

# Money to Burn

By Peter B. Kyne

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WNU Service

## THE STORY

Hiram Butterworth, miser, decides to leave his fortune to a nephew, Elmer Clarke. Butterworth tells his lawyer, Absolom McPeake, of having swindled a man out of \$40,000 forty years before, and arranges for payment with interest. Butterworth dies suddenly. The town of Pilareitos, including Elmer's sweetheart, Nellie Cathcart, learns of his inheritance before Elmer does. Colorado Charley, crook, and his partner, Mae, plan to pluck Elmer. Nellie wants Elmer to see more of the world before they marry. Unknown to Elmer, Nellie is heiress of the man Butterworth swindled.

## CHAPTER V—Continued

—11—

"Oh joy, oh joy, spring is here and I am so glad. How lovely to find somebody who can laugh, not to say sneer, at the Washingtonian wolves of finance! No charge for this advice. After all, I have some sporting blood and to prove it I shall even refrain from sending this telegram collect."

"Mac."

"Isn't Absolom McPeake a perfect dear?" Nellie soliloquized. "He has told me everything I want to know without telling Old Lady Bray anything."

She sat down at her typewriter and rattled off a letter of thanks to Absolom McPeake. Incidentally she informed him that her mother had been dead five years and seven months and that her estate had never been probated, for two very sufficient reasons. One, because she had nothing to probate, and two, because she had taken the precaution some two years before her demise from a lingering illness formally to give, assign, transfer and set over unto her daughter, Nellie Cathcart, all of the right, title and interest which she had inherited from her father in and to that certain mortgage and deficiency judgment, et cetera. Nellie opined that the statute of limitations in her case was in perfect working order and that even the wolves at Washington could not, by any possible interpretation of the federal income tax or federal inheritance tax laws, construe a gift as an inheritance under a will.

Nellie now figured the interest at 8 per cent annually, compounded semi-annually, on \$40,000 from August 10, 1882, to August 10, 1924. Having completed her computations, she was aware that in forty-two years her mother's gift had grown to be worth—oh, masterpiece of manipulation—exactly \$1,078,000.

The author of this tale has figured his sum twice, so he knows the figures are correct. Nellie knew that her figures were not the product of a disordered imagination; she knew that if Hiram Butterworth's estate could afford to pay her that sum, it would, under the definite terms of the will, have to pay her. There was room for neither legal quibble nor compromise.

Upon completing her computation Nellie went into the vault, ostensibly to put her cash away, but in reality to shed a few briny tears of sympathy for Elmer Butterworth Clarke. Presently she bucked up and her practical mind leaped to the problem of ascertaining approximately the sum that a rapacious and predatory government would bite out of Elmer's share of the estate. When she had made a fairly accurate if rough estimate of this, she wept again. Upon recovering her emotions she deducted a further sum which might reasonably include the funeral expenses of Uncle Hiram, the probate fees, the appraiser's fees and executor's fee, the specific bequest of ten thousand dollars, state and county taxes and ordinary debts of the estate. She was still further appalled at this total and wept a third time.

"Poor Elmer!" she sobbed. "To think that he was shot twice and gassed once fighting for his country, and now look what his country does to him! Oh, darling, darling, your poor dear head is going to be all bloody, but if you'll only keep it unbowed, how much more your sweetheart is going to love you!"

Before she emerged from the vault she remembered the joke which fate, in her case, had played on the wolves of Washington. She at least was going to get \$1,078,000 out of the wreck and the howls of the wolves would be sweet music to her ears. They couldn't touch her with a buggy whip—as Elmer would have expressed it. Let fate do its worst to Elmer Clarke! What did Nellie Cathcart care? When the tumult and the shouting died, when the smoke of battle drifted from the scene, it would reveal Little Faithful, smiling, happy and confident, the possessor of Elmer Clarke and a bank roll that a greyhound couldn't jump over.

## CHAPTER VI

Meanwhile Elmer Clarke's final period of service at the Smoke Shoppe was drawing to a close. During that two weeks one incident alone upthrust itself in Elmer's consciousness as a pleasant variation from the orderly procession of morning, noon and night.

