

The Quest of Betty Lancey

By MAGDA F. WEST

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CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.)

"That's what I'm trying to do," replied Johnny. "I'm attempting to find out how that man got in. Here it is. See?"

His finger had touched the spring for the baseboard, which was at least two feet high, suddenly split and swung discordantly back, revealing a square hole and a clumsily constructed panel opening directly into the house next door! This building was lower than the Dentle home, for while the hole in the baseboard ran from the floor in the Dentle house, it was merely eighteen inches or less below the ceiling of the room into which the excited group was gazing. Well, finished, lined with books, and illuminated by a green shaded reading lamp on a low table, the room apparently served as a library. Portraits of high-chinned, uncomfortable-looking statesmen filled the niches between the book cases, and on the floor beneath the trap door rested a bronze plaque, very significantly the size of the trapdoor.

"What do you know about that?" asked Johnny, narrating the appearance and disappearance of the stranger.

Because he was the smallest of them all, Johnny was delegated to creep through the hole and investigate the adjoining house. The others divided into relays and began another branch of the disquisition.

"Say, Farley, go telephone my paper about this, will you?" begged Johnny in a whisper. "They're long on extras up there, you know, and they might want to get one out on this boys. I don't say I'm in for making this twelve-foot desperado dive for life before, but I guess it's so long. Put the panel back; I think you'd better," and he swung down through the trapdoor.

Meanwhile the first man went outside to reconnoiter. The block was crowded one with the houses standing shoulder to shoulder, as closely as masons might put them. Midway in the block the name of the street changed from Ramkin terrace to Brierley street. The Dentle house was 84 Ramkin terrace, and the house in which Johnny had disappeared was 84 Brierley street. Twenty years previous the street had been a fashionable thoroughfare, but it had gradually become relegated to the second best, with respectable boarding houses of the variety usually catalogued as "shabby genteel." Some of the old houses had been remodeled into flats, and in only a few were the owners now residing. Of these the major part were those sentimental women who, long after their families are married and gone away, still cling to the old home that welcomed them in their days of bridal joys and happy youth, or of the conservative ones who pushed out of the lead of the procession of fashionable society by the influx of the newer and faster ideas of life and living.

Such a family had long tenanted 84 Brierley street. The owner, Mark S. Flanders, was one of the few old style lawyers who are fortunate to have husbanded their acquired competence before the lean years of age and Ozierization have descended upon them. One of the first settlers in the town, the Flanders residence had at one time been the admiration and the eyewidener of the country over, but of late, and especially since the death of Flanders' wife, both the old mansion and the old lawyer had been reckoned among the hopeless by the ultra-smart set.

Flanders had always borne a reputation for the highest integrity and greatest personal honor. He had even managed to keep his record while serving his city two terms as Mayor. That the bricks and stone of the several-story well-bred Flanders mansion should have opened up surreptitious entrances to the plebeian boarding house next door seemed incredible, especially in connection with a murder.

Liberal charges of telephone and directories elicited the information that Flanders had sailed quietly and unheralded for Europe a week previously. Gorin got Dunwiddy, Flanders' partner, on the wire and asked him about it. Dunwiddy was out of sorts at the call. "Humph," he said, and dropped another waddy was his most delectable division of his early morning snooze.

"Yes, yes," he shouted over the telephone, "this is Thomas Dunwiddy, Flanders' partner. Who are you and what do you want at this disgraceful hour of the morning? An Associated Press man? Well, you've got impudence to get a man up at this hour of the morning! Flanders may be implicated in the Wayne murder? Nonsense! Where is Flanders? Minding his own business where you ought to be. I don't know anything about him. He sailed for Europe the 15th and I hope he's there by now. A panel out through between the closet and his house? Dear me, that is unfortunate. Come to recall it now, Mr. Flanders let his house for the season just before he left. I did not see the tenant, but have the lease on file. I think the man's name is Hamley Hackley, and I don't know anything about him except that he is an Englishman who has lived in the tropics. Now, my dear sir, I beg of you to keep the Flanders name out of any affiliation with this unfortunate affair, if you possibly can. You understand me, of course. Yes, I suppose you may see the lease, but you must be careful what moves you make, international complications, you know, and all that. Good-by."

Gorin whistled as he hung up the receiver, and repeated over and over again the name "Hamley Hackley."

