Crescents Divide Honors With Conn. Mills

A fair sized crowd of basketball fans witnessed the Crescent A. A. hoopsters administer a 59 to 19 defeat to the team representing the Connecticut Mills of Danielson, Christmas afternoon, in Olympic hall. The visiting team was outclassed in all stages of the game, missing many a basket. The home team displayed its usual form in clever passwork and in caging the ball.

Mills played a good game at center and also led his teammates in caging baskets, shooting ten field goals and three from the foul line. He was followed closely by Normandin who hooped the slim of ten field goals. Belair tossed the ball into the basket for the total of five field goals. J. Murphy caged three baskets from the floor.

For the visitors, Higgins, who played the center position, caged the ball for a total of nine points, the next man to him being Elliott, with three baskets or six points. The remaining points were scored by Reddy who caged two field goals.

Christmas evening the Crescents played a return game with the Connecticut Mills quintet in Danielson, the Crescents losing to their opponents by the score of 18 to 16. The first half ended 8 to 6 in the Connecticut Mills hoopsters favor. Elliott of the winning team led in caging baskets, shooting four from the floor. Reddy was next with three field goals to his credit.

D. Murphy of the Crescents led his teammates, shooting three field baskets and one foul and was followed closely by Benjamin with three field goals.

Lineup and summary of both games:

Afternoon Game.

Crescents		Conn. Mills
Belair	R. F.	Reddy
Normandin	L. F.	Elliott
Mills	C.	Higgins
J. Murphy	R. G.	Marland
D. Murphy	L. G.	Walden

Baskets from the floor: Mills 10, Normandin 10, Belair 5, J. Murphy 3, Elliott 3, Reddy 2, Higgins 2. Fouls: Mills 3, Higgins 3. Referee, J. Stanley.

Evening Game.

Conn. Mills		Crescents.
Reddy	R. F.	Benjamin
Elliott	L. F.	Swanson, Grebe
Higgins	C.	Mills
Albert W. Marland	L. G.	J. Murphy
Walden	R. G.	D. Murphy

Baskets from the floor: Elliott 4, Reddy 2, Benjamin 3, D. Murphy 3, Knowles 1, Walden 1. Fouls: Mills 3, D. Murphy 1, Walden 1.

STRETCH MEEHAN WITH SETON HALL HOOPSTERS HERE TONIGHT

"Stretch" Meehan, the human tower of the basketball court, known as the tallest man in the game, standing 6 foot 9 inches and weighing 230 pounds, will be the main attraction in Olympic hall tonight when the Seton Hall team of Newark, N. J., make their appearance. This team is touring New England and Manager Benoit is sparing no expense in booking this big attraction. "Stretch" is very much in demand as a basketball player everywhere. Last season he was in the New York, New Jersey and Penn. league, and also in the Inter-State league with Holyoke, Mass. This season he is booked to play with the Germantown, Pa., team in the Eastern league and receives a salary of $45 per game and expenses. Manager Jones of the Seton Hall team says that "Stretch" will positively be on hand as this trip was booked for his sole purpose. The fans around New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania go miles to see "Stretch" in action and he should be a good attraction for the local fans who are eager to see men of reputation.

"Stretch" will be ably assisted by Boyle, another star player from the Tri-State league being a member of the Reading, Pa., team, who played the Rigdon-Hartfords in Hartford last season for the national championship. Somers, Jones, Flarity and Igoe, will form the rest of the combination, and from reports these men are good.

