

The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Illustrated from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the Same Name by the Thanhouser Film Company

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CHAPTER XVII.

Setting Traps for Norton. The Black Hundred possessed three separate council-chambers, always in preparation. Hence, when the one in use was burned down they transferred their conferences to the second council chamber appointed identically the same as the first. As inferred, the organization owned considerable wealth, and they leased the buildings in which they had their council chambers. Healed them for a number of years, and refurbished them secretly with trap floors, doors and panels and all that apparatus so necessary to men who are sometimes compelled to make a quick getaway.

When the Atlantic City attempt was turned into a fiasco by Norton's timely arrival Braine determined once more to rid himself of this meddling reporter. He knew too much, in the first place, and in the second place Braine wanted to learn whether the reporter bore a charmed life or was just ordinarily lucky. He would attempt nothing delicate, requiring finesse. He would simply waylay Norton and make a commonplace end of him. He would disappear, this reporter, that would be all, and when they found him he might or might not be recognizable.

So Braine called a conference and he and his fellow rogues went over a number of expedients and finally agreed that the best thing to do would be to send a man to the newspaper, ostensibly as a reporter looking for a situation. With this excuse he would be able to hang around the city room for three or four days. The idea back of this was to waylay Norton on his way to some assignment which took him to the suburbs.

All this was arranged down to the smallest detail; and a man whom they were quite certain Norton had not yet seen was selected to play the part. He had been a reporter once, more's the pity; so there was no doubt of his being able to handle his end of the game.

"I want Norton, I want him badly," declared Braine, "and you to you if you let loose play in between you and the object of this move."

The man selected to act the reporter hung his head. Whisky had been the origin of his fall from honest living, and he was not so cautioned as not to feel the sting of remorse at times.

"More," went on Braine, "I want Norton brought to 49. It's a little off the beat, and we can handle Norton as we please. When we get rid of this newspaper ferret there'll be another to eliminate. But he's a fox, and a fox must be set to trail him."

"And who is that?" "Jones, Jones, Jones!" thundered Braine. "He's the live wire. But this reporter first. Jones depends a lot on him. Take away this prop and Jones will not be so sure of himself. There's a man outside all this circle, and all these weeks of warfare have not served to bring him into the circle."

"Hargrave is dead," said Vron stolidly. "As dead as I am," snarled Braine. "Two men went away in that balloon; and I'll wager my head that one man came back. I am beginning to put a few things together that I have not thought of before. Who knows? That balloon may have been carried out to sea purposely. The captain on that tramp steamer may have lied from beginning to end. I tell you, Hargrave is alive, and wherever he is he has his hand on all the wires. He has agents, too, whom we know nothing about. Hang the million! I want to put my hands on Hargrave just to prove that I am the better man. He communicates with Jones, der-

"Orders," said Jones, smiling faintly as he delivered a note to the reporter. "Anything serious?" "Not that I am aware of. Miss Florence was rather particular. She wanted to be sure that the note reached your hands safely."

"And do you mean to say that you came away and left her alone in that house?" Again Jones smiled. "I left her well guarded, you may be sure of that. She will never run away again. He waited for Norton to read the note. It was nothing more than one of those love orders to come and call at once. And she had made Jones venture into town with the reporter. Norton smiled and put the note away tenderly. And then he caught Jones smiling, too. "I'm going to marry her, Jones."

"That remains to be seen," replied the butler, not unkindly. "Well, anyhow, thanks for bringing the note. But I've got to disappoint her tonight. I'm off in a deuce of a hurry to interview General Henderson. I'll be out to tea tomorrow. You can find your way out of this old fire trap. By-by!" The moment he turned away the smile faded from Jones' face, and with the quickness and noiselessness of a cat he reached the side of the booth in which Gregg believed himself so secure from eavesdropping. The half dozen words Jones heard convinced him that Norton was again the object of the Black Hundred's attention. He had seen the man's face that memorable night when the balloon stopped for its passenger. Before Gregg came out of the booth Jones decided to overtake him and forewarn him, but unfortunately the reporter was nowhere in sight.

