



# The Ward of Robbers' Roost

By CRITTENDEN MARRIOTT  
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### SYNOPSIS

"Go Ahead" Morton, Virginia and Department of Justice operative, receives a letter from Tom Fair, bandit leader, urging that some one be sent to rescue Stella Morton, foster sister, from the gang. An enemy in the gang prevents Fair from helping the girl. The letter was intended for "Go Ahead's" father, who is away from home. "Go Ahead" decides to go himself. At "Robbers' Roost" Fair explains the situation to Stella, now eighteen years old. She does not want to leave Fair, for whom she has the affection of a daughter. Jim Barker, sheriff and aspirant for Stella's hand, directs Fair to run shipment of arms into Mexico and bring back whisky. Unknown to Fair, Stella, dressed as a boy, accompanies the gang. The bandits' errand is successful and the party returns to Barker's ranch. Stella refuses proposal of marriage by Wade, Barker's lieutenant. Wade declares he will force her to marry him. Wade attacks the girl and "Go Ahead" arrives on the scene in time to rescue her. Barker appears and is disarmed.

### CHAPTER V—Continued

"You saved my life, Bob," he said, smilingly.  
"That's nothing between friends," laughed the girl, excitedly. "But if you like, you can save mine now. Keep these men standing where they are for ten minutes."  
"Oh, sure! Is that all?"  
"Yes." With the word the girl turned and ran to the tall window opening under the balcony on the outside world, leaped into it and then out and down.

Fiercely Wade and Barker sprang forward, furious to see the girl escape; but they stopped at a gesture from Go Ahead's pistol. "Hold on, people," he said. "You heard what the boy said. Better not move for ten minutes." His voice was very kind.  
Wade laughed fiercely. "Boy?" he asked.  
"Oh, well. Call him a man if you like," Go Ahead conceded. "He sure did act like one."  
Wade opened his mouth to speak, but a furious oath from Barker silenced him. "Shut up, you fool!" he yelled.

Go Ahead laughed. "Talk as rough as you like, fellows," he said, "but I guess you'll have to wait till the ten minutes are up before you can mix it."  
As the ten minutes dribbled away Go Ahead caught the sound of furtive footsteps on the planking of the balcony over his head. Evidently, he guessed, the man who had fired at him was leaving the balcony to try to slip upon him by some other way or to set an ambush for him when he started away after the ten minutes were up.

Where would he watch—at the window or the door to the hall? Go Ahead did not rate the fellow's intelligence very high and guessed that he would watch at the window because Bob had gone that way. Still, if he were just a little more intelligent he would probably watch at the hall door, just because Bob had not gone that way. After all, it was just a guess.

What was the answer?  
To Go Ahead it was plain enough Go Ahead and chance it!  
Abruptly his eyes gleamed. For ward he leaned, pistols extended menacingly. "You d—n scoundrels!" he raged. "Ill-treating a boy like that! You ought to be killed. By heavens, I will kill you!" From his hands blazed alternate streams of fire.

Wade and Barker could not know that he aimed above their heads; and they did not wait to investigate. Pell mell they rushed for the door to the corridor and flung themselves through it. And instantly a revolver some where in the corridor began to crackle.

Go Ahead knew what this meant and that he ought to leave by the window at once. But curiously held him. To the still ajar door he ran and peered through the crack just in time to see Wade stagger back and fall. Barker hurl a sheath knife through the air, and Diego drove his pistol with a howl as the knife drove into his right arm.

This was enough for Go Ahead leaving Diego to fight it out with his employer and his employer's henchman. Go Ahead jumped over the window.

His horse was gone, presumably taken by Bob; but Wade's horse was still standing bleated in the corral, and in a moment Go Ahead was on his back and was speeding away.

### CHAPTER VI

When Stella leaped from the window she intended to run to the corral for Wade's horse, which she knew was tethered there. But when she saw another standing close by, held in place only by his trailing bridle, she guessed that it was Barker's jumped on it, and sped away.  
She felt no quams at leaving Go Ahead to restrain Wade and Barker and she had forgotten Diego. But before she had gone a hundred yards she remembered him and checked her horse. Diego was armed and was watching Go Ahead (whose identity she did not know) appeared

to be a stranger; he did not know the ins and outs of the ranch house; Diego might ambush him and— She would go back and fight it out with him! It was all right for a girl to run away, but she was not a girl she was a man. Men stood by each other to the death; she would do the same.  
Her hand dropped to her belt—and found nothing; and she remembered that Go Ahead had failed to give her back her pistol. Except for a small sheath knife she was unarmed. Her going back would merely add to the difficulties her champion might find in getting away. It was a man, all right; no doubt he would manage things satisfactorily—if she did not go back to hamper him. On the whole—Unwillingly, she spurred her horse and raced away to the north once more. But from time to time she looked back wistfully. For some reason her heart was unusually heavy within her.