Manager Benoit will stand pat on his fast traveling Crescents, with "Cyclone Joe" Belair and "Mondy" Normandin as forwards, Mills at center and the Murphy brothers, "Dee" and "Jack" at guards, and says that there will have to come bigger than "Stretch" and his bunch to make them smell defeat. The Seton Hall team after playing here tonight go to Pittsfield, Springfield, Plymouth, Newburyport and Gloucester, ing and then return home to play league Mass., to finish their week of barn storming. Manager Benoit is endeavoring to bring the local Y. M. C. A. team and the Taftville Bear Cats for a preliminary game tonight and this should fill out a fine programme for the lovers of the sport. The local Y. M. C. A. team has such good men as Dixon, Hussey, Grebe, Williams and Finlayson while the Bear Cats will have Jim Murphy, Decelles, Swanson, Coleman, Paradis and Sullivan. These teams are pretty evenly matched and should furnish one of the best preliminary games seen at the local court this season.

The [illegible] starts at 7.30 and the big game at 8.30.

CLOSE STRUGGLE INDICATED IN DAVIS CUP MATCHES

Auckland, New Zealand, Dec. 24.—William T. Tilden, 2nd, of Philadelphia, the world's singles tennis champion, and William M. Johnson, of California, former champion of the United States, will represent the American team, and Gerald L. Patterson, of Australia, former world's champion, and Norman E. Brooks, also of Australia and former British champion, will represent Australia in the challenge round of play for the Davis cup on December 28.

Both the American and Australasian teams are in fine fettle. The relative strength of the two teams indicates a close struggle and most of the expert critics are not venturing any predictions.

VAIL WON 100 MILE AUTO RACE ON DIRT TRACK

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 26.—Ira Vail today won from Roscoe Sarles and Eddie Hearne what was advertised as "the dirt track automobile championship" when he made one hundred miles over a one-mile track here. Vail's time was 1:28:18 3-5.

The world's record is held by Tommy Milton who covered the distance at Phoenix, Ariz. on Oct. 16, of this year, in 1:24, 2:5.

COLLEGES TO READJUST ATHLETIC RELATIONS

Newton, Mass., Dec. 26.—Representatives of the athletic departments of Boston College, Holy Cross, Fordham and Georgetown at a conference at Boston College today decided to appoint a board of arbitration to readjust the athletic relations between Holy Cross and Fordham which were declared severed after the football game scheduled for Thanksgiving had been cancelled by the Worcester eleven because of snow on the field.

The colleges also signed three year contracts in baseball and football, established a one-year migratory rule, arranged permanent dates for their football games and decided to buy their athletic supplies through co-operative purchases.

Each of the four colleges will be represented on the board of arbitration.

It was decided to play the Boston College-Georgetown football game next year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving day at Braves Field, Boston, and the Holy Cross-Boston College game at the same place on the following Saturday.

Under the migratory rule, which has existed between Boston College and Holy Cross, a student transferring from one college to another will not be permitted to engage in varsity sports between the four colleges until he has at least one year's residence at the college for whose team he is a candidate.

WINTER GOLF LEAGUE'S PINEHURST TOURNAMENT

Pinehurst, N. C., Dec. 26.—The winter golf league of advertising interests will hold its annual winter tournament at Pinehurst on January 8-15. The league's special train will leave New York on Friday, the 14th, and land the members at Pinehurst in time to take part in a preliminary medal play handicap tourney on Saturday.

The tournament proper will open on Monday, the 10th. The qualifying round will be played on that day and the field will qualify in divisions or classes of 32 players each, all contestants playing from scratch.

The first match round, on Tuesday morning, will also be played from scratch in all classes and the results of the round will divide each class into two sixteens, comprising respectively the winners and losers in each class.

Beginning with the second match round, scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, the players in the "Championship Division" (the winning sixteen in Class A) will play scratch while all other divisions will play on handicap. All divisions will again sub-divide at the end of this second round so that each original 32 will be represented by four eights.

On Wednesday and Thursday the losing players will be eliminated, bringing the field down to two players to play off the finals, on Friday, in each of the four eights in each class.

The women's tournament will be played concurrently, the field qualifying in eights according to gross scores. All match rounds will be played on handicap, in all divisions.

Separate put & putt contests for men and women will be played throughout the week and the proceedings will wind up on Saturday with an "Honor Medal Play Handicap" and with a Mixed Handicap Foresomes open to all women players at Pinehurst who are paired with members of the league.

