

The SKY PIRATE

By Garrett P. Serviss

Illustrated by Parker.

(Continued from Saturday.)

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters. Capt. Alfonso Payton, the sky pirate, kidnaps Helen Grayman, New York's richest girl, and carries her away in his airship, the Chameleon. He poses as a commodore Brown.

She thinks her abduction is a practical joke. Payton takes her to his lodge in a Labrador wilderness. William Grayman, her father, secretly summons the police.

By wireless telephone Payton demands \$10,000,000 ransom from Grayman, who agrees to meet him at Serrate Hill with the money. Grayman plans to trap the pirate.

Helen and her maid are well cared for by Payton, but are closely guarded by Indian John. Helen suspects that they are prisoners.

One after another Payton captures four police aeroplanes sent to trap him and kills several policemen before Grayman reaches the scene.

Grayman and police commissioner Braman reach Serrate Hill. Payton kidnaps Grayman, who again promises to pay the ransom.

Payton takes Grayman home. Helen receives a forged letter from her father, which reassures her. She replies to her father's letter.

Grayman fears Helen will fall in love with Payton. Secretary Grantham offers government aid and assigns Lieutenant Allan the task of locating Payton's lodge.

This Allan does by receiving wireless messages from Payton at New York and Buffalo with the aid of geometry and his new invention.

Allan, Grayman and Grantham start for Payton's lodge with five aeroplanes. Helen, learning that she has been kidnapped, escapes, but is captured.

Allan's war aeroplanes reach Payton's lodge. The Chameleon fires on them, disabling Allan's favorite aeroplane, the Eagle.

Payton escapes with Helen and her maid in the Chameleon, pursued by Allan's Osprey and Skylark. Allan fires at the Chameleon.

The Osprey cripples the Chameleon. Payton and Helen drop to the ground in parachutes. Allan goes to Helen's rescue, defending her against Payton's attacks.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE TABLES TURNED AGAIN.

NOW this double disappearance began to trouble me. At last I could endure the uncertainty no longer, and clambering down the northern face of the rocks, I found the man I had shot there, dead, but no trace of the others. They had evidently got clean away.

The fact that I was not disturbed in this reconnaissance encouraged me to try another on the southern side.

I crept cautiously down to the spot where Payton had fallen, found the depression into which he had rolled and saw that it was the dry bed of a brook, by following which he could have crawled away to the brush unnoticed.

Was he preparing a second bomb or had he some other resource of which I knew nothing?

I climbed painfully up the rocks again, for now my ankle, the injury to which I had forgotten in the excitement of the defense, began to trouble me.

As I dropped upon a stone in the middle of the inclosure Miss Grayman first noticed that I had been hurt. She turned pale and again showed a concern on my account that I could not attribute solely to the fear that she might be deprived of her only defender. She insisted that I should take off my shoe and stocking and, calling Susan, who had recovered from her shock, aided me with the utmost tenderness to bind up a deep cut made by a fragment of the bomb or of rock.

When she had finished she said to me, with a pleading look: "Please, Lieutenant Allan, don't expose yourself as you have been doing. I was in agony when I saw you venturing down the rocks. What should we do—what should I do—if you were seriously hurt or killed?"

Then she covered her eyes, and I saw tears trickling down her hands. I would not have changed places with the president of the United States. I felt proud, gratified, heroic, romantic, brave as a lion, capable as a general, ready to do anything and everything to serve her who had shown this interest in me.

In short, I knew now that I was in love to the tops of my ears, and I felt that I might hope for a response to this mighty affection which was overwhelming me. I assured Miss Grayman that for her sake I would be more careful, and the gladness in her eyes made me forget everything else—everything except the necessity of defending her. This thought sent me back in haste to our rampart.

We watched and watched, but not a living thing did we see except a few birds and some small animals dodging about among the rocks. Thus the afternoon passed, and the sun sank low in the northwest.

We suffered from lack of water more than from that of food, and I resolved that as soon as it grew dark enough I

would creep down to the edge of the brush, where I had noticed a small stream, and fill my helmet with water. But I did not tell Miss Grayman of my design, feeling sure that she would oppose it. Her suffering, however, was so painfully evident that I would have ventured anything in order to relieve her.

