

THE FATAL TAG  
(By W. A. Watson)

Miss Katherine Applewhite was sitting in the parlor knitting when Mr. Frazier her suitor, knocked at the door. She laid her knitting aside long enough to open the door for him. He stepped in as though he felt a warm welcome and seated himself in his favorite chair. Katherine picked up the sweater she was knitting and took her seat beside him. She was anxious to get it finished that evening so she could get it off with the Red Cross shipment that was to be made the following day. All the time the tag was being knitted Mr. Frazier held his hand over her and they carried on a conversation in a low tone of voice as if he consented to one but, then, when the tag was finished Mr. Frazier, being a very thoughtful man, suggested that she write her name and address on a tag and put it to the sweater so that she might sometime receive some words of great affection for her work. She got the tag and asked him to do the writing as he was an excellent scribe. She then dictated the following words as he wrote them for her: "My sweetheart over there, let me hear from you, Miss Katherine Applewhite, Blossom Grove, Texas. Of course, they cannot get much where they would ever hear from it and have it no more thought after that evening.

Katherine and Mr. Frazier were to have been married some time before this, but postponed their wedding indefinitely on account of the war. He was thirty years old and did not have to register for the first time for a long time, but they did not know how long his name would come before the World War was over. He was a sales manager of a business and would have to register as an exemption for military service. He owned a dry goods business in Blossom Grove and did not intend to leave it unless it was absolutely necessary. Katherine was only nineteen years of age and had never known the love of any man except Mr. Frazier, but she did not want to be too hasty about getting married. She was perfectly willing to postpone the matter until a later date. She was a medium sized girl with a lovely form and a look that was widely admired with and her eyes were dark blue with an expression that appealed to a man at first sight. And to add to her beauty she had the finest smile she had ever had to be married. She did not have to be married until the end of dress she wore of the way she could hear him for her beauty was a gift of nature. She did not care to spoil her blossoming youth by being harassed with the cares of a home, but had agreed to marry Mr. Frazier on account of her encouragement by her mother and father. Mr. Frazier told the old folks as much as he did the girl, and that was becoming untrue to her. Of course, she would have other sweethearts nearby, but Mr. Frazier had got the lead, and none of her admirers had ever mustered up enough courage to encourage his competition. Under the circumstances Katherine kept her engagement with Mr. Frazier and they were together most every day. He often drove to work and she always believed that he was going to join the army, but she never presented his name in the least and would really have thought most of him had he gone. She believed it was his duty to go but he never went out and told her so. She did not think that he was a snob because he had given money to every cause that had been made by the Red Cross and had bought his part of the Liberty Bonds but she thought he would have shown a more patriotic spirit by going. One evening as she and Mr. Frazier were out riding in his five car, they rode around by the postoffice to get her father's mail for him. Katherine opened the box and found a letter for herself. It had the following address on it: "Pvt. Glenn T. Kennon, Co. 1, 35th Inf. A. E. F." She turned it to Mr. Frazier quickly and said "Whom could this be from? I never knew a Mr. Kennon." Mr. Frazier replied "You can't prove it by me." Katherine opened the letter and glanced at the first few lines then quickly exclaimed, "Oh, it's from my sweetheart over there." It still never dawned on Mr. Frazier to whom she referred until she reminded him of the tag he put on the sweater for her. The letter was very brief. Mr. Kennon thanked her kindly for the sweater and asked her to start a correspondence with him as he had no sweetheart in the U. S. A. She handed the letter to Mr. Frazier and let him read it. It had been six months since Katherine turned the sweater to the Red Cross.

Katherine and Mr. Frazier returned home that evening, but she stayed with her until late bed time, and he did not get to reply to the letter until the following day, but she wrote Kennon a sweet reply. She had no idea whether or not she would like

