

The Masked Hostess

by BLAIR STEVENSON

CHAPTER I.

One reason for the success of the fashionable law firm of Wilberforce, Horne, Stanton & Van Pruyn was that it wasted no time over the affairs of clients whose fortunes were declining in the world. Such men and women were invariably turned over to juniors in the office whose business it was to rid the firm of them as tactfully and expeditiously as it could be brought about. The system had never been explained to any of the young men in the firm's employ. It was enough that they all understood it.

When, therefore, Mr. Sloan, one of the most capable young lawyers of the staff, was summoned into the office of Mr. Horne to discuss the situation of Miss Nathalie Van Slaick, he hesitated at once what he would probably be required to do—and that he would dislike doing it with all his heart, for Sloan was a man with ideals.

He knew more or less of the Van Slaicks—a family synonymous with social rank and in the main synonymous with money, but consulting a few members who had run through their inheritance at a swift and colorful pace. It was Nathalie's uncle who had been the unlucky one; it was his business to impress her skillfully with the fact that the firm was serving her at a loss, to see that she was subjected to inconvenience and delay, and ultimately to conclude her relations with the firm with a bill for services which she could not possibly pay.

"Yes, sir," he said when he entered Horne's room and after Horne had hung up the receiver of the telephone into which he had been speaking.

"Sit down," said Horne. "I have just been talking over the telephone to the butler of Mrs. Pemberton Swayne, the exceedingly rich and colorful lady herself. She has undoubtedly spoiled the day for her. Did you go to the Brookville bank yesterday? And did you also visit the Van Slaick property?"

"Yes and no," Sloan answered. "I went to the bank and had a talk with Treadwell Pound, its president. It seems that the Brookville bank is a one-man bank and that Treadwell Pound is the one man. He is of the hard and colorful type and informed me, quite unemotionally, that neither our firm nor Miss Van Slaick need look to him for concessions or extensions in the foreclosure pro-



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ceeding the bank has begun. He insists the property will never bring the amount of the bank's mortgage at the foreclosure sale and that the fact that he advised the loan a year ago has hurt his standing with the directors. Just as I left his bank it began to rain, so I did not go over to the property, but instead brewed about the village a while and checked up as much as I could on Pound. His fellow citizens hold him in very poor esteem. He—

"Does he impress you?" Horne interrupted, "as a man who may at any time have entertained social ambitions?"

Sloan shook his head. "Anything but that, I should say. He's a man of no presence at all. The ordinary village skinflint type."

"Then I fall utterly to understand," announced Horne, "how he ever allowed Jack Van Slaick a loan of fifty thousand dollars on the firm's granting even that Jack was a genius—which he was—at raising money."

"When you see the place," he went on, "particularly if you know Long Island at all, you'll understand why I say so. It stands on the southerly or wrong side of Hempstead Plain, two miles from any village and at least a mile from any main road; a fashionable section once upon a time, long before the smart set moved north to Wheatley Hills. George Van Slaick, Nathalie's grandfather, built it for a sporting estate about 40 years ago and for nearly 20 years no one has lived in it. The house is uncomfortably big and its architecture obsolete and both house and grounds are very much run down.

In a general way you understand about the Van Slaicks, don't you?" Sloan shook his head. "Only very generally."

"Then, specifically," Horne explained, "Nathalie's position is this: There are two kinds of Van Slaicks—close handed and open handed, holders and spenders, but with the holders predominating. Her father, 'Happy Jack,' as he was always called, was the fastest spender of them all; a great sportsman, a delightful chap in every way, but the kind who would bet on anything on earth and who couldn't say no to a friend. His wife died the year after Nathalie was born and for the last five years he and his daughter had lived abroad. He was killed, as you know, in a motor crash a few months ago.

"A year ago he and his daughter visited this country long enough for him to raise this mortgage that the Brookville bank is

foreclosing. The property it covers was the last of his inheritance, and after raising the mortgage he decided the property to his daughter, who had just come of age. I suppose he had some vague idea it would protect her if the firm ever went up in value instead of down the way it has. The same day he opened a bank account in their joint names here in the city. The bank statement shows \$28 still remaining in it. That trifle of money and the firm are exactly all she has in the world, for Jack had no property abroad. I'm sorry for her. On the other hand, I do not see of what assistance this firm can be to her. However, I am going to give you change of her affairs. Possibly something may come up."

Sloan understood. Nathalie was not a wanted client. He had never seen her, but the image of a girl, graciously and luxuriously nurtured, left suddenly with nothing but \$28 and an encumbered and unalienable country estate was an image that depressed and saddened him. Then he remembered about her well-placed relations.

"She can turn to her people, I suppose?" he inquired.