Meanwhile Go Ahead had settled with his enemies and was riding on her trail.  
As he teaped to the saddle of Wade's horse and raced away he saw, afar to the north, the trail of dust that marked Stella's escape; and instinctively it felt quite automatically he followed it.

For a while "Go Ahead" rode on silently, not hurrying to overtake the fleeing youngster but merely following his trail. He was thinking deeply, but his thoughts were clearly not unpleasant, for at a white a slow smile curved his lips.

"Some boy," he muttered in admiration. "Some boy! 'I'll tell the world so. Good looking too. 'Bob' Good name for a likely lad. Seems to fit him somehow. Wonder what that big lug was jumping on him for? Darn it! I ought to have shot the cuss."

As he talked to himself Go Ahead was entering along, watching the dust line before him. Undoubtedly it was getting thinner, perhaps because he was falling farther behind or perhaps because the soil was changing and Bob's dust did not so readily rise in the air.

Meanwhile, Stella, pausing for a moment on the crest of the slope, had seen, two or three miles ahead, at the crest of the next swell, the men whom she was pursuing. They seemed to have halted for a moment. The distance was of course too great for her to make out the reason for their stopping (anywhere except in the desert they would have been practically invisible to her); but she guessed that they were looking back for her and Wade. So she rode on, faster than before.

In the second "valley" she came up to them and talked on to their plodding procession.

No one spoke to her as she came up; and she spoke to no one.  
There was no particular need for speech, and your plainness is conservative in the use of language—except of course when he goes to town and points it red. After a while, however, Black Kennedy, a special cory of Wade's, who had known all about the plan to hold Stella at the ranch, dropped back to her side.

"Where's Wade?" he asked.  
Stella glanced at the questioner "lowly and indifferently." "Wade?" she echoed. "Left him at the ranch." Stella knew that Kennedy was close to Wade, and she had decided to hold her tongue about the latter's conduct toward her until she got back to the Roost.

"Humph! Where'd you get that horse?"  
"At the ranch. A horse was lame," Kennedy knew that the girl's horse was lame, and he knew also how it had come to be lame. What he wanted to know was how Stella had managed to get another horse after he had personally seen to it that every other mount at the ranch house except Wade's had been sent away. Frowningly, he stared at Stella—and made another discovery.

### (TO BE CONTINUED)

## No Way of Avoiding the "Madding Crowd"

We can never get people out of our eyes. Wherever we go they are with us, great crowds of them. They have filled up the subway before we arrive. They have packed the elevated train before we get there. They have jammed every store before we decide to go shopping. If we go into a bank we are compelled to stand in line. If we want to buy a theater ticket we stand in line. If we want to buy a bunch of radishes we stand in line. No matter where we go there are a hundred people ahead of us. They swarm like the frogs and locusts of ancient Egypt. Egypt had ten plagues. We have only one, the plague of people.

We could get on better with them if they were not so close to us. They elbow us and shove us and shove us and step on us. Even when we get them out of our eyes they tarry in our ear. When we go into the inner chamber and shut the door, we cannot shut it tight enough to keep out the sounds of people. We hear them day and night. "Night" is only a poetic expression, for New York City is like the New Jerusalem. There is no night there. A Biblical writer informs us that once upon a time there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. No one has ever made such a statement about New York. Rev. Charles E. Jefferson in the North American Review.

### High Aspirations

Robert Louis Stevenson, while living of Skerryvore, had the idea of adopting a boy in whom he was interested, as his "body servant," and giving him such education as he could assimilate. Before doing so, relates R. L. S.'s great friend, dear little old Miss Adelaide Boodle, he put it to her boy point blank whether any, or walk in life held for him more powerful attraction. The answer came with out a moment's hesitation:  
"Please, sir, I wish I could be Mr. Townsend's boy."  
Mr. Townsend was the local fishmonger.

