

The WATER BEARER

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CHAPTER XII—Continued

"You mean Mr. Baxter? Yes, I saw him. He has gone down to Coyote."

The repression of his tone drew Maria's attention. She turned and looked at him, the lamp, unshaded, in her hand, its light full on Caleb's face. She gasped and then a sort of baleful joy flitted over her swarthy face.

"Madre de Dios! You met heem. Seguro! An' you fought weeth heem. Bueno! I hope you spoiled for heem that handsome face. May he never return—that Baxter! Eef he does, eef is better for heem that he does not meet Padilla. Si, for Padilla weel not use his fists. An' now you mus' wash that blood from your face, senior. I weel breeng warm water to the room where you sleep before. After you eat, you weel find all ready."

Her speech, fierce at the start, had softened. She bestowed a nod of approval on Caleb, her eyes kindly, and swept out. It was plain that Baxter had lost favor at El Nido. It was equally plain that Maria had meant to convey that much to Caleb, together with her emphatic indorsement of the fight that he had not contradicted.

The coffee and sandwiches finished, Caleb did not feel that his present relations admitted of his writing a letter of condolence to Betty Clinton and he would have been at loss how to word it. To send flowers, much as he desired to do something to express

"Nothing wrong with the car. Only with the bean of the guy that owns it. Let his battery run down. No juice. The Spanish dame says he cussed it up and down when he tried to start it. Nothin' doin' an' he has to hoof it way down the canyon."

It seemed to place up now—the idea that Baxter had offended Betty Clinton and had been summarily dismissed. So summarily, that, finding his car batteries useless, he had decided to leave the car to be sent for and stalked off down canyon in a mood that Caleb had been ready to match.

"Mr. Warner?" Doctor Conklin had come out of the house. Caleb joined him.

"There's nothing more that I can do. I must get back to Paloma. I've suggested that you go with me. There's a nurse needed. It would be a good idea to get Burton, though Kennedy will stay, and is doing all that can be done. The trouble culminates rapidly, but Miss Clinton naturally wants Burton."

"He may not be able to get here in time. It's touch and go. Clinton is not a strong man. He got caught in the hills in the storm. Drenched! Then his horse wrenched a fetlock in fording the swollen stream and Clinton led it home. D—d foolishness! I have suggested that you can get in touch with Burton as soon as you reach a phone. I can get you to Paloma in time for the ten o'clock train—last one tonight. And you may be able to arrange about a nurse. She'll have to come back with Burton in his car."

"Of course," Caleb replied. "I'll see that a nurse arrives. If you'll give me some addresses and names to round up if I can't get one through Burton."

"Good. I knew you'd tackle it, Warner. Told her so. Hop in. We haven't too much time."

They started without a chance for Caleb to see the girl again. But he was in her service and she would know that.

At Paloma station with a few minutes to spare, the doctor wrote down the address of a nurses' home and the names of the women he preferred on such a case.

"If you can't get any of these, try the second address," he said. "Mention Burton's name with the case. Carries more weight than mine. And get that nurse over here tonight. If you can't raise Burton here's a note that will get you oxygen—two tanks—that must come with the nurse. It may make all the difference. Here comes your train. Good luck to you."

Caleb got a working wire to Golden at the Oakville Ferry and he let the boat go, putting in the twenty minutes before the next one to making arrangements. He got a nurse and told her to hold herself in readiness. He also got the oxygen. Burton was on a case and could not leave.

Arrived across the bay he found car and nurse awaiting him. Fifteen minutes saw the oxygen loaded in the car and they caught the midnight ferry

for the return. They slid off the boat to the apron at Oakville Estuary at the first moment and went rocketing through the night to Paloma and onto the sideroad, plowing up that with the full energy of the high-powered car, rushing across the valley and sounding the strident klaxon to let the ranch know that they were coming.

Kennedy stood waiting to meet them. "It's touch and go," he said. "Where's the oxygen? Did you get it? Thank God! It may save him. Come, nurse."

Maria came out for the nurse's grip. "She stay here tonight," she said. "Of course. I am going back for Doctor Burton. How is Mr. Clinton?"

"Ah, he is seck—seck! I pray—but I do not know, senior. I am 'fraid." Her face worked with the emotion expressed in her voice, the car lamps showed her eyes red with weeping.

