

## TALES OF THE OLD FRONTIER

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

### THE CHARGE OF THE NIGHT-SHIRT BRIGADE

ONE September night in 1898 Paddy Boyle and Leander Heron, dispatch bearers of the Third United States Infantry, were speeding along the trail between Fort Hays and Fort Larned, Kan. Suddenly they heard the sound of distant firing and, true to soldier tradition, they rode to the sound of the guns.

Guided by the flash of the weapons, they soon arrived at a place where an Indian war party was attacking a government wagon train. Boyle and Heron paused only long enough to load pistols for each hand. Then they dashed into the thick of the fight, and before the Indians were aware of their presence they had reached the cornered wagon train in safety.

Here they found four soldiers defending themselves against the onslaught of an overwhelming force of Dog Soldier Cheyennes, the boldest and cruellest warriors of the plains. All of the soldiers' horses had been killed and their last chance of escape was gone, unless some one could break through the line of their enemies and carry the news of their plight to the nearest fort.

Boyle immediately volunteered for the job. Five minutes after he had disappeared in the darkness the besieged heavy shots and yell then ceased. They were convinced that Boyle had been killed and that their cause was hopeless. After hearing of repeated charges of the savages, they found their ammunition running low. Finally there were only 12 rounds left, and by this time Heron was the only uninjured man in the party.

Just as dawn was breaking they saw that the Indians were preparing for another charge, and to add to their despair they noticed what appeared to be a band of warriors clad in white buckskin riding to reinforce the savages. They lined their sights on these new enemies, but before they could fire they heard a voice shouting "Don't shoot!" Then a man threw up his carbine and yelled. To their delight they recognized Paddy Boyle, and saw that his companions were everywhere. The Indians immediately broke and fled.

As the white-clad horsemen rode up to the corral, Heron said to Boyle, "What kind of uniform do you call this?"

"Well," replied Boyle with a laugh, "the boys were all asleep when I reached the fort and they didn't give me time to dress. So all they've got is their underclothes."

### HAS MANY FINE QUALITIES

Arabian Horse Needs Little Food or Care and Can Travel Amazing Distances Without Tiring.

It is a popular notion that the Arabian horse is a peculiarly delicate animal.

final, most sensitive to adverse influences. Such, however, is not the case. The wants of an Arab horse are few, and it is contended that he will maintain his health and spirits under conditions that no other species of horse could endure. Indeed, it has been pointed out, not only can the Arab stand under hardships at a pinch, but that he actually deteriorates if too carefully tended. This has been proved by the experiences of European purchasers, who have refused to believe that the usual three feeds of grain a day were too much, or that the morning hour of walking exercise was too little.

As a matter of fact, an Arab horse is naturally so high spirited and so difficult to tire that even a single feed of corn is excessive until he is being subjected to hard work. He will answer every requirement as a hunter if his food be restricted to hay, or even to grass. In the summer he thrives best when he has the run of a paddock and can regulate his own food and exercise.

These observations apply also to the ordinary Arab horse in everyday life. What a picked animal can do when put upon his mettle is almost beyond belief. A British officer in the Sudan found that after a ride of 800 miles his Arab horse showed no signs of overwork, although he had cast all his shoes before a quarter of the journey had been accomplished.

### NORTH COUNTRY HER CHOICE

Chicago Woman Tells of Joys of Travel in the Klondike Region—Its Cats and Dogs.

Here's a jolly note in a private letter to the editor from a Chicago lady who spent last winter and spring in the Bahamas and South Carolina, and then—"I got home with the flu baked out but no energy, so as soon as I got my clothes mended I started off again and had a glorious trip up to Dawson and an auto trip into the Klondike region. And now I am sorry I did not get on an ore boat and go out to St. Michael and over to Nome, but there will be a next time for that country. I am sure."