"Humph," he said, and dropped another nickel in the telephone slot, as he gave the call, to direct his office to cable London and find out if they could discover anything about Mr. Hackley.

A very careful external examination of the premises at 84 Brierley street was made. There was a small backyard, grass laid, and neat and dignified, with a few tulips a-bloom along the path that led to the primly latticed back gate. The shades all over the house were closely drawn and there was no indication of Johnny nor any other sign of life any place at all

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.

Eastern senators disagree with Heyburn's statement that "water competition is a fiction."

Havemeyer, the sugar king, is believed to be implicated in the Friar land deal in the Philippines.

The Panama canal commission has built and launched a barge made of concrete, for use on the canal.

Emperor William of Germany warmly welcomed Roosevelt and party at the entrance to the imperial palace.

Forest fires in Wisconsin and Northern Minnesota are destroying vast areas of fine timber and threaten many towns.

The Oregon State grange is beginning to think the initiative and referendum is dangerous to the best interests of the people.

Roosevelt's French disappointed his hearers at his public speech in Paris, and Germans are wondering if he speaks their language any better.

Two unconscious men were found in the car of a wrecked dirigible balloon in Kentucky. They had started from Quincy, Ill., to make a long distance record.

An electric lineman near Colfax, Wash., got 1,600 volts, and was rendered unconscious for three hours, but his fellow workmen brought him to and he will recover.

A Federal judge in Iowa upheld the pure food laws by dismissing the complaint of milling companies who tried to enjoin the authorities from seizing shipments of bleached flour.

A Socialist has been elected mayor of Coquille, Oregon.

Forest fires are destroying much valuable timber in Western Washington.

An Astoria girl caught a 5-pound trout 28 inches long with a light rod and fly.

A forest ranger in Colorado was attacked by an eagle and forced to take refuge in a thicket.

Dynamite is being used to uncover bodies from the ruins of the earthquake in Cartago, Costa Rica.

A professional ball player in California is laid up with blood poisoning in his arm, caused by a mosquito bite.

A halibut fishing schooner was wrecked near Seattle, the crew of four men having a narrow escape in the small boat.

Partial returns from elections in North America show that the Liberals are in the majority, though Republicans and Socialists rule in Madrid.

Speaking at the opening of the Actors' fair in New York, President Taft declared a good play was very restful and had often been of great benefit to him.

A Salvation Army officer who was attacked by a mob at Los Angeles, upon near the railroad track in Siskiyou county, Cal. They had evidently fought a duel to the death with knives.

The death of King Edward will make great changes in the political situation in England.

A season of 20 weeks of grand opera in New York cost the managers \$1,100,000, yet they made money.

John A. Benson, who had served time for land frauds in California, dropped dead from heart disease.

Roosevelt will not be entertained at the German emperor's palace, as that government is in mourning for King Edward.

Spectators sought betting on the ball games at Los Angeles are ejected from the grounds. The manager believes the game would be demoralized.

King George V, who now ascends the throne of England, made a good impression by his brief speech upon taking the oath, and his people express great confidence in him.

A compromise has been reached on the exposition question between San Diego and San Francisco. The former will hold an industrial exposition and the latter a world's fair.

An Illinois grand juror says if they want to paint the state black, he will help all he can, and has no doubt it can be done, as legislative bribery scandals are growing all the time.

A Philadelphia policeman rescued three children from death under the hoofs of the horses in a chariot race at a circus, but was himself fatally injured and died soon after.

A brother of Dr. Cook says he is a physical wreck, and is living near a sanitarium, under the care of its physicians, but has never been in South America, as was reported.

King Edward is seriously ill with bronchitis.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of the shingle mills of the Northwest are idle.

James J. Hill has announced definitely that a new passenger depot will be built in Portland for his lines.

An explosion in No. 3 coal mine at Palos, Alabama, entombed about 200 men. Bodies are being recovered.

Four hundred striking miners at Pittsburg, Kansas, wrecked several coal mines and drove away the men who were at work.

WINTER WHEAT IMPROVES. Crop Reports Show Pacific Northwest Grain Better.

Washington, May 11.—According to May estimates of the department of agriculture, the winter wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest was in better condition May 1, 1910, than May 1, 1909, in Washington and Idaho the condition being above the 10-year average.

Reports show that 6 per cent of the winter wheat acreage in Oregon has been abandoned, leaving 476,000 acres to be harvested. The condition of this crop is reported at 95, as compared with 93 last year. The 10-year average for Oregon is 96.

