

The Guardian of Prudence

By R. RAY BAKER

Calculating by the calendar, Benson Norton was not an old man; but figure it in miles and he was.

No, it was not years that made Benson old, for he was not more than thirty. He was old in wisdom born of roving the world, suffering hardship in many lands, making money and losing it, losing health and regaining it.

At thirty Benson had "settled down" in the wild West, choosing Hermonoside as his permanent home. Hermonoside was West geographically. It was not wild because of cowboys and bad men, but due to the dense forests and the mountain ridge that isolated it.

Hermonoside consisted of 25 crude frame dwellings and a trio of stores that were little more than trading posts, grouped on a lower slope of Mount Kennedy. The trapping industry was to blame for Hermonoside's coming into existence, and it was named after the man who founded the colony.

But the trapping industry was too indusrious, and the government stepped in with some laws to prevent the fur-bearing animals from becoming extinct. Hermonoside did not die, however, because its population consisted principally of people who never felt a desire to rove, or who, like Benson, had roved to their heart's content and were willing to spend the remainder of their spans of life far away from bright lights.

Of course there is a girl in the story. Her name was Prudence Wilding, and she was Benson's ward, made so by the last expressed wish of her father as he lay on his deathbed in his Hermonoside shanty.

That was four years ago when he was twenty-six and looked ten more. Prudence at the time was sixteen.

Benson's first act as guardian was to arrange for a widow of the colony to serve as companion and teacher. The widow had once taught in a girls' school in the East, coming West on the advice of her physician. With the aid of two strong hands, a hammer, nails and a saw, and some money left by Jake Wilding, Benson built a warm, comfortable dwelling and installed Prudence and her companion in it.

In the succeeding four years the Wilding money gave out, and Benson replenished it from his own snug little hoard, which he had brought with him to Hermonoside. Now he earned a subsistence by tilling his 25 acres of soil.

In those four years Benson changed little, except that gray hair became more plentiful and he developed moody spells and took to gazing gloomily out the window and smoking quantities of dark, smelly tobacco.

Prudence changed a great deal. From a promising bud she had developed into a rosy spring blossom, and the Hermonoside youth began casting shy appraising glances in her direction. Soon the glances became less shy, and Benson became more worried.

Benson was in love with his ward. It would never do to harbor serious thoughts concerning Prudence and himself, because of his age and his guardianship. Nothing could ever come of it, of course, he told himself repeatedly, and he never allowed himself to think of marriage. Hence the moody spells and the gloomy gazing from the window.

Benson was reasonable. He knew Prudence was bound to have love affairs and to marry some day, but he dreaded that day. It had got to the point where Benson lived for his ward.

Prudence made a confidant of Benson, as she had of her father. She told him about her feelings toward the young men of Hermonoside, of whom there were few and still fewer who could be classed as desirable. In fact, the number had slimmered down

to two.

Finally came the day of Prudence's life that would have been considered an important day in the life of almost any girl. She received proposals, only three hours apart, from both of the two desirables. That evening she came to Benson's cabin and told him about it.

"What'll I do?" she implored on the verge of tears.

"Only one thing to do," said Benson, filling his pipe, which had been idle half an hour while he partook of his evening meal. "The only thing to do is to accept the one you think the most of and reject the other."

"And you—you—" Prudence asked falteringly. "would you approve of either?"

"My dear girl," Benson replied, "either Sam Johnson or Mark Hathaway would be regarded as desirable by any girl in Hermonoside. Sam has a big farm, and Mark, I am told, is an expert machinist, if he'd only go out in the world and follow his trade."

"Mark is planning to go East," she said, "and he wants me to go with him. I don't know what to do. It is an awful position to be in. I like Sam better than Mark, but I do so desire to see the world."

"Maybe we can arrange it, Prudence. Perhaps if you went East you would see somebody you liked better than either of these young men. Now, I have a pretty fair little sum hidden away, and I've been thinking it would be the proper thing to send you to some girls' school."

Prudence's eyes lighted up, but she became downcast immediately.

"It's fine of you," she told him, "but I couldn't accept your money for anything like that. Besides, I don't care so much about going to college. I have a pretty good education now. What I want to do is have a home—out in the world somewhere. But I couldn't accept money from you—not with you being my guardian."

Benson gave her a quick look. How many times he had wished he was not her guardian! But of course he was too old, anyhow, and she could never think of him that way.

