

"PANCHO" VILLA'S LIFE AS BANDIT AND WARRIOR

Remarkable Story of Career of
Mexican Rebel.

DEFIED RURALES 14 YEARS

As a Wealthy Young Farmer He Killed
Sister's Sutor — Leads Band of
Outlaws—Now Hero of Many
Hard-Earned Battles.

Chicago.—A remarkable story of the career of "Pancho" Villa, the rebel general of Mexico who recently captured Torreon and who is known as Mexico's greatest fighting man, was told in Chicago. The narrator was Robert Anderson, 127 Sheldon street, who for seven years has lived in Torreon and who is waiting here for the chaos to subside before he returns to "The Chicago of Mexico."

Mr. Anderson's story deals with four chapters in the Mexican fighter's life. It tells of Villa the peaceable farmer, of Villa the avenger of a wronged sister, of Villa the bandit, and of Villa the general. The narrative as related by Mr. Anderson follows:

I.—The Young Farmer.

In a fertile valley among the hills that surround the Mexican city of Torreon there lived fifteen years ago a sturdy young farmer whose efforts supported his aged parents and two sisters, both younger than himself. The ranch was small, yet there was none in all Durango more productive. Each year its yield was more bountiful and the young farmer was glad, for soon he hoped to inherit the property from his father and conduct it for himself and his sisters. He was a quiet and peace-loving person, this young man of fifteen years ago. Today mere mention of his name strikes terror to the heart of Provisional President Huerta and his troops. But that is getting ahead of the story.

The young rancher was Francisco Villa (pronounced Vee-ya), nicknamed "Pancho," the same "Pancho" Villa who recently captured Torreon and who is looked upon as the greatest fighting man in all turbulent Mexico.

Young Villa loved his sisters, dearly. Both of them were extremely beautiful Mexican girls, dark, with long, straight black hair and blackish brown, sparkling eyes that never were still. Of course, the Villa girls were popular with the neighboring young ranchers, who sought them as company on long gallops over the roads through the woods adjoining Torreon. "Pancho" looked with disfavor upon his sisters' suitors. He feared that among them might be two who could gain the love of the girls and marry them, and, of course, take them from the Villa ranch.

"Pancho" even spoke his thoughts to his sisters. They laughed at him and tossed their heads defiantly. Their



"Pancho" Villa.

black-brown eyes twinkled as they kissed their brother—kisses of mock farewell. In secret, however, they told themselves they loved young "Pancho" more for the love he showed for them. But the suitors continued to come and the gallops in the hills were as frequent as before.

II.—Villa Stays the Man.

There was a certain young magistrate in the town of Torreon whom Villa disliked intensely. Word came to "Pancho" at length that this magistrate was seen ogling his elder sister. Later Villa detected the pair in a clandestine meeting. In a rage he ordered his sister home and threatened the young magistrate with death should he dare set foot on Villa property again. That night, upon his arrival at the ranch house, young "Pancho" berated his sister sharply and commanded her to cease her friendship with the magistrate.

The senator's eyes filled with tears. She had become infatuated with the wealthy young man.

At the morning meal next day the elder sister was missing. A search of the house failed to reveal her. "Pancho" was worried. He discovered, then, that the young magistrate, too, had disappeared. The pair had eloped. The brother's rage knew no bounds

and at once he girded himself for pursuit.

He galloped madly to the home of a priest whom he knew.

"Get your horse and come with me," were the only words that "Pancho" spoke to the man of the church. There was that in the speaker's eyes which made the priest obey.

In silence they rode rapidly off into the hills, where Villa was confident his sister and the young magistrate had gone. An hour before midnight they struck the elopers' trail. Pushing on, despite the darkness, "Pancho" and the priest came upon the couple in a camp they had pitched in a sheltered nook.

Villa said no word, but drew his revolver. The fellow trembled at the sight of the irate brother. "Pancho" turned to the priest.

