

Roberta Risks It

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO
Just before reaching the fork leading up to Birchwood he turned the car around and drove back a few feet to a spot previously selected for this purpose. Behind a thick of young birch at the roadside. By day it would have been visible, but now only the pale trunks of the saplings could be seen, the dark automobile lost in the dense shadows of the background.

Leaving it there, headed toward home and safety, they walked on down the road to the familiar trail, not wishing to arouse the dogs until certain preliminaries had been accomplished. Climbing was slow, owing to Piggy's burdens; in one hand he carried a demijohn of gasoline, and the other firmly gripped a box on his shoulders from which plaintive sounds still issued at intervals. Roberta, behind, had Janet's cloak and the torch, the light of the latter enabling them to choose their footing.

At the summit there was a delay while Piggy cut a small branch from a tree and fashioned himself a bludgeon, brandishing it once or twice to test its weight. He also pried up the cover of the box, lightly secured by a couple of nails, so it could be easily removed. Then, puckering his lips, he faced Birchwood, and the crisp, calm night air was slit with the strains of his pregnant refrain.

Celia, who had listened for it in vain the night before, wriggled joyously in her bed and wondered whether she dared flash back an answer. Twice through it sounded, and was followed by a fragment from a more modern and widely popular ditty, the significance of which temporarily paralyzed the prisoner—"There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight." Something was going to happen!

Undeniably something was, but none of them foresaw all the events of that memorable night, for not even Piggy's prescient perspicacity had warned him of Clifford Nixon's insomnia.

Harassed by perplexity and doubt; unable to reconcile Scott's report of Roberta's conduct and conversation in New York with his own knowledge of her plans; remorseful because he had failed to meet her, yet assuring himself that he could not have done otherwise in the circumstances; apprehensive that she might have returned from Paris without seeing him, and equally apprehensive that she might still be plotting Celia's release, with disastrous consequences to himself and his business should she succeed—for in this event Scott would inevitably assume that her fiancé had been in league with her and act accordingly—Nixon found himself unable to sleep unthinkably.

Not having provided himself with reading matter, he decided late in the evening to take a walk, and almost without conscious intention his feet led him toward the center of disturbance, Birchwood. Only the fact that Piggy, under the aegis of his lucky star had chosen an indirect way prevented their passing him on the road. Noticing that the house was dark, Nixon walked on for a short distance, and was about to turn back when he heard a shrill whistle from the top of the hill at his right. He looked up, wondering whether anyone lived there and what the tune was that the fellow was whistling so lustily. As the refrain was repeated, he remembered the words.

"Poco, poco, keep thine eye on the fair-haired girl, for she is sly; You'll be sorry by and by You ever had a daughter."

Nixon stopped short. Significant, that! Could it be a signal? When he heard the melodious prediction of an immediate period of feverish activity, he plunged into the brush and began scrambling up the steep hillside. Not knowing of the rough trail within a few feet of him, he fought his way in the darkness through a thick un-

dergrowth, stumbling, slipping, occasionally falling, but striving ever upward, more and more convinced that at last he was about to find Roberta. The noise of his own progress deafened him to that of the conspirators rapidly descending on the other side of the spur, but he heard the salvo of the dogs and turned his course in their direction, making what speed he could in his effort to reach Roberta before she had time to take whatever mad action she might contemplate. Juniper and wild blackberry vines stabbed him, impassable thickets of brush delayed him, but breathlessly swearing, he persevered.

All unaware of the danger at their heels, Roberta and Piggy arrived at the barbed-wire barrier with their burdens and concentrated their attention on the dogs, who were running to and fro on their own side of the fence, barking furiously.

"Get behind me," he said, wire-cutter in one hand and bludgeon in the other. "I may have to brain these brutes yet. If they're ugly, hop through to the other side. I'll keep 'em out. Got the top loose?"

"Yes; I'm holding it down. Ready?"

"One, two, three—go."