He resumed his survey of the small part of the terrestrial globe within range of his window.

"I wish—I wish—" Prudence said, halting. "I wish I could make somebody understand things. I wish you were not my guardian."

Benson turned to her and forgot to draw on his pipe.

"Why?"

"Because—because—well, Benson, can't you see through anything? Can't you see I'm—don't you suppose I think a lot of you? Have I got to go on eating my heart out like this, waiting in vain for you to give some sign of returning my affection? Don't you understand that I don't care for either Sam or Mark? Have I got to go on being your ward, and nothing more? Benson, I'm terribly brazen about it, but you seem so dense."

Benson's chair fell to the floor, so suddenly did he leap to his feet and cross to her side. In a moment she was clasped in his arms.

"Dense!" he roared. "Dense is no name for what I am. I'm dumb! Just because I'm your guardian—say, wait a minute! I'm not your guardian any more than I'm your grandmother. Come to think of it, my job ended when you were eighteen, and that was two years ago. Prudence, do you mean to say you would be willing to marry me?"

Prudence hung her head. "I've been wanting to for a long time. I've been awfully bold about it, but there didn't seem to be any other way!"

Benson went to a coat hanging on the wall and returned with a timetable which he spread before them.

"Let's see," he said, turning the pages with one hand, while his other arm crushed her against him, "there's a train leaving Delphi at seven to-morrow night; and if Hacksmith's flier can make it in time we leave on that train—for the East."

THINK IT REAL SPEED PLANE

Baby Airship on the Way to France Is Confidently Looked to to Break Flying Records.

A little silver aluminum-colored monoplane is on its way from Dayton, O., to New York to be shipped to France, where, according to its recent trials and performances, aeronautical engineers believe it will revolutionize the construction of speed planes.

It is the Dayton-Wright R-B, especially designed as one of the three American entries in the Gordon Bennett races in France, Sept. 27 to Oct. 3. The R-B monoplane measures only 22½ feet from wing tip to wing tip. Its body is 22 feet long. The wings, of rigid cantilever construction, are made of three-ply veneer. When the little plane is in flight the wheels and entire landing gear are drawn up inside the body.

A crank in the instrument board of the machine enables the pilot after he has left the ground to raise his wheels and landing frame into the fuselage, at the same time flattening out the wing. The process requires from 12 to 15 seconds.

The wing curve, which can be altered at will, enables the pilot to decrease the landing speed 20 miles an hour and increase the racing speed in the same ratio. It is believed the plane can fly 200 miles an hour.

The machine has a Hall-Scott racing engine of the Liberty Six 250-horse power type. The efficiency of the motor is increased by using a special synthetic fuel developed in the Dayton Wright laboratories.

Descent at 450 Miles Per Hour.

Lieut. Weiss of the French army was attempting to establish a height record recently but unexpectedly found his supply of oxygen virtually exhausted. The Paris correspondent of the Morning Post states that at the moment he was at 8,000 meters and his only chance of safety was to nose dive. For a certain number of seconds he achieved a speed of 450 miles per hour and actually traversed 4,300 yards of descent in thirty seconds. The machine was injured as a result of the strain and certain portions of the wings were torn off, while some supports also were broken before he was able to flatten out the machine for landing.

Our Bargain Column

Bruce house in Monmouth For Sale. Will take a team of horses as part payment. G. T. Boothby 2t

For Sale or Trade—Packard Orchestral Organ, in good condition and fine tone, being used every day. \$25.00 E. N. Keeney. 2t

After Jan. 1st J. M. McCaleb will spare a few settings of eggs from his Hollywood strain at \$15.00 per setting. Any person desiring eggs should order early. This mating is from hens with trap nested egg records from 292 to 309 eggs and mated to males from hens with egg records of 307 eggs. tf

Jersey Cow: Will sell for \$35 or will trade for hogs. Geo. Niggli. 3t

LOST—Pair of gold rimmed glasses. Return to C. W. Leonard. 2t

For Sale—A good forty foot windmill. For particulars phone Farm 3612 or 1802. Craven & Van Loan.

1 and 2 inch Rough Lumber for sale. Parker Bros., Monmouth.

Mrs. Mack can care for several more housekeepers.

