

"The Masked Hostess"

by BLAIR STEVENSON

CHAPTER XXXVI.

In the library at Flintstone, Sloan, behind the big desk and with a telephone instrument at his ear, said:

"What did I tell you, Monty? The first bid is two hundred thousand. And that's just a beginning."

"I know," retorted Monty, "but you and Nathalie ought to be over here. You'd not catch me sitting guzzling liquor in here if a piece of my property was being auctioned under the hammer. I got a headache, Jack."

"Keep quiet a minute," responded Sloan. "Two fifty. That will be Pound through a dummy."

"You ought to be there," insisted Monty. "Something may slip up."

"That's just what would scare them off," retorted Sloan. "They'd think the family was protecting it."

"Three hundred," announced Sloan. "Ferris talking. Through an agent of course. Ferris doesn't care for Long Island air just now."

"Where is the swine, anyway?" put in Stefano, smiling at Nathalie, who was standing by the open fire with Sylvia.

"Under cover somewhere," Sloan answered him. "He has a police brain and thinks if he keeps out of sight until I have accepted a price and called off the witnesses against him he may 'beat the case,' as he calls it."

"He hasn't any brains of any kind," Stefano insisted. "What a swine. And an ass too."

"Oh, I don't know," declared Monty Delaine. "Pound is an important witness. His memory will wobble for money."

"And fifty," interrupted Sloan. "Pound isn't wobbling much right now. That's his bid."

"Three seventy-five. Ferris again," supplanted Sloan. "Pound will cover that with four hundred and then they'll begin to fight. Yes, there he goes. Four hundred."

Monty groaned. "They'll begin to fight is right. Why ain't you over there? The bidding will begin to crawl up now and when it hits the upset figure of one of them the other will cop. Do you think a couple of second-raters like Pound and Ferris have all the money in the world?"

"Now, Monty," interrupted Sylvia, "do remember that mother is represented at the sale. You know she is a wonderful business head. She has explained over and over again to you and Nathalie and John and all of us that she would be silly to buy the place instead of letting it go to auction, because after the sale today Nathalie will get everything it brings instead of having to wait years to sell until the road goes through."

"Mother said just that," she added turning to Stefano.

"She would," said Monty, and they all laughed, even Sylvia.

"Four hundred and ten," announced Sloan at the telephone.

A servant entered the room a little hastily and put a fresh log on the fire. Mrs. Swayne appeared directly after him.

"How is the sale going?" she inquired, addressing Sloan but not heeding the answer he gave her. She walked over to the

fire and extended her hands to it. "Sales are dreadfully exciting, are they not?" she said to Stefano, and turned to face him, having discovered that he was in the room from the mirror over the fireplace. "You cannot think how I have worried over this one of Nathalie's. Dear child, I have urged her to take a long rest after her sale is over and then go for a trip. Egypt, I think, would be wonderful for the winter."

"Five hundred and twenty," said Monty at the telephone.

"Not so bad," commented Monty. "But you ought to be there, Jack. Don't tell me tomorrow I didn't say so."

The telephone had a set of ear cups and a head harness. Sloan now put the arrangement on.

"For your benefit, Monty," he said, "I am not so dumb. I am represented—rather Nathalie is represented—by a syndicate at the sale which in turn is represented by a big New York real estate operator who is known to both Ferris's and Pound's man. Our man is pushing the other two up. Every time he bids one or the other of the others caps it. He has money enough. Lots of it. Syndicates are backing them too."

"Excuse me, Jack," replied Monty humbly, "I'm on my eleventh cocktail. Can't keep a clear head after ten."

Sloan waved a hand at him to quiet him. Six hundred thousand. We drop out now for that's all it's worth. Pound won't last after he suspects it."

Sloan beckoned to Nathalie who went over and took the chair at his elbow as Mrs. Swayne began speaking again.

"I'm wearing a sport costume, russet in color to match the mid-November afternoon, and as she talked she moved by skillful stages to where the sun sent its light into the room through an amber colored window hanging. In the light, as it touched her and enhanced her attributes, she was singularly youthful and eye-filling."

