

The Mystery of Hartley House

By CLIFFORD S. RAYMOND

Illustrated by Irwin Myers

Copyright by George H. Duran Co. CHAPTER IX—Continued.

By this time I had my senses fully recovered. I ran to the nearest window and was just in time to see two figures, one in white, the other indistinct, at the far edge of the lawn, running. They ran into the woods, and while I stood at the window, I tried with painful consciousness of stupidity and ineptitude to decide upon a course of action. I heard an automobile engine start in the lane beyond the woods.

Out of a stupor, in which I watched the two strange figures go from the moonlight on the lawn into the dark of the oak grove, I was aroused—possibly by the sound of the engine of the automobile—with a course of action suggested.

It came of fears long entertained, now present with a threat of imminent consequence. I ran for the stairs, flashing the light up the stairs and to Jed's room.

His door was open. As I have said, this wing was not wired for electricity. I turned my light about the room, saw that the fear which had caused me to patrol the house was realized and then hunted for the lamp, which I found and lighted.

Jed's room was in the disorder in which a hard-working housekeeper, intent on finding jewels he knew the room contained, might have left it. It seemed almost ripped to pieces.

On a table was a small pearl-inlaid ebony box. The lid was open; the box was empty.

As I stood in the midst of the disarray of the room, with the empty box the most significant thing in it, the marvelous unreality of Hartley house, a smiling dread, seemed to have visible tokens.

The empty box, I thought, had contained the manuscript which recorded Mr. Sidney's secret. The flash of white which I had seen in the hall indicated the method by which it had disappeared. The two figures crossing the lawn in the moonlight were further indication. There was the sound of the automobile engine. I had a sore spot on my head. I knew—no, I believed—had been in the hands of men designing to make use of it.

Jed, being a major-domo about the place, had in his room a telephone connecting with the various service quarters. I used it to arouse the chauffeur. It took five minutes of ringing his bell to awaken him; when he responded, I told him that the house had been robbed by a man and a woman dressed in white, who had escaped, and had used an automobile waiting for them on the road beyond the grove. I told him to awaken one of the gardeners, take weapons and go as quickly as possible south by the best roads.

When this had been done, I called to Mrs. Sidney's maid and told her to awaken Mrs. Sidney and tell her, if possible without alarming her, that I wished to speak to her on an urgent matter.

In a few minutes the maid came back and said that Mrs. Sidney could see me. I found her in the sitting room of her suite.

"It is nothing serious, Mrs. Sidney," I said—"nothing that we need now regard as serious; and it does not concern Mr. Sidney's health. There has been an intruder in the house. Moreover, the purpose was to break into Jed's room, and Jed's room has been broken into. I got a glimpse of the person who did it, a woman. I saw a man and a woman run into the oak grove and I heard an automobile engine start on the road. I have sent a chauffeur and a gardener in chase, but they are traveling against so great a start that I have no hope. What I fear is that they have Mr. Sidney's diary. Do you know where Jed kept it?"

"No, doctor," said Mrs. Sidney. "If there had been any chance of finding it we should have taken it away from him. In his absence we have searched his room frequently."

"These people are after the manuscript, and they are satisfied that they have it," I said. "I am sure of that. There was a small pearl-inlaid box, open and empty, in the middle of the floor."

if, I preferred to have in their hands rather than in the possession of the police. Our detective agency I could trust, but I did not want to communicate with anyone but McGuire, the superintendent, and there was no need of telephoning him until later in the morning.

The case, as I thought it over, came to this: The Spaniard and the attorney, by the aid of a confederate, a woman, had obtained possession of the diary containing the secret of Hartley house. They would soon be heard from. They would not disappear, and did not have to pursue them. They would pursue us.

There was the possibility of dealing with them by force extra-legally. Anything we did for our protection had to be done extra-legally. I thought Mr. McGuire could and would attend to that, and I intended to instruct him to consider murder the only process not to be thought of.

I tried to reconcile my ideas of Mr. Sidney's character with the facts of the family's terrible dilemma. What could a man of so just and honorable, kindly and charming a nature—as revealed in his old age—have done, even in a hot and passionate youth, which he could not face himself which not only constituted a danger to his security but remained a source of satisfaction to him?