The Monmouth Cooperative Shipping Association will save farmer's money in the sale of live stock. Ship with us and cut out middleman's profit. If you have stock to ship notify W. J. Stockholm, Mgr. tf

For Sale 8 acres of land 100 feet from city limits. 5 room house, good barn, fruit and berries. On paved road for \$2500.00

10 acres of land, all in cultivation, good house and barn, ½ mile to city limits, an ideal home! Price right.

8 room house, 5 lots. Fruit for family use. City water and electric lights. Fine location. Price \$1500.00. Good terms.

148 Acres of land, 3¼ miles south west of Monmouth, mostly Luckiamute bottom. Fine as a fiddle. Good house and barn, 10 acres of prunes. Good school near. Price \$125.00 per acre; good terms.

182 Acres, Luckiamute bottom land; 100 acres in cultivation; no improvements; good county road. Price \$12500.00. Terms.

G. T. Boothby.

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administratrix of the estate of William H. Mack, deceased, by the county court of Polk County, Oregon, and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, with proper vouchers therefor, to the undersigned at Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated and first published November 19, 1920.

Minnie K. Mack, Administratrix of the estate of William H. Mack, deceased.

Brown & Helgeson, attorneys.

Notice of Final Settlement

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned as the administrator of the estate of Richard Jones Evans, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County, and that Monday the 17th day of January, 1921, at the hour of 10 A. M. thereof, at the Court room of said Court in the city of Dallas, Oregon, has been appointed by said Court as the time and place for the hearing of objections to the said final account and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published December 17th, 1920.

Edward T. Evans, Administrator of the estate of Richard Jones Evans, deceased. Swope & Swope, Attorneys.

A Good Building Material

and an everlasting building material at the same time.

The Tile Works at Monmouth is making a building tile which will make any kind of building from a dwelling house to a pig pen cool in summer and warm in winter. Especially fine for your fruit, vegetable and milk house.

We also have all kinds of drain tile. Drain tile is your most urgent need. Get that wetland drained.

We will do your draining for you if you wish, but do it your self if you can. Central Tile Co., Monmouth, Oregon.

The Herald wishes correspondents in neighboring communities. For particulars apply at this office.

For Sale—A dozen White Leghorn Cockerels. O. A. C. Laying strain. \$1.75 each. G. Niggli. 3t

At the Electric Sign "SHOES"

JANUARY 5

WE WILL START A SACRIFICE

SHOE SALE

An Actual Fact

Is that in order to quickly reduce the Stock on our shelves we have entirely disregarded costs and figured prices so low to hurry the goods out before our annual inventory February 1st and to get the money for immediate use, thereby saving interest for us. "We Lose You Gain", but the friendship we gain pays for the loss.

Pumps at No Profit

Any Red Cross Pump valued from \$11.85 to \$15.60 reduced to choice for \$8.95

Any Holter's Brown or Black Kid Pumps valued at \$8.50 to \$9.25, your choice for \$7.19

One lot of Brown Calf and Black Kid Pumps and Ankle Strap Pumps, school heels, former price was \$4.50 and \$4.85, your choice at \$3.69

LADIES' SHOES

Profits Forgotten

One lot of small sizes in Black Kid Button; none larger than 4A, all good qualities, at \$1.00

One mixed lot most all kinds, principally small sizes, good qualities; way less than jobbers or mfrs cost at \$1.95

A nice lot of good serviceable shoes; all sizes, at \$3.95

One lot Black and Brown Lace Shoes; all sizes \$5.15

Lot 25 Holters Gun Metal English, military heels, old price \$9.50; new price \$6.35

Several good numbers in Black and Brown Calf Lace, English last; military heels, at \$6.45

A special lot of Red Cross all Camel Colored Kid, Brown Kid vamps, Camel Kid tops, lace and a Brown Kid vamp Camel top button, values from \$13.00 to \$1.00 not all sizes, but go for \$8.65

Highest grade Red Cross Brown Kid shoes in French, Cuban or Military heels, our old price \$14.00 to \$15.00, [this sale (war tax 9c) for \$10.90

Red Cross Black Calf, military heels, \$12.50 grade, at \$9.45

Any Red Cross Black Kid or Patent in French, Cuban or military heels, for this sale only, the \$12.00 to \$15.00 grades your choice at \$9.99

This is much lower than they will be again this year. Every pair of Shoes in the Store Sacrificed

THE REAL REASON

Why we make this GREAT SACRIFICE, besides the fact that we can use the money to very great advantage, is that it is generally recognized that the re-adjustment in manufactured products has been thoro and that it is sound business judgment to refigure our prices basing them on the new conditions and immediately reach a level that will unquestionably inspire confidence in their values. The

practice of making continuous small cuts in prices we do not look upon as a good business policy as it only tends to keep the trade in a state of constant demoralization. In our judgment the sooner the prices are made to reflect values, figured upon the cost of the basic raw materials, the sooner confidence will be restored. The reason of this sale.