"Do you know, Captain Stefano," she announced, "that once I was untruthful with you—"

"Couldn't happen, I'm sure, Mrs. Swayne."

"All, but it did occur. Do you remember, the night we were all in masks and I said to you that your little hostess spoke dreadful French and had of course been sent by an agency? I was being untruthful then. I knew dear Nathalie instantly, the moment I was in the house, but I was certain you did not know her and so spoke as I did to bewilder you. For though I did not know why she had not invited me that she was going to cooperate with you in your wonderful hospitality at The Firs, I knew you did not know who was helping you so marvelously and I wished Nathalie to have her secret inviolate. She has always been a little bizarre and I knew she would have wished to."

Monty and then Sylvia hastened over beside Sloan and Nathalie when Sloan said "Six hundred and eighty-five thousand."

"How delightful!" said Mrs. Swayne as Stefano ejaculated, "Oh, I say, look here—"

"It will be so pleasant, will it

not," she declared, holding Stefano with her eyes, "for Nathalie to turn to the problem of her investments when her property has been sold? She is without experience, of course, but so many of my friends are capitalists and bankers that she will have the benefit of splendid advice. And it has just occurred to me, Captain Stefano, that you may know of some wonderful South American shares. Do inform the dear child by letter after you have gone home and learned precisely what conditions are. Dear, dear, you South Americans; every one of you rolling in money. What a wonderful feeling it must be. She looked over at the group around the telephone. They were intent and silent.

"A lull, I suppose. How long purchasers at a sale require to make up their minds. And that reminds me—I must have the cook spoken to about something."

She went gracefully out of the room.

Twenty minutes had elapsed when she reappeared.

Stefano did not hear what—if anything—she said to him, for he was staring in fascination at Sloan, who was holding a hand aloft, and who lowered it and struck the desk with it as he said:

"Going!"

And then:

"Going!"

And then:

"Gone! Gone, at the even million."

"You've got a headache, Jack," shouted Monty, and leaped at Sylvia as Sloan gathered Nathalie in his arms.

THE END

WRIT GRANTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—(AP)—After three months at Ellis island, scheduled for deportation to Scotland, Henry Linklater, Portland, Ore., first captain, was granted a writ of habeas corpus today.

ROAD PATROLS HELD ON WANE

Three Districts in County to Abolish System if Plan Is Carried Out

The probable abolishment of the district road patrol system is seen in the action of tax payers of three county road districts in appearing before the county court for advice in the matter of discontinuance of road district patrolmen. According to reports emanating from the county court, road districts located at Pringle, Sidney and one near Turner are contemplating the abolishment of their patrol system.

It is pointed out that a centralized system will be the direct result, should the several districts withdraw their patrolmen. Continual improvement of county market roads and the development of district roads has led to the evolution of the central control plan.

It is predicted that at least 10 road districts may vote to abolish their patrol system in January when the annual appointments of road patrolmen for the various districts are made.

RUM BUYER HELD BY ALABAMA LAW

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 6.—(AP)—The state supreme court ruled today that sellers and buyers of intoxicants are equally liable under the state's "bone dry" liquor law.

In writing the opinion, Justice Virgil Bouldin reversed a decision of the court of appeals, which had upheld the contention of Jim Inright, that his conviction in Pike county circuit court for "buying or selling" liquor was

invalid because the state statute did not specifically prohibit such purchases.

The court of appeals granted Inright a new trial on the premise that the permitted inclusion of the word "buying" in the indictment returned against him constituted an error by the trial court.

Under the interpretation given Justice Bouldin's opinion by attorneys here, it is a misdemeanor in Alabama to receive, or possess liquor, regardless of the manner in which the contraband is obtained.

ALL BUT THREE OF BOATS ARE RESCUED

ST. JOHNS, N.I., Dec. 6.—(AP)—With the rescue at sea of the crew of the schooner Cander Deal today by the liner Republic and the sighting of the schooners Effie May Petite, Merry Widow and Jean Blockwood, all but three of the fleet of ten fishing vessels which disappeared from here in last Friday night's storm have been accounted for.

