

GREAT RICHES

by Mabel Howe Farnham

SYNOPSIS: James Blinn, as the last of the Blinn who's line in New Concord, Wis., has occupied a prominent position in New Concord since from birth. He has lived in the old Blinn mansion on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi river, and his father has been a subject of interest to all the town's best people. Now, however, he has been sent to school in the East and is, precisely, a nobody.

Chapter Eight SCHOOL DAYS

IT MUST be confessed that James at this period was neither a beautiful nor a prepossessing young man. The year before he suddenly had begun to grow and after he got a good start it seemed as if he were determined never to stop.

He grew, alas! only in one direction and was so exceedingly thin for his height—he finally reached six feet one and a quarter—that when he sat down he had the effect of doubling up like a jack-knife.

His carry over hair was another cross. Each morning he soaked it in water, parted it in the middle, plastered each half firmly into place and put his cap on to set the mold. But a certain cockle on his crown refused absolutely to stay where it was put more than twenty minutes at a stretch.

James' eyes were not bad. When he grew older the girls used to claim they were "speaking eyes" but at present he avoided girls, considering them pests.

His best feature in after life, a deeply musical and resonant speaking voice, had as yet only foreshadowed a later appearance. While it was already inclined toward the bass and had many notes extremely pleasant to the ear, it unfortunately was punctuated thickly with little soprano squeaks which not only spoiled the ensemble but embarrassed their owner to the verge of tears.

James was sent, of course, to the famous old academy in Massachusetts where his father and grandfather had been such shining lights. James, however, lacked altogether the grand air possessed so abundantly by the senior Blinns.

He was much given to dreaming and was neither alert nor self-confident and appeared just what he was—somewhat helpless and inefficient. Possessing at this time what looked to be the longest neck in the world outside a zoo he was violently addicted to collars so high they looked more like cuffs.

James' clothes had been made by Mr. Davis, the best tailor in New Concord, of his finest wools and cloths. That they were well and carefully made cannot be denied, but neither is there doubt that they, like their owner, lacked that indefinable flair and style which distinguished both the clothes and the manners of the glided youths with whom James now found himself surrounded.

Miss Sarah went East with her nephew and, the dormitories being full, found him a room recommended by a helpful member of the faculty, in a charming old Colonial house whose owner, Mrs. Bliss, was in "reduced circumstances" and forced to rent rooms to young gentlemen.

Miss Sarah, after arranging for the payment of James' room and his board with a friend of Mrs. Bliss, gave her nephew twenty-five dollars in cash for incidental expenses during the remaining three months of school, kissed him goodbye without breaking down and departed bravely to visit her Eastern relatives without letting James guess in the least what the parting cost her.

TO JAMES who had never needed more than a dollar or two at a time, twenty-five dollars seemed an ample amount and he wondered vaguely when his aunt gave it to him what he would do with all that money. He was to learn very shortly.

That very evening when he was unpacking his trunk a delegation called on him for a subscription for the school football team. James was about to offer them a dollar when the supercilious upper classman who was spokesman, shrewdly taking James' measure, made it plain at once that anyone giving less than ten dollars would be branded for the rest of his life as a piker.

James, fairly trembling with relief at the narrowness of his escape, promptly handed over ten dollars. The news spread. The next morning he gave ten more to the baseball team. The following afternoon he promised a third ten to the track team and wrote hurriedly to his aunt for fifty dollars.

The request staggered Miss Sarah and she did not sleep a wink that night debating with herself whether to send the money.

While her father lived it had never occurred to her to worry over her nephew's future, but when the Governor died just as James was budding into manhood and made her his sole guardian, Miss Sarah was stunned by the pressure of her responsibility.

She realized only too well that she knew nothing of a certain dark side of young men or of their temptations. On the other hand, James might need the money very urgently. In the novels she had read the young heroes often got into desperate straits for want of a little ready cash during the process known as "sawing wild oats."

How James in forty-eight hours and under the watchful eyes of his preceptors could have already begun to plunge his out into desperate straits for want of a little ready cash during the process known as "sawing wild oats."

But in a matter where her duty lay plain before her, Miss Sarah could be counted on to keep her eyes fully open no matter what the cost to her sensibilities. Therefore, after praying for help until her knees ached, Miss Sarah rose to what she felt was a "crisis" and prepared to do battle as best she was able.

SHE wrote James a long and (for her) firm letter in which she warned him against temptation, and wondered how he possibly could have spent such a sum in two days. But having finished the letter without yielding, she added two postscripts:

"P. S. Do not think, my dear nephew, that I have not faith and confidence in your fortitude. But forewarned is forearmed, as you know, I enclose a postal order for twenty dollars. You must make it do till the end of the term, Aunt Sarah."

"P. P. S. Of course, if anything should occur that would make the possession of more money imperative, you must let me know. I trust, however, no such contingency will arise, Auntie."

The letter embarrassed James terribly. When he answered it he referred only vaguely to Aunt Sarah's warning. The letter made him feel more alone than he had ever believed possible.

A longing for his grandmother more overwhining than he had ever experienced swept over James and twisted and tore his heart. His grandmother would have understood. His grandmother would not have prated about temptations. It came to him as if for the first time that when he went home his grandmother would not be there. He would never see her again.