By this time, although I could hardly credit so gratifying a suggestion, I began to think that Payton had stolen away in despair of being able to capture or kill us and fearful of the arrival of our friends.

"He cannot hope now to get the ransom," I argued, "and why, then, should he further risk his life and liberty?"

As I continued to ruminate upon this I became so convinced that I had hit upon the real explanation of the cessation of his efforts that I spoke about it to Miss Grayman and told her of my plan for getting water.

At first she vigorously opposed me, but I presented the matter so clearly that finally she gave in to my opinion.

The time seemed endless before the day became sufficiently dark to render my attempt safe against possible detection. I crawled down the rocks, keeping in the darkest places, and then wound my way over the open ground until I reached the place where Payton took his tumble. From this I followed the dry rivulet already spoken of until I attained the brush. This rivulet was a tributary of a larger stream which ran over a pebbly bottom, the cold water collecting in little pools. I took a long drink and filled my helmet.

Although more and more convinced that I had nothing to fear from lurking enemies, I did not relax my caution, thinking of the stake I had in the security of Miss Grayman, and once more I got down on my knees to cross the open space.

I had not progressed more than a dozen yards from the edge of the brush when a scream broke the stillness. It came from the summit of the rocks.

My pulse stopped beating, but instantaneously I sprang to my feet, dropped my helmet, drew my pistol and, shouting I knew not what, ran with all my speed toward the rocks. I heard another scream, muffled and cut short, and madly as I ran, without aim or object, I fired my pistol three or four times.

"Helen! Helen!" I shouted. There was no reply, of course. I could hear a scrambling, however, on the other side of the huge pile, and it occurred to me that I could make swifter progress by skirting the steep rocks. Accordingly I ran up them, but when I arrived on the opposite side there was not a sound or a moving thing in sight.

I had in my pocket a small electric lamp of my own contrivance, which I always carried and which had a mirror throwing a bright shaft of light to a considerable distance. I now brought this into requisition and with it carefully swept round on all sides.

Nothing was to be seen except the rocks, the ground and the distant brush.

"They may still be on the summit," I thought, and hastily I began to mount. I had made but a few upward steps when an arm stole swiftly and silently round my neck, and in an instant I was throttled in the grasp of a man whose strength, combined with the advantage of his position, made my struggles unavailing.

A knee was pressed remorselessly against the small of my back, and in less time than it takes to tell I was lying prone on the rocks, rendered powerless by the cruel pressure on my throat and back.

I had always been something of an athlete, but I could do nothing now. My pistol had fallen from my hand, but I could not have used it if I had had it.

In another minute my arms were plied behind, and then my captor without a word rolled me face upward, and by the light of the fallen lamp I saw that he was an Indian.

A savage grin overspread his features. "Wah!" he said. "Much bear hug! Don't like him, huh? Come! Must go quick!"

He jerked me to my feet and pulled me down to the level ground. Then, still grasping the bonds about my arms, he began to drag me toward the brush.

The Indian had picked up my lamp and my pistol. The latter he thrust into his belt; the former he kept in his hand. He seemed sufficiently familiar with its use and employed it to light the way.

"White man's eye," he said. "Good to see in night."

As we entered the bushes he uttered a whoop, which was immediately answered by a shout, and in a few minutes we passed into a small open space where, without the aid of the lamp, there was twilight enough to have enabled me to recognize the forms of a woman and two men.

I heard the words, "Oh, my God, he is taken!" in the voice of Miss Grayman, and she moved quickly toward me, but a hand arrested her, and a man's voice, singularly sweet and thrilling with its strange, sympathetic quality, which belied the irony of its words, said: "Ah! Another little romance, I see. Miss Grayman. Your

THE COTTON CROP OF TEXAS IS GOOD

Peach Crop Is Also Good and Sugar Cane Crop Is Large.

Austin, Texas, Aug. 7.—Cotton in Texas has more than maintained its average high condition during the last week or 10 days. While unfavorable reports have come from a few localities where the boll worm and leaf worm have made their appearance it is thought that this unsatisfactory condition is merely a temporary menace and that by the judicious use of poison the pests will soon be eradicated. It is noteworthy that in south Texas where the worms were doing some damage two or three weeks ago, they are no longer harming the crop.