A total of 51 prizes will be distributed among the winners and near-winners in the various events comprising the eight day program.

All matters pertaining to the tournament schedule are under the control of Messrs. Don M. Parker, Roy Durstine and Roy Barnhill, who comprise the tournament committee of the league, and Donald Ross, secretary of the Pinehurst Country Club.

Nevada Won.

Honolulu, Dec., 26.—University of Nevada defeated the University of Hawaii, 14 to 0, here today in the first football game ever played between the Honolulu team and an eleven from the mainland.

FIRST SNOW OF SEASON IN GREATER NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 26.—Streets of Greater New York were covered with snow tonight for the first time this season. The storm began about 8 o'clock and was still in progress at midnight, when the snow had reached a depth of more than one inch. The weather man predicted, however, that the storm would abate with a rising temperature early tomorrow.

CREW OF WRECKED STEAMER ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 26.—Nineteen members of the crew of the steamer San Pablo, wrecked off the coast of Cuba, arrived here today aboard the steamer Calamares from Havana.

The San Pablo, a United Fruit company liner, sailed from Boston Dec. 9 for Havana. She went aground at the entrance of Havana harbor on Dec. 16 and later was abandoned, as her hull had been pierced.

NEGRO YOUTHS CONFESS BURGLARIES AND HOLDUPS

East St. Louis, Ill., Dec. 26.—Two murders and a series of burglaries and holdups were cleared up today with the alleged confession of Alfred Lane, 13 years old, and Raymond Kitsworth, 17, negroes, who, the police say, admit the shooting of two men during holdups here last month.

CARDINAL GIBBONS IS RESTING EASIER

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 26.—While Cardinal Gibbons was reported to be resting easier this evening he had a very bad night Saturday. His condition was not improved today.

Dr. Charles O'Donovan, the cardinal's physician, was in consultation today with Dr. G. Lewis Weizel, the family physician of the Shrivers, with whom the cardinal is staying. At Union Mills Dr. Wetzel has been in constant attendance since the first day of the cardinal's illness. Dr. O'Donovan and Dr. Wetzel plan to call Dr. Lewellys F. Barker into conference with a view to determining the advisability of removing the cardinal to his home here.

POPE AGAIN DENOUNCES SCHISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Rome, Dec. 26.—In the secret consistory on December 16 the pope again denounced the schismatic association known as sthe "Jeonota," in the Czecho-Slovak clergy. He declared that the Catholic church would never abolish or mitigate the law imposing celibac on the clergy and would never introduce in church discipline such democratic forms as were asked by certain Czecho-Slovak priests.

The pontiff said that German priests who at first belonged to the "Jeonota" had later withdrawn from that organization, and he expressed the hope that the Czecho-Slovak clergy would do likewise.

ORGANIZING TO CHECK BANDITRY IN NEW JERSEY

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 26.—Outlining plans for a statewide system to check banditry in New Jersey, Governor Edwards has sent 150 invitations to state and county agencies, the American Legion and other veterans' organizations and officials of neighboring states to attend a conference here next Tuesday.

The governor among other things suggested the following precautions: Coordination of municipal police departments throughout the state; recording of every automobile entering the state on state highways, over bridges or ferries; night patrolling of roads to and from municipalities; a system of speedy communication to capture fleeing criminals; cooperation of neighboring states to check the crime wave; surveillance over known criminals; substantial state rewards for the capture of bandits and murderers; a closer guard over parked automobiles to prevent their being stolen and used by outlaws, and the appointment of a state officer, whose term need not continue more than two years, to have charge of all the machinery to be put into force for stamping out the increasing depredations.