For two hours I sat by the telephone, expecting momentarily to hear from the chauffeur who had gone in pursuit of the thieves. It was about four o'clock in the morning—there was a pale suggestion of light in the windows—when Mrs. Aldrich, the housekeeper, came to the office. She was an impeccable lady of disciplinary habit and ordinarily unflinching dignity, but now she was disturbed.

"Doctor," she said, "Agnes, the new maid, cannot be found. She is not in her room. Her bed has not been touched. Most of her belongings and her suitcase are gone. I came to you with this probably unimportant domestic incident, thinking that—well, the occurrence of the night might have some connection with this girl."

"I think Agnes probably was involved in the matter," I said. "We have always so dreaded to take a new servant," said Mrs. Aldrich, "but Agnes came recommended for the month by a very faithful girl who wanted a month's leave. Has anything of great value been taken?"

"Nothing of any intrinsic value whatever," Mrs. Aldrich. I imagine the robbers were alarmed before they found any jewels or plate.

"That's a consolation, in any event," said the housekeeper. "But we never shall be able to take in a new servant again, with any ease of mind."

The chauffeur telephoned as Mrs. Aldrich went away. The chase in the night had been useless, as might be expected, and I told him to return home.

Mrs. Aldrich brought me a light breakfast, and one of the gardeners came to say that the dogs had been found in the woods. They had been fed, dressed, and were sick and evidently not barely able to stand.

I was preparing to go to Mr. Sidney's room when the telephone rang again. It was a call from the village of Horwich, forty miles east, a place of some repute, or ill repute, for the number and character of its drinking places and roadhouses.

The man calling me said he was the constable of the township of Horwich and asked if he were talking to a person of responsibility. I assured him that I was, and that an automobile accident had occurred in the vicinity of Horwich and that the only identifying marks suggested Hartley house as a place to make inquiries. He asked if I could come to Horwich. I endeavored to question him over the telephone, but there was very little information he could give, a man and a woman in a car—man past middle age, a young woman in white; the man was dead, the woman badly injured.

"He was over as soon as possible," I said. "Please keep the effects all together."

There was no doubt in my mind that the quavering little rascal of a lawyer with his precise way and timid composure, but that there was a very moment when he had success in his hand. There was no reason to doubt that the woman was the mad Agnes whom I had surprised at midnight stealing down the stairs from Jed's room, the wife of Sidney's doctor.

But if we were rid of the timorous, grasping little attorney, we were in worse difficulties. With the attorney and his Spanish client, we at least knew the manner of dealing. It was

elected except by the people who lived along it. Originally the place had a respectable tavern. It was called the White Owl. It was still respectable, but oddly enough, it was the success of the White Owl which had attracted the other places.

I inquired for the constable and was told that I should likely find him at the White Owl, he being a frequenter of that place and now having a case which needed a great deal of drinking and talking over.

I went to the White Owl and on entering the barroom, which really had an attractive rather than a disreputable appearance, saw a group of men about a short, broad, square-shouldered fellow who was talking to the interest of half a dozen or more fellows.

My entrance made no diversion, and judging from what I had been told, that the squat, talkative fellow was the constable and that he was telling the story I wanted to know, I decided to remain unobtrusive, have a bottle of beer—from the bartender, who came half-heartedly from the constable's narration—and thus as an eavesdropper get what I came to get in direct conversation.

I had my bottle of beer, and the bartender went back to the group, dominated by the squat, talkative fellow. He was not the comic type of constable. He showed intelligence and decision, but evidently he was fond of a story when he had it to tell. He was saying:

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

"I was up late because there was a bad set at the Half Day, and Bill Duller thought he might have trouble with them before he got them on their way. About one o'clock they had a quarrel, without anything but talk, and one of them got off."

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

WHAT SCOUTS DID IN EUROPE

Never was there another such wonderful adventure as that of the 301 Boy Scouts of America with their 57 adult leaders who represented the United States at the International Scout "Jamboree" in England. Across the Atlantic on a United States army transport, more than three weeks in merry England, a week in France, several days in Belgium, and a cruise of two weeks on another transport on the journey home, made a trip far beyond the imagination of any of the boys who made it.