On the third day following the great news, the editor of the Clarion fathered a thought truly bucolic. Remorse for the light manner in which he had once offended Elmer Clarke in his local brevities column now overtook him. What if Elmer should take a notion to back some smart metropolitan journalist in a new Pilareitos paper and run the Clarion out of business? Horrible! A vacancy occurring on the board of trustees of the Union high school at this time, the Clarion came out with an editorial blast in bold brevier with a three-column head, suggesting the election to the board of that sterling and distinguished citizen, Elmer Butterworth Clarke. The proponents of another candidate to the



Oh, Masterpiece of Manipulation!—Exactly \$1,078,000.

office, which was without salary, promptly pointed out the inadvisability of shattering an ancient and well-established custom of electing to the school board only those men and women who had demonstrated their fitness to superintend the education of the young by providing the community with young to educate.

In an indefinite and roundabout way Elmer sensed a covert slam in this. At any rate it aroused all of his newborn antagonism to provincialism. Egged on by his friends, he decided to demonstrate to Pilareitos that a young, unmarried man should, and would, function on that board or know the reason why. Immediately he announced himself as a candidate for the office.

Nellie was delighted, because this evidenced on Elmer's part a subconscious decision to continue to live in Pilareitos and grow up with the town. She advised him to conduct a furious campaign against the mossbacks of the community, to prove that he had its interests at heart as truly as did his opponent, Henry Tichenor, who was the father of twelve children. Indeed, in the midst of her subtle blandishments she suddenly conceived the idea of making Elmer the leading citizen of the county, if not of the state.

In one illuminating instant she caught a vision that caused her to tremble. As the sole proprietor of Elmer's place, she knew her man couldn't be elected town dog catcher, but as president of the Pilareitos Commercial Trust and Savings bank she could elect him mayor at the primary election. From mayor to the state legislature, from the state legislature to lieutenant governor, from that to governor, to congressman, to United States senator, to the Vice Presidency—to the White House!

"It's a big dream," she reflected, "but only those who have the ability to dream big dreams ever amount to anything. Just as easy to dream big dreams as little ones—and Ansel P. Moody has battened on this community long enough. Elmer is right. He's a pawnbroker, not a banker, and a banker should be the big man in any community. He should know better than any other man its needs, its aspirations and his duty toward it. When the time comes I'll tell Ansel P. Moody where he gets off. He'll sell his controlling interest in that bank to me at a fair price, or I'll start a new bank and run him and his competitor out of business in ten years."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Roadside Tests Friendship

With present-day traffic what it is, it's not so easy to live in a house by the side of the road and still be a friend to man.—Fort Wayne News Sentinel.

Improved Uniform International

# Sunday School Lesson

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## Lesson for July 12

### THE PREACHING OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON TEXT—Acts 3:11-13.  
GOLDEN TEXT—And now, Lord, hold back their threatenings, and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Peter Preaches a Sermon.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—Peter Preaching in Jerusalem.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Two Brave Preachers.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Apostolic Preaching.

#### I. Peter Preaching Before the Multitude (Acts 3:11-26).

1. The audience secured (v. 11). In appreciation of his healing the cured cripple took hold of Peter and John, calling attention to these men as his healers.

2. Disclaimed miracle-working power (v. 12). Though the miraculous healing of the cripple focused attention upon Peter and John, Peter immediately turned attention from himself to Christ.

3. Proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah (vv. 13-18). Pointing to the healed man, Peter declared that it was through faith in Jesus that this man was given "perfect soundness." He declared that the very one whom they had "delivered up," "denied in the presence of Pilate," "and killed," God had raised from the dead.

4. A call to repentance (vv. 19-21). Despite their aggravated crime in murdering the "Just and Holy One," Peter called upon them to repent, assuring them that their sins would be blotted out and that they would enjoy refreshing seasons.

5. Appeal to the Scriptures (vv. 22-26). The warnings and promises are based upon the words of Moses and the prophets.

#### II. Peter Preaching to the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-21).

1. Peter and John arrested (vv. 1-4). The healing of the lame man caused such a stir that the people flocked to see the man. Advantage was taken of this occasion to preach Jesus Christ to them. As a result of this preaching, five thousand believed. Such a following caused great alarm. The priests were intolerant because these new teachers were encroaching upon their ministerial functions. The Sadducees were angered to be told that the One whom they crucified had arisen from the dead and would appear again.

2. Peter and John on trial (vv. 5-12). This trial was before the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of the nation.

a. The inquiry (vv. 5-7). They asked, "By what power and what name have ye done this?" This inquiry admitted the reality of the miracle.

b. Peter's answer (vv. 8-12). Filled with the Holy Spirit, he replied to their question, showing them that he and John were not being tried as evildoers but for doing good to the needy man. He boldly declared that it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they had crucified, and God had raised from the dead, that this man stood before them whole. He further declared that there was no salvation save in the name of Jesus Christ.

