

## A LAND OF LONG SIGHT

Story of How a Thin Atmosphere Was Turned to Advantage

By RALPH POINDEXTER

The thin atmosphere of high altitudes is very deceptive to those who are not used to it. I remember going to Denver some years ago, arriving there in the evening. The next morning I looked through my window and saw the Rocky mountains looming up, as it seemed a few hundred yards away. I remarked their beauty and thought I would like to walk out to them and back before breakfast. When I spoke of this to a resident of the place he said:

"You think those mountains are near by, do you? They're fifteen miles away."

Long before the railroad was built westward from Denver through the mountains a stagecoach one day lumbered up the incline, reached comparatively level ground and finally pulled up at a hotel in Georgetown. A bride and groom, Tom and Mary Atwood, were on the coach, making a wedding trip. Contrary to custom, they had for a traveling companion Anna Thurston, a sister of the bride, several years her junior. During the evening Edwin Chandler, a classmate in college with Atwood, who had gone to Colorado to seek his fortune, called and invited the party to make him a visit in his bungalow on the outskirts of the town.

A conspiracy had been entered into between Tom and Mary Atwood to make a match between Ned Chandler and Anna Thurston. Ned had lived alone in a region where women were scarce. And now he was beside himself at being thrown in intimately with an attractive young lady. But Anna had been used to plenty of men in the east, to say nothing of suitors, and, since Ned had fallen into the uncouth appearance of a prospector, she was not inclined to favor him.

Atwood had had some trouble with a fire eating southerner. I never learned what was at the bottom of it except that immediately after the war Atwood went south to become a planter. There he met his wife. Being forced by the prejudice existing against northerners at that time to leave the country, he had married the girl he loved and brought her way with him. Something that had occurred during this troublous period had excited the animosity of the fire eater, whose name was Markham, and he vowed that the world was not big enough for him and Atwood both to live in.

One morning Mrs. Atwood and her sister, walking together through the town, met Markham. Mrs. Atwood was terror stricken and Miss Thurston naturally much troubled for her sister and her sister's husband. The next day Atwood received a note from Markham stating that he had come to Colorado to kill him and would prefer to do so like a gentleman. If he could not shoot him like a gentleman he would

Atwood naturally took the note to his friend Chandler and sought his advice. Both were desirous of keeping the matter from the two women, but it was impossible. Mrs. Atwood knew that a note had arrived for her husband, was suspicious and would not be satisfied till she had been told the whole story. Then a conference took place between the four friends.

"You needn't worry, Mrs. Atwood," said Chandler. "There's more real justice in a region like this than can be had in the most civilized city in the world."

"Every man is expected to fight his own battles, but where a lady is involved the case is different. Our men have an unlimited reverence for woman. If I were to let it be known that a man had come out here to rob a bride of her husband I could gather a posse at once to run the fellow out of town. Just you and your sister



SHOT HIS MAN THROUGH THE HEART.

leave it to us two men, and I promise you no harm shall come to Tom."

This assurance took away a great deal of Mrs. Atwood's anxiety, and she consented to do as Fred had proposed, provided they would keep her advised, whereupon Chandler agreed that her husband should take no step that she did not know all about. Then the two men went into conference by themselves.

"Tom," said Ned, "you and your wife and sister are here as my guests—not only my guests, but any strangers who come here are considered the guests of the town. You have no idea of the chivalry of our men. Now, I feel responsible for your proper protection while here, not only to you and those with you, but to my fellow citizens. If I should let anything happen to you they would hold me accountable. I can handle this affair much better without you than with you, and I want you to leave it entirely in my hands."

Atwood demurred for awhile, but

finally assented, provided that if there was any serious risk to be taken he was to be permitted to take it himself. This closed the conference, and the two parted.

Chandler went to the hotel, where he asked for Mr. Markham, and when that gentleman was pointed out to him asked for a few moments' private conversation. Markham led him apart from the others, and Chandler said:

"My friend Atwood has received what he considers a challenge from you and has asked me to say to you that he will meet you; but, being the challenged party, he insists upon making the terms. He proposes that, tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock, you leave this hotel and ride down the stage road eastward. He will meet you within a mile or two of this place, probably near the yellow house, just three miles from here. You are to carry one .42-caliber six shooter; he the same. When you meet on the road either or both are at liberty to open fire at will."