There was left for Jones nothing else but to return home to follow when he came out. As this night he knew Florence to be exceptionally well guarded, both within and without the house, he decided to wait and follow the spy. When Braine received the message he was pleased. Norton's assignment fitted his purpose like a glove. Before midnight he would have his favorite Reporter where he would bother no one for some time—if he never bothered any one again. Braine gave his orders tersely. Unless Norton met with unforeseen delay, nothing could prevent his capture.

When Norton arrived at the Henderson place, a footman informed him from the veranda that General Henderson was at 49 Elm street for the evening, and it would be wise to call there. Jim nodded his thanks and set off in haste for 49 Elm street. The footman did not enter the house, but hurried down the steps and stunk off among the adjacent shrubbery. His mission was over with.

The house in Elm street was Braine's suburban establishment. He went there occasionally to hibernate, as it were, to grow a new skin when close pressed. The caretaker was a man rightly called Samson. He was a bruiser of the bouncer type. It was fast work for Braine to get out there. If the man disclosed as a footman played his cards badly Braine would have all his trouble for nothing. He disguised himself with that old device which has long since made him a terror to the police in town; and it would be altogether too risky to attempt to handle him anywhere but outside of town. So Gregg had to abide his time.

Norton was idling at his desk when the city editor called him up to the wicket. "General Henderson has just returned to America. Get his opinion on the latest Balkan rumour. He's out at his suburban home. Here's the address."

"How long will you hold open for me?" asked Norton, meaning how long would the city editor wait for the story. "Till one-thirty. You ought to be back by midnight. It's only eight now."

All right; Henderson's approachable. I may get a good story out of him. "Maybe," thought Gregg, who had lost nothing of this conversation. "It was his opportunity. He immediately left the zone of the city desk for a telephone booth. But as he passed the line of desks and busy reporters he did not note the keen scrutiny of a smooth faced, gray haired man who stood at the side of Norton's desk awaiting the reporter's return.



In the Case of His Watch He Saw a Brutal Face Behind Him.

of this fact, he ran madly about in search of some mode of escape, knowing full well in his heart that he should not find one. Presently the machinery began to work and Norton's tongue grew dry with terror. They had him this time there was not the least doubt of it. And they had led him there by the nose into the bargain.

Twenty minutes passed, and Jones concluded it was time for him to act. He went forward to try the door, but this time it was locked. Jones, however, was not without resource. The house next door was vacant, and he found a way into this, finally reaching the roof. From this he jumped to the other roof, found the scuttle open, and crept down the stairs. Flight after flight, till the whir of a motor arrested him.

Conspirators are often overcautious. So intent were the rascals upon the business at hand that they did not notice the door open slowly. It did not take the butler more than a moment to realize that his friend and any near certain death. With an oath he sprang into the room, gave Braine a push which sent him down to join the victim, and pitched into the other two. It was a battle royal while it lasted. Jones knocked down one of them, yelled to Norton, and kicked the rope he saw down into the pit. One end of this rope was attached to a ring in the wall. And up this rope Norton swarmed after he had disposed of Braine. The tide of battle then swung about in favor of the butler, and shortly the fake reporter and his



Up This Rope Norton Swarmed.

companion were made to join their chief. Jones stopped the machinery. He could not bring himself to let his enemies die so horribly. Later he knew he would regret this sentiment. When the people came, summoned by some outsider who had heard the racket of the conflict, there was no one to be found in the pit. Nor was there any visible sign of an exit.

There was one, however, built against such an hour and known only to the chiefs of the Black Hundred. And still the golden tinted bank notes reposed tranquilly in their hiding place! (To be continued)

It appearing that there was no longer any need for such an organization as nearly everybody who wants work has obtained employment, the public employment bureau at Wilmington was discontinued. The bureau was established early in January following a mass-meeting of citizens held for the purpose of providing a way to help those out of employment.

