

ONLY ROMANCE

OKLAHOMA OUTLAW, WANTED
BADLY, WEDS SENORITA.

Ben Cravens With a Career of Great
Daring Escapes From the Peni-
tentiary—Moves in Disguise
and Marries in Mexico.

From the convict's cell in the Kan-
sas state penitentiary to a happy
home in Old Mexico, with the daugh-
ter of a millionaire mine owner for
a wife, is the transition made by Ben
Cravens, the notorious Oklahoma out-
law who with his at yet unconquered
followers has kept Oklahoma and In-
dian Territory terrorized for the past
four years; while Oklahoma and Fed-
eral officers have been scouting
throughout the two territories and
several Western states with the be-
lief that they would and could recap-
ture the bandit terror, he has been
basking quietly in Old Mexico, where
he used his alleged ill-gotten gains to
masquerade as the son of a promi-
nent Eastern family, enter the home
of the wealthy mine owner, and win
the love and hand of the only daugh-
ter of the family, a pretty, refined,
wealthy girl, who report says has al-
ready borne him a son and heir.

The story of Cravens' life and his
crimes would put to shame the usual
yellow-back encounters, the perusal
of which makes young boys yearn to
do and dare. The son of honorable
but poor farmer parents, the lad
spent his early days in the field and
the country school house, interspersed
with the usual amount of Sunday
school knowledge that falls to the
lot of a country youth in a Southern
Kansas community. His knack of
grasping knowledge quickly, and of
forming conclusions upon which to
take immediate action, was with him
in the country school room, and has
since remained with him through life,
the feature that has made of him a
successful outlaw. The plow and
shovel proved unattractive as he grew
older. While the present governor of
Oklahoma was teaching in a coun-
try district in Chautauque county,
Kansas, his immediate neighbor
across the river was Ben Cravens,
farmer and cowboy, and the two
saw much of one another that winter.
But Cravens' love for adventure soon
drew him into the yet unopened land
of Oklahoma, and he became one of
that restless band of adventurers
from which originated the Dalton,
the Doolins, the Starrs, and later the
Cassers and Swaffords. So far as
known Cravens was timid at first as
an outlaw, doing such small jobs as
horse stealing—small compared with
the train robberies and bank wreck-
ings of other outlaws, but lucrative
then as today.

For one of these horse stealing es-
capes Cravens was arrested and
afterward convicted and sentenced to
a term of years in the Kansas peni-
tentiary, where Oklahoma convicts

have always been kept under con-
trol. He had served only a portion
of his term, when he planned a dar-
ing and successful escape with E. F.
Estelle, a Kansas life prisoner. In
November, 1900, they held up the
guards with wooden revolvers fas-
hioned by Cravens and covered with
tin-foil, to resemble the genuine ar-
ticle, the weapons were formidable
looking to the guards and they im-
mediately threw up their hands when so
ordered, then making use of the
guns which were hanging at the
guards' sides the two convicts left
the prison, running rapidly toward
the river and the underbrush, making
their escape without injury to either.
A posse was at once organized, but
without avail.

Estelle remained at liberty until
about a year ago in Tennessee and
returned to Northern Illinois, where
he was wanted for doing a daring
railway robbery in the vicinity of
Quincy. Cravens has been more for-
tunate, for although appearing in pub-
lic places many times and known to
have committed numerous crimes,
himself at the head of an organized
gang of bandits, yet he has success-
fully avoided capture, and as success-
fully dodged the bullets from the
Winchester rifles in the hands of ex-
pert marksmen and officers. It is the
general belief now of the officers, who
have been on the outlook for him all
these years, that nothing but a well-
laid stratagem plan will ever succeed
in getting him again this side of the
Rio Grande.

There are rewards aggregating \$10,
000 on Cravens' head; these are for
known crimes that he committed.
The government wants him for the
murder of Alvin Bateman, the ter-
ritory of Oklahoma wants him for the
murder of Deputy Sheriff Johnson and
the state of Kansas wants him for
the murder of a prison guard.