By the way—here is a natural history fact for you. All the cats in Dawson have beautifully thick fur and nicely rounded tips to their ears because they get the thin points ends frozen off in winter. I know, because I saw most of the feline population, and a black kitten told me the reason for the special style in cats' ears in Dawson. But those huskies—for the first time I have seen a finer dog than a St. Bernard! Soulful eyes, and a pelt and a size to make any ordinary klondike burst into a million pieces with envy and just as friendly as the malamutes are not. If I do not quit, I'll be weeping all over this page. I am so anxious to get back to the Klondike country—seems as if 80 degrees below wouldn't freeze me out!"

**Egyptian Idea of Beauty.**  
The Egyptians made the most exhaustive researches into the care and preservation of the skin. Their success in arresting the decomposition of the flesh as evinced by the mummies.

### Town With Many Lakes

Winter Haven, in Florida, suffers from an embarrassment of riches in the form of lakes. The town, which has about 2,000 people, is entirely surrounded by fresh-water bodies, large and small, and the avenues of escape into the country are few. If Winter Haven should ever get its army of lakes hooked up with canals, the "mariners" who attempt navigation therein can spend as much time on a continuous voyage as large ships require in crossing an ocean. An elaborate system of navigating charts would be required to avoid confusion and the annoying mistake of getting "into the wrong pew."

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### THE STEER BRANDED "MURDER, 1889"

TO THE cowboys who rode the range in West Texas during the nineties there was one longhorn steer that was always an object of dread. He was a big, white fellow with "Murder, 1889" branded in huge letters on his left side. His appearance among their herds brought a chill of terror to the superstitious, for this steer was said to have been responsible for the killing of at least nine men and it was believed that his coming to a ranch invariably meant another tragedy.

The steer's sinister history began in January, 1889, during a round-up on the Leon Cline ranch in Brewster county. In a dispute between H. H. Powe and Fido Gilliland over the ownership of this steer, then a yearling, Gilliland shot Powe and fled. Thereupon Powe's cowboys imprinted the gruesome brand upon the steer's hide and turned him loose on the range.

A short time later Jeff Webb, Gilliland's nephew, was killed under mysterious circumstances near the town of Alpine and Gilliland believed that Sam Taylor, a noted desperado, was responsible for the deed. One night Taylor was playing poker in a saloon in Alpine when some one fired a load of buckshot through the window, killing him instantly and mortally wounding an easterner who was sitting in the game.

It was in this game that the cowboys' "dead man's hand"—aces and eights—originated, for Taylor had just won a pot with those cards and he fell dead across the table with them clutched in his hand. But the strangest part of the affair occurred soon afterwards. A big white steer with "Murder, 1889" branded on his side was seen near the saloon looking meditatively through the window where the fatal shot had been fired.

About six months after Gilliland killed Powe, he himself was shot down by two Texas Rangers when he resisted arrest. While the officers were looking over the scene of the battle a steer walked out of a patch of scrub oak to where Gilliland lay and stood sniffing at his body. As it turned to leave the Rangers saw the brand "Murder, 1889" on its side. By some mysterious coincidence the steer had drifted to this spot, 75 miles from the scene of its branding, and was here at the exact time when Gilliland was killed.

After this incident the big longhorn was seen at many places where crimes had been committed and ignorant Mexicans of the country spread the story that it possessed the spirit of the dead Gilliland.

### "Sells" Plane, Then Flies Away in It

Oklahoma City, Okla.—A bandit who stole an airplane and then "sold" it for \$1,200 is being sought by police of this city.

After "selling" the plane in Oklahoma City, the man offered to give a demonstration in it. He disappeared into the clouds with the money and the machine. He gave the name of E. H. Tarbutton to the "purchaser," police said.

### TWO SAILORS ENGAGE IN FIERCE FIGHT ON SHIP

#### Fireman's Arm Almost Severed and Lung Punctured by Water-tender in Stokehole Battle.

New York.—The story of a fight, far down in the stokehole of the steamship Munamar, as she lurched along through a squall, was recounted when the vessel docked here, with one man at the point of death in the sick bay and another in irons in the ship's brig.