him, but she wanted to cheer his lonely heart. The next time Mr. Frazier came he asked her if she answered it, and she told him she did. He was not particularly interested in it but he had rather know and felt that he had a right to know about her correspondences. He didn't know but that something might develop from it. When she received the next letter from Mr. Kennon the armistice had been signed and he had been permitted to send his photograph to her. Judging from the picture and from the description he had given of himself, he was undoubtedly a fine looking young man. She showed Mr. Frazier the picture of her soldier man but would not allow him to read any more of her letters. He never tried to get her to stop her correspondence because he thought that she would not be very likely to keep it unless the boy returned to the U. S. A. She replied to the letter which contained the photograph and sent Mr. Kennon a photograph of herself, but never let Mr. Frazier know about her sending it. On Christmas after the Armistice was signed Mr. Frazier presented her the nicest set of furs he could find. He told her that since the Armistice was signed there was no reason why they should not get married, but she put him off until sometime in the summer. She was still wearing the diamond ring that he had given her and had never mentioned that she had any idea of breaking their engagement. He was not yet uneasy about his doing her, but did not like to put their wedding off much longer. He had already got her parents' consent and he thought that everything would come out all right, but he could not see why she was putting him off so long. When she got the next letter, Mr. Kennon was on his way home, and he told Mr. Frazier about this. Mr. Frazier then tried to convince her to drop the correspondence with Mr. Kennon, but she would not do it. He then began to get uneasy about her correspondences. She told him that Mr. Kennon had asked her to allow him to make her a visit soon after he was discharged from the army, and that she had agreed to let him do so. Frazier could not refrain from expressing himself any longer and he began to yell at her, and it is little short of a miracle for her to get him to stop. She replied "I am not going to dismount a poor soldier boy who has suffered the hardships of the World War to please a man who has stayed at home and built up his business without a sacrifice. It is none of your business if I am disgraced." Frazier realized then that he had already said as much and had nothing further to say about the matter. Kennon had not told her just when he was coming but he arrived the following Sunday. Frazier had made a date for that day or rainy day a starting date but Katherine called him over the phone and asked him not to come over as the soldier friend had come to see her. The young man had a portly appearance in his neat uniform. Katherine had already formed an opinion of him from the letters he had written her so after seeing him and talking with him liked him much better than she thought she would. He told her about his life before he joined the army. He was a poor man's son but he had managed to work his way through school. He had finished a course in journalism in the University of Texas but had realized a very small sum of money from his writings before he entered the army and he was very much pleased. He told her that he could not express his love on his first visit. He had met up with a young man from Blossom Grove before he made his visit and found out that Katherine and Mr. Frazier were sweethearts. He made it a point to find out from her whether or not his visit was an imposition. She assured him he was perfectly welcome, although her parents were very much in favor of Mr. Frazier. Kennon left for his home in Waco that afternoon and Frazier made a call later on in the evening. Frazier had not been there long until he asked Katherine if the visit from Mr. Kennon meant that she intended to break their engagement. In a very unconcerned tone of voice she replied: "I had not intended it that way, but if you want to get peevish you might consider it so." He then said: "I am not peeved but I do not think you should allow him to come again." She made him no promises but on the contrary asserted her right to do as she pleased about the matter. He did not stay as late as usual that time as the evening had not been so pleasant for him as it had before. He could not help but recall that he had brought it all on himself. He had not forgotten that it was his suggestion that he write the tag that was tied on to the sweater. After he had gone her father and mother came in to learn what Mr.

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TRADE FEATURES  
BUSINESS WEEK

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO  
HAVE MORE MONEY THIS  
WINTER.

New York.—Reduction of long holdings in the security and commodity markets a firmer tone in the money market and further indications of a modest improvement in trade and manufacturing were principal features of the business week. The weaker tone in securities, particularly in the first class issues, accompanied as it was by slightly harder money rates, gave birth to the view in some quarters that business demands had begun to attract larger portions of capital. This was looked upon as a bullish factor from the business standpoint. Conservative quarters, however, held that this view was somewhat premature. Although the merchant of funds seeking employment in the stock exchange call money market decreased appreciably, the rate failed to rise above two per cent. Time funds, however, firmed up 14 of one per cent. commercial paper showed a firmer tone and bankers acceptances advanced from 18 to 14 per cent. The largest banks reported no appreciable increase in the demand for credit. There was, nevertheless, a movement of funds westward, and the Federal Reserve System's weekly statement revealed that temporarily at least, it has ceased artificially to create credit for further purchases of government securities. The more reasonable explanation for harder money, therefore, was that western banks were withdrawing funds to assist them in the movement of the crop, a regular seasonal occurrence. Through the cross-currents in the business situation, one fact stands out. That is, that the agricultural communities will have a great deal more money to spend this fall than when they did last year. Industries which sell their product direct to the farmer already are feeling the effects, which sooner or later will be reflected elsewhere. More wheat at higher prices and higher prices for livestock have been a boon to the west. Meanwhile the south is growing a cotton crop some 200,000 bales in excess of last year's output, an ample supply for the spinning mills, with consequent stimulation of sales.

Woman Nominated For Governor.  
Toledo, Tex.—Mrs. Miriam Amanda Ferguson, nominated for governor of Texas in the democratic run-off primary, is just a quiet unassuming wife and mother who has never taken much interest in social affairs or political affairs save when her husband was involved.