The murder of Bateman was the
first crime of any consequence com-
mitted by Cravens after his success-
ful escape. His partner in the kill-
ing, Bert Welty, is now serving a life
sentence at Fort Leavenworth for
murdering Bateman, but Cravens'
good luck was again with him, and he
made a daring and successful get-
away, killing Deputy Sheriff Thos.
Johnson of Pawnee county, even
while that deputy had a Winchester
levelled directly at the outlaw and
was ordering him to throw up his
hands. Three deputy United States
marshals fired at Cravens after John-
son was shot, but none struck the
mark. At that time it was said that
Cravens was in hiding at the home
of a former sweetheart, in that lo-
cality, and in fact she was used by
the government as a witness against
Welty.

Bateman was murdered in March,
1901, in the Schwartz general store at
Red Rock, a small but flourishing In-
dian trading point in the Otoe reser-
vation in northern Oklahoma.

Schwartz was supposed to have con-
siderable money in the store and
Cravens and Welty appeared to
rob the safe; they were successful in
getting about \$1,200 in cash, and
would have safely escaped had not
Welty stepped behind the counter to
get a plug of chewing tobacco. While
thus employed Alvin Bateman, the
manager of the store, entered and
opened fire on the outlaws. He was
immediately killed, although he criti-
cally wounded Welty, who was attired

in a yellow wrapper for the occasion.
Cravens stood off the crowd that had
gathered, compelling nine men to hold
their hands up at full length while he
dragged his wounded companion from
the store, assisted him on his shoulder,
and escaped into the darkness. The
next day they were surprised in a
small hut in the Indian country,
they had stopped to get Welty's
wounds dressed. The hut was sur-
rounded by officers, and it was then
that Cravens made his characteristic
daring get-away by killing Johnson.
Welty was so desperately wounded
that he could not leave his ride bed
in the loft of the hut, and he was tak-
en with ease. His subsequent trial
and sentence for life resulted.

Since that time no officer has
drawn a weapon on Ben Cravens.
The entire western part of the United
States has been unsuccessfully
sifted for him, and there have been
many daring crimes that have been
checked against him, but he has al-
ways been able to keep clear of re-
capture. His daring on several occa-
sions has almost caused his arrest,
but his good luck has remained. He
has taken a delight in seemingly
taunting the officers, appearing in
Guthrie, Newkirk, Oklahoma City
and other cities of the territory, re-
maining frequently over night and
even adding the luxury of intoxica-
tion, at which times he would stay
all night in a saloon. In every town
and city in the two territories, how-
ever, he has henchmen who have nev-
er let him be forsaken.

For more than a year after the
Bateman murder, Cravens traveled
throughout Texas and Oklahoma as
a salesman, faultlessly attired, a suave
conversationalist, presumably carry-
ing an important commercial line.
His art of disguising his wonderful
and he has frequently been under the
eyes of the officers, unknown to them,
for days at a time.

As the alleged son of a Pennsyl-
vania governor, passing also under an
alias he appeared suddenly at the
American sanitarium in the city of
Guadalajara in Old Mexico. Appar-
ently he had plenty of money. With
a well trimmed Van Dyke beard, and
dressed in fashion, even his former
companions would not now know him.
His advent caused something of a
sensation among the ladies of the
American colony there, but the daugh-
ter of the wealthy mine owner was
his particular attention and their
courtship and wedding soon afterward
followed. Oklahoma beyond a doubt
has seen the last of Ben Cravens, her
outlaw king.

Citizenship Hearings.

Thos. Norman, attorney in the
Choctaw-Chickasaw citizenship court,
has been notified by the court that
the following cases for which he is at-
torney, will come up for hearing on
the following dates at Tishomingo:

May 2—Newt Askew et al.
May 2—William Quintus Askew et al.
May 3—Kate Gamew et al.
May 25—Mary Huffman et al.
Furman and Mathers, attorneys,
have been notified of the following
cases:

May 12—Dora Phillips et al.

