

THE FORTUNE HUNTER

Novelized by LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE From the Play of the Same Name by WINCHELL SMITH

Copyright, 1910, by Winchell Smith and Louis Joseph Vance CHAPTER XVII.

JOSIE LOCKWOOD came home again for the Easter holidays, but she didn't return to finish her term in the New York school—just why we never discovered. The Lockwoods furnished us with no really satisfying explanation. They said that Josie didn't like New York, but I've always doubted that, especially since Josie married and insisted on moving straight away to that metropolis. I suspect she didn't get along with the class of young women with whom she was thrown at school, and I'm pretty certain she was uneasy about Nat all the time she was so far away from him.

It was during this period, between the Easter vacation and the end of the spring school term, that Roland Barnett's animosity toward Duncan became virulent.

Josie, of course, was prompt to oust Angie Tutill from her place in the choir. After that she sang with Nat on Friday nights as well as Wednesday and twice per Sunday. Between whiles she was a pretty constant patron of the store. There was no longer the least doubt in the collective mind of the town as to the inclination of Josie's affections.

The culmination came a day before Betty was to return—a day late in May, I remember, and a Friday at that.

It began along toward evening. Duncan, alone in the store, was busy behind the prescription counter. Absorbed with his task, he thought himself quite alone until a well-kenned voice reached his ear.

"Well!" it said, unctuous with appreciation of the sight of him. "Old Dr. Duncan!"

He let the pestle fall from his hand and jumped as if he had been struck with a pin. His jaw dropped and his eyes bulged. "Great Scott!" he cried and in a twinkling was round the counter, throwing himself into the arms of a man whom he hailed ecstatically. "Harry, by all that's wonderful!" He fairly danced with delight. "Henry Kellogg, Esquire!" he cried.

"Not she. She'd eat out of my hand if I'd let her. You don't understand."

"What's the matter, then? Aren't you strong for her?"

"I wish I were."

"But why? Is there another?"

"No." Nat shook his head, honestly believing he was telling the truth. "Only I don't look at things the way I did once."

"Just what do you mean by that?"

Nat, squaring himself to face Kellogg, was very serious now and troubled. "See here, Harry," he said, "do you really want me to carry out the rest of the agreement?"

"Most certainly I do. Why not?"

"Because I'm pretty well fixed here. The business is making good, and so am I. It won't be long before I can pay you back, with interest, as we agreed, without having to marry that poor girl and draw on her money to make good to you."

"You want to go back on your agreement?" demanded Kellogg, with a show of disappointment and disgust.

"Yes and no. I won't break faith with you, if you insist, but I'd give a lot if you'd let me off—let me pay back what you advanced and cry quits. When you outlined this scheme I was down and three times out, willing to take a chance at anything, no matter how contemptible. Now—well, it's different."

"Good heavens! You don't mean you'd be willing to live here?"

Nat smiled, but not mirthfully. "I don't know," he hesitated, "I'm afraid I'm beginning to like it."

"You, Nat?" Kellogg's amazement was unfeigned. "You ready to spend your life here slaving away in this measly store?"

Duncan granted indignantly. "Hold on, now. Don't you call this a measly store. There isn't a more complete drug store in the state."

"Do you hear that?" Kellogg appealed vehemently to the universe at large. "Is it possible that this is Nat Duncan, the fellow who hated work so hard he couldn't earn a living? Gad, I believe I've arrived just in time!"

"In time for what?"

"To save you from yourself, old man. Here's the hellish you came here to cop out, ready and anxious, everything else coming your way, and—and you're more than half inclined to back out. You make me tired."



JOSIE WAS UNEASY ABOUT NAT WHILE SHE WAS AWAY.

the scheme working out? Are you really living up to all the rules?"

"Every singletary one."

"You have got a strong constitution. Even prayer meetings?"

"The church thing? Honest, Harry, I own it."

"Bully for you, Nat! But how does it work? Was I right?"

"I should say you were. It's so easy it's a shame to do it. If this thing ever should get into the papers there'd be a swarm of city men lighting out for the country so thick you wouldn't be able to see the sky."