Eight and two-tenths per cent of the Washington acreage has been abandoned, leaving 676,000 acres to be harvested, the condition of the crop on May 1, 1910, being 2 per cent above that of last year and 3 per cent above the 10-year average.

In Idaho 4 per cent of the acreage has been abandoned, leaving 345,000 acres to be harvested. The condition of the Idaho winter wheat on May 1 was 98, against 93 of last year, and 95 on the 10-year average.

SOCIALISTS BACK UP THEORIES WITH CASH.

Milwaukee, Wis., May 11.—It is announced by city officials that Milwaukee municipal bonds will not go begging under a Social Democratic administration.

At a meeting in Chicago the executive board of the International Bakers' union decided to buy Milwaukee bonds to the extent of \$200,000, should the need for such action arise. The bakers have in their treasury \$200,000 in United States bonds and these they have decided to sell, giving them that amount of money for Milwaukee bonds should there be any move by Eastern bankers to hamper the Social Democratic administration.

The International Bakers' union requested all other unions to take similar action. It is said the brewery workers' organization, holding nearly \$1,000,000 in United States bonds, will fall in line on the proposition.

MINERS RESUME CRUSADE.

Further Disorders Result in Pittsburg District in Kansas.

Pittsburg, Kansas, May 11.—Marching miners resumed their crusade against the operations of the mines in this vicinity today and some disorder resulted.

Forty-two miners at Croburg attempted to pull the fires in the mines there, but they were driven away by other miners seeking to prevent trouble.

At Curranville, the marchers succeeded in putting out the fires in the Breezy Hill mines and the men there were driven away.

The fires under the boilers of the coal company's water works also were drawn, and the town is without water.

The marchers later started for the mines near Mulberry.

WAGES FURTHER INCREASE.

Five Thousand Telegraphers Gain Concessions from Railroad.

Philadelphia, May 11.—Several important concessions have been secured by the 5,000 telegraphers on the Pennsylvania railroad system east of Pittsburg, following a meeting of the general committee representing the operators and General Manager Myers, of the company.

In addition to the general 6 per cent increase in wages recently declared by the company, supplementary increases were granted to equalize wages with the amount of work performed.

Blow at Bleached Flour.

Des Moines, Iowa, May 11.—Judge McPherson in the Federal court today upheld the national pure food law as regards bleached flour when he dismissed the complaint of the Shawnee Milling company, of Kansas, and the Updike Milling company, of Omaha, brought in behalf of the Western Milling company, asking that United States district attorney M. L. Temple, of Iowa, be enjoined from seizing bleached flour shipped into Iowa.

The decision does not state whether or not the bleached flour is injurious.

Jap Sealers Lie in Wait.

Juneau, Alaska, May 11.—Six Japanese sealing schooners are lying in wait off Sitka to intercept the seal herds as they pass north to the breeding grounds. In the crews of the sealers have been recognized many of the Japanese who have served terms of imprisonment in Alaska for violation of the laws regulating pelagic sealing.

Federal game wardens report that at least 50,000 deer have perished in Southeastern Alaska because of the unusual severity of the winter. Eighty dead deer were found in one ravine.

Boat is Made of Concrete.

Washington, May 11.—It will puzzle most people to know that a boat built of concrete will not only float, but has a greater carrying capacity, is more durable, and even lighter than a strongly constructed wooden boat.

The Panama Canal commission has just launched a new type of boat, the Panama canal a big barge built of reinforced concrete, which weighs 60,000 pounds, and two others will soon be finished. These vessels are indestructible.

Alaska Fishermen Strike.

Seattle, Wash., May 11.—Three hundred Indian salmon fishermen at Ketchikan, Alaska, have formed a union and struck against an attempt of the factories to reduce the price of fish from 6 to 4 cents. The Ketchikan factories preserve salmon by a milk-cure process and ship the product to Germany, where it is a favorite article of food.

Rioters Destroy Mission.

Changsha, China, May 11.—Word has reached here that rioters have occurred at Yuen Chow, which is 225 miles from Changsha, and that the land mission has been destroyed. No details are given, as the telegraph wires have been cut.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL.

All Sections of State Will Be Represented at Grand Fiesta.

Portland—If the coming Rose Festival is not the greatest success we have ever had, it will not be because of lack of interest on the part of residents of the Willamette valley and Southern Oregon towns," said Ralph W. Hoyt, of the Rose Festival committee.