A SLAUGHTER

BRITISH ASSAULT WITH TERRI-
BLE RESULT THIBETANS.

Their Ranks Are Mowed Down With
Shrapnel While Fighting Savagely.
The General Falls at Head of
His Forces—Sickening.

Tona Thibet, April 3.—The
Thibetan general, the whose of his
personal escort and five high L-Hoon
officers were among the hundreds killed
in the fighting of March 31 at
Guerat, Thibet. The small British
losses are accounted for by the fact
that the Thibetans were so huddled to-
gether that the majority were unable
either to use their swords or to fire.
The swordsmen in the front rank
could not reach the Sikhs, who had
hired bayonets while the men in the
middle of the mob could not reach
the enemy, but many of them prob-
ably killed each other in the excite-
ment.

The scene recalled old-time cock-
pits, the grim, determined faces of
the Thibetans lighted with devilish
savagery, expressing contempt for the
Sikhs, whom they outnumbered six
or seven to one.

When the L-Hoon general fired the
first shot the Thibetans went wild,
drew their swords, fired their match-
locks and charged forward. A do-
zen swordsmen made a desperate
rush in the direction of Colonel Mac-
donald and a small lot of officers.
Four Thibetans attacked Mr. Candler,
the correspondent of the London Mail,
but Colonel MacDonald seized a rifle
and shot down two of them at a few
yards, and another officer killed the
other two, thus saving Mr. Candler's
life.

Those of the Thibetans who tried
to climb the wall were met with a ter-
rible magazine rifle fire, but they did
not falter, those behind spraying
over the heads of dead and continuing
the fight until riddled with bullets.
When finally the Thibetans retired
they tramped back slowly and stand-
still, though followed by a hail of bul-
lets. A mountain battery was
brought into action, and tore the lines
with shrapnel. A terrible trail of
dead and dying marked the retreat.
At length the last wounded, limping Thib-
etan, turned the corner, some 400
yards from the scene of the grim
tragedy where the best of the Thibet-
an army had perished.

London, April 3.—The slaughter of
the Thibetans entirely kills such wan-
dering interest as still exists here in
the Japanese-Russian struggle. The
news excites, as a general rule, a feel-
ing of depression, first because the
average Englishman scarcely sees
that it was necessary, and secondly,
because there is general apprehension
that it may lead to complications with
Russia. The last thing the British
public wants at the present moment

is another war, and, want, and, and
spreaded is a rise in the income tax.
Hence, the tragic events in Thibet are
especially unwelcome at this period,
when the tax payer is nervously wait-
ing to see how soon he will be called
on to pay off the national debt.

BEING FRUSTRATED.

Efforts to Unify the Democracy Meets
Opposition in Pauls Valley.
Special Correspondence.

Pauls Valley, U. T., April 3.—Politics
is running high here at this time. Ef-
forts to organize and unify the democ-
racy is being frustrated to some ex-
tent by the Republicans, who always
saw disunion in the ranks of their
opponents; if possible, and, for certain
Democrats was met with the Republi-
cans without first thinking of the re-
sults of their own actions. These
Democrats will learn soon that the
only time for a party man to kick is
before a nomination is made—not af-
terwards. He will also learn that if
the Republicans had the ascendancy
in the city of Pauls Valley that the
Democrats have, that no Democrat
would ever get the smell of an office.
Not one Republican would ever be
found that would disintegrate his
party by making a race on any "mix-
ed" or citizens' ticket.