Under expert guidance the places they visited and the things they saw made this the most educational journey that could be conceived. The first camp in England was at Midway park, where stands the venerable mulberry tree under which the American Declaration of Independence was signed in England, as was also the Monroe doctrine. Many times during their stay the scouts were guests of men and women of international prominence. They were banqueted by the chamber of commerce in London. They visited Crystal Palace, the British museum, the Tower of London; went to Warwick castle, the home of British monarchs; they visited Shakespeare's home at Stratford-on-Avon; they attended service in St. Paul's Cathedral; spent much time in Westminster abbey, and in fact saw all there was to see.

Best of all, at the jamboree they won the highest honor that was bestowed upon the delegation of any country. This highest award was given for the American scouts' scenic display, representing the history of scouting from its beginning, graphically depicting American Indian life and demonstrating all of the American scout activities.

As guests of the French government they had a wonderful week in that country. They were officially received in Paris, marched in body from the Arc d'Triomphe to the Grand Palais through a crowd of spectators six deep on both sides of the Champs Elysees. At the Grand Palais they gave a pageant of scout life before a crowd of 10,000. They visited Eiffel tower and Notre Dame cathedral. In French and American flags they visited the principal French battlefields and placed immense wreaths in the cemeteries where are buried the American dead. Over the grave of Quentin Roosevelt they placed a floral wreath of appropriate design.

In Belgium they visited the great buildings of Brussels; visited Cardinal Mercier at Malines, and on the second day of the Olympic games in Antwerp, acted as the Guard of Honor to King Albert of Belgium.

Limit of Scout Courtesy. The following is an extract from the magazine "McClure's" The Kansas City Star:

An obese gentleman slipped on the muddy walk and fell with such ferocity that if an artist had drawn the scene he would have depicted stars on the ends of wires protruding in every direction from the point where the accident came into juxtaposition. The victim of the accident lay on his back, opening and shutting his mouth like an obfuscated cat, and saying no more. A bright-faced lad in a natty khaki uniform stepped up.

"Unfortunate sir," he said, just like that. "I was just passing. One of the tenets of our order is to do a good turn each day. Before I joined the troop I loafed around pool halls quite a good deal. Permit me to swear for you."

Generations in Scouting. G. Henry Nesslage, scout executive of the Borough of Manhattan in New York city, entered scouting as a scoutmaster in 1910. His father, H. H. Nesslage, became assistant scout executive to him in New York city in 1910, which office he holds. His son, Herman, became twelve years old last August and immediately became a scout. Herman passed his second class test, thus making three generations of scouting.

Scouts to Help Save Paper. The editor of the Missouri Farmer has written to President Livingston of the Boy Scouts of America requesting that boy scouts be asked to inaugurate a nationwide paper-saving campaign to tide the country over its present shortage. He suggested that the money earned by scouts in selling paper collected might be turned in toward summer camp expenses or equipment. As near as I could make out what they were talking about, pretty soon they wanted another round of drinks. When I served them the old boy wanted to know if he could telephone to the city. He paid me the toll, and I showed him the telephone booth and heard him give his number. It was River 4000.

On the Way. The time seems to be coming when those who indulge in luxury and show will be regarded with quite as much suspicion and contempt as was formerly directed toward those who haunted the doors of chicken coops after dark.—Utica Observer.

Everett, Wash., Troop 1 is supporting three French orphans.

Deforesting Pikes Peak



THREE MILLION TREES PLANTED. ROAD UP PIKES PEAK.

WHAT is the most famous mountain in all the world? Pike's Peak, in all probability. Why? Because about 3,000,000 people from all quarters of the globe have ascended to its 14,100 foot summit.

Pikes Peak celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its first ascent the other day. It was a notable event, in that the mountain in a way epitomizes the progress of the west.

Although Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, U. S. A., the intrepid explorer, first discovered Pike's Peak in 1806, he never scaled the mountain, saying the task was impossible for a human being. But Dr. Edwin James, a member of the expedition of Major Long, in 1820, accomplished the feat. Major Long, in honor of James' accomplishment, named the peak "James' Peak," but as early as 1840 trappers and plainsmen named it "Pikes Peak," and Fremont put it so on the map.

In 1878 a bridge path was built; a wagon road to the summit was built in 1880 and in 1891 the cog wheel railroad, nine miles long, was built. The weather bureau established a station on the summit. In 1916 the present automobile road was built at a cost of \$300,000, after two years of construction work. This road is eighteen miles long, rises 6,500 feet in that distance, has an average grade of seven per cent and a maximum grade of 10 1/2 per cent, with 42 per cent of the line in curves. It is twenty feet wide with curves as wide as fifty feet.