Scene From David Belasco's Supreme Comedy Success "THE BOOMERANG" At the Davis Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 30—One Night Only

DIAZ REFUSED TO BE QUOTED ON REVOLUTION

New Orleans, La., Dec. 26.—Felix Diaz, who told tonight of reports current in Mexico City that he had landed at Guatemala preparatory to starting an aggressive movement against the Mexican government, laughingly replied that the report, like the famous story of Mark Twain's death, had been greatly exaggerated.

The former Mexican revolutionary leader when seen today by a representative of the Associated Press was enjoying a Christmas party on Pleasant street, near his home, in company with members of his family and friends.

Senor Diaz stated that as yet he has made no plans for the future and for the present he would not interrupt his vacation with any thought of the future.

When asked directly if he would lead a revolution against the present Mexican officials in the event they went contrary to his views, he refused to be quoted.

$2,000,000 ADDITIONAL ON SCHOOL SALARIES ASKED

Increases aggregating $2,000,000 in the state aid for public schools will be sought in legislation proposed by the Connecticut State Teachers' association, and endorsed by the state board of education, it has been learned. If successful, such legislation would boost the biennial state budget of state aid for schools to a figure in the neighborhood of $5,000,000.

The $2,000,000 increase will be sought by proposed amendments to two educational acts now on the statute books, the greater part on the law granting various degrees of state aid to towns for teachers' salaries in proportion to the total of the grand lists, and the lesser part on the average attendance grant bill.

The proposal is to increase from $3 to $4 the amount allowed towns for each pupil in average attendance. Four dollars was the amount fixed in the bill presented to the last regular session of the legislature, but it was reduced by the appropriations committee to $3.

Under an act amended by the last session, towns with grand lists of $2,500,000 or less are put into five classes for the purpose of apportioning state aid to them for teachers' salaries. The plan of the state educators is to extend the provisions of the bill to cover all towns, regardless of whether or not their grand lists are above $2,500,000, and to reclassify the towns.

At present, towns having grand lists of not more than $500,000 receive from the state 75 per cent. of the amount paid by such towns in teachers' salaries; towns between $500,000 and $1,000,000 receive 60 per cent.; towns between $1,000,000 and $1,500,000, 45 per cent.; towns between $1,500,000 and $2,000,000, 30 per cent., as towns between $2,000,000 and $2,500,000, 20 per cent.

In removing the restrictions against towns with grand lists over $2,500,000, the new bill proposes to add two new classes, the sixth class to provide 15 per cent. for towns having grand lists between $2,500,000 and $10,000,000 and the seventh class to provide 10 per cent. for those having grand lists in excess fo $10,000,000.

A further amendment to the average attendance grant would require towns to apply the proceeds on teachers' salaries for the first three years but, after that period, they would be allowed to use the state aid thus derived for any school purpose except new construction.

To guard against possible abuse of the latter provision by any of the local authorities, the bill would provide that no town be eligible to receive such state aid if it reduced its own appropriation for school purposes below the figure for the previous year. Without this check, local authorities would be enabled to withdraw town appropriations for support of schools and cause the state to assume the entire burden.

Officers of the State Teachers' association have figured that, under existing statutes, Connecticut assumed 9 per cent. of total school expenses, which they say, is far too small a percentage.

Party for Guests.

On Sunday evening at the home of Newton Markoff at 219 West Main street there was a pleasant party given in honor of Miss Frances Ephram of Worcester, Mass., and Miss Molly Greenhouse of New York. The evening was enjoyed with musical and vocal selections and dancing. Those present were Misses Eva and Ida Sadinsky, Sarah Markoff, Pauline Abrahamson, Frances Ephram and Molly Greenhouse and David Kramer, Joseph Alexander, Benjamin Markoff, Murray Sadinsky, Samuel Kramer and Harry and Newton Markoff.

SCHOOL ENUMERATION CALLS FOR $25,000 MORE

An increase of about 12,000 or more in the school enumeration of the state this year will cost the state more than $25,000 more than last year, as the state pays to the towns $2.25 for each child of school age enumerated. Latest figures available from returns made to the state comptroller and the state board of education showed an increase of 11,840, with 17 towns yet to be heard from.

