

MORE MONEY FOR PHONE SYSTEM

Appropriation of \$10,000 Made to Extend Present Service in City —To Take Down Many Wires.

Work on the removing of all open telephone wires maintained in this city by the Pacific States Telephone company will be commenced by January 15 at the latest.

This work consists of the removal of all single wires in the system within the city and the substitution thereof of a cable carrying the wires. The only single wires remaining after this change is made will be those leading from the pole to the residence.

Most of the light material for this work, including several carloads of poles, is already on the ground and the cable is expected by the first of the year.

Eighteen thousand dollars has been appropriated by the company for this work, and probably more will be required before it is completed.

DUCK'S GIZZARD PROVES TO BE VERITABLE GOLD MINE

PASADENA, Cal., Dec. 21.—Because Thomas Hall, wife of the proprietor of the Hall ranch in La Canyada valley, killed a domestic duck and found six good sized gold nuggets in its gizzard, the whole valley is in the grip of a gold fever epidemic today.

Where the fowl picked up the precious bits of metal is a mystery, and fully fifty people are busy working out the solution.

Mrs. Hall has consulted with her brother-in-law Samuel Hall, of the law firm of Hall & White, of this city. Hall declared that the big ranch will be searched carefully in an effort to locate the duck's diggings.

MAN CLEVERLY GETS ROAD CLEAR THEN ROBS HOUSE

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 21.—The police are searching today for the re-incarnation of Lord Chestersfield who inveigled William M. Weil of this city away from his home to keep an "appointment" with Max Dill, the comedian, and sent Mrs. Weil and her maid murringly to the Central Emergency Hospital where he said her husband was lying near death, after which he proceeded leisurely to loo the Weil flat of silverware and jewelry.

The thief, who was reported to have been dressed in the height of fashion, called up William Weil over the telephone, imitated Dill's voice and made an immediate appointment at a local theater. With the husband out of the way the criminal proceeded to the flat assumed a kind hearted attitude and deeply affected by his "sad mission," told Mrs. Weil that her husband had been badly hurt in a street car accident and wanted her. The stranger's politeness and solicitude drove away suspicion and the distressed wife submitted to his courtesies. He assisted the women with their wraps, attended to the locks on the doors, and rode with them a block in order to pay their street car fares.


There he dismounted, walked back to the flat and stripped it of every piece of jewelry and silver the rooms contained.

The Wigwam is Transformed to Rink

The new portable pavilion skating rink, located at the corner of Main and Oakdale avenue, will open to-night for business. The rink is a portable one and was moved here from Eugene where it ran all last summer, the management, Messrs. Chenoweth & Pelletier, have combined with Mr. Frank Walters of the Wigwam dance hall to have their Saturday night dances hereafter on the portable rink floor, as it is a fine maple floor and the music will be furnished by the big band organ in the rink and will be quite a novelty as well as fine dance music. The dancing will start at 9:30 every Saturday night after the skating session. The dance will be run the same as always before at the Wigwam. The rink is to be run as a first-class skating rink, catering to ladies, gentlemen and children. The management has the reputation of running the best conducted rink ever in Eugene where they came from.

TROUT FOR ROCK CREEK POND SECURED BY BOURNE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Upon the recommendation of Senator Bourne, the bureau of fisheries has granted the application of Joseph E. Hedges of Oregon City, Or., for 9000 brook trout to be planted in Rock Creek Pond, near Oregon City.



The Riverman

By Stewart Edward White

Chapter 31

ORDE mounted the office stairs next day with a very heavy step. The loss of the North Star and of the two schooners meant a great deal to him at that time. "I can't understand why Floyd started," said Orde. "He ought to know better than to face sure prospects of a fall blow. I'll tan his soul for that, all right."

"I'm partly responsible," said Newmark. "You" cried Orde. "Yes. You see that Smith & Mabley shipment was important enough to strain a point for—and it's only twenty-four hours or so—and it certainly didn't look as if it were going to blow. Poor Floyd feels bad enough."

Orde began to appreciate his circumstances. The loss on the cargo of "uppers" represented \$20,000 in money. As for the North Star and her consort, save for the insurance, they were simply eliminated. The loss of \$60,000 or so on them, however, did not mean a diminution of the company's present cash resources to that amount and so did not immediately affect Orde's calculations as to the payment of the notes which were now soon to come due.

Orde disappeared for a week, his organizing abilities claimed for the distribution of the road crews. When he returned to the office Newmark showed him contracts for the construction of three new vessels. "I get them for \$55,000," said he, "with \$30,000 of it on long time."

"Without consulting me?" cried Orde. Newmark explained that he had really been taking advantage of a lucky opportunity. "Otherwise," he finished, "we shouldn't have been able to get the job done for another year. If that big Cronin contract goes through—well, you know what that would mean in the shipyards—nobody would get even a look in. And McLeod is willing to give us a price to keep his men busy. So, you see, I had to close an eye."

"It's a good chance, all right," admitted Orde, "but it never occurred to me we'd build any more vessels until we'd recovered a little."

"Recovered," Newmark repeated coldly. "I don't see what 'recovered' has to do with it. If the mill burned down we'd rebuild, wouldn't we? And as we're making \$15,000 a year out of our freighting it seems to me too good a business to let slip into other hands."