In parts of west Texas, the cotton crop is poor. Due to the practical failure of the cotton crop in Atascosa county, J. H. Dixon, a farmer, stated that the cotton crop in that county was not the failure of the year that was reported. He advises the department that the crop this season is by far poorer than it was last year. This condition is due to the lack of rain at the proper time.

The old time theory that cotton cannot be successfully raised without negroes is being put to the test in the vast new cotton growing region along the lines of the Texas & Pacific and the Fort Worth & Denver City railroads in western Texas. In all that region there is hardly a negro laborer. Farmers there are advertising for cotton pickers but so far there has been no response on the part of the negroes of other sections of the state. An effort will be made to supply the demand for laborers by shipping into the new cotton growing territory hundreds of Mexicans from the Rio Grande border.

The Peach Crop. One of the surprises of the week is the announcement that comes from reliable commission men that the Elberia peach crop in eastern Texas was not the failure this year that was reported. The statement is made the peach crop of that section will be approximately 200 carloads. More than 100 cars have already been shipped. Early in the season it was stated by growers that their orchards would produce hardly a single peach. The crop was looked upon as a total failure until the peaches began to appear in the markets in large quantities.

Sugar Cane Crop. The sugar cane crop in south Texas gives promise of producing an unusually large tonnage per acre. This is particularly true of the lower Rio Grande valley where the cane is grown by means of irrigation. It is estimated that there are about 15,000 acres of cane in that section. Preparations are being made to more than double the acreage this fall. Three new mill sites are being created in the valley to handle the crop. This will make six sugar mills in all which will be available for the cane growers.

The late forage crop is the best ever known in the state. It will make up largely for the corn crop failure, it is said.

TWO HEADED BABY STIRS UP VILLAGE

Buluth, Minn., Aug. 7.—The village of Chisholm is greatly stirred up over the birth of a two-headed baby and its gruesome sequel. It was born July 31 to Mr. Arnold, a resident of Chisholm, a perfectly formed male child with the exception that it had two heads. It died a few hours after birth and was buried.

Later it was learned that the body of the infant had been disinterred and was on exhibition at the establishment of the undertaker. The father of the child today swore out a warrant against the undertaker.

PILOT TO POISON CHILDREN IS ALLEGED IN KENTUCKY

Fulton, Mo., Aug. 7.—What county authorities believe to be a plot for the wholesale poisoning of children has been unearthed at Concord, in Calloway county, and as a result two men and women were arrested by order of the prosecuting attorney and brought to Fulton to be arraigned. The persons arrested are L. O. Boyd, a farmer, his wife, Mrs. Anna Boyd, and Jefferson Woods horsedealer.

The children whose lives were endangered belong to families whose members testified in a slander suit recently brought by Mrs. Boyd against Dr. W. B. Ellis, a prominent physician of Concord.

SAFFORD MERCHANT DIES

Safford, Ariz., Aug. 7.—Peter Anderson, age 60, a large property holder here and a prominent citizen and Mason, died suddenly of acute indigestion just after leaving his store. He leaves a wife and several children.

But we will have no tender scenes here if you please, John," he continued, addressing the Indian, "hand me that lamp."

"The Indian handed it over, and Payton turned off the light. "We want none of that here either," he said.

Then he approached me so near that I could make out his features in the dim light. "You are Lieutenant Allan," he said. "It may comfort your heart, lieutenant, which will not enjoy many more thrills in this world, to hear that I learned your name from the lips of the dear girl for whom you have sold your life. Allow me to congratulate you, by the way, on your excellent plan of campaign and on your ability in grand tactics as well as strategics."

"I confess," he continued, "that I do not comprehend how you found us at the lodge, but it is no matter. No man ever had the better of Alfonso Payton for long, and all who have ever tried conclusions with him have ended the same way."

During this speech, uttered with pitiless sarcasm, but in a perfectly cool, even voice, I saw Miss Grayman convulsively cover her face with her hands and...

(To be continued.)