The returns from Bridgeport, the last of the big cities to be heard from, show an increase of 718 in the enumeration, this year's figures being 33,890 as against 33,172 last year. The returns from the following towns have not yet been received: Avon, East Granby, Granby, the Westville districtof New Haven, Derby, Naugatuck, North Branford, Old Lyme, Waterford, Darien, Weston, Thompson, Woodstock, Roxbury, Watertown and Haddam.

COLUMBIAN COMMANDERY HOLDS XMAS OBSERVANCE

Columbian commandery held their annual Christmas observance at the Masonic temple on Saturday morning at 11.30 with about 150 present. The Christmas address was by Rev. Alexander H. Abbott and proved very interesting and appealing. Mayor Herbert M. Heron made a strong appeal for the Rumford relief fund, and as a result the sum of $[illegible] was contributed for that purpose. The usual toast was given for the grand master and commander.

FELL FROM CHAIR AND FRACTURED HIP

Mrs. Bertie Lipsitch of 257 Central avenue is at the Backus hospital suffering with a fractured hip. Mrs. Lipsitch was fixing a window shade in her home on Sunday afternoon and was standing on a chair when she slipped and fell to the floor, fracturing her hip. She was taken to the hospital in the ambulance and the fracture was reduced.

Preliminary Manuals.

Deputy Secretary of State Herbert J. Dwyer has sent to the senators-elect and representatives-elect copies of the preliminary manual of the general assembly as required by statute. The manual contains the names of the state officers and the senators and representatives elected on Nov. 2, and information relating to the following: Organization of the general assembly, rules regulating the proceedings of the senate and the house, joint rules of the senate and house, rulings of the presiding officers of the senate and house, parliamentary practice and precedents, the state constitution and amendments.

BRIEF STATE NEWS

Haddam.—Mrs. Frank Palmer of Little Haddam, who died recently, was 94 years old.

Hadlyme.—Martin Randall, who has been laid up with a broken wrist, is able to go on the R. F. D. route alone now.

Meriden.—Thomas Grupse, part owner of a restaurant at 7 Perkins street, Meriden, was fined $75 and costs recently for violating the liquor law on December 24 and $75 and costs for attempted bribery in passing two ten dollar bills to one of the raiding policemen to "let the matter drop."

Specials For Monday and Tuesday

FRESH SHORE HADDOCK ..... lb. 10c

FRESH STEAK COD ..... lb. 15c

FRESH FLAT FISH ..... lb. 10c
3 lbs. 25c

ALASKA PINK SALMON ..... can 16c

CHILLED HERRING ..... lb. 15c

CHILLED STEAK SALMON ..... lb. 29c

CHILLED MACKEREL ..... lb. 29c

THE MOHICAN COMPANY

SIRLOIN, ROUND AND PORTERHOUSE STEAK, lb. 23c

Meaty California PRUNES ..... lb. 8c

PURE SILVER LEAF LARD ..... lb. 19c

RICHTER & CO.
Springfield Hartford New Britain

The present investment opportunities are just as available to the small investor as the large. There are many attractive stocks selling today at prices ranging from $25.00 to $100.00 per share. Make your money work for you.

Suggestions cheerfully given upon request.

H. N. CHRISTIANSON
Local Representative
Telephone, New London 2211

BASKETBALL
See "Stretch" Meehan
TONIGHT
OLYMPIC HALL
WITH
SETON HALL
OF NEWARK, N. J.
VS.
CRESCENT A. A.
OF NORWICH
Fast Preliminary at 7:30 P. M.

"You Can Do No Better Than Buy Our Wurst."