Markham pronounced these terms very different from the code to which he had been used to in the south, but they appeared to be fair and he consented to them.

That evening Chandler, Atwood and the ladies spent at the bungalow together. All Chandler said about the affair with Markham was that it was in a fair way of settlement. He proposed cards and appeared to take so great an interest in the game that neither the bride nor her sister suspected that anything of importance was at hand. All went to bed at 11 o'clock.

Long before dawn Chandler went out in his stockings, carrying his boots in his hands, and, going to a stable near by, got out a horse, mounted him and took the road to Idaho Springs. He went, however, only as far as the yellow house he had mentioned to Markham, where he left his horse and at 5 o'clock started to walk back to Georgetown.

The mountains inclosing this valley are very high. The moon standing on the meridian had that ghastly hue it takes on when daylight has robbed her of her normal golden color. The air was crisp. "Just the morning for a duel like this," remarked Chandler to himself.

When Markham saw Chandler he was three miles distant. Chandler was of a different build from Atwood and the fire eater thought him some one else.

When a third of the interval between them had been eliminated, Chandler fired a shot to let his enemy know that he was the man to be killed. Markham was surprised. He considered that he had run a great risk in

not recognizing the coming man as his enemy, judging Chandler to be about 500 yards from him. He waited till sufficient time had elapsed to draw his enemy within range, then, taking a sure aim, sent a shot. The enemy did not fall. Nor did he open fire. He continued to advance. Markham sent another shot. It produced no effect, having fallen short, though Markham did not know this. He was astonished that though his opponent continued to advance he got no nearer. What could be the matter? Was his enemy a real man or a phantom?

Presently Chandler raised his weapon and fired. Markham was not yet within range, and Chandler knew it. He sent the shot to start up his enemy. He succeeded. Markham, thinking his antagonist to be within a few hundred feet of him, sent two shots in rapid succession.

Chandler had expended one shot to Markham's four. They were not yet within range, but Chandler raised his revolver and appeared to be taking a deliberate aim. This drew another shot from his enemy.

They were now barely within killing distance. Chandler fired a shot, but it fell a trifle short. Markham emptied his last chamber. The ball struck Chandler's shin, but only bruised it. He was about to fire again when he saw Markham draw another revolver.

Running forward zigzag, Chandler suddenly stood face to face with his enemy, took deliberate aim and shot his man through the heart.

When the story of the fight was told in Georgetown Chandler was upheld as having done his duty as a citizen toward visitors. Atwood complained that Chandler had taken a risk that he had promised he (Atwood) should take if it were to be taken at all. But Chandler averred that with an enemy unused to the Colorado atmosphere there was no risk in the premises.

Miss Thurston saw Mr. Chandler in an entirely different light from before the saving of her brother-in-law's life. She not only consented to be his wife, but to remain with him in a region which she had found to contain real chivalry.

## MRS. BRIGHTBILL IS HOSTESS OF CLUB

The Fairfax Club met at the home of Mrs. H. P. Brightbill on Twelfth street Monday evening. The guest prize was won by Mrs. C. H. Meissner and the high score was made by Mrs. Rosina Fouts. The decorations of Mrs. Brightbill's home were very pretty, being of spring blossoms and ferns. Refreshments were served. The next meeting of the club will be at the home of Mrs. Rosina Fouts.

Those in attendance were Mrs. J. J. Tobin, Mrs. E. T. Fields, Mrs. W. R. Ellis, Mrs. C. H. Meissner, Mrs. C. D. Latourette, Mrs. Walter Wells, Mrs. A. B. Wilmot, Mrs. Rosina Fouts, Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, Mrs. C. W. Evans, Mrs. E. T. Avison, Mrs. G. A. Harding, Mrs. E. C. Foliensbee, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Lageson.

The kangaroo's leap. Seventy feet is the longest distance known to have been leaped by a kangaroo.