### Sam Days

Arithmetic is now being taught to some kindergarten children. It seems that even the tiny tots have their days of reckoning.—Farm and Fireside.

## HOW TO MAKE CHOCOLATE ICE-BOX CAKE



Making Sponge Cake to Be Used for the Ice-Box Cake.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
Chocolate ice-box cake is made of sponge cake with a chocolate custard mixture spread between the layers. It is put in the refrigerator overnight to give the flavors time to blend and intensify, and may then be served with whipped cream or icing as a dessert. To make the sponge cake, which is the basis of ice-box cake, the following ingredients and directions:

**Sponge Cake.**  
4 eggs 1 tbs. cold water  
1 cup sugar 1/4 tsp. salt  
1 cup sifted soft-wheat flour 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup lemon juice  
Separate the egg yolks from the whites and beat the yolks well. Gradually beat in the sugar, using a Dover egg beater. Add the water and continue the beating until the mixture is very thick and light. Sift the dry ingredients and then fold them into the egg and sugar mixture. Then fold in the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs and add the flavoring. Grease a tube pan slightly, pour in the cake batter, and bake from 45 to 50 minutes in a moderate oven at a temperature of 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Chocolate Custard Mixture.**  
1 pint milk 4 eggs  
1/2 cake unsweetened chocolate 1/2 cup butter  
(1/2 pound) 1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 cup sugar 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
Melt the chocolate in the double boiler. Add the sugar, salt, and milk. Mix well. Separate the eggs. When the milk is hot, pour the mixture into the lightly beaten yolks. Cool until thickened, stirring constantly. Add the butter, beat until well mixed, and fold this custard mixture into the stiffly beaten whites of the eggs. Stir in the vanilla. Chill before pouring over the sponge cake.

## PRINT DRESS BEST FOR MORNING WEAR

Garment Can Be Made at Home at Small Cost.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
In every wardrobe there should be several easily laundered dresses for summer morning wear. These can be made at home at small cost from charming cotton printed fabrics, and if the colors chosen and the designs of the dresses are suitable, they can be worn on the street or at business in warm weather. Printed zephyrs, batiste and dimity are some of the best fabrics to choose for the crisp, dainty, cool effect one desires no matter how high the thermometer climbs.

The illustration, taken by the bureau of home economics, shows a model made of printed zephyr with a full-



Simple House Dress of Cotton Print.

gathered skirt, attached to a plain, blouse-like waist, with short sleeves. Collars, cuffs and pocket tops are made of two shades of organdy matching two colors in the print, and bound with bias white lawn binding. Such a dress presents few difficulties of construction to the home sewer, and is easily washed and ironed.

### Fruits for Shortcakes

When strawberries are over, other fruits may be used for shortcakes, throughout the season. In fact, in winter time when less fresh fruit is obtainable very good shortcakes can be made of prunes, dates, figs, raisins, dried peaches or apricots.

### HOUSEHOLD NOTES

- Never use a hot iron or hot water on silk stockings.
- When cooking a cracked egg add a teaspoonful of salt to the water.
- A lb. for stout persons: Wear clothes made of plain material with a dull finish.
- To clean soiled ribbon, stretch them on a flat surface and scrub them with gasoline or soap suds.
- Two essentials in preparing tough meat are plenty of moisture and prolonged cooking at a gentle heat.
- When making gelatin desserts, remember that the fruit juices may be added while the jelly is still in liquid form, but the fruit itself should not be put in until the mixture has solidified enough to hold the fruit and not allow it to settle.

## Decidedly Poor Guess Concerning Natal Day

It isn't too late to tell this story on one respected Boston citizen. A title unfamiliar with American history, he got his dates mixed and will never again forget February 12. As he was driving home from church alone to was disturbed by the thought that it was somebody's birthday. He tried to recall, but he betrayed his memory in vain. Passing a confectioner's shop, he stopped and purchased a \$3 box of bonbons with a pink ribbon around it. Driving home, he made a low curtsy to his surprised wife and handed the box to her, and at the same time planted a kiss on her cheek.  
"Well, well," said the astonished lady, "what is all this for?"  
"Your birthday, darling," said he, "and many happy returns of the day."  
"My birthday?" she exclaimed. "Why, you know that my birthday is August 14. This is Lincoln's birthday."  
Since then he has been booting himself about the house every time he thinks of it.—Boston Globe.

