

The Quest of Betty Lancey

By MAGDA F. WEST

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CHAPTER III.

They held the inquest that same afternoon, and in the room where Cerisse Wayne's body had been found. Dr. McGann, the coroner, could find no trace of violence on the young and perfect body.

"She died of heart failure," he remarked, very simply. "Probably the animal who caused the police such fright and trouble gained access to the room, and the sight and shock were too much for her patently fragile constitution to withstand. Remember, that this apparition has brought on Mrs. Desterle a stroke of paralysis, and may result in the permanent derangement of her mind."

"I have wired Doubleday, Franz & Co. in San Francisco," he continued. "Their reply just received is that they know but little about Cerisse Wayne. They declare that they know her as Mrs. Wayne. Also that for five years past \$2,000 a month has been deposited to her credit with them. Parke & Gray, solicitors, of London, England, have handled the drafts sent to the San Francisco bankers. Mrs. Wayne drew on this amount so freely that at times her balance had been practically nothing, and frequently her account showed a small overdraft. For the past several months, however, her demands on the account have been very slight. Last month \$4,000 was sent for her credit, and her present balance is approximately \$6,000. Besides this they have a casket, said to contain almost priceless jewels, that belong to her. A copy of a photograph of Mrs. Wayne, which they have in their possession, has been forwarded, and Henry Franz, one of the junior members of the firm, is coming East to view the body. They report they have cared for her mail for some time past, and during this time she has had it forwarded to nearly every imaginable point, both in this country and abroad. In her handbag there was nearly \$150 and nothing to indicate that she had been mentally depressed or was in poor health. Over-indulgence in cigarettes may have unduly excited her nerves. It is patent that she read and smoked till she grew drowsy and then lightly tossed her book aside. Possibly she awakened from some quiet dream to behold that creature in the room, and died of fright. There was no sound of intense horror and all was over."

"How did that—that—get in, doctor?" interrupted the still disheveled Doherty.

"Don't you know that there's no place on the front of this, nor any other build in the block where a coat could crawl up for a foot? Ain't that all smooth sandstone, worn as slick as my last year's coat. And wasn't both of the windows there closed and locked in the bargain, and no chimney in the room? Maybe the creature killed the pretty little girl after it got in all right, but how did it get in? Here's another thing. Will you look at that bed? Now there's been two people sleeping in that bed, sir, one of them far heavier and bigger than the poor little girl you've just been inquesting over. And here, now, is a cigarette stub that's different from the others—stronger, can't you see?"

"The policeman held out the stub in quietude, and the doctor, who had been wondering from hand to hand, and later marked exhibit 'A.'"

"Entrance might have been effected from the hall," said the coroner with a puzzled frown.

"So? Wasn't the door bolted from the inside? Can't you see where it was broke to get in?" retorted Doherty.

"Ah, someone was inside and rushed out when Mrs. Desterle opened the door," muttered Larry Morris of the "Times."

Everybody in the room directed his attention to the corner where the newspaper folk were sitting. There were eight or ten men in the little group and one woman, a fair, calm-eyed girl, Betty Lancey of the "Inquirer." Betty was barely 23, one of those tall, athletic, wholesome girls who demand classification in the mental menu as well-cooked oatmeal with rich cream, country honey, baked apples or maple milk. Larry Morris was very much in love with Betty, but he didn't know it and neither did she.

Pierre Desterle denied Larry Morris' suggestion. His wife Annie Desterle could not come as a witness to corroborate his statement. Having and shrieking she had carried him off to the hospital hours before. Pierre, for his wife, and himself, told all he knew of their unfortunate boarder.

"She came Monday night," quavered the little black-skinned fellow. "She was all dressed in green. She had the prettiest eyes you ever saw. So many violets were pinned on her breast you'd have thought 'twould have wearied her to carry them. She brought no trunks, only the green bag there. Said she wanted room and board for two weeks and would pay well for them. Annie took her because of what she said, and because she was so pretty. She slept late mornings and Annie was going to make her move to-morrow because she slept so late it made breakfast drag along till noon. The women in the house didn't like Miss Wayne. They said she painted her face and smoked cigarettes. The men made soft eyes at her and the woman got jealous. Annie said she had awful fine things in her valise, and lots of jewelry. Annie came up stairs to wake her, for it was lunch time, and then it all happened. There was a knock, and she rushed down the stairs. I was in the hall when Annie fell, and Doherty was with me, and he came right up here after we'd carried Annie to her room. That was the only time the hall was alone."

