

# GREAT RICHES

by Mabel Howe Farnham

**SYNOPSIS:** The marriage of James and Jane Stimson has been drifting slowly but rather inevitably toward the rocks. But James at last finds a way to escape and so unobtainable because she is expecting a baby. All of New Oregon seems upon the same theory and all wait breathlessly for the day when James bursts into his office, shouting that he is the father of a million. He returns home laden with perfectly useless toys, flowers and a present for Jane.

## Chapter 31 DEATH

JANE was too weak to more than smile wanly when James pushed a hoop of brilliants on her finger and laid a mass of pink roses on her pillow. She looked so white, so exhausted and so ethereal that, after Mrs. Northrup had left the room, James suddenly knelt by the bed and buried his head in his arms and sobbed.

Gone was all his gaiety; gone his sense of reckless happiness and triumphant pride. Memories of Jane's agonies of last night and early morning overwhelmed him. It seemed horrible to him that he could have gone strutting up and down the street half shouting, laughing, being slapped on the back, the center of a noisy throng, while Jane lay there so close, so very close to the shadow.

What coarse rough things men were at best, how undeserving of the women God gave them! Jane lifted a weak hand and laid it on her husband's bowed head. James took it. In both his and kissed it over and over. They were closer to one another, more in accord than they had been since their honeymoon.

Perhaps they both said a little prayer and made a solemn petition that they should be permitted to continue in the beauty of this perfect understanding the rest of their lives—at least James made this prayer and he rather thought Jane did too.

A tiny treacherous smile started James and he lifted his head. No wonder the babies were crying. He'd forgotten to give them their presents. A nice father he was. Why, he'd barely looked at them, never even waited until they were dressed before he rushed off down town.

Drying his eyes somewhat shamefacedly, James tiptoed around to the other side of the bed to a founced, face-bung much-beribboned cradle. One small red-faced bundle was lifting its voice in a feeble complaining little wail.

The other lay so still, so waxy white, that James, his heart pounding queerly beat over quickly to investigate. He raised up sharply and Jane watching him, smiling tenderly, saw that all the life had gone out of his face.

"What's the matter?" she cried, jerking herself to a sitting position. "I don't know—nothing," answered her husband and ran from the room calling Mrs. Northrup. She came. The nurse came followed by Anna. Doctor White was hurriedly sent for.

It was too late. The second twin, the little daughter, had taken one look at her new home and quietly slipped away. What hurt her father most was that she had not stayed long enough to enjoy the beautiful new doll he had brought her. She was so little and helpless—and so dreadfully alone.

He wondered, lying awake at night, whether she had found her way back to where she had come from. There were some things James found that did not bear thinking about. He got out of bed, switched on the light and tried to read.

From the front of the house came clearly to his ears an impatient fretful little cry. Later in the night he heard the sound of Jane sobbing. But when he went in to her he found Mrs. Northrup there before him and she motioned him away.

THE loss of her baby was a great shock to Jane in her weakened condition and she was a long time in getting back her strength. The elder twin, the boy, suffered too from loss of vitality and was a continual worry to them all.

Mrs. Northrup and the doctor got one of those new trained nurses from Saint Joseph, whom Anna hated almost as much as if she had been of the opposite sex, but whose dependable efficiency gave James a feeling of comfort and strength.

For the first time in his life James was glad of his father-in-law's money. His bills multiplied and grew and mounted until he was frightened. He considered going to the Judge for a loan, but Jane insisted that he should go instead to her father.

James went reluctantly, his face red with embarrassment. Mr. Northrup was kind enough, looked over the pile, said he would attend to

them. But before he let James read him a lecture about his extravagance in buying Jane a diamond ring when the twins were born. Jane had plenty of diamond ring and if she wanted more her father would see that she had them. It was foolishly reckless for a young man earning less than three thousand a year to indulge himself in buying diamonds. Not that Mr. Northrup objected really, it merely served for an excuse to give James a little talk on the value and uses of money of which Mr. Northrup considered him criminally ignorant.

James admitted the extravagance of the ring and that Jane did not need it. That he had paid for it himself and that he did not expect Jane's long and protracted illness he did not explain.

He would have liked to snatch the bills out of Mr. Northrup's fat white hands and cram them and his big black cigar down his huge throat; but instead he murmured something about paying the money back as soon as he could.

"I'll expect it back the day roosters lay eggs for my breakfast," said Mr. Northrup and shook all over with relish of his witticism.

James suddenly realized that he not only disliked his father-in-law but came perilously near to hating him. And yet he took his money—ever asked for his money, James loathed himself the next few days a thousand times more intensely than he disliked Mr. Northrup.

HE BEGAN during this period to realize clearly for the first time some of his own weaknesses and disabilities. And with this realization came creeping in, inevitably, the first doubt of the certainty of his grand future, the question of his capabilities.

If Jane would only be more patient, not expect miracles of him. If she could understand better the practical difficulties... or his own limitations! But perhaps Jane did understand him too well. Perhaps that was the real reason she refused to have another James Stimson in the family and insisted upon naming her son Norris Northrup Stimson after her father.

Aunt Sarah had been so hurt at Jane's refusal to name the baby after its own father that she could not talk of it to anyone—not even to Aunt Lou.

James was bitterly disappointed. He had taken it as a matter of course, as predestined as the movement of the stars that there should some day be a fourth James Brewster Stimson to carry on the name. Jane, prompted by her mother, had announced her firm intention never to have another child and James, remembering all she had gone through, was quick to agree to that.

And then, to have his one son named after someone else, named after a man he disliked! It was small wonder James felt somewhat embittered and began to lose, even more surely than had Jane, the belief in himself the Judge had worked so hard to build up.