Until it was ruled that her husband, former Governor James E. Ferguson, was ineligible for office in Texas because of his impeachment in 1917 and until the courts held this spring that he could not get his name on the ticket as a candidate for governor, she has had "no very great desire" to hold office. Today, however, she is the proud holder of the democratic nomination for governor of Texas, which has already says her heart is full of joy, not ways meant election in this state, and because the office will mean much to her personally, but because the expression of the confidence of the people in the Ferguson family means everything to her children and her children's children.

Tropical Storm Strikes Coast.  
Norfolk, Va.—A northeast storm, accompanied by winds of hurricane force and driving rains, was raging along the North Carolina coast in its march up the Atlantic seaboard, sending ships scurrying to shelter and threatening a number of coast settlements. Moving rapidly in a north-northeast direction, it was expected by weather bureau officials to reach the height of its fury off Cape Hatteras.

Man Has 102nd Birthday.  
Morristown, N. J.—John A. Stewart, "the grand old man of Wall street," personal friend of Lincoln, and President pro tem of Princeton University after Woodrow Wilson's resignation, observed his 102nd birthday at his country home here. Because of his delicate health the day was observed in quiet fashion. Mr. Stewart was assistant secretary of the treasury during the Cleveland administration. He is the oldest living alumnus of Columbia University.

Leake and Hale Convicted.  
Lexington—John Leake and Kenneth Hale, negroes, were found guilty of murder in the first degree for the slaying of Charles Garwood, taxi driver of this city, on the Mocksville road, the night of August 7, by a jury in Davidson county superior court, which returned a verdict after deliberating for 27 minutes. Judge T. D. Bryson sentenced both men to die in the electric chair at the state prison between the hours of 5 a. m. and 4 p. m. on the ninth of October, next.

TWO KILLED IN AUTO WRECK

C. T. Wiggins and Lawrence Hilliard Met Instant Death When Machine Turns Over.

Henderson.—Two young men, C. L. Wiggins and Lawrence H. Hilliard, both of Novina, were killed almost instantly when their automobile in which they were riding overturned on the main highway from Henderson to Raleigh. The tragedy occurred twelve miles south of this city, less than a quarter of a mile north of the Tar river bridge. There is a very sharp curve in the road at the point where the automobile overturned. One theory is that the car probably skidded on the curve and after over a three-foot embankment into a field, where it encountered another shallow embankment thrown up by the river to prevent washing of the land and it was upon this, it is understood, that the machine overturned. Wiggins and Hilliard were both pinned beneath the wreckage and both were dead when found.

Both bodies were scarred and lacerated to some extent, but it is the belief that internal injuries caused death. Both bodies were still warm when discovered. The men were picked up and brought to a local undertaking establishment, where they were prepared for burial.

New School Building Ready.  
Franklin.—The first session in Franklin's handsome new school building, donated to the town by S. C. Vann, will begin on September 23rd and hundreds of people of this community who have watched with interest the growth of this building are expected to be present at the opening exercises. The doors of the building will be thrown open to the public for inspection.

The building, costing approximately \$300,000, occupies a site accessible both to the public and the community and is architecturally correct in every way. It is thoroughly fire-proof from top to bottom.

Making Good Raising Peppers.  
Santiago, N. H. Scabarozzi, an Italian, with his family, who purchased a farm near here, has marketed his first crop of peppers, a farm product in which he specializes. For weeks past this farmer could be seen day after day passing through town with his wagon loaded with hamper of peppers, these being shipped from here by rail to the north. The local market was supplied as well. These peppers were of excellent size and quality. Some 2,000 hampers have been shipped, and from the few acres this new citizen is reported to have cleared enough to pay for his entire tract, he has making a good living for his family.

Curruck Farmers Making Money.  
Elizabeth City.—Curruck farmers are making money. Already the sweet potato growers of Curruck county have received a market of \$175,000 for shipments made to the Northern market and the prospects are for continued high prices. As is usually the case when prices are high there is a shortage of sweet potatoes. The yield this year is not great and the acreage is not above normal if that high, but the farmers are making more money than they did two years ago.

Five Killed on Iredeff Farm.  
Statesville.—A singular co-incidence was recalled by former Sheriff J. M. Deaton, referring to the double homicide which occurred on the McKnight homestead, six miles east of Mooresville, on Wednesday evening, August 20, when Locke McKnight, landlord and Grover Statts, tenant, met each other in mortal combat. Five persons have been killed on the same farm and near the same spot within 17 years," said Sheriff Deaton, who added that it was in the year 1907, about this time of the year, that John Moore, colored, killed three other negroes, all tenants on the McKnight farm, then owned by the father of Locke McKnight. Mr. Deaton was at that time a deputy under Sheriff W. A. Summers, and he recalls that he joined a large number of citizens from that section of Iredeff and rode horseback for two days and nights without rest, but fruitless search for the alleged murderer.