"How long did that take you, Doherty?" asked Johnny Johnson of the newspaper coterie. He was thinking that the coroner was a shade too judicial and proxy about the inquiry.

"Some six minutes or so," slowly answered Doherty. "Mrs. Desterle's a weight to carry; she's pretty fat. You know, lately. Her room, too, it's clear back on the second floor."

They read the letters aloud. The enterprising newspaper boys had already had them photographed so that their papers might reproduce them.

The longer of the two was undated, the other bore date of eight months previous, to wit August 23rd.

"Cerisse Dear—Heart of mine, I have so longed for a letter. Do you still refuse to remember? Will you not forgive or must I die without word or sign from you? Forgive me, Cerisse. I do forgive you. I believe she's been taking slow poison, and came here where she wasn't known to snuff it off quietly."

"How about the Man-Aperilla?" floated Larry Morris. "Proceed, James Verne II. Why don't you go farther, and have it a trained ape sent carrier pigeon, bloodhound-fashion by the ogre-husband, to choke her to death?"

"Because she wasn't choked," continued Doherty. "Heaven, what a woman she must have been!"

"Oh, to kill from jealousy," added Hank Smith. "Why, hello; here's Betty Lancey at this hour of the morning. Betty, don't you ever get through work? And you're all out of breath. What's the matter? Did you get some husband, children, and the development of womanhood's ideals is the little life exacts from each of your sex?"

"You must pay now, Cerisse, or pay the end. If you defer payment of your indebtedness to the scheme of all creation till the end you will find the interest hard to handle. I shall appeal no more. Entreaties do not move you. Neither do threats and commands are naught to you. But let me impress one thing upon you. If you do not return to me before the first of the coming year, I will kill you. Do you understand what I mean when I write this? I have never seemed able to make you comprehend anything I have ever written. I said, 'You won't understand this, you won't realize that you will be dead, murdered, before the blossoms weight the orchards if you still persist in absenting yourself from home.'"

"What's up, anyhow?" asked Johnny. "Tell the rest of them, Betty. I'm going up to get chummy with the mystery, sleeping all night in the Desterle home and stopping at the hotel to-night, and, oh, it started me so."

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"Death from causes unknown. Probably heart failure superinduced by fright," intoned the coroner's verdict. "The ultimatum disposed of the body, which was buried next day. But it didn't do the monster. That was not Barbara who waved the flag in the face of the Confederates, he says; it was not any member of the Friechele family. In fact, he accuses her of being a Southern sympathizer and not a patriotic Northern woman."

"This Kansas chronicler, by name William E. Connelly, avers that it was Mrs. Archibald Quantrell and her daughter Virginia who 'waved the United States flag defiantly in the faces of the Southern troops as they marched down the streets of Frederick, Md.'" He proudly points to the fact that Mrs. Quantrell was the aunt of William C. Quantrell, the guerrilla leader, who "led many a band into Kansas" and who "laid waste the town of Lawrence."

Mr. Connelly puts some new frills on the old story. He says Miss Virginia was waving a little United States flag at the gate, which so aroused the anger of the Confederates that a lieutenant with his sword cut the flag from her hands.

About Barbara the Marylanders certainly have to "go from home to hear the news." Whittier, who knew perhaps as much of Maryland as he did of Senegambia, wrote a poem that gave wide currency to an incident that they told us either never occurred or certainly did not occur at all as he related it. Then it was embodied in a play, which not only differed from the facts but disagreed with the poem.

Now comes the Western iconoclast who takes the glory entirely away from Whittier's favorite and confers it upon an aunt of Kansas. The Barbantes seem to be unable to agree with each other. The story has as many twists and turns as it has a north pole dispute, and perhaps the best way to settle it would be to name a commission empowered to determine the true and authorized version, the said board to be composed of representatives of the following:

1. Those who declare that no such incident ever happened in Frederick or anywhere else.

2. Those who hold that something or other occurred, but nothing resembling in any way what tradition or the poet describes.

3. Those who assert that Barbara waved the flag in Stonewall Jackson's face and dared the Confederates to shoot her, just as Whittier has related it.

4. Those who hold that there never was any such person.

5. The new element who assert that the flag was waved, but that Barbara didn't wave it, the glory going to some party who lived down the street two blocks.

