

GREAT RICHES

By Mabel Howe Farnham

SYNOPSIS: James Stinson and his wife Jane have come at last to the fortune of the million. James and Jane cannot endure Jane's nagging and social braggart. So he leaves her and returns to his Aunt Sarah and their old and beautiful home. New Concord is crossed by the accident. Jane's father is horrified. But James withstands them all. He and his father-in-law have had a session.

Chapter 44 THE SIEGE

MR. NORTHRUP bolted into his car and was driven rapidly off. The truth was that James cut a sorry figure before his father-in-law. To his surprise, Mr. Northrup, though pompous as ever, was conciliatory, was anxious for a reconciliation between him and Jane. He apologized both for himself and his daughter.

Naturally, they were both worried and upset over James' long and unexplained disappearance. Jane herself had cooked all James' favorite dishes for dinner. She had expected him home not later than five o'clock. James must make allowances. A wife's feelings, yes, a wife's feelings. If James had just telephoned, let them know. Her natural anxiety.

James cut him short. He explained hastily that he had no intention of going back and living with his wife. He undoubtedly was entirely to blame, the evening before and at all other times.

But he would not live with her. He preferred not to see her. Their marriage was over and done for.

Mr. Northrup tut-tutted and refused to take James' decision as final. James concluded the extremely painful interview by pretense of a pressing engagement.

Nothing further occurred that day. James had his lunch sent in and was brief and snooty with callers, claiming to be immersed in his long neglected business and correspondence. That afternoon, rather early, he slipped out through a back entrance and went home; home to the mansion with Nappy limping in his wake carrying his brief case. But the next morning business was again practically non-existent on Commercial Street when Mrs. Northrup, heavily veiled, was seen climbing the steps to her son-in-law's office. The odds against James rose hastily.

In all, Mrs. Northrup made six calls at six different hours of the day at James' law office, and stayed and stayed—as all of New Concord very well knew. What they did not know and had no way of finding out, was that as she opened the outside door, Nappy, on constant guard, pressed a button on the wall three times as a signal of dire disaster and James thereupon made a hasty exit at the back and hid in an adjoining and fortunately empty store room.

After her final unsuccessful call Mrs. Northrup swallowed her pride and went to see Miss Sarah Stinson. She was told by Aunt Lou that Miss Sarah was not at home. She was at home, as Mrs. Northrup very well knew, having seen Miss Sarah at an upstairs window.

So Mrs. Northrup pretended to leave, but only went a little way and presently waylaid Miss Sarah in the garden.

MISS SARAH was in faded blue porcelaine and a disreputable sun hat. Mrs. Northrup was most correctly gowned in black and white China silk and a smart black toque. But it was Miss Sarah who looked the duchess as she informed her caller haughtily (the haughtiness was assumed to cover an almost abject fright and dismay) that it was impossible to talk to Mrs. Northrup and remain a lady.

Miss Sarah with shaking knees, thereupon walked into the house and actually slammed the door in her visitor's face. Three days later Mrs. Northrup met Miss Sarah turning a lonely corner by the Baptist church and cut her dead.

Mrs. Northrup was so pleased with herself that she first boasted of the cut direct to Mrs. Church and then, as Mrs. Church seemed sympathetic, told verbatim the story of her call on Miss Sarah. And how New Concord relished this tidbit!

When James went on living quietly with his aunt, when it was known that his clothes and about a quarter of the wedding presents had been packed up and sent to the mansion, those who had backed James with their bets began pressing for payment.

Finally Jane confided to her intimate friends that she and James had separated for good. Jane said that her lips were sealed, that she never meant to explain the cause of the separation or say a word against James. She intimated, however, that if she ever broke this praiseworthy resolution, or James by some overt act goaded her into telling the truth he would be drubbed out of town.

This last caused for a time a great deal of intense speculation. But Miss Julia Pratt said bluntly that Jane ought to put up or shut up. The men agreed with her. And after a time the women. New Concord finally stopped prying and speculating. The matter was settled, the debts were reluctantly paid, James Stinson had ceased to be Jane Northrup's husband and became a Stinson again. His law practice picked up amazingly.

About this time James heard that the Northrup twins had got their discharge and were at home. An afternoon or two later Nappy came into James' inner office and closed and locked the door behind him.

"The twins is in the front office," Nappy said fearfully. "They kotched me when my back was turned and walked in big as you please. I told them you had jest this minute went home and they had the impudence to tell me I was a dawg goned dar. They each got a stick and they took awful mad. Mebbe I better light out the back way and go after the police!"

"Show them in," James commanded after a moment's thought.

Nappy backed out, muttering something about the Gawd damndest foolishness he ever had heered about, and presently ushered the visitors in.

Nappy closed the door rebelliously. James knew very well he would remain glued to the other side with his eyes to the key hole.

THE twins were looking very fit and brown. They were dressed exactly alike in extremely natty pongee suits and carried cane. James, courteous and untidy, remained seated at his desk facing them. "Well?" he asked.

"We're under orders to knock your block off," Nate grinned.

"I dare say you could do it."

"Consider it done," Norris said airily.

James got up and the three solemnly shook hands. The twins took off their coats, sat down, tipped their chairs back, put their feet companionably on James' desk and lighted cigars. A few minutes later they were all deep in swapping war yarns.