Mr. Hoyt has just returned with a party of business men who went on the southern trip, and is enthusiastic over the great amount of interest in the Rose Festival he found in the towns he visited.

"Indications are that the attendance this year will be enormous, and far beyond that of former years," said Mr. Hoyt. "Officials of all the towns we visited promised they would see to it that their towns are represented by floats or vehicles in the parades, and at least by large delegations of citizens."

"The commercial bodies of the various towns all promised to make all possible effort to meet Eastern visitors at the Festival and invite them to their towns. Everybody seems to understand that the Festival is as much an advertising feature for the country at large as it is a show. I think the Festival this year will be the means of inducing great numbers of desirable Eastern people to settle in the state."

TOO MUCH FOR LIGHTS.

Experiments With Meter Shows Big Saving Over Flat Rate.

Salem—Beginning June 1, the state of Oregon will buy electricity for all state institutions by meter instead of on a flat rate as at present, which, it is believed will mean a saving to the state of from \$3,000 to \$5,000. As an experiment about a year ago meters were installed and as a result the change will be made at once.

During 11 months, beginning June 1, 1909, and ending April 30, 1910, the state paid the Portland Railway, Light & Power company \$12,048.31 at a flat rate for lights which would have been at meter rates \$9,838.05, or a saving of \$2,210.26. No effort was made to conserve the power for lights under the flat rate, while every superintendent of the state institutions under the meter system will be instructed not to burn lights not absolutely needed, so Governor Benson and the new chief clerk, H. H. Corey, believe the saving will reach nearly \$5,000 a year. The state also pays \$123 per month, flat for power otherwise than that utilized for lights, or during the 11 months mentioned a total of \$1,353. Under the meter rates the bill for power would have been, for the same period, \$429.

Crop Prospects Not Dimmed.

Pendleton—Still another week has gone by without in any way dimming the prospect of Umatilla county farmers for a record-breaking grain crop. Warm weather has prevailed during the greater part of the week and one or two good showers have been interspersed to further aid the growing grain. Both fall and spring sown grain is now well up out of the ground and the fields present a beautiful appearance with their verdant clothing. The early spring season has never shown such favorable indications for a bumper crop, and their predictions are having a decided effect upon the business of the city.

Livestock Brings Over \$17,000.

St. Helens—At a sale of livestock at the farm of H. West, near Scappoose, Columbia county, 72 head of registered Jerseys, including 10 calves, sold for over \$17,000. The herd is famous throughout the northwest, and has distanced all competitors in the prize ring. Over 500 people attended the sale from all parts of the United States, California having a number of representatives and securing some of the best stock, including the grand champion bull Eminent XXIV, which sold for \$1,000 and King Vail, \$500.

Land Taken Off Market.

Hood River—The Davidson Fruit company, which owns several acres of valuable orchards, has taken its holdings off the market for this season. The company will have a large lot of apples and in view of the fact that fruit will be very scarce in other sections this season and that the crop will be extra large here the company feels justified in retaining this year's crop and reaping the profits before disposing of its holdings.

Berries Ripe at Umatilla.

Umatilla—The first strawberries of the season were put on the market here early last week and came from the McFarland and Edwards ranches. The berries are a good size and much more luscious than the California fruit. Cherries are now beginning to ripen and will be put on the market soon.

New School at Creswell.

Creswell—By a vote of 57 to 9 the Creswell school district authorized the issuance of bonds for \$10,000, the proceeds to be used in erecting a school house. The plan to remodel the old building had a few supporters at first, but they dropped the proposition and favored erecting a new building.

Ore Find Draws Miners.

Myrtle Creek—Excitement among miners has been caused by a recent find of four miles above Canyonville, where a wide-dike of ore, carrying chalcopryite yielding \$14 to \$28 to the ton, has been discovered. Seventeen locations were made and several more will be made immediately.

Drilling for Artesian Water.

Stanfield—The well on Jesse Moore's place has reached a depth of 800 feet. An effort is being made to reach a depth of 1,000 feet, where artesian water is said to be obtainable. Water stands within a few feet of the top of the hole, and drilling progresses slowly.

RAINS SPELL BIG CROPS.

Oregon Farmers See Healthy Harvests Ahead; Stockmen Profit.

Madras—The increased demand for flour at this place has caused the Madras flouring mill to put on a night force, the mill running each night until 10 p. m.