"I suppose so," agreed Orde. "Therefore I had to act without you," Newmark finished. "Of course," agreed Orde drearily. "Joe," replied Orde, "I—I don't think I'll stay downtown this morning. I"—Newmark glanced up keenly. "You don't look well," said he; "kind of pale around the gills; bilious."

Orde closed his desk and went out. Newmark turned back to his papers. From an inner pocket he produced a cigar. The corners of his mouth slowly curved in a grim smile. Orde immediately set into motion the machinery of banking to borrow on the California timber. Taylor took charge of this, as the only man in Monrovia who had Orde's confidence. At the end of a necessary delay Orde received notice that the west had been heard from. He stepped across the hall to the lawyer's office.

"Well, Frank," said he, "glad we managed to push it through with so little trouble." Taylor arose, shut carefully the door into his outer office, walked to the window, looked contemptuously out upon the hotel back yard and returned to his desk. "But there is trouble," said he curtly. "What's the matter?" asked Orde. "The banks refuse the loan."

an uncertainty," said he. "Frank," said Orde, rousing himself, "I've got to be here. I couldn't get away if my life depended on it. I want you to go to California and look after those interests for me. Make what arrangements you please, but go. I'll be like a sort of vacation to you. And I'll make it worth your while. Take Clara with you. Now, straighten it out as quick as you can. Borrow that money on it and send it on p. d. q."

Taylor hesitated. "All right," he said at last. "Good!" cried Orde, rising and holding out his hand. He made his way to the office of the Welton Lumber company. "Look here, Welton," he demanded abruptly when he had reached that operator's private office, "how much of a cut are you going to make this year?"

"About 20,000,000," replied Welton. "Why?" "Just figuring on the drive," said Orde, nodding a farewell. He then drove to the offices of all the men owning timber on the river. When he had collected his statistics he returned to his desk, where he filled the backs of several envelopes with his characteristically minute figures. He nodded his head vigorously.

"Joe," he called across to his partner. "I'm going to cut that whole 40,000,000 we have left." "Do you think you can do it? It's two years' work." "Sure thing," replied Orde. Then to himself he added, "I've got to."

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Chapter 32

ORDE was fighting for his very life. The notes given by Newmark & Orde would come due beginning the following summer. Before that time Orde must be able to meet them personally or his stock in the Boom company would be turned in to the firm. This would of course spell nearly a total loss of it as far as Orde was concerned.

The chief anxiety under which the riverman labored, however, was the imminent prospect of losing under the mortgage all the northern peninsula timber. Now, as the time approached, he realized that if he could not pay the notes the firm would certainly be unable to do so. What with the second mortgage due two years later and to be met by Newmark, with the outstanding obligations, with the new enterprise of the vessels ordered from Duncan McLeod, Newmark & Orde would be unable to raise anything like the necessary amount. He fell upon the woods work with unparalleled ferocity. A sale of the 40,000,000 feet remaining of the firm's up river holdings, together with the tolls to be collected for driving the river that spring, would bring Orde through by "the skin of his teeth." To cut 40,000,000 feet, even in these latter days of improvements, would be a task to strain to the utmost every resource of energy and organization.

Nevertheless Orde accomplished the task. He lived constantly in the woods. The Rough Red had charge of the banking, where his aggressive, brutal personality kept the rollways free from congestion. When the drive started the cut was banked for miles along the stream, 40,000,000 feet of it. The strain over, Orde faced the task of driving the river. From Taylor, Orde had several communications. The lawyer confessed himself baffled as to the purpose of the land office investigation. The whole affair appeared to be tangled in technicalities and a snarl of red tape. Orde did not much care for this delay. He saw his way clear to meeting his obligations without the necessity of hypothecating the California timber and was the better pleased for it. With the break up of spring he proceeded confidently with the largest drive in the history of the river, a matter of over 200,000,000 feet.

The morning of June 21 dawned clear. Orde drove rapidly to the distributing booms. After a glance at the

river he entered the tiny office and set out the examination of the tally sheets. The foreman, Tom North, entered. "The river's rising," he said. "You're crazy," muttered Orde. "There have been no rains reported." "It's rising," insisted North. An hour later Orde walked out over the booms. The water certainly had risen. He called a boy. "Here, Jimmy," said he, "mark one of these piles and keep track of how fast the water rises."

The river slowly rose. "I don't like June floods," Orde told Tom North. "A fellow can understand an ordinary spring fresher and knows about how far it will go, but these summer floods are so confounded mysterious I can't figure out what's struck the old stream unless they're having almighty heavy rains up near headwaters."

By 3 o'clock in the afternoon Jimmy Powers reported a rise since morning of six inches. "Tom," said Orde to the old riverman, "I'm going to send Marsh down for the pile drivers and some cable." "What in blazes do you expect to do with that?" he inquired. "We may need them," Orde stated, with conviction. "If those logs ever break through they'll go on out to Lake Michigan and wouldn't be worth the salvage."

"That's a mighty long chance," North commented. "If this drive goes out it surely busts me," replied Orde, "and I'm not taking even long chances."

A cloudburst in the China creek district followed by continued heavy

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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