"Let us hope so," Horne answered, "though I doubt the warmth of her welcome from her aunt, whose butler called up just as you came in. He told me that Miss Van Slaick was arriving this morning by the Mauretania and that Mrs. Swayne desired that some one from the office meet the girl at the pier. Some one is to see her through custom and take her to a hotel, for Mrs. Swayne's guest rooms, according to the butler, are all occupied just now."

Horne stopped his conversation long enough to clear his throat with a long drawn ahem. His thin lips curled in a cynical smile. Sloan stood uncomfortably awaiting the further orders of his employer. Presently Horne continued:

"You see, Sloan," he said, "Mrs. Swayne would never have spent that dollar for a telephone call this morning had she not guessed rather badly, for the Mauretania docked two hours ago and I dare say, Miss Van Slaick is already well on her way to Southampton—where she is decidedly not wanted!"

The telephone at Horne's elbow rang. A clerk in an outer office spoke to him: "Miss Nathalie Van Slaick to see you, sir," said the voice on the wire. (To be continued tomorrow.)

MRS. A. E. WOODCOCK DIES AT SILVERTON

SILVERTON, October 25.—Mrs. Amanda E. Woodcock, Marion county pioneer, died at the home of her brothers, John and Willard Stanton, at Monitor Wednesday after an illness of but a few days. The body was brought to the Jack and Ekman chapel at Silverton where funeral arrangements will be made as soon as word has been received from another brother, Benjamin Stanton, of Alberta, Canada.

Mrs. Woodcock was born in Marion county on December 4, 1869, and spent practically all of her life here. She was the widow of William Woodcock, who died 18 years ago. Besides the three brothers already mentioned she is survived by two others, W. F. Stanton and J. N. Stanton, both of Woodburn.

Silverton High Has Glee Clubs And Orchestra

SILVERTON, October 25.—The high school boys' and girls' glee clubs have been organized under the direction of Miss Faye Sparks and full school credit is given to the members. This year Miss Sparks is giving the fundamentals of music along with the regular club training. The clubs are planning to give a concert and an opera in the spring. The school orchestra and band are progressing under the leadership of Hal Campbell. He is giving free instruction to every member of either organization during the practice periods, and is especially encouraging beginners so

that in the future Silverton will have bigger and better musical organizations.

LABISH GROWERS SELL MANY ONIONS

LABISH, October 25.—There has been a little improvement in the onion market the past week. Several cars have been sold for \$1.25, but the demand is not yet heavy. The greater share of the growers intend to hold their onions until mid-winter when the demand is more brisk. Broilers, which are those onions less than an inch in diameter, are selling for about 85c, such of them as are being sold.

Practically all of the beaver-dam carrots have been harvested the past several weeks. They are utilized chiefly for livestock food. Rabbit raisers from surrounding communities have bid in the most of them, although a very few have been retained out for household use. Sold by the sack from the field the price ordinarily asked is in the vicinity of one dollar per hundred. Now that everything has been removed from their ground, many of the farmers are plowing. It is the usual thing when plowing the beaver-dam land to unearth many old rotted logs in the course of the work. The beaver-dam, which is chiefly decayed vegetation has a unique way of shifting its lower strata to the top. It will in all probability be many years before all of the old logs are brought to the top. The ditching and laying of tiles is well under way.

A Correction An error was made in a recent item from North Howell, which said that Mrs. E. C. Wiesner had been elected superintendent of the local Sunday school. Prof. Hertog of Kimball college is general superintendent and the local superintendent has not yet been elected.

For sale signs, for rent signs, legal blanks, etc. for sale at The Statesman.

Home-Making Helps

By ELEANOR ROSS

Economy is Always a Virtue—When It's Wise Economy! "A good economical housekeeper" used to be considered high praise. The words went together—she was bound to be good if she was economical. Nothing was ever thrown away by the thrifty manager. Furniture that had outlived one kind of use was rejuvenated into something else. Clothes were always made over, either into new styles or for a hapless younger member of the family. (One "little sister's" life was quite brightened because she never knew the feel of a brand new dress until she was half grown up. And when there was no smaller person left to inherit the hand-me-down it was ready for a patch-quilt.)

Now that fabrics and furniture are turned out in such huge quantities that the price is comparatively low there is no longer the same necessity for saving every object as once existed. But, though the need has quite died, the economical impulse lives on in innumerable housekeepers. It may be an old habit or the recollection of a childhood in a thrifty household, or it may be merely an innate instinct. But over so many women practice economies that are pointless because they are unnecessary. Indeed, they may actually bear harmful results.

There is the woman who will not discard a frock that she does not wear any longer. Perhaps it is out of fashion, or has grown too tight, or is worn in spots. She saves it for the day of inspiration, when by buying a little more material she can have it made over by a dressmaker, oh, quite reasonable in her charges. The result is a frock that doesn't look new, but costs almost as much as a fresh one.