No Salad Complete Without
Thumm's Home-Made Mayonnaise
THUMM'S DELICATESSEN STORE
40 Franklin Street

Like the Woodland Flowers

By Elsie Endicott

"ANN, dear, you simply have to wear a pair of my white satin slippers," begged Eugenie, as the two girls laid out their evening clothes in preparation for the big Easter dance that Miss Martha Harrington was giving for the young ladies in her select boarding school. "The people at home forgot that I had so many and they have sent me another pair. Now be a dear, and take these nice ones with silver buckles!"

Ann Meredith poised one canvas pump, lately whitened, in somewhat tipsy fashion on the once bronze radiator. "Silly," she laughed, "who's going to see me when you are around?" Then soberly, as she cleaned the other soiled pump, "Borrowed feathers don't make fine birds. One can see at a glance that nature did not put them there that they are just glued on so what's the use of trying to fool anybody? But don't think for a minute that I am not appreciative of all your generosity!" She ran across the room and hugged her friend carefully holding out her hands smeared with a sponge soaked in the whitening fluid.

"I want to divide my nice things with you, Ann. You're just the loveliest, cleverest girl in this school and I want you to look your very best tonight because—Joe is coming. I have written him volumes about you and he is coming just to meet you."

"He is coming just to see his darling sister, Eugenie," cried Ann, "and also pilot his future brother-in-law down here."

"I wish that you would fall in love with Joe, Ann. We could have a double wedding next fall. Jerry and I are planning for—for October, you know."

"I'll be teaching school then, Eugenie. Won't it be wonderful to draw real money and help mother along a bit?" Ann pulled herself up on her knees before a window. Spring was coming again. Tulips and crocuses were pushing slender green hands through the warming soil. A little bed of hardy daffodils were already flirting yellow petticoats in the soft wind. A maple tree flaunted wooly red buds nearby and a blue bird was carpentering his nest in one of its tossing boughs. Ann whirled around, sitting down on her crossed legs, Turk fashion. "Eugenie, I am going to wear these canvas pumps because mother sent them to me. You understand, don't you?"

"Of course I do, honey child, and love you for it. But I was thinking you'd be awfully conspicuous when you march up to get the prize, that Mr. Brooke is giving for the best marks this term. I think Miss Harrington is a pig to take up part of the time tonight with an old speech, but of course I will be proud to see you get that hundred dollar prize."

"Don't be too sure of my success," laughed Ann, secretly much excited over the possibility of winning the much coveted prize.

"I feel like a barn yard fowl among lovely birds of paradise," Ann told Eugenie's good looking brother Joe that night when he had promptly taken charge of her as soon as the introduction was over.

"Well, they all look like half picked birds to me," said Joe glancing around the room at the expose of white necks and arms. "You're the prettiest girl in the school and far and away the most sensibly dressed one," he added. "I've always said that I never would marry a girl who dressed immodestly." Joe had fallen in love at first sight and was ready to commit himself precipitately.

Eugenie and Jerry, who had, been engaged since they were children, joined them until time for the dancing to begin. Miss Harrington stepped out on the floor and compelled silence as she held up a warning hand. Charlton Brooke, the most distinguished lawyer in the state, would award the usual quarterly prize of one hundred dollars to the girl who had made the best marks for the spring term. A little admiring murmur ran around the room when a handsome man in the early thirties stepped forward, instead of the old man they had expected and took his place beside the stiff Miss Harrington.

All of the girls leaned forward, stirred by a common impulse to worship at the shrine of such a veritable story book hero. Success, good looks and brains made a powerful combination and the school girls responded, flatteringly.

Charlton Brooke made a few pleasant comments about a girl who had made exceptionally fine marks and announced that if Miss Ann Meredith would come forward, he would present her with the prize.

When the little formality was over, Ann danced around the room, her heart as light as her canvas clad heels, and the adoring Joe looked down at her, happier than he had ever been before in all of his carefree young life.

As soon as the first dance was over, Charlton Brooke made his way towards Ann, his gray eyes smiling into her startled blue ones.

"Hello, Joe," he said genially. "I am going to take this girl away from you."