The railroad construction in this vicinity with the large number of new residents in the town and home-seekers locating in this section have caused prices for all kinds of produce to go soaring.

Prospects for large crops were never better, and the farmers in this section should reap a rich harvest, because of the rapid increase of population.

A heavy rain, general throughout the greater portion of Central Oregon, fell during three days this week, and it means thousands of dollars to the farmers and stock raisers.

CHINESE BUYS CLAIMS.

Grants Pass Mining District Looks Good Moy Jin Munn.

Grants Pass—Moy Jin Munn, a wealthy Chinaman of San Francisco, who has been looking over the Southern Oregon mining field for the past two or three weeks, has just closed a deal whereby he becomes owner and manager of the Brantner group of placer mines of Southern Josephine county. The group of claims consists of 190 acres, much of which is very rich diggings. The consideration is \$175,000. Unlike other Chinese who have mined in this section, Moy Jin Munn is not contented with sluice washing and rocking. He will install modern hydraulic equipment on the Brantner mines, and by a system of high line ditches, bring water from the Applegate river for the operation of a battery of two or more plants.

No Dogs Nor Firecrackers for Eugene.

Eugene—The Eugene city council at its last meeting unanimously passed an ordinance prohibiting dogs from running at large on the streets of the city, excepting those owned by farmers and transients, and these owners are allowed only two days after their arrival here. They will have had time to acquaint themselves with the ordinance by this time, it is thought. The penalty is a fine of from \$2.50 to \$10. The council also passed an ordinance prohibiting firecrackers within the city limits.

Drill for Oil in Coquille.

Marshfield—The Niocene Oil & Gas company has been organized to drill for oil in the Coquille valley. The company is composed of men living in that part of the county. L. W. Deyoe of Myrtle Point is one of the head men in the company. The company has secured oil leases on about 6,000 acres of land in Bear creek district. Machinery has been ordered and the work will start soon. Oil men have secured land options, but no drilling has been done.

Cannery at Sutherlin.

Sutherlin—The erection and operation of a cannery plant in Sutherlin is now an assured fact. The preliminary work has gone on for the past five months. The plant will be ready for operation by the time vegetables are ripe in early autumn.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 88c; club, 85c; red Russian, 84c; valley, 85c.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$22@23.

Corn—Whole, 33c; 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.

Onions—No. 1 white, \$26.50@27.50.

Fresh Fruits—Strawberries, Oregon, \$2.50@4 per crate; apples, \$1.50@3 per box.

Potatoes—Carload buying prices: Oregon, 40¢@50¢ per hundred; new California, 24¢@30¢ per hundred; sweet potatoes, 4c.

Vegetables—Asparagus, \$1@1.25 per box; celery, \$3.50@4 rate; hot-house lettuce, 50¢@\$1 per box; green onions, 15¢ per dozen; rhubarb 20¢@24¢ per dozen; spinach, 8¢@10¢; rutabagas, \$1.25@1.50 sack; carrots, 85¢@\$1; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, 75¢@\$1.

Onions—Oregon, 22¢ per hundred; Bermuda, \$1.50 per crate.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 27¢ per pound; fancy outside creamery, 26¢@27¢ store, 20¢. Butter fat prices average 1¢ per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon ranch, 23¢@24¢ per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 12¢@12½¢ per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 10¢@10½¢ per pound.

Lamb—Fancy, 10¢@12¢ per pound.

Poultry—Hens, 20¢@21¢; broilers, 30¢@35¢; ducks, 18¢@22¢; geese, 12¢; turkeys, live, 20¢@22¢; dressed, 25¢; squabs, \$3 per dozen.

Cattle—Beef steers, hay fed, good to choice, \$6@6.50; fair to medium, \$5@5.50; cows and heifers, good to choice, \$5@5.50; fair to medium, \$4.25@4.75; bulls, \$3.50@4.25; stags, \$5@5.50; calves, light, \$6@7; heavy, \$4.50@5.50.

Hogs—Top, \$10.00@10.60; fair to medium, \$9.50@9.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$5.25@5.75; best ewes, \$4.75@5.25; lambs, choice, \$7@8; fair, \$6.50@7.

Hops—1909 crop, 12¢@16¢; olds, nominal; 1910 contracts, nominal.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 14¢@17¢ per pound; valley, 18¢@20¢; mohair, choice, 32¢@33¢.