6. Those who do not care 3 cents whether it ever occurred or not, but would like to hear the last of it.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Two French counts exchanged six shots in a duel and neither was hit.

A daughter of Richard Crocker, ex-Tammany boss, married a groom in a riding academy.

Mark Twain left all his property to his only surviving daughter. He left about \$180,000.

The jury returned a verdict of murder in the second degree for Charles Wezler, Tacoma murderer.

A second man has been found who received \$1,000 for voting for Lorimer, of Missouri, for U. S. senator.

The New York state legislature failed by one vote to pass a resolution endorsing the Federal income tax.

The police chief of Council Bluffs, Ia., has been ousted by the courts for complicity in the Maybray fake fight frauds.

Woman suffragists will campaign the entire state of Illinois during the summer in an effort to carry the fall elections.

A Mexican multi-millionaire, who is dying in San Antonio, Texas, has summoned his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to the number of 105. A small hotel has been leased for them.

Miss Geraldine Farrar, a noted opera singer, sung to convicts in the state penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga. Among the prisoners were Charles W. Morse, Greene and Gaynor, Loupe—"The Wolf" and many bank officials.

President Taft eulogizes Secretary Knox and his work.

Ninety bakers in Victoria, B. C., are on strike and the city is about out of bread.

A raid on gambling houses in Seattle revealed all kinds of games in full swing.

Roosevelt dined at Copenhagen with the royal crown prince and is a guest at the royal palace.

Countess Schenzy, formerly Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, has lost a casket of jewels valued at \$40,000.

The Pittsburg Plate Glass works were burned, causing a loss of \$1,500,000 and throwing 3,000 men out of work.

The administration railroad bill is in great danger, insurgents having enough votes to kill its important features.

An investigating commission reports that Chicago has been badly buncoed by bad castings for improvements in its water system.

HILL WILL DEVELOP STATE.

Has Extensive Plans for Coast, But Cannot Devise Them.

Portland, May 4.—Beyond encouraging intimations concerning future railroad construction in Oregon and admitting the ownership of the United Railways and Oregon Electric systems, James J. Hill yesterday declined to make any statement relative to his plans or requirements in this state.

While promising that before he leaves the city he will make a further statement, Mr. Hill insists that more or less reticence is necessary in the carrying out of plans which require the purchase of rights of way and other property.

"If I told all that we intend to do in Oregon, there would be perhaps 50 persons who would try to jump in ahead of us at each point to gain some unjust advantage or profit at our expense," said the railroad magnate.

"Will you say whether an east and west line is to be built across the state?" was asked.

"No; that is a matter that I cannot discuss at this time," he replied.

The solid through train between Portland and St. Paul will be known as "The Oregonian." President Hill, of the Great Northern, said that it was desired to have the name "Oregon" somewhere in the title that will be given to the new limited service, but the shorter form of the word had been

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

FOR FREE LOCKS.

Willamette Open River an Rate Convention So Declares.

Oregon City—The convention of the Willamette Open river and Freight rate association at its business session adopted the report of the locks committee providing that it be the sense of the association that the new locks be built at Oregon City for the free use of the people of the Willamette valley.

The association pledged itself to work for the realization of this condition and to hurry up and back up the Oregon delegation in its efforts to secure a Federal appropriation of \$300,000 to add to the state appropriation of a similar amount for the construction of the locks.

Congress will be urged to direct the government engineers to make an estimate of the cost of the locks, after deciding where to construct them, and to award the contract for their construction as soon as possible.

SOON START SURVEYING.

Road to Link Baker City and Portland to Tap Rich Region.

The Portland, Baker City & Butte Electric railroad company, which was incorporated about a year ago for the purpose of building an electric railroad from Portland to Baker City through some of the richest sections of the state, will begin survey and engineering work out of Portland in a very short time.

The company is headed by C. N. Atkinson, president of the Union Bank & Trust company, of Portland, who, before coming West from Kansas City, was deeply interested in railroad construction. Mr. Atkinson built more than 200 miles of the Rock Island system in Arkansas, and 111 miles of the Santa Fe in Oklahoma. He is now determined to push the construction of the Portland, Baker City & Butte proposition.