"You're a celebrated lawyer, Mr. Brooke, so I'm going to ask your assistance in winning this girl. My family is keen on the match," he indicated Eugenie who was laughing at him, "and now since I've seen her, I'm planning to speed things up a bit or my name is not Joe. Will you take the case?"

Charlton Brooke surveyed the pretty girl who had the bearing of a young queen. This slender flower-like girl who had somehow, mysteriously, set his dignified heart throbbing like a foolish boy's at his first party.

"I can't take your case, Joe," he said, his eyes smiling gravely on Ann. "I have made it a rule never to take any case where I can't sincerely and wholeheartedly lend my best effort to my client. You're going to have to count me a rival, young man, even if I have a few gray hairs."

Joe laughed. It was all a joke to him. But Ann felt a little thrill as if the curtain of the future had been magically lifted for a second and she had seen the chrysalis of happy girlhood dreams emerge into golden butterflies of life, tangible and real.

"You make me think of an exquisite woodland flower, Miss Ann," said Charlton Brooke softly as they danced lightly away together, "a naturally beautiful flower, you know, blooming among hot house blossoms that will soon fade. I am going to ask Miss Harrington's permission to show you my old home one of these bright spring days. There are just such flowers as you make me think of, growing in my yard. Some day," he said, as if he had known her for a long, long time, "I would like to see you mistress there—"

There was something indefinably, poignantly sweet in their companionship and Ann felt the faint stirring of the miracle that men call love.

From her place beside Jerry, Eugenie regarded her room-mate with something like awe. "I've a hunch that Ann won't be teaching school next October," she vouchsafed slangily. "Poor old Joe! I'm almost sorry that I asked him to come."

A Question of Monopoly

By Phil Moore

"HE'S a combination in restraint of trade," remarked O'Brien, with a throaty chuckle, to Forrest, the manager, as they stood in the doorway leading from the Olympia's stage to the back alley. "He's a regular trust—cornered the glee market. He ought to be prosecuted."

To object of his harmless spleen was surrounded by a small army of young girls, some pretty and hopeful, the others the reverse on looks, and, therefore, still more hopeful. Forrest had attempted an open reception to the audience at the close of Friday's matinees, and the "dear thing" army had done the rest. Cal Bryn, the reigning favorite, in the same faultless attire in which he had rendered his "society songs and dances," each wisp of his profuse handsome mane just as dapper as before his turn, was the shining target for his "ohs" and "ahs." He only escaped to the alley to be met by another flanking movement by a half-hundred others, persistent for an autograph or "just a tiny photo, please."

Before answering O'Brien, Forrest watched a persistent matron hustle Bryn into a large touring car, between herself and a slim, dainty little miss, who welcomed him into the machine with a piquant happy smile and a warm hand-clasp. Then the machine shot off, leaving the crowd gaping after it, and Forrest turned to O'Brien.

"Prosecuted, eh," grunted Forrest. "The only thing that's gonna be prosecuted 'round here is my policy of expecting decent work outa th' orchestra."

"Y'll never get it this way," retorted O'Brien, the czar of the "fiddle pit," indignantly. "In the rush some big fat jane nearly planted her hoof through Mason's cello. He's hot over it. I ain't strong fer these Friday love riots. Neither's that little French singer, Anton What's-His-Name. The girls didn't give him any more attention than a stage hand."

"Well, I am strong for them," snapped Forrest, decisively. "And as for Anton, he can go to the devil. Bryn's my drawing card, and I don't care a hoot for th' rest."

"Guess that settles it," sighed O'Brien. "But wait till th' girls turn Bryn's head. Y' won't be so strong for 'im then."

"I'm a good waiter," said Forrest, briefly, then he sauntered out.

Despite O'Brien's outspoken opposition and the scarcely less, though silent, disapproval of Anton, at the close of the following Friday matinee. Forrest stepped to the switchboard, ordered the house lights "full up" and asbestos curtain raised. The rush was on.