Nor does it always pay to salvage left-over food after this manner. If a number of fresh ingredients must be added to a little left-over in order to make it edible it may be cheaper to throw it away and start with a fresh dish entirely. Economy in food

does not mean sacrificing nourishment or flavor. It may mean buying the meat cuts that require longer cooking, but tastes excellently, and the less luxurious vegetables—cabbage instead of broccoli, beans instead of mushrooms, and so on. But certainly it isn't economical to buy second-grade vegetables, slightly wilted, less than perfect fruit, and so on. Probably if inferior foods were wouldn't be anything except potpourri in this fashion there wouldn't be anything except perfect products sent to market at all. One can buy food economically, but wisely, so that no matter how simple and inexpensive, it is possible to prepare it to be enjoyed. But it is hardly real economy to go bargain hunting in food emporiums.

Of course the chase after bargains is not to be confused with the economy instinct. It has nothing to do with the case. Bargain-hunting is woman's grand indoor sport, and one hears women swank as much about the extraordinary cheapness of a pet bargain as they do about their extravagances. Buying all the thousand and one articles required for running a home from day to day would, indeed, be a dull and tedious business if it were not for the excitement of chasing bargains every so often.

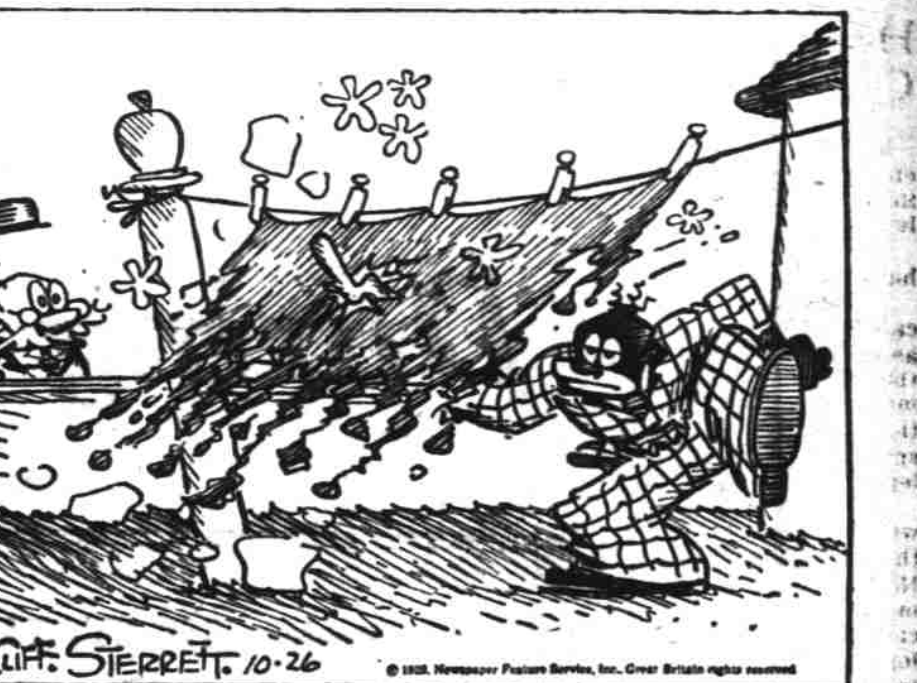
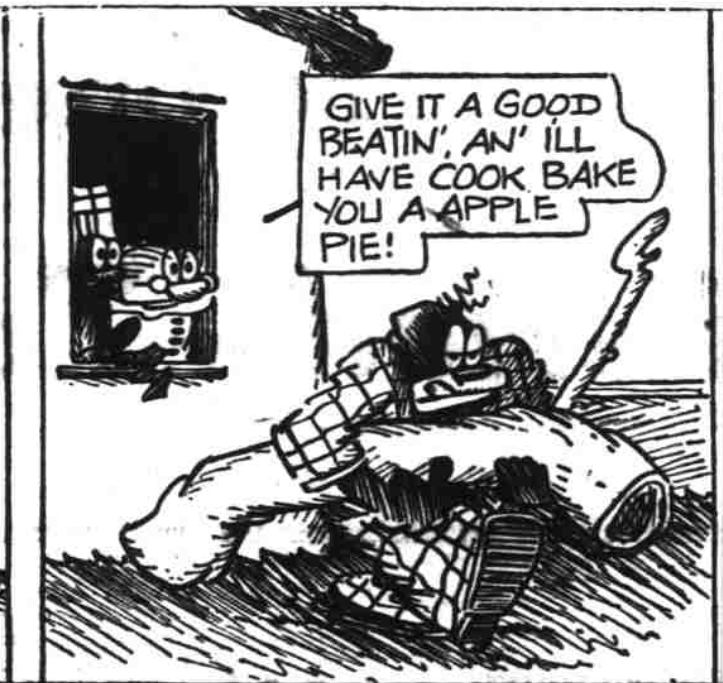
Like everything else, of course, the passion for bargains may become an incurable obsession. Traveling miles out of the way in order to obtain an article a little cheaper than its price in the neighborhood often turns out the worst kind of extravagance. A little money saved at the expense of much trouble, weariness and a possible short temper.