Mrs. Northrup fairly lived at the house during Jane's illness and slow convalescence. James had never felt so much in the way, so unwanted and uncared for in his life as he did during the unhappy months that followed.

Anna made it plain that she worked for him only because she was paid to do it and that she resented bitterly every added footstep he caused her. Jane was so taken up with her illness, her doctor, her baby, she had not time for her husband. He was "shooed" so regularly out of the sick room and the nursery that after a time he almost lost interest in his son.

"I reckon it's a Northrup baby and not a Stimson," he once said angrily to his wife and she agreed instantly that the boy was her father over again.

Perhaps because she remained nervous and high strung it became almost an obsession with her to find only Northrup traits in her child. When Miss Julie said the baby did "favor" James about the eyes, Jane was positively rude in denying the resemblance.

She was so very tactless about the matter that it came to be a favorite joke among her young friends to come in to see little Norris and claim that he was the image of his father. This they did partly to tease Jane and partly because they resented the way she treated James.

Already, among his intimates, James Stimson was referred to generally as "poor James."

Tragedy again comes to James, tomorrow.

## U. P. NEW INCOME SHOWS DECREASE

NEW YORK, April 23.—(AP)—A decrease of \$2,822,247 in the net income from all sources was reported today by the Union Pacific railroad company for 1934 compared with 1933.

The net was \$18,713,384 last year, or about \$2 a common share after preferred dividends, compared with a net in 1933 of \$21,578,195, or about \$7.91 a common share after preferred requirements.

The decrease in earnings last year from 1933 was against an increase of \$943,307 from 1932 to 1933, the report stated.

Revenue from freight advanced 8.9 per cent from 1933 to 1934 and passenger revenue was up one per cent. Total operating revenue increased 8.4 per cent, but there was a 12 per cent increase in total operating expenses.

## ALL FIRE WARDENS TO MEET IN SALEM MAY 1

SALEM, April 23.—(AP)—A meeting of all fire wardens in the state May 1 at the capital was called today by Lynn Cronmiller, state forester, to consider new laws affecting forest work. The 1935 fire prevention situation will also be discussed.

## UPPER ROGUE GRANGE INITIATION MEET HELD

Upper Rogue Grange held its first meeting in the McInnis Log cabin the evening of April 18. Twenty-one candidates were initiated by the

## BANWELL REELECTED ON ROADSIDE COUNCIL

A. H. Banwell, manager of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, has been selected a member of the advisory board of the Oregon roadside council. It was announced yesterday by Mrs. J. S. Sanders of Monmouth, acting president.

Mr. Banwell was elected to the board last year and has consented to serve for the second term.

The Oregon roadside council has been instrumental in assisting the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce in its efforts to preserve the timber lands adjacent to Oregon highways. Professor Irving E. Vining of Ashland is vice president of the council.

## TWO POSITIONS OPEN WITH CIVIL SERVICE

Earl H. York, secretary of the local civil service board of examiners, announced two important positions open through competitive examination. Full information regarding the examinations may be obtained from Mr. York at the postoffice. The positions are:

Immigration patrol inspector, \$1,800 a year, department of labor. Minor laboratory apprentice, \$1,023 a year, national bureau of standards, Washington, D. C.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Krowbridge Cabinet Works

## TALENT GARDENS FEWER THIS YEAR

TALENT, April 23.—(Sp.)—The cold, late spring has delayed garden making to some extent in this vicinity and has also caused the early produce to reach the market later than in other years. However, some asparagus is being marketed this week and radish and spinach growers are busy getting their produce to market.

Joe Stevens sold his first crop of spinach last week and will soon begin cutting the second sowing. Gen. Hartley who has the earliest radishes of the season began bunching Thursday.

For the last two or three years anyone who had a two by four plot of ground planted a garden, selling the surplus, which resulted in a sluggish market and low prices on all produce. But apparently normalcy has returned to the truck garden business as there are very few backyard gardens, comparatively speaking, being planted this spring. Gardeners should find market conditions improved.

## BOY LIVES TO TELL OF FALL IN NIAGARA GORGE

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., April 23.—(AP)—An eight-year-old boy, Douglas Dean, fell nearly 50 feet into the Niagara gorge at the foot of Lincoln Falls, today and escaped with a cut on the head and body bruises.

The boy was playing with other youngsters along the top of the bank and tumbled over the cliff when he lost his footing.

## THE WORLD AT ITS WORST



By C. M. Payne

## S-MATTER POP



## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Uncle Nat Has a Plan



## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER



## THE NEBBS—A Knotty Question



## BRINGING UP FATHER



## STATE POLICEMEN TRAIN OF CHICAGO NAB 210 IN MARCH

SALEM, April 23.—(AP)—Activities of the Oregon state police in general law enforcement during March brought about 210 arrests, resulting in total jail sentences of 37.66 years and fines of \$856.45, the monthly report stated.

Larceny under \$50 headed the list with 63 persons arrested for that cause, while 21 each were arrested for burglary and disorderly conduct.

In the motor vehicle law activities police took into custody 183 drivers which resulted in total fines imposed of \$5,540. Warnings were issued to 10,978 motorists. Police spent 3,446 days in the field and traveled 300,584 miles in enforcing the motoring laws.

## TRAIN OF CHICAGO CCC BOYS ARRIVES

A trainload of new CCC enrollees, 107 of them, arrived in this city yesterday from Fort Sheridan, Ill. to report for duty at Camp South Fork. Most of the men were recruited from in and near Chicago.

The men were taken to their camp immediately upon their arrival. The trainload brings to this district the first contingent of new men to fill the vacancy left by the several trainloads who were discharged some time ago.

Within a short time more recruits will be sent from the midwest, and also destined for this area are many enlisted in and near Portland. They will be assigned to various camps in southern Oregon and northern California.