Knives and monkey wrenches were the weapons, and Alfonso Rido, a fireman, who was worsted in the encounter by Adolpho Mohojo, water-tender, bore ghastly evidence of the fury of the fight.

His left arm was almost severed at the shoulder, one of his lungs was punctured, and his head was badly cut. Mohojo escaped with a few bruises.

The battle started, according to ship's officers, over some trifling argument. Both men seized monkey wrenches. They were separated before either had been seriously hurt. Rido, sent forward to the ship's surgeon.

## HOME SWEET HOME

Oscar Thinks "Love" Gets Indigestion

by Terry Gilkison

AUTOCASTER



## YOU NEED NOT FAIL

This week's story is that of a hunter who started life without a single chance and who rose to the highest paid executive in the United States in his chosen line. Back in 1881, in the little township of Hornitos, in Mariposa County, California, was born a boy whom his parents named Jay Bruce. Hornitos boasted 148 inhabitants, all farmers and all poor. Two months a year a traveling teacher visited the village and gave instruction, but Jay's family were too poor to be able to spare him even for that short period, and what education he gained was at his mother's knee and by the light of a log fire.

Most of his boyhood was spent in the vicinity of the Yosemite

Valley and the Mariposa Big Trees. When he was nineteen he became a pump hand in the Yosemite mines, lived in a company shack, and saved every dollar he earned. Nine years later he started a saw-mill business, operating two mills which he designed and built himself. An accident resulted in blood poisoning, his business failed, and he was wiped out. He was married and had three small children, but no home or job.

Thereafter he tried his hand at eleven kinds of work and failed each time. Mrs. Bruce, with starvation facing the family, urged him to turn lion hunter. The California Fish and Game Commission was offering twenty dollars for each mountain lion killed. So

goes for treatment of a slight scalp wound, met Mohojo in a passageway. The latter had armed himself with a knife and fiercely resumed the fray. Rido fled to the deck with Mohojo in hot pursuit, falling, finally, near the rail, literally slashed to pieces. Mohojo was overpowered and put in irons.

### Baby Smothered to Death While Asleep With Poodle

Allentown, Pa.—Suffocated by a dog was the finding of Coroner Bauech, following an investigation of the death of John, two-months-old son of Mrs. Jennie de Blance of this city. The child was found dead in bed by the mother. It was thought to be sleeping soundly in its crib when Mrs. de Blance, aroused by the ringing of the doorbell went downstairs to admit her husband, who works nights in a local silk mill.

As she left the room the family pet, a French poodle, jumped from the child's crib, and it is believed that the dog slept with the baby and suffocated it.

### Slayer Asks Judge to Send Him to Guillotine

Paris.—The case of a man asking for capital punishment and getting it, although the jury was at first inclined to mercy, is reported from Rennes, Aveyron.

Ivan Celestin, thirty-five years old, born at Jaleyrac, was accused of murdering Constantine Emile, whose wife, mother of two children, went mad from grief after the crime.

Evidence was not sufficient to convict and the jury so reported to the judge, who, however, held that there were sufficient facts to justify passing a life sentence.

At this juncture the accused rose in the dock and announced that he was guilty.

"I killed Emile because I loved his wife," he said. "I deserve to be killed and I want you to see that I die."

### Prefers Death Room at Sing Sing to Jail Cell

New York.—William Cressy prefers life in the death house at Sing Sing to that in the Nassau county jail at Mineola and has asked Warden Lawes to permit him to remain there until the Nassau county authorities decide what they will do in his case.