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VS.

### PORTLAND

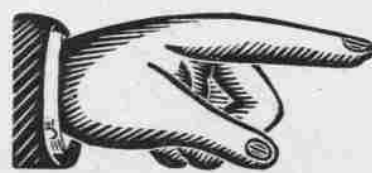
May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Games Begin Weekdays at 3:30 p. m. Sunday at 2:30 p. m. LADIES DAY FRIDAY. Boys under 12 Free to Bleachers Wed.

# STOP! LOOK! Listen?

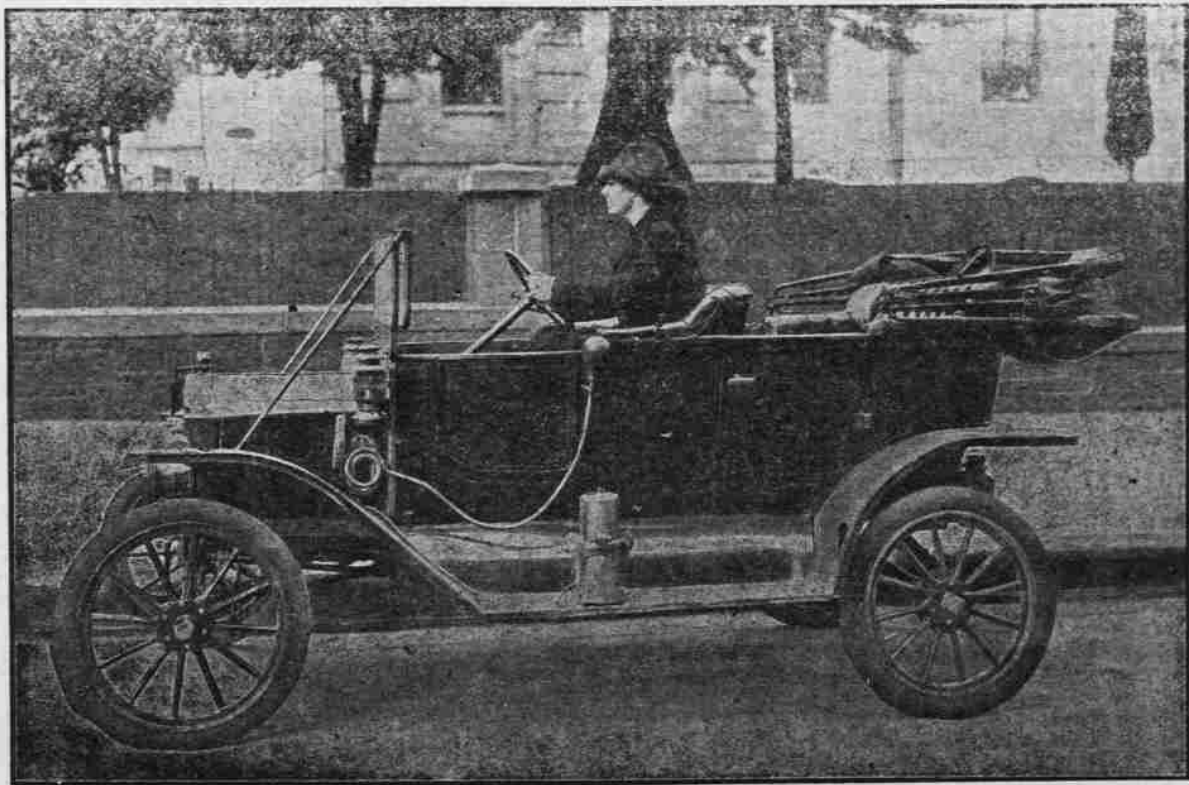
Working for the other fellow and Get Busy for Yourself

What can be won with a little work a fine prize every 10 days BESIDES THE AUTO

To what people are saying and you will see how popular you are THEN GET IN AND WIN



Yours for the asking



Don't it look good to you

To stimulate interest in the voting and give each one a chance to profit by their work we will give a prize every ten days. These prizes will not affect the final count in any way as all votes will count on

## THE GRAND AUTOMOBILE

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