O'Brien, standing in the wings, fell into conversation with the two ladies whom he recognized as being Bryn's hostesses the preceding Friday.

"An't it th' limit?" he demanded, pointing to the "idol," who could barely be seen through the mob. "Th' wimmin'll turn his head yet."

"I don't think so," replied the younger girl, wistfully. "Mr. Bryn is a pretty level-headed young man. We've known him for years. I'm glad they like him. It helps him in his work."

"Huh!" grunted O'Brien, impolitely. "It may help to ruin him. Th' longer they hold out th' harder they fall. I've been with this house eighteen years, an' I've seen th' best o' them take the count. They're all alike."

"Mr. Bryn's different!" The girl loyally came to his defense, but O'Brien merely sniffed and moved away.

She kept an eye on Cal for a long time, then a little crestfallen, saw him leave the stage with a party of ladies. The older woman turned, angrily, to the girl.

"Come on, Dorothy," she snapped. "It looks like that man was right."

"Oh, mamma," protested Dorothy Burnham, a little weakly. "Cal's all right. Trust him." Then she followed her mother out to their machine. Cal Bryn had vanished.

"Bryn's been hitting it up," volunteered O'Brien, as he again accosted Mrs. Burnham and Dorothy in the wings the following Friday. "See that big pair of brunettes right in front of him. They've nabbed him twice in the alley this week. I knew they'd get 'im."

"You don't say," replied Mrs. Burnham, icily. Then she turned to Dorothy. "The idea! Come! I won't stay here another minute. The idea! A Burnham being treated like that. Come!"

Dorothy placed a restraining hand on her mother's sleeve.

"Don't mamma. I know all about it. He told me he couldn't avoid it. He couldn't be rude to them. They're related to the man who gave him his start."

Just then a new onslaught to the rear of Bryn and his surrounding admirers brought him nearer to Dorothy, and those in front of him backed towards the wings. O'Brien shouted.

"Look out!"

Then he ran forward and picked up a limp form in his arms. The crowd, in moving back had knocked over a big iron diffuser, felling Dorothy to the stage.

Mrs. Burnham screamed, and at that moment, O'Brien felt, rather than saw, a towering form at his side. It was Bryn.

"Give her to me," he commanded hoarsely. "Here, keep that crowd back I'll handle her." And, seizing Dorothy's limp form in his arms, he made for his dressing room, followed by her mother. Once inside he closed the door with his foot, and placing Dorothy's limp form across two trunks, he bent feverishly to the task of reviving her.

"Are you hurt, dear?" he demanded, anxiously.

"Just a little scared and shaken," she told him, with a wan smile.

"Not nearly as scared as I was when I saw that machine fall," he told her solemnly. "I tried to save you, but those jades wouldn't let me."

"You saw me—fall?" she asked him, wide-eyed.

"I saw you all the time," he assured her. "I—I never lost sight of you."

Her hand gave his a little squeeze, home and let Mr. Bryn go back to his side.

"Come, Dorothy," said her mother, frigidly. "You're all right. Let's go hame and let Mr. Bryn go back to his friends."

"I guess you won't," he retorted, indignantly. "She can't walk to the machine, as weak as she is. I'll carry her."

And, bundling her into his arms, like a precious parcel, he ruthlessly shunted aside the waiting army outside and deposited Dorothy in the tonneau of her car.

. . . . . .

"Where's Bryn?"

"I dunno," said Forrest. "Haven't you seen him? Let's see if he's in his dressing room." Forrest led the way and opened Bryn's dressing room door, then pulled O'Brien's sleeve.

O'Brien stared. On Bryn's left shoulder, as he sat on a trunk, was a pretty little white hand, and, following the hand with his eyes, he saw Dorothy Burnham seated at his side, her head nestled contentedly against Bryn's right shoulder.

"Come on" whispered O'Brien to Forrest, pulling him away from the door. "The glee trust is busted. Rather, it's changed hands."