In April, 1919, a government war tank attempted to climb the peak over the automobile highway, but broke down in the deep snow drifts and did not make a second attempt. A month later a caterpillar, used for artillery hauling, made the summit without difficulty. August 3, 1919, an airplane, piloted by Alexander Lendrum of Colorado Springs made a successful trip over the summit of the peak.

This brings us to date. Now man is reforesting the lower slopes of the famous peak. But first a word about the first ascent. Dr. James was only 25 years old at the time. Starting from Council Bluffs, the explorers reached what is now Colorado City July 12, 1820. July 13 he started with four men for the top. The late Frederick S. Dellenbaugh, a member of several government expeditions in the west, wrote this of the climb of Dr. James:

"About noon they came to the Bolling Spring, the present well-known spring of Manitou, which gives name to the stream of which it forms a source. This beautiful spring was of great interest to James and they had their lunch beside it. Through its crystal waters could be seen on the bottom the offerings of beads and trinkets by the Indians of Dr. James."

planting is to be carried on, extremes of conditions have been sought so that this early restricted reforestation would in the years to come serve to point the way to carrying out more extensive operations.

One of the areas chosen lies upon the slopes of Pikes Peak and includes the fire-denuded portions of those watersheds from which several towns, including Colorado Springs and Manitou, secure municipal water. A reconnaissance study has shown there are twelve or fourteen thousand acres from which the forest growth was swept by fire in the early days before the growing demand for water brought realization of the high value of tree growth as a water conserver. In addition to the forest products which can be produced from the lands and the value of the tree growth as a water conserver, there is the high value of establishing trees eventually to heal the gully fire scars upon the mountain slope, as Colorado Springs and Manitou, two cities closely related to each other, represent one of the greatest tourist centers in the West today.

The conditions of the locality were severe for planting. The uneven distribution of moisture, high dry winds of spring and summer and also in winter when the temperatures are low, the lack of soil over much of the area and the movement of the soil on the steeper slopes made up these difficulties. The soil, composed of large particles of gravel, comes from the decomposition of coarse-grained granite which forms the mountain masses of the Pikes Peak group.

Study of the reforestation problems upon Pikes Peak was made by W. J. Gardner. This study was very complete and weighed the difficulties to be overcome in successfully establishing tree growth upon the barren slopes. One very interesting point brought out in this study was the date of the fires which devastated such large areas in the vicinity of Colorado Springs and the scars upon trees injured by fire and yet not killed. Mr. Gardner determined that a greater part of the area devastated had been swept by a conflagration of a series of fires between the year 1850 and 1853. This date is interesting as it shows the time which has elapsed since the destruction of the forest growth and how slow must be the return of forest growth to such lands by natural means. In short, the high demand for all water-fuel from the area and the recreational use then being made and that which can be expected in the near future, combined with the value and use of all forest products grown upon this potential forest land so immediately accessible, justified not waiting for natural reproduction but establishing such growth by artificial means.

Believing it best to produce the trees under the same conditions in which they were to be planted, two nursery locations were chosen on the big mountain, the land cleared, shade frames erected and seed sown. Then 50,000 yellow pine seedlings were brought in from western Nebraska and planted in Clementine Gulch, about two and a half miles from one of the nursery sites. There are no records to show what weather conditions prevailed at the time or followed this planting. A careful search over the area in the fall of 1907 resulted in the discovery of but one seedling alive.

The reason for this practically total failure was given as largely due to the fact that seedlings raised at Halsey were not able to withstand the sudden changes in the high altitude. It was proved later that seedlings of any size or from any other localities with markedly different climatic conditions were not strong enough to survive the rigorous conditions found here; that, in fact, it would take transplants of the more vigorous type to produce results. These experiments showed that while there was some advantage in growing the plants under the same conditions in which they would be set out, many points which would offset this advantage would be gained in having the nursery located at a

lower altitude where more vigorous plants could be produced in the longer growing season and the trees be dug and placed upon the planting areas as soon as weather conditions made spring field planting possible.

The monument nursery site was chosen and developed in the spring of 1907 as a result of the two years' experience with the other two small sites. The monument site has proved satisfactory and is now producing the large amount of yellow pine, Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce, and the small amount of larch pine now being planted nearly upon Pikes Peak.