## Protection Given to Flyers Carrying Mail

In preparing for night flying in the air-mail service, four classes of equipment are used. The flood lights are used at regular fields to give the pilot as nearly as possible the same illumination of the field at night as is available in daylight. This is accomplished by a powerful unit. In addition to the large field light, all buildings on the field are flood lighted by smaller units. The beacon lights are placed on 53-foot towers and serve to guide the pilot and show him the location of regular and emergency landing fields. A revolving projection type of beacon is used. The drum revolves with a frequency which gives a flash every ten seconds. The rotating beacons are of two classes, electric and gas. The electric rotates six times a minute, and the gas beacons flash 60 times a minute. Both assist in keeping the pilot on his course. The boundaries of all regular and emergency fields are outlined with white electric lights placed 150 to 300 feet apart.

## Misjudged

President Pratt of the Standard Oil company of New York was talking about certain oil men's difficulties in Mexico.  
"These men have been misjudged," he said. "It reminds me of a story a New York church one Sunday morning and was so moved by the pastor's eloquence that he decided to put a \$50 bill in the collection plate."  
"He was as modest a man as he was generous, and when the collector approached he rolled the bill up and concealed it in his fist; but as he was about to make his splendid contribution the collector frowned down at that tightly clenched fist and jerked the plate back and whispered coldly: "No. Give it to me, sir. One has just come off my coat."

## The Matter With It

While old Riley Rezzidew of Patonia was standing near his fence a rambunctious car came tearing around the corner, ramed through the inclosure and tumbled it down on Mr. Rezzidew. Then the car stopped a moment and blew up.  
"What in roaring thunder is the matter with that there dabbled car?" demanded the gentleman, somewhat irritated.  
"Aw, it heeded some feller call this a spite fence," responded old Ben Bumpuss, "and I reckon it wanted to take the spite out of it."—Kansas City Star.

## Never Too Late

Cortlandt Bleeker nodded from a window of the Knickerbocker club to a painted old lady with a gold en bob who swaggered down Fifth avenue in very high-heeled slippers of snakeskin, flesh-colored silk stockings and a skirt that ended an inch or two above her knees.  
"It is never too late to pretend," he said.

## Excess of Patriotism

"Chauvinism" derives its name from Nicolas Chauvin, a soldier in the army of Napoleon who was ridiculed by his comrades for his demonstrative and unreasoning patriotism. The term has come to be applied to any one's excessive enthusiasm for national ascendancy.

## One Advantage

"After all, a clay pipe has an advantage over all others," said the man who was born tired.  
"How's that?" replied his friend.  
"Well, if you drop it on the pavement you needn't trouble to pick it up."—Boston Post.

## Chance to Win His Enmity

Author's Wife—Mabel's new husband is a censor, and I've invited them over to dinner tomorrow evening.  
Author—Fine. That will give me an excellent opportunity to insult him.

## Determined

Patient—Will I get well?  
Doctor—Yes, sir. You'll get well if it costs you \$50,000.

## A Joke

A fat man will always laugh at your jokes. That's how he keeps fat.

## Shiftlessness

Shiftlessness doesn't worry the people who are shiftless.

## WOMAN WAS ALL RUN-DOWN

Helped By Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Evansville, Ind.—"I am writing to tell you how grateful I am that there is such a medicine as yours for sale in our stores. I could hardly drag around. I was all run-down. I have taken 12 bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound so far and am going to take it until I am well. My friends notice the change in my appearance and my husband said today that I am looking so much better and he wants me to continue taking it. I hope to help all women who are run-down and suffer from nervousness by recommending your medicines."—Mrs. VICTOR N. SCHLESINGER, 44 Hazel Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.

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For correcting over-acidity and quickly relieving belching, gas, heartburn, sick headache, dizziness, nausea and other digestive disorders. Not a laxative but a tested Sure Relief for Indigestion. Perfectly harmless and safe. Send for free samples to Bell & Co., Inc., Orangeburg, N. Y.



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25¢ AND 75¢ PACKAGES EVERYWHERE

## Surely Qualified

Captain—What makes you think you could quell a riot?  
Patrolman—I was judge at a baby show once.

## Catty Chatter

First Cat—Mrs. Pitts has many good features, don't you think?  
Second Cat—Yes, indeed, new ones every year.