Nor is that economy particularly commendable which sacrifices a little wholesome pleasure in the possible comfort thirty years from next Thursday. All in all, it does require skill to be economical wisely.

Seventeen tribes of Indians are represented by students of Bacons college in Oklahoma this year.

By CLIFF STERRETT

POLLY AND HER PALS



"A Bug On Rugs"

TILLIE, THE TOILER



"Reliable" Information

By RUSS WESTOVER

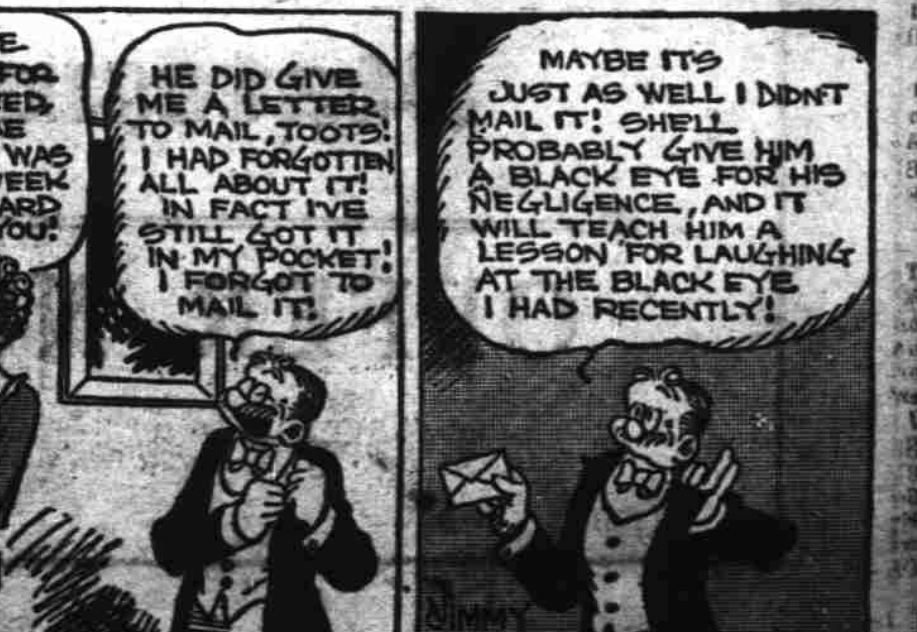
LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY



"Something To 'Rave' About"

By BEN BATSFORD

TOOTS AND CASPER



"The Colonel's Haven of Rest"

By JIMMY MURPHY

How to Play BRIDGE

Series 1929-30 by Wynne Ferguson
Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

ARTICLE No. 3

One of the hands that seem to hypnotize average Bridge players is one containing 100 aces. They bid one or two trump with this type of hand, irrespective of distribution and of the possible chance of game. Here are two example hands that illustrate the point:

Example Hand No. 1
Y: A, 9, 7, 6, 3, 2
B: A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
Z: A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

Example Hand No. 2
Y: A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
B: A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
Z: A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

No score, rubber game. If Z dealt, what is his proper bid? Is it one or no trump, in preference to the 100 aces; or is it one heart?

If Z bids one no trump with this hand, his chances of going game are very slight. He has only one stopper in three suits; and the fourth suit, hearts, is far from being set up. On the other hand, a bid of one heart offers much better chance for game. Such a bid eliminates the chance of a long suit making; and two or three tricks in the partner's hand make game very possible. Game also is possible even though partner holds only two or three hearts; therefore the proper bid with Z's hand undoubtedly is one heart.

Problem No. 3
Hearts—9, 2
Clubs—Q, 7, 5
Diamonds—5, 3
Spades—K, J, 10, 9, 6, 5, 4

Problem No. 4
Hearts—J, 8, 7
Clubs—A, Q, 9
Diamonds—6
Spades—none

Problem No. 5
Hearts—9, 6
Clubs—K, J, 10
Diamonds—A, Q, J, 7
Spades—J

Problem No. 6
Hearts—none
Clubs—none
Diamonds—Q, 8, 7, 6
Spades—Q, 8, 7, 6

Problem No. 7
Hearts—none
Clubs—7, 6
Diamonds—J, 8
Spades—9, 5, 4

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. How can Y Z win four of the seven tricks against any possible defense? Solution in the next article.