At four o'clock Caleb got in touch with Doctor Burton, sleepless from long vigil.

"A cup of coffee and I'm off," he said. "It's over one way or another by this but I'll go, of course. Clinton and his girl are old friends as well as patients. As for you, young man," he added suddenly bending his gaze on Caleb, "you're all in. What the devil have you been up to? A hot bath and bed for you. Instantly. You look as if you had been taking part in a riot."

Caleb felt like it. Despite his anxiety, he succumbed to sleep in the cab. He dropped into unconsciousness the moment he stretched out between the sheets. The sun was flooding the room when he awakened. It was a glorious morning, vital, hopeful. Caleb went immediately to his telephone.

"Are there any messages for me?" he asked the operator. The girl gave him the office number of Doctor Burton, that had been left with her and, on his request, got him the connection. The doctor's office nurse spoke briefly. Caleb hung up the hook softly. Betty Clinton's father was dead.

CHAPTER XIII

Baxter Strikes

Caleb did not feel that his present relations admitted of his writing a letter of condolence to Betty Clinton and he would have been at loss how to word it. To send flowers, much as he desired to do something to express



"You've Had a Falling Out With Baxter?" He Said Abruptly.

the sympathy that he felt for her supreme sorrow, was the function of relatives and friends more intimate than he. But Mrs. Carquinez helped him out of his quandary. He met her on the street, on her way to the Vedders. Betty, she told him, was almost prostrated, but was now bearing up bravely.

"She takes things standing up," said the artist's wife. "She told me of all you did for them the night her father was taken ill. She is very grateful. I shall tell her that I have seen you," she ended, as she shook hands. "Is there any message you would like me to give her?"

"My sympathy, my wish that I could do something. That is all."

Hinckley had a suite of offices in the building of the Crystal Springs Water company. He turned over to Caleb one of these rooms with its draughting equipment, and there Caleb worked hard over his plans while Hinckley, with the engineering staff, was making fuller investigation across the bay with a view to confirmation of the project. Options were already

Some Facts About Washington Shaft

Now that the Washington monument is temporarily closed to the public, for the installation of a new elevator, it is but natural, perhaps, that some of the facts that are associated with it and which have been taken for granted should interestingly be recalled. For instance, not everyone knows that the number going up the monument in a single day has often exceeded 10,000, or that there is not an officially inscribed line anywhere on the monument indicative even of the fact that the structure is in honor of George Washington. The shaft, by the way, was started in 1848, but after 150 feet or so of the total 555 were completed, there was a long period of suspension, due largely to the fact that the movement to finance it by popular subscription collapsed. The present simplicity of the structure was not originally contemplated, for around the

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POULTRY

EGGS IN AUTUMN BRING A PROFIT

The fall season and the advancing price of eggs offer an opportunity in marketing this product that is not found at any other season of the year, according to G. T. Klein, extension poultryman at the Kansas State Agricultural college. September, October, and November find egg prices rapidly increasing and the demand good for a high quality product.

Many of the most successful poultrymen are taking advantage of these favorable prices by shipping to the large egg markets rather than selling locally. In general it has been found profitable to ship eggs on a rising market, Mr. Klein points out. The practice, however, seems hardly fair to the local buyer who handles the eggs during the season of less favorable market conditions.

"Experience has shown that it is not advisable to ship on a falling market," he declared. "This means that shipments must be discontinued about the first of the year unless a special market paying considerably above prevailing market prices can be secured. In a well organized poultry program, especially if the flock is well bred, this is not a serious matter as eggs can then be sold to a hatchery or for hatching purposes, thereby providing a 10 to 15 cent margin over the market prices for an additional period of four months."

"Eggs for shipment should not be more than a week old and it is even preferable to ship twice a week if volume permits, and new 30 dozen cases should always be used. Complete directions for packing can be secured from local express offices.

"The eastern markets have all the inferior eggs they can use and what they most want is a high grade selected product. They are very particular about the cleanliness of the egg, and want it to be of high quality."

Fine Alfalfa Chaff Is Excellent for Chicks

The fine alfalfa chaff gathered from around the mangers makes an excellent green feed for young chicks, and it is also good scratching litter for the colony brooder houses. Some poultry men believe that it will pay to keep the chicks off the range for about three weeks to reduce the danger from coccidiosis. They will supply green feed and attempt to make range conditions in the house.