Pictures and a minute description of the negro were sent out in circular form all over the United States, but no trace of the man could be found. After Mr. Deaton became sheriff of Iredeff county he made Locke McKnight a deputy and the two worked hard on the case, but they could never secure any clue as to the whereabouts of Moore.

GEOGRAPHY ALWAYS  
DEFIED BY FASHION

Flapper Ignoring Climate Shows Atavistic Trials.

Washington.—Another pet theory must be assigned to the rag bag along with grandmother's black bombazine. Just because Chicago's winter slush originated the unfashioned galoshes, or the water-logged marshes of Holland made Fritzke Dutchman take to wooden shoes, not all clothes arose from the necessity of protection against the weather, says a bulletin from the headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

In fact, fashion has nearly always defied geography and the flappers of F street or Broadway, in their chiffon bows and soft pumps in the midst of a January blast, or those who brave the Arctic rays of a July sun in furs, are simply displaying atavistic tendencies, for clothes were first worn in warm and semitropical countries.

Man first adorned himself in garments to parade his position or rank before less fortunate individuals, who were content and thoroughly modest in a G-string or a headband. Conceptions of modesty came along later with more highly civilized conditions.

With the donning of many garments to show rank there also grew up the idea of adapting the garments to the materials readily available. The Turkoman, for instance, probably likes his tall, shaggy sheepskin shako, but he also wears this variety of hat because it is one which the great plagues of Russian Central Asia easily afford. Current history nearly always has influenced the ornamentation of the body or of the costume, as typified by the sphinx caps worn by the later Egyptians and the Tut-Ankh-Amen and mah-jongg dresses in vogue within the last year or two.

The Climate is Ignored.

From a scientific standpoint, however, clothing and ornamentation of the body were the same in the beginning, and though climate, during civilized times, has had a marked influence on determining the weight and warmth of the clothing worn in various localities, we have one marked example today of the fact that climate and geography were not the determining factors in the evolution of dress. The Arabs, who live within or in the immediate vicinity of the torrid zone, swath themselves in heavy flaxen garments while the inhabitants of Tierra del Fuego, where the climate is cold, rainy and disagreeable, attach by cords across their bodies the skin of one animal which they shift from one side to the other with the direction of the wind.

In the early days when quantity of clothes meant rank and style, the desire "to keep up with the Joneses" probably led some individuals to wear so many garments that they were weakening and deteriorating, for Croesus, who was the Rock-efeller of his day, wrote at length on the vice which was overtaking some of his acquaintances in a letter to his friend Cyrus the Great of Persia.

One student of costumes of all ages has cleverly divided the development of clothing into two classes—the tropical, based on the girdle, and the Arctic, based on the trouser, but even those divisions have their complexities, for the trouser may have been a downward development of the waistband. The Greeks and Romans got a "kick" out of the fact that the northern barbarians against whom they fought wore trousers. It immediately became a new fad which they added to their fashion notes.

Some Women Wear Trousers.

But the girdle-trouser classification has some other confusing points—both the men and women wore them. This is still exemplified in the Eskimo and Chinese trousered women of today.

As countries developed and boundary lines became fixed, the national character of the peoples got busy on their costumes, and we find the Spaniard with a stiff ruff about his neck and broad wings on his doublet, the German with bizarre slashes on his coat and sleeves, the Dutchman in souther black, and the Venetian in long flowing garments. Out of such human frailties and foibles, mixed with national pride, speed with climate, and steamed with the imagination of modern modistes, were coaxed up the varied and picturesque costumes of the world today.

And even the men of America, who profess to dress comfortably to suit the weather, still show one lingering trace of the age-old heedlessness of climate. Though the sun is shining down with its sometime autumn relentlessness and the good straw which has served faithfully is still in its prime, September 15 is Fall-hat day. The Japanese men are just as bad. Summer comes in Japan on June 1, and on that day regardless of the temperature the Tokyo policeman bursts forth in all the glory of white coat and hat.

The Vlach of the Balkans also shows a similar disregard for climate in another way. In January, February, June and July he wears his heavy homespun garments, nor does he discard them at night. He shuts his windows to keep out the "dangerous" night air and rolls himself, clothes and all, in heavy blankets and sleeps. But he manifests a contrariness probably unsurpassed by men of any other clime. When caught away from home, this same salamander will sleep in the open on the side of one of his beloved mountains with only a rug to cover him.

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