"Marry them," he ordered sharply. Refusal was on the churchman's lips, but a flourish of Villa's revolver caused him to comply.

There in the dark of night, in the hills high above Torreon, the marriage was solemnized. It was a marriage accompanied by no words of congratulation, no smiles, no kisses. Within ten minutes from the time Francisco Villa's sister became the young magistrate's bride she became his widow. Villa's acts of that night are history in and about Torreon.



Mrs. "Pancho" Villa.

Scarcely had the ceremony been said when Villa stepped between his sister and the magistrate. Again he turned to the priest.

"Make ready a death warrant," he ordered, grimly.

Again the churchman would have refused, but young "Pancho's" revolver made him obey. Seizing the priest's leather bound book and tearing the flyleaf from it, Villa coolly wrote the words that spelled death for his sister's abductor. At the point of his pistol he made the priest sign the paper.

A moment later a single shot rang out in the forest stillness. The form of the young magistrate stiffened, then crumpled, twisted and fell—dead.

Villa ordered the priest to conduct his sister to her home. Then he galloped off in the darkness. His career as a bandit had begun.

III.—Villa, the Bandit.

For more than fourteen years after that night of tragedy "Pancho" roamed the woods and the hills, hunted by the rurales (mounted police), always terrorizing them and always eluding their grasp. He never was captured. The town of Torreon rings with the stories of the bandit. Villa's deeds in the hills. His raids and his deeds of daring became the talk of the community.

Secretly, of course, the ranchers of the community who had known young "Pancho" sympathized with him and were glad to hear of his successful elusion of the rurales. Publicly, however, as he was an outlaw, "Pancho" was denounced and the rurales were urged to bring him to town, dead or alive. Time after time Villa escaped. He made them appear as laggards and blunderers. Under their very noses the bandit would perpetrate his deeds of daring, laugh at the rurales, then escape into the hills. The posses that pursued him invariably returned in a day or two, shamefaced and discouraged. With each new raid "Pancho" grew bolder, until he came to be known as a dare-devil among dare-devils and a fighter among fighters.

IV.—Villa, the General.

Early during the present troubles in Mexico, particularly the rebellion against Huerta, the name of Villa came to be heard more often. He was reported "seen" in various states in northern Mexico and simultaneously came reports of raids and routing of detachments of federal troops. Villa and his bandits were coming to be widely feared, and, in a measure, respected.

Rallying about him a great number of rebels in addition to his troop of raiders, he began a series of open and concerted attacks. He was uniformly successful. Since his interjection of himself in Mexican affairs he has come to be known as a great general—not a trained fighter, it seems, but a natural one, and one who gains the loyalty of his men.

His greatest achievement of the war was the capture of Torreon.

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4. **TIE IN VOTES.**—Should any of the contestants tie in votes, The Publishers' Music Company will award a similar prize, according to standing at final count.

5. **VOTES CLASSIFIED.**—Votes will be issued in the following denominations:

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INSTRUCTIONS.—Results as to standing of votes will be issued after 30 days. No votes accepted at less than regular price of paper

concerned in this contest. No one connected with this paper will be allowed to become a candidate in this contest or work for contestants.

Votes after being voted cannot be transferred to another. Be sure to know whom you are going to vote for before coming to the ballot box, as the editors or any one will positively not give any information on the subject. The key to the government ballot box shall be in possession of the awarding committee during the contest.

For the first thirty days the paper will run a 25-vote coupon, which can be voted free for any lady contestant.

Contest to run not less than 90 days. Closing of contest will be announced 25 days in advance of closing. The right to postpone date of closing is reserved, if sufficient cause should occur.

The contest shall close on a day which will be announced later. Ten days prior to closing contest, the judges will carefully look over seal ballot box and take same to the Bank, where the same will be in a place where voting can be done during business hours and locked in a vault at night until close of contest, when the judges will take charge and count same and announce the young ladies winning in their turn.

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Contest Closes July 13th, 1914.

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