Poultry men who do not have alfalfa for other live stock can buy alfalfa meal for chicks. This varies in price according to the quality.

Some of the commercial starting mashers have a little alfalfa-leaf included. In feeding either alfalfa-leaf meal or sprouted oats to chicks, it is difficult to give any exact quantity which should be given. Chicks develop rapidly in weight and their requirements increase from day to day. The practical way of feeding green feed to chicks seems to consist in giving each flock about as much each day as they will clean up in an hour or two without waste. Then the chicks can pick at the sprouts or alfalfa leaves when they wish, and all the chicks in the flock will have a chance at some green feed.

Poultry Squibs

Cull, and sell slacker hens. Remove males from the poultry flock.

Minerals are often limiting factors in egg production.

There is considerable strain on a hen caused by laying nearly every day, even if that production is during the natural season for heavy laying.

A young orchard or a wild plum grove or a grove of sunflowers are ideal places to raise chicks. Some successful poultry raisers grow their young chicks at the edge of a corn field.

Poultry farming seems most efficient of all farming—is it because women do most of that?

While hens will live and even keep in fair health on poor rations, well-balanced, palatable feeds are essential to good egg production.

Skim milk, either sweet or sour, and buttermilk are especially valuable feeds for young chicks in hot weather, making the diet lighter without reducing its nutritive value.

One of the faults of many feeders is that they do not give their hens enough feed, rather than too much.

Chickens will do best if the sexes are separated. The cockerels should be removed from the pullets when they can be distinguished.

In order for an accredited flock to qualify as a certified flock, the owner must use male birds from hens that have a trap nest record of 200 eggs or more per year.

The DAIRY

WIN AFFECTIONS OF MILKING COW

A calf should never be allowed to nurse its dam more than once or twice to get the colostrum, or first milk, and it is even better for the cow to not allow the calf to nurse at all for this first milk can be fed by hand from a pail as well as the after milk. But this is done for the benefit of the cow not the calf. The cow's affection for her calf increases the longer it is left with her.

The sooner the calf is taken away the easier it is for the dairyman to get her to transfer some of this affection for her calf to him, and the more he succeeds in doing this, the greater success will he have in training the cow to yield her milk to him instead of the calf. If he is unable to transfer any of this affection to himself then he will fail to produce the greatest milk production from the cow. The cow doesn't yield milk because she likes to, or has to, but because she wants to sustain the life of her calf. Now, the right kind of a person can succeed in getting himself substituted almost entirely in the affection of the cow for her calf and if he does he is on the road to develop the cow to her full capacity as a milk producer.

Hence the best dairymen separate the calf from the cow very soon after birth; by being kind to the cow encourage her to bestow some of her affection for her calf on him and feed the calf from a pail all he will eat until properly fattened. You will get just about as good veal, few butchers can tell the difference, and you have not spoiled your cow as a milk-producing machine.

Find That Dairy Herds Are 20 Per Cent Culls

A dairy cow that fails to return \$2.50 for every dollar spent on her feed, is seldom worth keeping. That means that she must produce 9,000 pounds of milk each year at present prices, according to analysis of cow testing association figures in a northeastern Ohio county.

Assuming that dairy herds in this county are typical of the dairy sections of the state, more than 20 per cent of the dairy cows of Ohio ought to be discarded, says S. M. Salisbury, animal husbandry extension specialist at the Ohio State university.

"Of the 182 cows completing a full year's test, the lowest ten made an average production of 3,439 pounds of milk," he reports, "while six cows at the other end of the line averaged 12,740 pounds each for the same period."

"In the lowest group of ten are considered all the cows in the survey which produced less than 4,000 pounds of milk a year. This is the group that in the opinion of most men is not represented in their herds. It is not until the scales are regularly used that such cows are credited with their rightful production.

"An average of 9,500 pounds for the herd will set the lowest limit for an individual at 7,500 pounds. This should be our goal in dairy production work."

Babcock Tester Shows Yield of Butterfat

No one can tell for sure whether or not a cow is worth keeping unless he knows how much milk she yields, how much butterfat there is in her milk and how much feed she consumes, says an authority on dairying. The man who can guess these things correctly isn't living! But it is easy to find out about a cow. If the milk is weighed at each milking, the record will tell exactly how many pounds of milk each cow gives during any lactation period. The Babcock tester, if used once each month, will disclose how the butterfat runs. And if some sort of record of the food eaten is kept, it becomes a simple matter to figure out whether or not a cow is a "lady boarder" or contributing to the farm income.