The plans of the company are to build out of Portland through Clackamas county, following the east shore of the river to the headwaters of the Warm Springs river in the Warm Springs Indian reservation, and then the contour of that river to its junction with the Deschutes river, where the tracks will run under the elevated roadbeds of the Oregon Trunk and the Deschutes Railroad company. Thence its course will continue eastward through the rich districts in which are located Dayville, Canyon City, and Prairie City, and finally terminate at Baker City. It will also tap a rich mining district.

General Manager C. D. Charles states that President Atkinson has taken over and now holds under contract of purchase the controlling interest in the company, and that the survey and engineering work will now be pushed with all possible speed. He said that the district to be tapped by the road is one of the richest freight propositions in the Pacific Northwest, as every mile of ground covered is or can easily be made productive. The line will be built primarily for freight, although passenger service will also be maintained.

Reduced Rates to Summer School.

For the first time in the history of Oregon, the Southern Pacific company has granted reduced rates for students at the University of Oregon summer school. The reduced rates go into effect Saturday, June 18, and continue through the session to its close, Saturday, August 6, thereby making it possible for teachers attending the session to save materially in railroad fare. Reduced rates have also been granted for the two state educational conferences to be held at the university the week previous to the opening of the summer school, and for the exercises of commencement week, June 19 to 22. Every indication points to an exceptionally large attendance at all of these events.

Logs May Go By Rail.

Silverton—Having been deprived of the privilege of running logs down the Abiqua river from the camps east of the city to the mill two miles north of Silverton, the Abiqua Lumber company is negotiating with the Silverton Lumber company and the Southern Pacific railroad company, making it possible for them to convey logs to the mill over their lines of railroad. It was learned that the proposition of the Silverton Lumber company had been accepted providing such arrangements can be made.

Will Build \$10,000 City Hall.

Lebanon—Lebanon is to have a new city hall. Plans have practically been accepted by the city council, the building to cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000. The building will be 60x90 feet, of cement up to the first windows, and from there up of brick, with a pressed brick front. The lower floor will be divided into an office for the marshal, three cells for prisoners, a firemen's room and a room for the fire apparatus of the city.

Baker Land Given to Settlers.

La Grande—John H. Lewis, secretary of the state land board of Oregon, has placed on file in the local office a state "selection" of 44,505 acres in Baker county, which will be given away to homesteaders who will pay for the irrigation and reclamation. The proposition is similar to the Twin Falls project under the Carey act, but it is reported that the state of Oregon will not charge for the land.

Will Employ 3,000 Thinner.

Hood River—Hood River valley will be in need of about 3,000 apple thinners in a very short time. Mr. Mason, who has one of the largest orchards in the valley, stated that the work is one of the most pleasant tasks connected with the fruit industry.

12,700 ACRES FOR CULTIVATION

Large Tract Being Reclaimed in Central Oregon.

Through the individual efforts of W. G. Souther, of Portland, a large of Klamath county tule lands as tract as an European principality, is being reclaimed for cultivation and colonization. The tract comprises 12,700 acres of the richest land in South Central Oregon, and is located adjacent to the Upper Klamath lake and within a few miles of the city of Klamath Falls. Engineers have been employed to superintend the dyking and draining of the property, and as soon as the necessary surveys have been made, the work of reclaiming it will be got under way.

To the north of the tract is a large arm of the lake, that will be set aside as a private game preserve, for the exclusive benefit of the purchasers of the adjoining subdivisions.

Mr. Souther's plan embraces the erection of a commodious club house on the lake shore convenient to the preserve, and the parking of the grounds surrounding it, the construction of piers and landings, and an equipment of modern conveniences that will make this the most unique resort for tourists in the entire West.

The greatest value of Mr. Souther's project, however, lies in the benefits that will result to Klamath county from the colonization and improvement of this great tract of wild land, 20 acres of whose rich soil will easily maintain a family, and the whole of which eventually will support in comfort a colony of 3,000 to 4,000 agriculturists.

\$2,375 An Acre for Fruit Land.

Breaking all records for bearing fruit lands in Oregon, a part of the famous Burrell pear orchard near Medford was sold last week for \$2,375 an acre. The property comprised 12 acres, and was purchased by C. H. Burrell, of Philadelphia for \$28,000. The trees are in full bearing and have yielded a net income of \$500 an acre for several years past, such a thing as a failure of crop having never been known.

There have been several sales in the Hood River valley and in Southern Oregon, where bearing orchards were sold for from \$2,000 to \$2,200 an acre, but until this purchase by the Philadelphia investor, \$2,200 has stood as the record price for Oregon land.