His brothers-in-law carefully refrained from mentioning their sister to James during the afternoon. But as they got up to go James said in a shamefaced way, "I wonder if you'd mind telling me, just why Jane wanted me to go back to her. You know as well as I do that Jane despises me."

The twins exchanged glances. Nate said, "A woman, a dog, a hickory tree, the more you beat 'em, the better they be." And Norris growled, "We told you to beat her ... ten years ago."

As they reached the door Norris said wistfully, "We can't know you in public. It would give the family conception fits. We're being taken into the business and Dad's already had a slight stroke. We don't want to kill him. But if we could slip in here occasionally ... if you wouldn't mind ..."

"As often as you please. Ring me up at any time and I'll arrange to be alone. No one will see if you slip in the back entrance. Come along. I'll show you."

Thereafter on many a late afternoon the twins sneaked in the back way for more army talk. The twins and James and Nappy believed that these meetings were shrouded in the darkest secrecy. Probably everyone in town knew of them, except the twins' immediate family. They remained in ignorance only because New Concord considered it a good joke on the Northrups.

The three never again spoke of Jane or of James' domestic difficulties. James considered the hint the twins had given as to Jane's state of mind from every possible angle and dismissed it as hoah.

The judge had left James ten thousand dollars. This James offered by letter to settle on Jane. Jane sent back a stinging reply refusing to take a cent from him. Mr. Northrup had other ideas.

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Tomorrow, Jane takes her departure.

PLAN UNION ALL BRANCHES OREGON DAIRY INDUSTRY

PORTLAND, May 5.—(AP)—Steps toward uniting all branches of Oregon's extensive dairy industry into one organization will be taken here next Wednesday at a meeting to which 400 producers, producer-distributors, manufacturers and dealers have been invited.

C. G. Simpson, Oregon City creamery operator, elected temporary president at a recent preliminary meeting, said the new organization will coordinate the activities and represent the interests of about 25,000 market and factory milk shippers presently unorganized; the 2,000 producer-distributors and distributors of market milk, who now have only city or county organizations; and the loosely affiliated creamery, ice cream, butter and condensed milk operators numbering 500 or more.

The chief aims of the organization, Simpson said, includes improvement of quality, more efficient production, manufacture and distribution, and stimulation of use and development of wider markets both at home and abroad.

Dr. Edgar S. Fortner, of Salem, producer, is temporary vice-president. Levi McKee of Perrydale, a producer, is temporary secretary-treasurer.

Vanilla is Favorite Flavor. BOSTON.—(UP)—Vanilla is still the nation's favorite ice cream. Chocolate is next and strawberry ranks

GLASS, KNIVES EATEN DAILY WITHOUT HARM

DU QUOIN, Ill.—(UP)—Here's the daily menu: Holly Clark enjoys most: Breakfast—Ground glass and tacks. Luncheon—Fish hooks, paper clips and window panes. Dinner—Fried razor blades (safety or straight) with ground glass.

And what's more, Clark refuses to be a "goat." He makes his living munching tacks and electric light bulbs with the greatest of ease. Clark is 35 years old and a native of this community. He estimated that in the past 12 years he had consumed 180 pounds of glass, 100 gross of fish hooks and a like number of razor blades.



BABE ABANDONED IN STAGE DEPOT

VANCOUVER, Wn., May 4.—(AP)—A tiny, wriggling infant was found abandoned today in the stage terminal here with a despairing note from his mother pinned to his wrappings.

His feeble cries led to his discovery on the mezzanine floor. A note printed in pencil said: "He was born the 20th of April. He is Irish and English. His daddy is gone and I can find no work and so I shall give him up and go to join my husband."

Police took the little wriggling bundle to a hospital until another home is found for him. They started a search for the mother.

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CONTEST



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By C. M. Payne

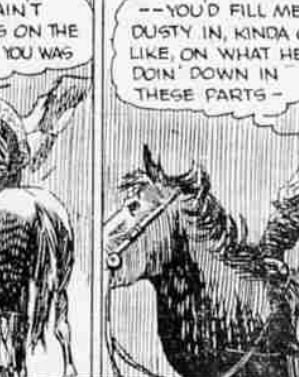


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TAILORIN TOMMY



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER



THE NEBBS



BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManis

VALLEY ARTISTS APPROVE EXHIBIT

Keen interest is being manifested in the non-jury art exhibit being planned for this city early in June, according to Jacques Matisque, exhibit manager, with 45 having already applied for application blanks. Local artists in all lines of craftsmanship are receiving the idea favorably. Matisque states, this being the first opportunity for artists, both amateur and professional, to present their work for public approval. Applications are coming in daily from many from Ashland, Grants Pass, and the smaller towns of southern Oregon. Work to be submitted may be in any hand—oil, watercolor and advance information indicates that the

work on display will range from oil paintings to pencil cartoons. Community schools have sent in applications for group work, and the affair will probably be made a permanent feature. Matisque intimated.

An interesting side-light of the exhibit will be the exclusive artists entertainment and reception on the eve of the opening, to give the artists a chance to get acquainted. Application blanks are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Spring Music Festes Planned. FREDERIC, Wis.—(UP)—The first annual spring music festival is being planned for the Upper St. Croix valley. Approximately 300 students from schools at Frederic, St. Croix Falls, Webster, Grantsburg and Osceola will participate. Orchestras, glee clubs, bands and choruses will be featured.

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