Dairy Squibs

The silo on the dairy farm is a "tower of prosperity."

Calves should have salt as soon as they begin to eat hay and grain.

If you want to make the old cow think all next winter is June plan to have some silage for her.

There are many who like the flavor and odor of vegetables, but there are not many who like them mixed with cream or butter.

Warm water is also essential for dairy cows. Milk consists of about 87 per cent water and anything which will cause the animals to consume less than the normal amount of water will cause a decrease in the milk flow.

Now is the season to look over the dairy stable and see what improvements or changes can be made that will lessen labor or increase the comfort of the cows. Less labor decreases costs and greater cow comfort increases yields and profits.

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

MATURE APPLES BEST KEEPERS

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

From the results of numerous investigations it seems fairly certain that a great many apples grown in the eastern section of the United States are picked too early to obtain best results in either common or cold storage, says the United States Department of Agriculture. In general, apples for cold storage should not be picked before they show a decided yellow cast in the ground color or until they are beginning to loosen on the tree. An equally firm fruit of better color and flavor and with less tendency to scald will be obtained from later picking than from that now generally practiced. In common storage late picking will give not only better-flavored fruit but also fruit in a firmer condition throughout the storage period.

Apples soften much faster in common storage or if packed and held in the orchard than while remaining on the trees. For best results in common storage, therefore, the picking of most varieties should be delayed as long as the fruit is holding on the tree fairly well or until there is danger of freezing. Exceptions should be made of the Jonathan when grown under long-growing season conditions. Late picking of good common storage varieties results in a firmer and higher quality of fruit in storage.

Apples for cold storage also should be fairly well matured when they are picked, both to obtain highest quality and appearance and to reduce the occurrence of storage scald. The development of scald can be greatly reduced by the use of oiled paper, but the control will be more effective, particularly in barreled apples, if the fruit is well matured when picked. Data gathered in the tests show that fairly late picking does not result in more rapid softening in fruit held at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Several Advantages of Tractor in the Orchard

There is no question but what mechanical power may be used economically and effectively in fruit production on a small or large scale. Some of the advantages claimed for the tractor in the orchard are as follows:

It will get closer to the trees without injury.

It will not bite the ends of the limbs or knock off the fruit.

It will turn in a short radius.

It can be guided with exactness.

It will pull heavier tools and cut deeper.

It will readily pull a subsoiler to break the plowpan caused by shallow tillage or the hardpan laid down by nature.

It will get over the ground faster, thus conserving time and labor.

It can be worked longer hours and in emergencies can be used day and night.

Packing Sheds Sources of Heavy Infestations

Packing sheds and their contents are oftentimes sources of heavy infestations. In the fall and during the winter the worms issuing from the apples seek places of shelter, such as cracks and crevices in packing sheds, in baskets, boxes, or other containers. Whenever packing sheds are so constructed that they may be thoroughly screened to prevent issuing moths from escaping in the spring, this method may be used. Containers in packing sheds or those which may contain worms, should be freed of infestation or left undisturbed in moth-tight sheds. The containers may be freed of infestation by placing them in a room which can be heated to a temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit and this temperature maintained for six hours.

Map Useful in Keeping Track of Small Orchard

When young trees are planted the tags should be removed, or they soon cut into the bark and strangle the trees. At the same time the owner likes to know the names of the varieties and their locations. In the case of apples, it is quite a few years before the trees are bearing and the varieties are definitely known by their fruit. The orchard map is useful in keeping track of varieties, even in the small home orchards. If a tree dies, it is possible to refer to the map and order another of the same variety and keep the block intact. This avoids the mixed plantings, which are the most expensive to spray and harvest.

Cut Side Branches

At planting time most of the side branches of the peach tree should be cut away leaving a straight stem, then cut this back to a point of 30 to 33 inches above the ground. Even with very large trees it is best to cut back severely. This will cause the tree to form a perfectly new top. With good culture, a growth of three or four feet will be made the first year. A little pruning should be done the spring of the second year. Side branches should not be cut so heavily.