(To be continued)

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Capital City Cooperative Creamery. Milk, cream, buttermilk. The Buttercup brand has no equal. Gold standard of perfection 137 S. Com. Phone 299. (*)

First National Bank, the bank of friendship and helpfulness in time of need. Interest paid on time deposits. Open an account and watch your money grow. (*)

Reduction on all hats at the Vanity Hat Shoppe, 387 Court St. Be sure to see our line of hats before buying. Latest metal cloth hats just in. (*)

Minority Plan Way to Revive Tax Reduction (Continued from page 1)

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"There are many more than this number of republicans who favor tax reduction," he asserted. "We propose to give them an opportunity to go on record for it."

"Either we are going to force a tax cut, to which the people are entitled, or we are going to let the country know where the responsibility lies."

Halk & Koff Electric Shop, 337 Court St. Everything electric, from motors and fixtures and supplies to wiring. Get prices and look at complete stock. (*)

Pomeroy & Keene, Jewelers, never fail to give you 100% on the dollar. Watches, clocks, pins, charms. Standard high grade stock in all departments. (*)

CORVALLIS BOY KILLED
Father Exonerated by Coroner's Verdict Following Inquest

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 13.—(AP)—Ernest Adams, 14 years of age, was shot and instantly killed in an accident late yesterday.

The father, W. F. Adams, residing near Bruce station, his son Ernest and some neighbors were returning home near dusk from a duck hunt and were after a pheasant to close the day's shoot. The father saw something move behind a stump, which he took to be a pheasant, raised his shotgun and fired a broadside into his son's head. The boy died instantly.

The coroner's verdict this afternoon exonerated the father, declaring that death was the result of an accident.

Acclimated ornamental nursery stock, evergreens, rose bushes, fruit and shade trees at Pearce Bros. in season. We have our own nurseries 178 S. Com'l.

Hillsboro civic clubs plan \$25,000 community building.

MINORITY PLAN WAY TO REVIVE TAX REDUCTION
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IS YOUR CHILD THIN AND WEAK?
Right Way to Put on Good Flesh and Make Them Grow Up Strong and Vigorous

As a body builder, an appetite creator, and to make weak, skinny boys and girls sturdy, strong and full of energy, there is nothing like Cod Liver Oil—any physician will tell you that.

But it's vile, horrible stuff to take, and is apt to upset any stomach, so many doctors are prescribing and wise parents are buying McCoy's Cod Liver Oil Compound Tablets—sugar coated, and as easy to take as candy.

The son of George G. O'Brien of Mahwah, N. J., was thin and pale and did not get enough nourishment from his food. In a little over two months, he gained eleven and one-half pounds, and feels and looks one hundred per cent better.

Mothers, if any of your children are weak, thin or puny, give them these tablets, as directed for 30 days, and watch them gain flesh and health from day to day—they seldom fail—but if the unusual should happen and you are not supremely satisfied with results—your druggist is authorized to return your money.

Be sure—always—to insist on the original and genuine McCoy's Cod Liver Oil Compound Tablets—60 tablets 60 cents at J. C. Perry, D. J. Fry or any druggist. Thousands of boxes sold daily.—Adv.

STOP THAT BARK
Take SCHAEFER'S HERBAL COUGH SYRUP
SOLD ONLY AT SCHAEFER'S DRUG STORE
185 North Commercial St. Phone 197
Original Yellow Front The Penalar Store

SILVERWARE A WONDERFUL GIFT
The silverware used by Miss Jeanette Beyer at the Statesman Cooking school at the Grand theatre this week is furnished by us
After attending the school we invite you to visit our store.
BURNETT BROS.
457 State Street

THEATRE OWNER SUED
Ninth Death Recorded in Deadly Liquor Traffic Feud

BENTON, Ill., Dec. 13.—(AP)—Relatives of "Big Joe" Adams, mayor of West City, near here, who was shot to death late yesterday by two unidentified gunmen, testified at the inquest today that threats against his life had been made by Charles Birger, leader of one of the southern Illinois bootleg gangs.

Previous attempts had been made to kill Adams, who was a supporter of the rival Shelton gangsters and his death was the ninth in the deadly feud of the coal belt liquor traffic.