Captain Barbour and his crew of 10 men of the Cander Deal, were picked up by the Republic this morning, nearly 1,000 miles seaward off Cape Race where the schooner had been blown, helpless in the fury of the storm. All of the men were reported well. The Republic, with Cap. A. M. Moore in command, is bound for New York.

The schooner Effie May Petite was sighted 100 miles off the coast by the steamer Newfoundland. The government steamer Meigle was dispatched to take her in tow. The steamer Henri Jasper passed the schooner Jean Blockwood and in an answering hail received the word that all was well aboard the fishing vessel.

The Merry Widow was reported sighted by the Meigle, heading in a southerly course from Newfoundland.

Still missing from the little fleet which was torn apart by the storm are the schooners Lloyd

When Grapefruit and Oranges Are at Their Best

ORANGES have come to be the universal panacea. No matter what ails you—or if you're thin—eat oranges. If you're thin, you need the vitamins. And if you're overweight, oranges are a substitute for more fattening foods. A glass of orange juice at breakfast is an easily acquired habit—and a very wholesome one. And it's one of the refreshing drinks that one can take between meals.

Nowadays oranges are an all-year-round fruit. Florida comes in October and even June. From California we get Valencia's in May and until November, and after that the Navels arrive, continuing until May.

Oranges of best quality are firm and heavy, and the skins are not excessively rough. When well ripened they have a deep orange color, but the Valencia, which come to us in the Spring and Summer are sometimes still green, but nevertheless juicy, sweet and adequately ripe.

Grapefruit, like oranges, should be heavy for size. The best grapefruit is well rounded, even and smooth skinned. Greenish grapefruit is not likely to be good. The color of a good grapefruit is a fairly even yellow. And those with a russet or bronze color are sometimes even better. They have a very thin skin, are richly juicy, and have a faint, spicy fragrance that makes them preferred of all others by many who are specially fond of the fruit.

Grapefruit should be cut in half with a sharp knife and a curved blade grapefruit knife used to separate the pulp from each section. Do not core. This makes the cutting of the sections difficult and even messy. By leaving the core in there is just enough resistance to the knife to make it easy to separate each section. Nor should sugar be added. This detracts from the pleasant sharp tang of the fruit, and indeed is forbidden to those on a diet. It's the sugar added to grapefruit that makes it acid—not the nature of the fruit itself.

Marmalade is not difficult to prepare, and is worth making if there's space for storing it properly.

ORANGE MARMALADE
12 oranges

The Home Kitchen

By ALICE LYNN BARRY

5 lemons
4 pounds of sugar.

Wash the lemons and oranges, peel and discard all of the white membrane. Slice as thin as possible, place in a large crock or jar and cover with two quarts of cold water for 24 hours. Then cook in the water in which soaked and continue for one hour after the boiling point is reached, stirring frequently. Let soak for 24 hours more. Then add sugar and cook one hour longer. Pour into little stone jars or jelly glasses and seal. Keep in a cold place.

GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGE MARMALADE
3 grapefruit
3 oranges
8 sugar

Wash and peel oranges and grapefruit, discarding the white membrane, then slice very thinly. Soak in two quarts of cold water for 24 hours. Then cook for one hour after boiling point is reached, and let stand for 24 hours more. Measure, adding one cupful of sugar for each cup of the mixture and cook for one hour more. Pour into jelly glasses and seal.

Man to Phone Mother Weekly Across Atlantic

SAN RAFAEL, Cal., Dec. 6.—(AP)—A. C. Blumenthal is a gentleman of fixed habits—particularly when it comes to telephoning his mother once a week.

Blumenthal had been located in New York for some time and was one of the transcontinental telephone line's regular customers, but his weekly conversations with Mrs. Barbara Blumenthal of San Rafael were interrupted when he was transferred to London.