After remaining closed two weeks the local plant of the National Casket Company at Asheville, resumed operations, the management announcing that the orders are so heavy that it is imperative that work be started at once. The resumption of operations furnishes employment for many laborers who were out of work during the time that the factory was closed.

VILLA FORCES ARE BADLY DEFEATED

ENCOUNTER AT MATAMOROS HAS CEASED TO AWAIT ARTILLERY.

SERIOUS FOR TEXAS TOWN

Carranza Troops Are Strongly Entrenched and Only Artillery Will Move Them From Garrison.

Brownsville, Texas.—Falling in their attempt to dislodge the Carranza garrison by rifle and machine gun fire, Villa forces besieging Matamoros virtually ceased their attacks awaiting the arrival of artillery. In the event of an artillery duel, Brownsville, directly across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, would be endangered one of the gravest of border crises was feared. The likelihood of shells falling in Brownsville was demonstrated by the rifle bullets which dropped here during the first Villa assault on Matamoros trenches, a costly failure of Villa forces in which their losses were officially given as 100 killed and 40 wounded. This attack was a headstrong dash of 2,000 mounted riflemen. The Carranza losses were 10 killed and 45 injured. Two persons were struck by bullets in Brownsville. Neither was seriously injured.

The coming Villa artillery must be powerful enough to cope with nine-three-inch field pieces of the defenders, none of which has yet been fired. In addition the Carranza troops are said to have four three and one-half inch guns. A troop of 250 Villa cavalry, circling five miles south of Brownsville, approached unwittingly at a town named Rostas, a machine gun trench hidden by brush. They were trotting past this trench when the machine guns were fired. Nearly the entire Villa dead were said to have fallen at this point, while almost a g-man, the others were wounded.

Norton said he would defend the city to the limit. Four flags, captured, floated in front of his headquarters, the band played in the plaza and men and women of Matamoros celebrated, filling the streets with color. One flag is inscribed "Second Brigade." This battalion, the Constitutionalist claimed, was almost wiped out by its dashing assaults in the breastworks. Both Villa and Constitutionalist soldiers say three Villa troops were killed carrying this flag. Another flag is inscribed "Villa Brigade." These and the other two captured banners were bloodstained.

FRUITLESS WORK FOR F4. Discovered Object Was Only Big Anchor.—Submarine Located. Honolulu, T. H.—Three days search for the lost United States submarine F4 has resulted only in unfulfilled hopes. Divers who went down the two cables thought to have been attached to the submarine found the heavy body was an old anchor, probably lost by the battleship Oregon. Diver attached to the anchor, wore only a helmet. Diver Keena, who descended along the second cable, reported that he found nothing. Araz, whose descent to a depth of 215 feet is said to be a world's record, spent 22 minutes on the downward journey and nine and half minutes in the ascent. The experience apparently caused him no distress.

The submarine F4 has been located outside the harbor it was announced. Portions of the superstructure have been brought to the surface. The dredge California will shift moorings, tug will cross-cross in all directions and an attempt will be made to lift the submarine. Alabama Ordered to Hampton Roads. Philadelphia.—Carrying the flag of Rear Admiral J. L. Helm of the Atlantic reserve fleet, the battleship Alabama sailed from the Philadelphia Navy Yard for neutrality duty at Hampton Roads.

Cotton Proceeds to Italy. Genoa Italy via Paris.—As a result of the efforts of American Ambassador Page instructions have been received here from the foreign ministry to allow all American cotton to be exported. Difficulties in the way of moving the commodity now are due to congestion. There are 158 ships at Genoa waiting to unload, while outside the harbor 116 vessels are waiting to enter. Methods employed to unload the ships prevent more than 2,000 bales of cotton entering the port daily.