The Hearst boom is attracting at-
tention. He is strong enough now to
attract the attention of the Parker
men in New York, and his aspirations
have become no longer a matter of
ridicule, but a stubborn fact to be
recognized and dealt with. As a fact
Mr. Hearst is the most aggressive
Democrat on the continent today. He
is so nearly right that the people
will notice him, and in all probability
will reward his effort. His cartoons
against the trusts have had more ef-
fect than the writings of any man in
the Democratic party. The common
people know a thing when they see
it. Every old politician recalls the
"tattooed man" that so worried Jas.
G. Blaine, and the dollar mark suit of
clothes placed upon Marcus Hanna.
Hearst's cartoons have been even
more effective than these.

The weather is extremely dry here
now. A good rain would be worth
hundreds of thousands of dollars to
the people surrounding this little city.

Pauls Valley Politics.

A mass meeting was held in Pauls
Valley last Wednesday night for the
purpose of placing in the field for
city officers a citizens' ticket. The fol-
lowing gentlemen were nominated:

Mayor—S. J. Garvin.
Recorder—Walter J. Harris.
Aldermen—E. P. Baker, H. M. Carr,
A. M. Foss, Geo. Terry and G. M.
Williams.

TERMS OF U. S. COURT.

At Ada—February 15, 1904; two
weeks.
At Tishomingo—February 29, 1904;
three weeks.
At Chickasha—March 21, 1904; two
weeks.
At Ryan—April 4, 1904; two weeks.
At Pauls Valley—April 18, 1904;
three weeks.
At Purcell—May 9, 1904, and Janu-
ary 2, 1905; ten days each.
At Ardmore—May 19, 1904, and Janu-
ary 12, 1905; lasting five weeks or
longer.

ANNIVERSARY

FIRST OPENING OF INDIAN TER-
RITORY FEDERAL COURT.

Celebrated at Muskogee Saturday.
Judge Shackelford—Walrod Dis-
trict Attorney—T. B. Needles
United States Marshal.

Muskogee, U. T., April 3.—A meet-
ing was held in this city tonight to form
an association to which are eligible
those persons who attended the first
term of Federal court ever held in
Indian Territory, which was fifteen
years ago today. N. B. Maxey was
chairman and John Adams secretary.
A meeting will be held the 3d of June
for the purpose of completing the or-
ganization.

The establishment of a Federal
court in the territory was in reality
the wedge that opened the way to
dissolution of tribal governments and
customs, and brought about the neces-
sity of allotment. When this court
was organized its jurisdiction extended
over all Indian Territory and Okla-
homa. T. B. Needles, member of the
Dawes commission, was marshal and
had 100 deputies under him. Judge
Shackelford was judge of the court
and Z. T. Walrod, district attorney.
Both men are now living in the ter-
ritory. They were sent here from
Washington, and when they arrived
all wore silk hats. They had no soon-
er alighted from the train than they
were waited upon by a delegation
composed of C. W. Turner, A. W.
Robb and Captain Severs, and told
that they must not wear those hats
uptown or they would be shot full of
holes. They took the advice.

An attorney who came in on the
same train was accosted by two thirty-
year gentlemen living in the territory,
and who asked to examine his grips.
He did not say what they found, but
in his reminiscences tonight it was
stated that they had been asking that
same privilege for the past fifteen
years.

The new ideas in box stationery
came to us as soon as they were out.
The very latest are here now. See
them soon—F. J. Ramsey, druggist. 4

BUY A HOME.

Here is an exceptional opportunity.
6-room frame dwelling (large rooms)
and hall, fine orchard, vineyard, splen-
did water both cistern and well, brick
lined storm cellar, good barn, large
southeast corner lot 200x210. Price
\$1,500. Will give terms on part.

Four-room cottage, 2 closets, hall,
bath room, orchard, barn, good water.
Price \$1,300. \$300 cash, balance easy
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C. L. ANDERSON, Cashier. C. S. MAUPIN, Asst. Cashier.

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solicited upon the most liberal terms consisting with good banking.

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G. W. YOUNG, Farmer. chant
J. C. THOMPSON, Lawyer. R. W. RANDOL, Merchant.

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