Last night, however, Mrs. Blumenthal received a cablegram saying the regular conversations would be resumed, and today talked three minutes with her son, a continent and an ocean away.

JAZZ MUSIC ATTACKED
NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—(AP)—To put jazz in the background of American music has been announced as the policy of the Radio Music company.

RIVER WORK WAITS KORELL DECLARES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Representative Franklin D. Korell, republican, Oregon, in a formal statement today said stories published in some newspapers setting forth the opinion that work would be started this winter on a project to widen and deepen the channels of the Columbia and Willamette rivers in Oregon were too optimistic.

Although the project which calls for a channel 500 feet wide and 35 feet deep has received the approval of the army engineers and the war department, the Oregonian pointed out that the proposal must again be included in the new rivers and harbors authorization bill yet to come before the 71st congress. The project was included in the rivers and harbors measure which failed to reach a vote in the house last congress. The new measure probably will not be placed before the present session before late in March, Korell said, since the bill with many added projects must again go through committee hearings.

Adjectives Many In Divorce Suit

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 6.—(AP)—Declaring Helen Simons McClure was sullen, mean, irritable, morbid, disagreeable, nasty, gruesome, cold, bitter, lusty, jealous, heaving, pious, loathsome, insulting, brazen, miserly, gluttonish, temperamental, selfish, contemptuous, inattentive, uncivil and inconsiderate, H. B. McClure today sued her for divorce. They were married on Saint Valentine's day last year.

NEATNESS USUALLY A SIGN OF EFFICIENCY

Take Advantage of the Many Aids to Cleanliness and Health, Urges Dr. Copeland, for "Soap and Water" Has Landed More Than One Good Job.

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.
United States Senator from New York.
Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

"CLEANLINESS is next to Godliness," is an old saying that has more truth than fiction in it. With all their bad habits, even the ancients realized the value of cleanliness. Never has the world had greater facilities to aid in this so necessary habit of cleanliness than it has today.

I saw the other day the heading to a newspaper article. It read, "Landing a Job with Soap and Water." The story went on to tell how a busy employment expert read the character of applicants for positions from their appearance. He complained particularly of untidiness among some of the girls seeking gainful positions.

What are the standards set up by the employer today? Without exception we might say that preference is given to the individual who is well-groomed, tidy, clean! Ability? Yes, certainly that is very necessary, but invariably the appearance is a pretty good test of character and of ability.

One employer said: "In selecting prospective employees, we of course aim to take only those who appear to be naturally clean and neat. Untidiness in dress and personal appearance generally denotes a person careless and slipshod in other respects. The neater employees in the office and factory are the more efficient."

The girl whose clothes are neat, not necessarily expensive, and whose face is made clean before make-up is applied has a good chance to win. Well arranged and shining hair tells of immaculate care. This will be noted, as well as hands that are clean and well-kept. A person of this description will receive notice wherever she is.

The young man whose every movement denotes ability and keenness of mind almost unfailingly presents a good appearance as to dress and cleanliness. He is the person, too, who gets the most out of life at every turn.

Every facility is given us today to promote cleanliness and good health. You cannot have health and cleanliness, the one without the other. They are twins. Never before has the world had so many aids to cleanliness. There are private and public baths, spick and span offices, department stores and factories in which to work.

Trivial as it may seem, cleanliness and livable.

Given fresh air and sunlight, clean hands and good health, help but, radiate the right sort of personality. These are worth much more than dollars and cents. They give security in the work you have and the home that may be yours.

Isn't there all worth while?

Answers to Health Queries

W. F. S. Q.—What do you advise me to do for my hair, which is very thin?

A.—I would advise frequent shampooing with a good pure soap and warm water and the use of a stimulating ointment. For particulars send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and repeat your question.

POLLY AND HER PALS



TILLIE, THE TOILER



LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY



TOOTS AND CASPER



"The Hero Worshiper"



"A Picture Of Prosperity"



"The Idle Weapon"



"The Shopping Expedition"



By CLIFF STERRETT

By RUSS WESTOVER

By BEN BATSFORD

By JIMMY MURPHY