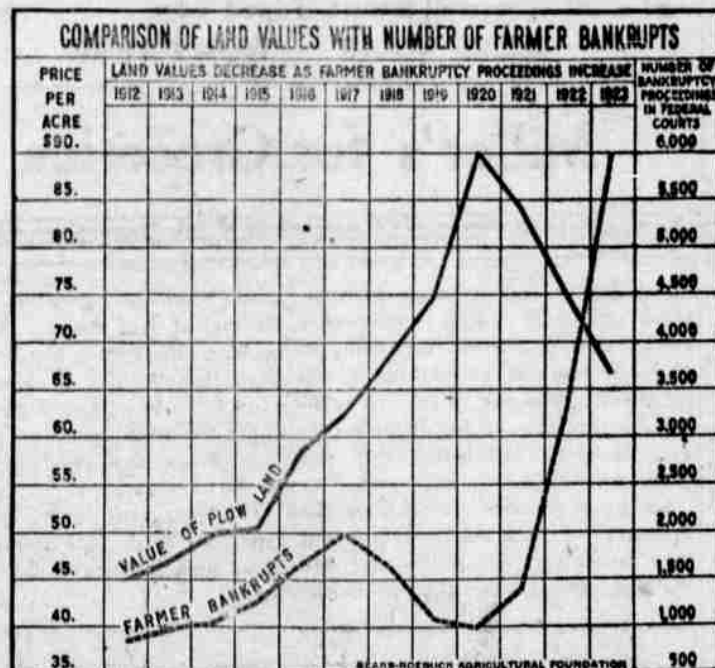
Cressy was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to die in the electric chair. Two weeks ago the Court of Appeals granted him a new trial. It is customary to take a prisoner from the death house within a few days after such a decision. Cressy told Warden Lawes he thought it was more cheerful in the death house than in the cells at Mineola.

### Safety First

Mrs. Knapp—Lots of better men than you have hinted that they'd have been glad to marry me if I hadn't taken you.

Her Husband—I notice they never even hinted it till after I married you.

## The Future of Farm Land Values



When farmers are making money on their crops the value of plow land runs high and bankruptcies are few. Reverse the situation and the bankruptcy line takes a straight upward turn. That's what is happening now. Farmer bankruptcies are on the increase, land values are sliding down the scale due to the slump of agricultural prices since the war.

What does the future hold for farm land owners? Is this the time to buy or sell?

The Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, after completing a survey of land values covering a period of sixty years, predicts that high land values are coming back and that within a decade farm land prices will again be on the climb. From the days of the Civil war to around 1900 farm land values showed little change. Land was considered a safe investment. Beginning in 1900 values began to rise; by 1910 the acre price had doubled. Still land continued to rise chiefly because of the advance in the prices of farm products.

The war brought higher prices for farm products, crop values increased. The result was a land boom. By 1920 the average price of land per acre was \$60, \$30 higher than in 1917 at the opening of the war. Farm bankruptcies dropped from 2,000 in 1917 to 1,000 in 1919.

During the prosperity period of the war many farms were bought. During the land boom it is estimated that 10 per cent of the country's farms changed hands. Following the war the collapse in prices of grains and live stock sent land values tumbling for the first time in twenty-five years. Average plow land decreased in value from an average of \$90 per acre in 1920 to \$35 in 1923. Crop values per acre fell from \$30 in 1919 to \$15 in 1921. During the past two years there has been a gradual increase, the average for 1922 being \$20 and last year the average rising to \$22. Farmer bankruptcy proceedings in the federal courts jumped from 1,000 in 1920 to 6,000 in 1923. More than 84 per cent of the land owners in 15 corn and wheat producing states in the upper Mississippi valley lost their farms.

In twenty-five years the United States should be producing on a domestic basis in practically everything, unless production makes material increases. People are moving from the land. Then the farm-to-city movement will reverse itself. Land values will increase with the price levels. Bankruptcies will decrease with the rise in land values. The present tendency in prices is down. They may continue down for a decade. During this time land prices may sag considerably. But with a return of production prices of farm land will go up.

## The Foolish Moth

like some property owners, dallied with fire too long

and he was burnt

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GOOD FURNITURE IS YOUR DUTY TO YOUR HOME



## Modern Furniture Needs

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