City Park to Be Improved.

Astoria—The city park commission has under consideration a number of improvements to be made this summer on the park property south of the city reservoir. The entrance will be widened to double its present width by the removal of a portion of the bank now under the control of the water commission. The overflow of water from the drinking fountain will be utilized by the erection of a trough for horses. This will prove a great convenience to the traveling public along the county road from the city to Young's river.

Many Laborers Wanted.

Portland—Fifteen hundred railroad laborers are wanted at once by the Pacific Railroad & Navigation company, which is building a railroad from Hillsboro to Tillamook. One thousand men are steady at work, but it is said that the number could easily be augmented to 2,500. General Manager E. E. Lytle states that the work on the line is progressing nicely, but to get it completed as soon as desired a great deal more help must be had.

Dredge Will Deepen Channel.

Tillamook—The master of the government dredge has received instructions to dredge out the channel to Tillamook, the chief of engineers having, on the recommendation of Major Morrow, granted \$1,000 for the work.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 88 @59; club, 86; red Russian, 85; barley, 87.

Hay—Feed and breeding, \$22@23 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$33; cracked, \$34 ton.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20@21 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$22@25; alfalfa, \$16.50 @17.50; grain hay, \$17@18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27@27.50 ton.

EDWARD MORGAN WESTON

Who arrived in New York Monday after his walk across the continent. He said he could start next day and walk back to the Pacific Coast.

used so much in the designation of trains that something distinctive of the Great Northern service was desired, so "The Oregonian" was selected as the name.

In reply to a direct question James J. Hill admitted that he and his associates now own the Oregon Electric and United Railways, but when a question as to extending the Oregon Electric this year to Albany and McMinnville was asked, Mr. Hill again reserved any statement on the ground that it would not be politic to disclose his plans.

A similar reply was given to a question as to whether a new depot would be constructed this year on the North Bank terminal property.

"The terminal situation is a serious one in all large cities," he continued. "Ready handling of traffic cannot be accomplished without adequate terminals. Look at Chicago. It now requires more time to get a car through the Chicago terminal than it does to haul it from Chicago to the Pacific Coast, once it is out of that city."

"In the state at large," he continued, "the great need is for development of the outside territory. You now have large and growing cities, but they must have a settled country on which to draw. The upbuilding of the state is what is most needed."

Anne Morgan Will Talk.

Denver, May 4.—Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan, will address a political mass meeting to be held here tomorrow night, under the auspices of the Women's Public Service league. Women are taking an active part in the municipal campaign now in progress and it will be Miss Morgan's first opportunity to participate in a political movement where women vote.

Miss Morgan is accompanied by her mother, and spent the afternoon investigating the methods of Denver's juvenile court.

Run On Bank Reaches End.

Los Angeles, May 4.—The two-day run on the All Night and Day bank ended tonight. The line of hundreds of men and women depositors who had stood continuously for 36 hours melted almost as suddenly as it had formed yesterday morning. Sentiment reversed instead of showing out, the stream of gold being coming in. Before midnight many thousands, withdrawn but a few hours before, had been redeposited. The announcement of state bank commissioner, that the institution was solvent reassured patrons.

Twin Gives To Daughter.

Redding, Conn., May 4.—The will of Samuel L. Clemens, (Mark Twain), filed for probate here today, leaves the entire estate to the surviving daughter, Clara Langhorne Clemens, wife of Ossip Bargilowitch. The amount of the estate is not given. The will was drawn August 17, 1909, and provided the estate should be divided into two equal parts, the income to be apportioned to the two daughters quarterly. One daughter died last December.

Cherokee Claims Being Paid.

Washington, May 4.—The Treasury department today began issuing warrants in payment of the so-called Cherokee claims, which amount to about \$3,000,000, and for which an appropriation recently was made by congress. There are 30,850 beneficiaries, each of whom will receive something over \$133. Three-fourths of the beneficiaries reside west of the Mississippi river.

Ruth Bryan's first husband, Leavett, says her second marriage will be illegal and that he will fight it.

An insane young man aged 19 shot and seriously wounded three persons in New York and then committed suicide.

Newspaper publishers in the East see a famine in paper unless congress passes the Mann bill removing the duty on pulp and paper.

Why did Doherty sell his hotel? He wasn't making money fast enough.

What is he doing now? He's luxuriating in the position of head waiter.—Washington Star.