Misses' and Child-Boy Shoe Specials

ren's Bargains

One lot Gun metal lace, sizes 11 to 2

Several good numbers in Boys' shoes, sized 1 to 2 at \$3.65

One lot Gun metal lace, sizes 11 to 2

One lot Boys' Brown Blucher, 11 to 13½

\$2.69 Sizes 1 to 2 at \$3.25, sizes 2½ to 5 at \$3.45

Several styles of former \$4.25 to \$4.50

lines in sizes 11 to 2, will be put in at \$3.35

Six different lines of Brown and Black

Calf and Elk, English and round toes,

sizes 11 to 2, \$5.00 to \$5.50 grades at \$3.85

The very best "Plamate" shoes Black

Bear, sizes 11 to 2, the \$6.50 quality,

goes in at \$4.95

Sizes 8½ to 11, of grades similar to the

above at proportionately lower prices.

Arch Supports and other foot comfort

articles, Laces, Polishes, Oils, Dressing,

Slipper Soles, Shoe Trees, etc., all find-

ings at reduced prices.

One fine lot Boys' good school shoes, sizes 2½ to 5½ at \$2.95

Several good numbers in Boys' shoes, sized 1 to 2 at \$3.65

One lot Boys' Brown Blucher, 11 to 13½

\$2.69 Sizes 1 to 2 at \$3.25, sizes 2½ to 5 at \$3.45

Three numbers Boys' sizes 10 to 13½

worth up to \$3.95 at \$2.85

One lot Boys' shoes 2½ to 5½, worth \$4.00

to \$5.00, special price of \$3.15

Boys' heavy Service shoes, Black or

Brown, worth \$4.00 to \$7.65,

\$2.95 to \$5.45

Boys' Heavy 10-inch High top, \$8.00 to

\$8.75 grades at \$5.90

Many other numbers and all cut prices.

Will put Rubber Heels on any new shoes

we sell at half price, 25c, any day.

Goods bought during this sale will be

exchanged but No Money Will Be Re-

funded

AT THE ELECTRIC SIGN, "SHOES"

Business is Good

For we have increased our sales in 1920 above the year 1919 more than 36 per cent, which means many more satisfied customers because the average sales were lower priced. We desire to continue to give the best shoes for the least money with perfect satisfaction in every case, hence this GREAT SACRIFICE not only of profits, but costs in part, too.

Oxfords Sacrificed, Too

Red Cross Brown Kid Oxfords, French or Cuban heels, our former values \$12.00 to \$14.25, your choice for \$9.65

Red Cross Brown Calf oxfords, plain or Brogues military heels, our former prices were \$10.00 and \$12.00, go for \$8.35

Red Cross Black or White Kid oxfords French or Cuban heels, \$10.50 to \$12.00 grades \$8.29 Other Oxfords in grades as low as \$3.85

MEN'S SHOES

Money Savers

Men's Black English and round toes \$3.85

Gun metal English Bal welt sole, now at \$4.95

Black and Brown English Bal and black, round toes, \$5.80

Dayton Men's Pilgrim, plain toes, wide, \$9.00 grade, at \$6.30

Any Regal shoe in the store, including the \$13.50 grades, during this sale only, at \$9.45

Any Brown Calf with Beaver, Kid or Black tops, including the \$12.50 grades, go at \$8.30

Heavy Weight: Low Cost

Black Grain double sole, tip or plain toe, \$6.00 to \$6.50 grades, at \$3.95

Brown Army and heavy welt shoes, \$7.50 to \$8.00 grades at \$5.95

Heavy 12-inch top, double sole, value \$11.50, new price, \$8.95

Heavy 12-inch top, double sole, value \$10.90, new price, \$8.95

Heavy 16-inch top, double sole, value to \$15.50, new price \$10.95

Rubbers at Cut Prices

Men's hip and supporting boots, up from \$4.95

Men's short boots, red or black, up from \$2.95

Reduced prices on all Rubber Overshoes