staked his wad upon is the last in the bunch.—Arkansas Thomas Cat.

Where Everybody is Boxed. An undertaker has recently suggested that his profession should be given a more attractive name. Why not call his shop the Box Office?—London Humorist.

Rub With Oil. After you have washed the tiles on your grate or floor give them an extra rub with an old silk handkerchief moistened with linseed oil.

Merely Occupy Space. A wise man who does not assist with his counsels, a rich man with his charity and a poor man with his labor are perfectly unnecessary in this world.

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Uses for Jetties. A jetty is an embankment which extends into a lake or ocean for the purpose of controlling the sand drift that would otherwise shoal up a channel or encroach on the shore. Jetties are usually built of large broken stone, or timberwork; concrete blocks, etc., can be used.

Plants and Animals. The fundamental differences between plants and animals are that as a rule animals can move from place to place, and plants cannot; plants make their own food from sunlight and common chemicals while animals depend on eating other animals or plants.

Sable Philosopher. You needn't pray for de good Lord ter put you on de right road; you knows befo'han when de road's right an' when it's wrong, fer you's got a conscience what makes no mistakes.—Atlanta Constitution.

Must Be Gilded. Petitions not sweetened with gold are but unsavory and oft refused; or, if received, are pocketed, not read.—Massinger.

Point That Stands Out. "Ever notice," says the Albany Herald, "that the fellow who goes about giving advice, never has anything else to give away?"

Degrees in Friendship. In every friendship one is more selfish than the other, and the one who practices self-sacrifice is the happier.—Exchange.

In Whaling Days. Whaling was carried on by the Norwegians as early as 900 A. D. Whaling was at its height about 1846.

Sees One Thing Settled. A radical is one who rejoices when a rich man can't get two on the aisle.—Duluth Herald.

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