## When a man falls in love at first sight he had better wipe his glasses and take a second look.

## One Secret of Beauty Is Foot Comfort

Frequently you hear people say, "My feet pinyre winter and summer when I put on rubbers or heavier footwear—then when I remove my shoes my feet chill quickly and often my home seems like a furnace. It is every woman's trouble to use Allen's Foot-Powder. It dries the feet and absorbs into the pores the autogenous, heating powder. Pull directions on box. Trial Free. Address: Allen's Foot-Powder, N. Y. In a Pinch, Use Allen's Foot-Powder."

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## W. M. U. PORTLAND, NO. 24, 1928.

## Crusoe's Isle Tunes In

The island of Juan Fernandez, off the western coast of Chile, which was made famous by "Robinson Crusoe," is no longer isolated from the world. The island now boasts of a Red Cross dispensary and wireless communication with Valparaiso.

## Expensive Upkeep

There are houses in England the windows of which have never been counted. These include Windsor castle and Wentworth Woodhouse, the Yorkshire home of Earl Fitzwilliam. A former duke of Marlborough paid that puffy for repainting the windows of Blenheim palace cost him £500 (£2,500) a year.

## One Solution

Nervous Clerk (seeking a raise)—Er—my wife and I are finding it terribly difficult to live together on my salary.  
Boss—Well, what do you want me to do—arrange a divorce?—Path-finder.

## Adept

"That fellow knows his onions." "He was born in Bermuda."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Your Hands Need Cuticura Soap

Every day to keep them soft and smooth. Bathe with either hot or cold water and always dry thoroughly. If chapped, red or rough use Cuticura and Cuticura Soap, rubbing in Cuticura Ointment after drying, especially at night.

**Bayer Tablets of Aspirin**  
Genuine  
Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer, the manufacturer of Aspirin, and is blown into each tablet.  
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## Even a Light Snack Would Satisfy Tramp

On the doorstep stood a very miserable-looking tramp, in his hand a tattered hat.  
"Madam," he said, "can I do anything to help you? Is there any food to be chomped?"  
"No, I am afraid not," said the housewife who had answered his knock.  
"Carpets to beat, p'raps?"  
"No, thanks."  
"Any gardening or other rough jobs to be done, then?"  
"No, thanks, I don't think there's anything you can do today."  
The wayfarer heaved a sigh of relief and his miserable expression disappeared.  
"All right," he said cheerfully, "then p'raps I can have something to eat!"—London Answers.

## Not His Time to Die

Not everybody who starts to fall down an elevator shaft from the seventh story is lucky enough to land with only minor injuries on the fourth, but that is what happened to Michael O'Hara, twenty-four, of New York. He fell working on the seventh floor of a building under construction when he fell down the shaft. He struck a wire cable in the shaft and caromed off to the fourth landing, escaping with only abrasions and lacerations of the right hand.

## New Wonder Wood

There is a new plastic wood that can be molded to any required form and will adhere to the clean, dry surface of wood, metal, or any other material. It dries rapidly and then adheres firmly, can be worked with ordinary wood-working tools, will take nails and screws, and paint, varnish and French polish. In fact, it behaves like ordinary wood, except that it will not warp, crack, blister or peel.

## Just About

"Myrtle tells me she's been offered a name part in Shakespeare. Do you believe it?"  
"Oh, I expect it's 'Nothing' in 'Much Ado.'"—Tit-Bits.

## It's Just a Habit

Tramp—Mum, I'm desperate. I haven't eaten for three days.  
Lady (who has been on a diet)—Nonsense! I felt that way myself at first.—Life.

## True

"One-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives."  
"Well, we can't all figure in the society column."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## His Little Joke

Wife (at Wilkesden)—My husband never says how much he craves; he is really a most funny man.—London Answers.

## The Modern Art

Girl—"Does the painting look like me?" Painter—"Oh, I'm way past that stage."

After eight years of civil aviation in England, the British service covers 2,500 miles of air routes in Europe and the Near East.

Children may cry for the moon until they get big enough to want the earth.

Don't think because it's better late than never that it isn't better never to be late.

Copy-book philosophy is so true that it seems nonsense to repeat it.

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Carter's Little Liver Pills  
Purify Vegetable Laxative  
Cures Biliousness, Free from  
Griping, and Unpleasant after  
effects. They relieve the system of constipation  
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