After field planting, further seedlings of Douglas fir were brought in and planted in the Bear Creek region with a little better success, as this small planting showed thirty-five per cent alive. Of this field planting, a study was made and a map completed showing the extent of the types which should be planted with the different species of trees which grow originally upon the area. The first experiments were made at the lower altitudes with yellow pine and Douglas fir. In the more recent years the production of Engelmann spruce and larch pine for the high planting types has been taken up. The low percentage of survival in the earlier plantings showed the need of the most vigorous transplants that could be produced, and this was secured in the two-one plant, as leaving the tree two years in the seed bed gave a plant readily handled in transplanting, while the one year in the transplant had produced a well developed tree with a clustered root system made up of fine rootlets of much greater area than that of tree crown or evaporating surface.

Some 4,575 acres have been planted on the Pike national forest, for the most part in the Colorado Springs region and in the vicinity of the famous auto highway to the top of Pikes Peak. An additional thousand acres is also being reforested in this vicinity. Fully eighty-five per cent of the area which has been artificially planted to pines and spruces can be considered as successfully stocked with trees. Such losses as have occurred are due principally to the planting of Austrian pine, a species which is here out of its habitat. While fall planting may succeed in regions where there are early and abundant snows, such conditions cannot be depended upon along the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains.

The principal species planted are yellow pine on the lower foothills, which in turn gives way to Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce on the higher slopes, larch pine being used for windy, exposed regions. The trees are planted at eight feet or about 700 an acre, and the average cost of planting, including the cost of producing the trees at the nursery, is approximately \$11 an acre, which is considered moderate when the rugged and rocky region in which the reforestation work is being carried on is considered. Operation of this reforestation project is being carried on by the U. S. Forest Service. It may be said that the annual survival of trees varies from 60 to 90 per cent.

There was little public interest in the work at first. The slow growth of the trees and the slight showing each year had much to do with this lack of enthusiasm on the part of the public. In fact, in the early plantings complaint was made (though scrupulous care was taken to guard against it) that in planting these watersheds the presence of camps for the planters would pollute the water of the cities using it for a municipal supply. One prominent citizen spoke with ridicule of the project, claiming it was absurd to spend the people's money for reforestation above an altitude of 7,000 feet because above this altitude the growth was so slow that such plantings could never be of value. Now that the trees show well over the plantations, there is hearty approval for what has been accomplished.

So it seems that the millions of those who have seen Pikes Peak may not know the old fellow when next they make the trip, for he will have a new face some day.

(By 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

Made for Human Progress

Three of the All-important Things That Concerned the Welfare of the Race. Thinking over the progress that the human race has made during the ages, we have come to the conclusion that it is all founded on the use of three things, namely, fire, the sail and the wheel.

Chemically pure and strong nitric acid will dissolve the lead in a gun-barrel, and will not injure the metal of the barrel unless the acid becomes diluted with a little water. To remove the acid, pour all of it out and wipe the gun dry with a rag soaked in olive or cottonseed oil. Do not get the acid on the hands or clothes. If by chance this happens it should be washed off immediately with water and then some weak alkali.

Deep Sea Bolsheviks. The habit of attacking and endeavoring to overthrow venerable and other institutions is not confined to human outlaws. One of the most persistent and ingenious of nature's leonoclasts is a marine worm, commonly known as the shipworm, which swarms in certain waters, especially on the coasts of East Africa. It apparently resents the introduction of wood into its domain, and whenever it comes across a ship, wharf, or pier formed of this material, it takes up one direct action. Its method is to bore into the timber, following the trend of the grain, and whenever it encounters a knot it makes a slight detour, and again forces ahead. Thus

And whoever it was, and whenever it was, that some old Roman or other kind of blunderer, heaved off the end of a log, punched a hole in the middle of it, and found out that he had a wheel, something else again was started.

And upon these three things—fire, the sail and the wheel—it seems to us that we have built about everything in the way of progress that we can boast of today.

Ambition has no rest.—Butler.

Mean Brute. "Your wife does a lot of entertaining, doesn't she?" remarked Mrs. Naybor. "Yes," growled Mr. Gabb. "If she isn't entertaining company, she's entertaining suspicions."