It was years before James could bear to look back and relive his first weeks at school. James' room was on the third floor front of the Bliss residence and directly below him was a suite occupied by two upper classmen, who had achieved respectively positions no less exalted than the captaincy of the football team and the editorship of the school paper.

The captain of the football team made it a matter of policy to be on a friendly footing with even the lowest and most insignificant. The editor of the paper, being a student of human nature, saw in James something of the pup the Judge had visualized shut out in the cold and trying his best not to whine.

Consequently their mightinesses were on the whole inclined to be friendly, even though they jibed at James and his native state for the good of his soul. Unfortunately James remembered the Judge's advice to go slow in making friends and ignored the friendliness. Later, when he had discovered the eminence of the two who dwelt just below him he was too proud to make any but the most tentative advances, which were in turn ignored. James immediately retreated into the fastnesses of his own soul and surrounded himself with prickles.

It took but a week or two at school to make him doubt his own importance. It took less than a month to make him wonder whether there was something inherently wrong with him that made strangers shun and avoid him. James was naturally the most sociable of souls and he missed companionship fearfully.

He took refuge in books or long solitary walks, varied occasionally by the company of another pariah like himself. As for the temptations from which his aunt had urged him to flee, they seemed to be confined, as far as James could discover, to her imagination.

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But tomorrow, James has another significant triumph.

TRAINING COURSE FOR SCOUT HEADS STARTING TONIGHT

Boy scout headquarters announces that a special training course will commence in the Roosevelt school gymnasium at 8 o'clock tonight.

The course will consist of eight evening sessions and one outdoor session. Dr. Walter Redford, president of the Southern Oregon Normal School, who is chairman of the council leadership training committee, has secured very capable instructors to present various topics on child training, particularly that part which deals with the adolescent boy. During Monday evening's session the instructor will review "The Nature of the Boy," his activity urges, his love of adventure, his ideals and ambitions as a hero worshiper, his interest in facts and skills, his play activities and his physical development.

Opportunity will be given for group discussions at which time various questions will be taken up.

The course is for all men over 18 years of age—scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, troop committeemen, district committeemen, fathers of boys. The course is free and the men taking the course assume no obligation to become scout leaders. Scout headquarters states that even though a man may never become affiliated with the scout movement, the course will be more than worth-

while if it helps a father to be a better dad.

All men completing the training will receive a certificate recognizing their achievement from the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America.

Men who desire to better understand boys, men who want to help about the scout program and its objectives, are urged to enroll. A telephone call to scout headquarters, 549, is all that is necessary.

Students on Inspection Tour. RALEIGH, N. C.—(UP)—A group of 37 chemical engineering students here obtained first-hand knowledge of the business they intend to enter by making a 1,000-mile inspection tour of chemical plants throughout the state.

California's Shortest Trial. SACRAMENTO, Cal.—(UP)—The shortest trial in the history of Sacramento county, was recorded when Frank Morris, negro, was sentenced to from five years to life in prison for stealing 35 cents. The trial lasted 40 minutes.

THUG ROUTED BY RIGHT TO JAW

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 25.—(AP)—A persistent gunman rooved a stiff right to the jaw in a holdup attempt here Saturday, but a few minutes later found a less quarrelsome victim and \$50.

Brandishing an automatic pistol, the gunman shouted "this is a hold-up." But J. R. Fabisender, manager of the store, uncocked a right to the jaw which sent the gunman crashing into a rack of wine laden shelves. While bottles toppled around him, he fled from the store in which half a dozen customers were shopping at the time.

A few minutes later he entered the Lou Harris grocery. When he shouted "this is a hold-up," Harris dashed out the back door. He returned soon and saw that more than \$50 was missing from his cash register.

THE FIRST MOVIE

By GLUYAS IAMS

MATHE

TAIL

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Forward, March

THE NEBS—Spurred

BRINGING UP FATHER

BLAZE DAMAGES STOCK IN SALEM SHOE STORE

SALEM, March 25.—(AP)—A fire, flaring up a few minutes after closing time, badly damaged stock and fixtures of the Jacob A. Blase shoe store here Saturday night, and resulted in a painful injury to one fireman.

Assistant Fire Chief William Swan suffered a gashed wrist while in the thick of the fight to keep the flames from reaching adjoining buildings.

Santa Anita Stars New Track. SACRAMENTO, Calif.—(UP)—The phenomenal success of the Santa Anita horse racing track, which recently held the \$100,000 handicap as the

nation's richest purse, tempted another organization to plan a new track. Articles of incorporation for the Golden State Jockey Club of Los Angeles were filed with the state. Capitalization of \$500,000 is provided.

Horses Damaged Autos. SACRAMENTO, Cal.—(UP)—Three horses owned by John Lee broke from their corral and galloped down the road. Exhausted after a long run, they rested in the middle of the highway. Several automobiles tried to pass. The horses reared in protest and damaged one machine. They were finally captured and transported to their stable.

Seven Words in Will. CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—(UP)—Alden H. Buttrick's will was the smallest ever filed in Middlesex probate court. The seven word will written on paper five by three inches in size, read: "Eva Buttrick to have all I possess."