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Since issuing the above statement the first \$50,000.00 of stock has all been taken and there has been another dividend of 5 percent paid, making the dividends paid in 18 months as follows: Dividend No. 1, paid June 1st, 1910 \$1,282.90, Dividend No. 2, paid Dec. 1st, 1910 1,730.64, Dividend No. 3, paid June 1st, 1911 2,142.38.

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BORAH BILL IS TO THE POINT BUT VERY SHORT

Means Much to Irrigated Sections and May Pass This Session.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 7.—The Borah bill which means so much for the cause of irrigation in the territories, and especially in New Mexico, where scores of irrigation districts have been formed or are contemplated as soon as the bonding restriction is removed is given in full below, is short but important to persons interested in irrigation districts. It is:

"Be it enacted, etc., that section four of the act entitled 'An act to prohibit the passage of local or special laws in the territories of the United States to limit the territorial indebtedness and for other purposes' approved July 30, 1888, be and the same is hereby amended as follows, to-wit: by adding to the section the following: 'Provided that the prohibitions and limitations contained in this section shall not be construed to apply to irrigation districts heretofore or hereafter organized in accordance with the territorial laws.'"

This is the bill for which H. T. Henderson, engineer for several irrigation districts in San Juan county, N. M., was working during several weeks in Washington recently. It is reported that the Borah bill is now in the hands of the committee at the beginning of the session should be considered and as yet chairman Flood, of the territories committee, has been unable to get the bill considered.

However, it is thought that the Borah bill is now on the senate calendar, there is a probability that it will become a law at this session.

Culberson got a bill through for the extension of the Dallas postoffice and an appropriation for a site for a new federal building, and a number of minor matters have been passed this session by having them originate in the senate. El Paso's extension might go through in this way. If the senate gives promise of remaining in session for some time after the vote is taken on the statehood matter, El Paso could probably get its bill through by having the papers in the case now in the hands of Morris Shepard of Texas, chairman of the house committee on public buildings and grounds transferred to one of the Texas senators, with information that would convince him of the desirability of an early passage of the bill.

Complaints of Apple Rate. M. W. Thompson, of Espanola, New Mexico, a small station on the Denver and Rio Grande above Santa Fe, N. M., has filed a complaint with the interstate commerce commission complaining of the rate on apples from Espanola points. He contends that on all his shipments last fall, aggregating several cars, that he was grossly overcharged. He quotes published rates showing that Denver commission firm-ship apples by the carload from Denver to Phoenix for 70 cents per 100 pounds, a distance of 1122 miles, while shipping from Espanola to Phoenix he is charged 85 cents per 100 pounds for a distance of 712 miles.

Brewing Company Files Claim. The Anheuser Busch Brewing Company of St. Louis, has filed a claim for reparation against the El Paso &

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Southwestern and the Rock Island. The claim is based on freight shipments of empty beer packages from Bisbee to St. Louis. Total weight was 11990 pounds and freight was paid at the rate of \$1.02 1-2 a hundred. The plaintiff claims to have discovered that the roads concerned have a published rate of 45 cents a hundred from Bisbee to St. Louis, and accordingly asks reparation for the overpaid freight amounting to \$596.44.

The Marx Hide and Tallow company of St. Louis, Mo., has filed suit before the interstate commerce commission for a refund of \$544.34 on four cars of hides shipped from Guadalajara, Mex., to Kenosha, Wis., via El Paso and the Texas & Pacific.

Reparations Ordered. Reparations have been ordered by the interstate commerce commission as follows: Illinois Brewing company vs. Santa Fe et al. refund of \$11.76 on four shipments of malt from Mantowoc, Wis., to Socorro, N. M.

Victoria Land and Cattle company vs. S. P. \$592.84 on five carloads of cattle, Gosford, Cal., to Separ, N. M. Texas is still among those present when banks are organized. Last week three applications were approved and, notwithstanding the fact that there are a number of other states in the union, Texas formed one of the three banks, the Trinity National bank of Trinity, Texas, with a capital of \$30,000.

Postal Changes. Fourth class postmasters have been appointed as follows: Harry Gatter, Monument, N. M., vice W. E. MacArthur. Lillie Ghetie, Nolan, Mora county, vice J. A. Logan.