Russians Pushing Through. Petrograd, via London.—The Russians have pushed their front well through the Carpathians toward the plains of Northern Hungary in the vicinity of Bartfeld, capturing an Austrian position five miles south of Tarof. By taking the Austrian positions at the source of the Ondava River at Nijni Polotsk, 12 miles northeast of Bartfeld, the Russians gain control of roads leading direct to Bartfeld and southward to Svidnik and to valley of the Ondava.

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RUSSIA STRIVING TO REACH HUNGARY

FIGHTING DESPERATELY IN EFFORT TO GET THROUGH THE CARPATHIANS.

AUSTRIANS BLOCKING WAY

Making Great Effort to Keep Back the Invaders.—British Announce End of Submarine U-29.

London.—The Russians have lost no time since the fall of Phisyemay in attempting their drive in the Carpathian mountain passes where already thousands of men have fallen. Russians and Austrians are in another death grip, the one army to force its way through the mountain passes, the other to beat back the invaders. The Russians are striking their best blow on the 50-mile front between Bartfeld and Usok, and although the operations are being carried on under the most difficult conditions the claim is made officially that they are developing "with complete success."

The nature of the fighting is indicated by the fact that only there are great snow drifts to contend against, but the Russians have had to fight their way through barbed-wire entanglements, rows of trenches and works strongly fortified. In one of these places, near Lapkov Pass, an Austrian position, said by the Russian War Office to be very important, was carried by assault. Here the Russians captured 5,600 men, 100 officers and several dozen of machine guns, and latest advices from Petrograd describe the Austrians as in retreat from certain positions.

The British Admiralty announces the end of the famous German submarine U-29, which sank several British steamers and torpedoed others. In making the announcement the Admiralty said it had good reasons to believe that the U-29 had been sunk with all hands. More than ordinary interest attached to the U-29 because of the belief in some quarters that Lieutenant Weddington, who commanded the submarine U-9 when she sank three British cruisers in the North Sea last September, has been promoted to the command of the newer and larger boat. Meantime other German submarines have been active and the U-28 has sunk the Dutch steamer Medea which, according to the British Admiralty, was flying the Dutch flag and carried a Dutch crew.

WILSON EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE Praises Stability of Great Body of Calm People of Nation. Washington.—Full confidence in the great body of calm people of the Nation, who serve as "stabilizers" among the excitable ones try to "rock the boat" in these perilous days, was voiced by President Wilson in an address before the Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in annual session here. The President appealed to the Nation for support in administering his office, saying "if I can speak for you I am powerful, if I cannot I am weak." He said it was possible for a people to be impartial when a "quarrel is none of theirs."

Referring to the danger to missionaries in some foreign lands of which he said he had thought much of late, he added: "Wars will never have any ending until men cease to hate one another, cease to be jealous of one another, get the feeling of reality in the brotherhood of mankind, which is the only bond that can make us think justly of one another and act righteously before God himself."

Kaiser Has New Grandson. London.—The Duchess of Brunswick, formerly Princess Victoria Luise, daughter of Emperor William, gave birth to a son, according to a Reuter dispatch from Brunswick. Minnesota Defeats Statawida. St. Paul, Minn.—The statewide prohibition amendment was defeated in the house 60 to 54.

American Flag is Torn Down. Washington.—How the American flag flying over the home of John B. McManus an American citizen, in Mexico City was torn and dragged half way down the pole by Zapata soldiers when they murdered McManus and looted his home two weeks ago is told in dispatches from the Brazilian minister made public by Secretary Bryan. Secretary Bryan said reparations for the insult to the flag had been asked from the Zapata authorities, but that no reply had come.

Denies Sending Message. Washington.—Maj. George T. Langhorne, the army officer recently withdrawn from his post as military attaché of the American embassy at Berlin, has denied authorship of certain dispatches sent from Berlin to the war department signed with his name. It was said at the department that the major, when he reached Washington a few days ago, found in the department's file of his reports some messages in plain English which he had not sent. All of his dispatches had been filed in cipher.

LOCATE SUBMARINE AND TRY TO RAISE IT

AMERICAN SUBMARINE IS LOCATED FIFTY FATHOMS BELOW THE SURFACE.