The inquest was adjourned until Wednesday after Gus Adams, a brother of the slain mayor, said he believed he recognized the handwriting on a note used to decoy the mayor to his door where he was shot down. Gus Adams said he desired more time to investigate.

Ira W. Jorgensen, 139 S. High St., Parts for all makes of cars. Best equipped and accessories store in this section. Prompt and reliable service the rule. (*)

BOY FATALLY INJURED
Automobile Hits Jackie Swem on Way to Sunday School

MEDFORD, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Jackie Swem, the five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Swem was injured fatally here yesterday when struck by an automobile while going to Sunday school. Apparently no one saw the accident except the driver whose identity was not learned.

A man arrived at the Swem home shortly after 10 a. m. with the unconscious boy and left him with his parents with only the explanation that he had seen the body on the street. He drove away before anyone in the excited family asked his name.

MELLETT TRIAL STARTS
Widow Tells of Threats Made Against Husband's Enemies

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Two of the state's most important witnesses in the murder of Don K. Mellett, crusading publisher of the Canton Daily News were presented today to the jury trying Patrick Eugene McDermott, one of the alleged slayers.

Mrs. Florence Mellett, the editor's widow, small and pathetic, with the youngest of her four children, four year old Jane at her knee, unfolded the volley of threats hurled into her home by Mellett's enemies and his ultimate assassination.

THREATS TOLD CORONER
Alleged Breach of Contract Cause of Action in Court

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Suit for \$2,300,000 against Alexander Pantages, Los Angeles theatre owner, was filed in circuit court here today by J. B. Symonds, charging breach of contract.

On the strength of a telegraph message from Pantages, Symonds alleges in his petition he began construction of a theatre in Denver to be known as the Pantages theatre, which would have been used for vaudeville as a member of the Pantages circuit. On arriving in Los Angeles, the petition asserts, Symonds was refused a franchise by Pantages.

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GERMAN LAUDS LEAGUE
Stressmann Believes World War Count Have Been Averted

GENEVA, Switzerland, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Lauding the league of nations, the existence of which permits representatives of the governments to confer frequently man to man" instead of depending on colorless exchanges of diplomatic correspondence, Foreign Minister Stressmann of Germany today expressed the belief that the world war would have been averted if the statesmen in 1914 had been given as many opportunities of getting together as they have at present through the league.

Eiker Auto Co., Ferry at Liberty St. Autos stored, and bought and sold. Cars washed day and night. Low prices and service will make long friends. (*)

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LIVING and LOVING
BY FLORENCE SMITH VINCENT

UNFORTUNATES
Three men met when the day was done to relate what its passing had brought to them.

One was halt.
One was deaf.
One had not his eyesight.
And he who had never known what it was to stand firmly upon his own two feet raised himself upon the crutches that served him in their stead and spoke:

"All day do I sit behind my stand and feast my eyes upon the beauty of the flowers that I sell to passersby. 'Who'll buy? Who'll buy?' Through the long hours I cry my wares and when none heed me I glance up at the blue arch of the sky above me and forget my disappointment. Alone in my corner with none at my side yet am I never lonely, for the voice of the people they comfort me. Borne on the breeze comes the news of the world, though from my bench I stir not. And thinking of these things my heart is near to bursting with pity for you my brother, who cannot see, and for you whose ears do not their duty!"

He who was deaf read the words on the others lips and shook his head in protest.

"In a measure you are right," said he. "But in measure only. Sad indeed is the plight of our sightless comrade. The glory of the rising sun, the mystery of the moonlight, all that is loveliest he cannot share in. As to the rest, it is you not I to whom sympathy must be given. I have scant need of it. For I have only to wish to be in a place and there by Shank's mare I am transported. You are forever doomed to hobble and must keep out of the way of the crowd lest in their haste they

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"In a measure you are right," said he. "But in measure only. Sad indeed is the plight of our sightless comrade. The glory of the rising sun, the mystery of the moonlight, all that is loveliest he cannot share in. As to the rest, it is you not I to whom sympathy must be given. I have scant need of it. For I have only to wish to be in a place and there by Shank's mare I am transported. You are forever doomed to hobble and must keep out of the way of the crowd lest in their haste they

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