Chas. H. French, Casa Grande, Ariz., vice C. E. Bennet. Leandro Salas, Pinos Wells, Taos county, N. M., vice Rebecca Garcia. A postoffice has been established at Land, Chochoise county, Ariz., three miles from St. David, and Lou C. Woolery, appointed postmaster.

A postoffice has been established at Palomas Springs, Sierra county, N. M., six miles northeast from Elephant Butte, and Wm. Henry McMillan has been appointed postmaster. The mail service to Terlingua, Texas, in the Big Bend country has been changed to start from Alpine instead of Marfa. This decreases the distance 21 miles.

Mail service to Cathedral, Brewster county, Texas, from Marfa, was also discontinued on July 31, and other arrangements will be made. Fort service from Crystal, N. M., to Fort Defiance, Ariz., and from Magdalena, Chisosas, N. M., has been decreased to three times a week.

FARMERS TRAPPED BY FLOOD IN THEIR HOMES. Concordia, Kans., Aug. 7.—Three farmers six miles north of here are entrapped by flood water from the Republican river and cannot get out, the river completely surrounding their homes.

Farmers north of here are guarding their dikes night and day. They have worked unceasingly for two days and are completely worn out. Should the river rise two inches more all the dikes will go out.

Buttermilk For a Hot Weather Drink

The figures which show the sale of buttermilk in New York city are startling. One of the largest firms in the city sells from 120,000 to 125,000 quarts of buttermilk every week, which, added to what the smaller firms sell, amounts up to a half million quarts per week in this one city.

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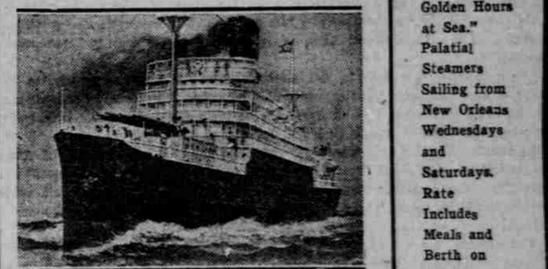
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PECOS DECIDES TO HAVE ANNUAL FAIR

First One Will Be Held the Middle of Next Month.

Pecos, Texas, Aug. 7.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Pecos commercial club, plans were perfected for Pecos's first county fair, to be called the "Pecos Fair, Barbecue and Old Settlers' Reunion." The committee appointed to raise the money for the celebration reported that they had raised \$250 more than asked for by the executive committee. The dates selected for the celebration are September 14 and 15. Will F. Brady was elected chairman and general manager of the fair, and Dr. R. M. Harkey was elected vice chairman and assistant general manager. F. W. Johnson was elected treasurer. Fifteen special committees were appointed, and \$300 appropriated as prizes for agricultural exhibits. The leading feature of the first day will be a barbecue, to which all residents of west Texas and New Mexico are invited. Preparations will be made for a large crowd. Low rates have been granted over all railroads. The main attraction of the second day will be an auto and decorated vehicle parade, prizes being given for best decorated auto, buggy, horse, etc. Vaudeville attractions and a "pikie" will form part of the night attractions. The gun shooting contest will decide the championship of west Texas. All

cities in west Texas are invited to take part. There have been several changes made on the Pecos Valley Southern railway recently. F. H. Tyson, formerly agent at Pecos, has been transferred to Saragosa, as agent there. Jesse D. Wood has been appointed agent here and F. F. Calvert has been appointed agent at Balmorhea. No new developments regarding the projected extension of the Pecos Valley Southern connection at either Marfa or Alpine are at hand. The general opinion, however, is that such an extension will shortly be made.

Mrs. C. F. Thomason has arranged to add a third story to her present building located on Second street and remodel it into a hotel. The building was at one time occupied by the Pecos Mercantile company. Frewitt & Wadley have had plans prepared for a modern, two story concrete heavy stable to take the place of their present wooden structure. The building will be erected immediately.

The Pecos Mercantile company baseball team defeated a team of local stars here in what had been advertised as a burlesque game but turned out to be a real contest. Score 10 to 7. J. S. Kerr, president of the Texas Nursery company, is in the city in the interest of peach and pear culture.

VANDERBILT'S GUESTS OF KING. Cowes, Aug. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt of New York were guests of King George and queen Mary at dinner last night on board the royal yacht Victoria and Albert.

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