TWENTY-ONE MEN ON BOARD

First Submarine Disaster For United States.—F4 is One of Latest Models of Under-Sea Craft.

Honolulu.—The American submarine F-4 lost for over thirty hours off Honolulu harbor, has been located. Heroic efforts being made to raise the stricken craft, but after having been submerged for more than 30 hours it was regarded as doubtful whether any of the crew of 21 men remained alive. To lift the little vessel to the surface it was found necessary to send to the Pearl Harbor Naval Station for a derrick and crane. This involved much loss of time and it was thought the fate of the crew might not be determined for many hours. Rescue vessels dragging the ocean bed with grappling hooks chanced upon the stricken craft at a depth of 300 feet. Making fast to the F-4 the naval tug Navajo and the steamer Makaala began to tow the find—they were not certain that it was the submarine they had looked toward shallow water. Quantities of oil came to the surface, proof that it really was the lost vessel. Soon afterward a submarine marker buoy discovered far below the water, removed all doubt that the F-4 had been found.

Just when the marker buoy had been released by the disabled boat there was no means of determining. If the signal was given after the grappling hooks of the rescue vessel took hold, then the crew, or at least some of them, still were alive. For more than an hour the tug and the steamer struggled with their unwieldy burden. Soon afterwards it became apparent that it would be possible to tow the submarine near enough to shore to bring her to the surface and a hurry call was sent to the naval station for a wrecking ship. Naval authorities admitted that they had given up hope for the F-4's crew. However, rescuing apparatus has been dispatched to the scene and every effort will be made to develop any spark of life that may remain. The general opinion is that the vessel's plates were sprung through the immense pressure of the water at a depth of 50 fathoms and that the two officers and 19 enlisted men aboard have perished. Vessels in the vicinity equipped with submarine signal apparatus continued to send out signals, but no answers came.

EITEL STILL AT NEWPORT NEWS Many Rumors That Vessel is Preparing to Leave Port. Washington.—Rumors from Newport News reached Washington that the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, the German sea raider, docked there for repairs after her commerce destroying cruise, was preparing to depart. One report said the cruiser actually had left her dock at the shipyard and was putting out to sea to escape or bid defiance to British and French warships patrolling beyond the Virginia capes. All these stories were proved groundless, however, as the Prinz Eitel was at her dock and repair work was said still to be in progress. The immigrant passengers aboard the ship were removed and this fact, together with a growing belief that the time limit allowed the ship for remaining in port is drawing near probably gave rise to the reports.

Tennessee Limits Capital Punishment. Nashville, Tenn.—The senate passed a bill abolishing the death penalty in Tennessee. Vessels in the vicinity of the commission's work in seven million dollars worth of food is on the way to the stricken country or is stored for future shipment. Of the grand total \$5,500,000 was provided by benevolent contributions and the balance of \$30,500,000 was provided by banking arrangements set up by the commission.

No More Free Lunches. Providence, R. I.—The senate passed a bill prohibiting free lunches in liquor saloons. It will go to the house. \$20,000,000 in Foods. London.—A financial report issued here by the American commission for relief in Belgium shows that \$20,000,000 worth of foodstuffs has been deposited in Belgium since the inception of the commission's work. Seven million dollars worth of food is on the way to the stricken country or is stored for future shipment. Of the grand total \$5,500,000 was provided by benevolent contributions and the balance of \$30,500,000 was provided by banking arrangements set up by the commission.

Lady Paget Victim of Typhus. New York.—The death in Serbia from typhus of Lady Paget, wife of Sir Ralph Paget, third assistant secretary of foreign affairs in England, was confirmed in cablegrams received here by Mme. Slavko Grouch, leader of the Serbian relief movement in this country. Lady Paget was stricken at Ukob, where she was the head of a hospital established by the Serbian relief committee in England. Lady Paget had been active in relief and hospital work in Serbia from the time of the first Balkan war.

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