

# ALMA CELEBRATES THE 4TH

Many Novel Attractions are now being secured by the Entertainment Committee.

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and prepare to spend the 4th at Alma

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- 5 Houses on River Avenue. \$1000 to \$6000
- 4 Houses on Pine Street. . . . \$1500 to \$7000
- 3 Houses on Woodworth Avenue.
- 3 Houses on State street.
- 3 Houses on Park Avenue . . \$1800 to \$2500
- 22 Houses in other parts of city.
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I have the exclusive sale on these lots which are being plotted in the south end of town. See me before buying. Office at residence, first door south of Adams Express Co. Both Phones.

I would be pleased to insure your property in the Old Colony Insurance Co. Easy terms can be arranged on all Real Estate deals. Buy a home and quit paying rent. You can buy as cheap as rent.

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### BOYS BOYS



Don't bring Dorthy to that

### July 4th Celebration

in your old Buggy.

Not when you can buy the classiest one in Gratiot County, anyway to suit your pocketbook.

### ALMA ELEVATOR CO.

Alma, Mich.

### The IRON TRAIL

By REX BEACH

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All at once he whirled and faced the door with an exclamation of astonishment, for a voice had addressed him. There, clinging to the casing, stood a woman—a girl—evidently drawn out of the darkness by the light which streamed down across the sloping deck from his stateroom. Plainly she had but just awakened, for she was clothed in a silken nightgown which failed to conceal the outlines of her body. She had flung a quilted dressing gown of some sort over her shoulders and with one bare arm and hand strove to hold it in place. He saw that her pink feet were thrust into soft, heelless slippers, that her hair, black in this light, cascaded down to her waist, and that her eyes, which were very dark and very large, were fixed upon him with a stare like that of a sleepwalker.

"It is so dark—so strange—so still!" she murmured. "What has happened?" "God! Didn't they awaken you?" he cried in sharp surprise.

"Is the ship—sinking?" Her odd bewilderment of voice and gaze puzzled him.

He nodded. "We struck a rock. The passengers have been taken off. We're the only ones left. In heaven's name, where have you been?"

"I was asleep." He shook his head in astonishment. "How you failed to hear that hub-bub!"

"I heard something, but I was ill. My head—I took something to ease the pain."

"Ah! Medicine! It hasn't worn off yet, I see. You shouldn't have taken it. Drugs are nothing but poison to young people. Now, at my age there might be some excuse for resorting to them, but you"— He was talking to cover the panic of his thoughts, for his own predicament had been serious enough, and her presence rendered it doubly embarrassing. What in the world to do with her he scarcely knew. His lips were smiling, but his eyes were grave as they roved over the cabin and out into the blackness of the night.

"Are we going to drown?" she asked dully.

"Nonsense!" He laughed in apparent amusement, showing his large, strong teeth.

"I'm wretchedly afraid," she whispered through white lips.

"None of that!" he said brusquely. "I'll see that nothing happens to you." He slipped out of his life preserver and adjusted it over her shoulders, first drawing her arms through the sleeves of her dressing gown and knotting the cord snugly around her waist. "Just as a matter of precaution," he assured her. "We may get wet. Can you swim?"

She shook her head. "Never mind; I can." He found another life belt, fitted it to his own form and led her out upon the deck. The scuppers were awash now, and she gasped as the sea licked her bare feet.

Slipping his arm about her, he bore her to the door of the main cabin and entered. She had clasped his neck so tightly that he could scarcely breathe; but, lowering her until her feet were on the dry carpet, he gently loosened her arms.

"Now, my dear child," he told her, "you must do exactly as I tell you. Come! Calm yourself or I won't take

you any farther." He held her off by her shoulders. "I may have to swim with you; you mustn't cling to me so!"

O'Neill judged that the ship was at least a quarter of a mile from the beach, and his heart sank, for he doubted that either he or his companion could last long in these waters. It occurred to him that Brennan might be close by, waiting for the Nebraska to sink—it would be unlike the little captain to forsake his trust until the last possible moment—but he reasoned that the cargo of lives in the skipper's boat would induce him to stand well off to avoid accident. He called lustily time after time, but no answer came.

Meanwhile the girl stood quietly beside him.

There followed a wait which seemed long, but was in reality of but a few minutes, for the ship was skimming backward and the sea was creeping up-



"Take the girl—quick," he implored.

ward faster and faster. At last they heard a shuddering sigh as she parted from the rocks and the air rushed up through the deck openings with greater force. The Nebraska swung singly with the tide; then, when her upper structure had settled flush with the sea, Murray O'Neill took the woman in his arms and leaped clear of the rail.

The first gasping moment of immersion was fairly paralyzing; after that the reaction came, and the two began to struggle away from the sinking ship. But the effect of the reaction soon wore off. The water was cruelly cold and their bodies ached in every nerve and fiber. O'Neill did his best to encourage his companion. He talked to her through his chattering teeth, and once she had recovered from the mental shock of the first fearful plunge she responded pluckily. He knew that his own heart was normal and strong, but he feared that the girl's might not be equal to the strain.

At length there came through the man's dazed sensibilities a sound different from those he had been hearing. It was a human voice, mingled with the measured thud of oars in their sockets. It roused him like an electric current and gave him strength to cry out hoarsely. Some one answered him. Then out of the darkness to seaward emerged a deeper blot, which loomed up hugely, yet proved to be no more than a lifeboat banked full of people. It came to a stop within an oar's length of him. From the babble of voices he distinguished one that was familiar and cried the name of Johnny Brennan.

His brain had cleared now, a great dreamlike sense of thanksgiving warned him, and he felt equal to any

effort. He was vaguely amazed to find that his limbs refused to obey him.

His own name was being pronounced in shocked tones. The splash from an oar filled his face and strangled him, but he managed to lay hold of the blade and was drawn in until outstretched hands seized him.

An oarsman was saying: "Be careful there! We can't take him in without swamping."

(Continued next week)

#### PROBATE NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN, County of Gratiot.  
Notice is Hereby Given, That the annual account of Willis T. Knowlton, Lester A. Sharp, the Executors of the Estate of Ammi W. Wright, deceased, of Gratiot county, Michigan, now on file will be examined and if found correct, allowed by me at the Probate Office, in the Village of Ithaca, in said County, on the 24th day of June next, at ten o'clock a. m., of said day.  
Dated Ithaca, May 26th, A. D. 1916.  
A true copy. J. LEE POTTS, Madge E. Barnes, Judge of Probate Register of Probate. 41-4-x

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Send Free Sample of Oil to

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#### GM TO CHICAGO STEAMERS

HOLLAND-GRAND RAPIDS DIVISION (In Effect on and After May 1st)  
To and from Grand Rapids in connection with the Michigan Railway Electric cars. Steam-heat express leaves daily every evening making close connections with steamer. FARE: \$2.75 One Way; \$5.25 Round Trip.  
ST. JOSEPH-BENTON HARBOR DIVISION  
Steamer leaves Daily. FARE: \$1.50 One Way; \$1.75 Round Trip.  
The Michigan Trust Co., Receiver for GRAHAM & MORTON LINE  
Chicago Dock, Foot of Wabash Avenue.  
All steamers equipped with wireless and fitted out complying with the new Seaman's Law. Schedule subject to change without notice.

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