3. The impression upon the Sanhedrin (vv. 13-22).

a. They marveled (v. 13). They saw that the behavior and words of Peter were as unusual as the miracle. They were made to feel that instead of sitting as judges they themselves were on trial.

b. They took knowledge that the apostles had been with Jesus (v. 13). c. Commanded not to speak in Christ's name (v. 18). Not being able to deny the miracle or gainsay the accusation which Peter brought against them, they attempted to intimidate him.

d. The reply of Peter and John (vv. 19, 20). They openly defied the Sanhedrin and expressed determination to disobey their command. Thus they repudiated the authority of the rulers of Israel and set the Church in a place of independence from the Jewish state.

e. Their release (v. 21). Having further threatened them, they let them go.

#### III. The Church at Prayer (Acts 4:23-31).

As soon as Peter and John were set free they hastened to their fellow disciples and rehearsed their experience. They turned to the Holy Scriptures for comfort and strength. They praised God for deliverance and prayed for boldness to speak his Word and that their testimony might be confirmed by signs. Their prayers were answered by the shaking of the place where they were assembled, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

# CAP AND BELLS



## NEW USE FOR CORKSCREWS

The veteran was on his favorite topic—his experiences as a soldier in all parts of the world.

"I remember the time when we were stationed near Babylon. The heat was terrible. Why, it was so hot we used to toast our bread in the sun, and—"

"Yes, I know," interrupted a bored listener, "and they supplied you with corkscrews to draw your breath."

## FIRST THOUGHTS



"Say, Auntie, are second thoughts best?"

"So we are told, my dear."

"Then why don't people have them first?"

## Transformation

Election's getting under way.  
That time of joy and sorrow  
That makes the "might-be" of today  
The "has-been" of the morrow.

## After the Wait

The very fussy housewife had kept the butcher a long time before she decided on her purchase.

"But," she said, after a five-minute inspection of a piece of meat, "I don't think this is lamb. I looks to me like mutton."

"I'm sorry, madam," the butcher replied, "but it was lamb when I first showed it to you."—Answers, London.

## In Half Mourning

"Hello, is that Jones?" asked a voice at one end of the telephone.

Jones said it was.

"Come and have a round of golf?" "I'm sorry," replied Jones, "but I'm afraid I can't. You see, I'm in half mourning."

"Oh!" dubiously from the other end. Then, brightly, "Oh, well, what about nine holes?"

## Club Chat

"What way did you come back from Florida?"

"My wife wired her father for funds."

## In Any Case

Poet—Recently I sent some poems with inclosed stamp for your approval.

Editor—I don't recollect the poems; however, I am sure we approved of the stamp.

## SLEEPLESSNESS



First Actor—How was it you did not rest very well in that last car of coal?

Second Actor—Er—it was egg coal.

## In Yellowstone

Hush, little Hot Spring.  
Don't you cry—  
You'll be a geyser  
Eye and bye!

## The Problem

College Girl—I'm trying to send a telegram to my boy friend, refusing him a date next Saturday night.

Another—Well, why the puzzled expression?

College Girl—How can I say "No" in 10 words?

## Of Course Not

"Clara's better looking now that she's had her face lifted."

"Yes, she isn't down in the mouth any more."

## AFTER WEAKENING SICKNESS

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For speedy and effective action Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" has no equal. One dose only will clean out worms. 50c. All druggists.



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## Sketches From the Clouds

A new invention takes a picture from an airplane and sends an exact facsimile by radio to a distant ground post in the space of a few minutes. During recent maneuvers at San Francisco, this new device was taken up in a plane. The pilot promptly spotted two submarines beneath the surface toward the harbor entrance. He made a sketch of the entire terrain, including the "subs" beneath the surface and flashed his own drawing and written instructions to an army base 80 miles away at Sacramento.

The entire operation may be done in five minutes. The apparatus consists of a sending device on the ground, and the matter of static, which so greatly interferes with radio reception, has no effect on this process. Accordingly, it is much more reliable than the usual radio communication.

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## Costly Forgetfulness

Lorenzo Salzar, of El Paso, Texas, is suffering from severe burns because his memory failed him. He washed his trousers in alcohol and, while they were yet damp, put them on. He went to smoke a cigarette, struck a match on the seat of his trousers and they burst into flames.

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