"I knew it! Trust your Uncle Harry." Kellogg waited a time for further particulars, but Duncan seemed stuck. "And you've been a strong play for the fond affections of Lockwood's daughter?"

"Certainly not!"

"Not?"

"You forget your rules." Nat grinned, whimsical. "I let her to make a play for me."

"Of course. My mistake. But how has it worked?"

"Oh, immense." Duncan's tone, however, was wholly destitute of enthusiasm. He struck his hands in his trousers pockets and half turned away from his friend, looking out of the window.

Kellogg smiled secretly. "You mean you've won her already? Then you're engaged?" Kellogg had understood perfectly, you see.

"No, not yet. I've got two months left—almost."

"So you have. And since she's so strong for you there's no hurry. Let her take her time."

"I only wish she would." Duncan removed one hand from the pocket the better to tug at his mustache. It's got beyond that—to the point where I have to keep dodging her."

"You don't mean it! That's splendid." Kellogg got up and slapped Nat's shoulder heartily. "But don't overdo the dodging. She might get her back up."

"Not she. She'd eat out of my hand if I'd let her. You don't understand."

"What's the matter, then? Aren't you strong for her?"

"I wish I were."

"But why? Is there another?"

"No." Nat shook his head, honestly believing he was telling the truth. "Only I don't look at things the way I did once."

"Just what do you mean by that?"

Nat, squaring himself to face Kellogg, was very serious now and troubled. "See here, Harry," he said, "do you really want me to carry out the rest of the agreement?"

"Most certainly I do. Why not?"

"Because I'm pretty well fixed here. The business is making good, and so am I. It won't be long before I can pay you back, with interest, as we agreed, without having to marry that poor girl and draw on her money to make good to you."

of some service to people who were worth it?"

"Who? Sam Graham?"

"Yes and his daughter."

"Oh, his daughter?"

"No, not that foolish idea out of your head. There's nothing in it. Betty's just a simple, sweet little girl who's had a pretty hard time and never a real chance in life—until I managed to give it to her. And I'd feel pretty good about that if—Oh, there's no time for that to you!"

"No go on. You're very entertaining." Kellogg laughed mockingly.

"Well, I have tried to keep to the terms of our understanding. I slugged out this Lockwood girl and worked all the degrees—didn't say much, you know—no lovelacing—just let her catch me looking sadly at her once in a while."

"That's the way to work it."

"Yes, that's the way." Nat assented gloomily.

Kellogg laughed with delight. "Nat," he cried, "my poor crazy friend, listen to me. This working and church-going and helping old Graham is all very noble and fine, and I'm glad you've done it. This drug store is a monument to the business ability that I always knew was latent in you. And clean living hasn't done you any harm. But now you're due to come down to earth. This place pays you a neat profit. Well and good. That's all I'll ever do. It's new to you now, and you like the novelty, and you're having the time of your life finding out you're good for something. But pretty soon it'll begin to strike you, and before long you'll find yourself hating it and the town, and then you'll be back where you started. Now, I'm going to hold you to your bargain for your own sake. If you're stuck on the town and the work you can keep right on just as well after you're married, but when you do begin to tire of it you'll want that fortune to fall back



"OH, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, NAT."

on and do what you like with. Don't let this chance slip—not on your life!"

"But," Nat argued feebly, "think of the injustice to the girl. From the way I've behaved since I struck this burg she thinks I'm closely related to the saints."

"Very well, then; I'll concede a point. If you really think you're taking a mean advantage of her, when she proposes to you tell her all about yourself. An informal handshaking and personal greeting."

"Refreshments served by the ladies."

"Thank you for nothing," said Duncan bitterly. "A bargain's a bargain. I gave you my word of honor I'd go through with this thing, and I'll stick to it. But I tell you I don't like it."

"Oh, I know how you feel, Nat. But I know that some day you'll come to me and say, 'Harry, if you had let me back out I'd never have forgiven you.'"

"All right," said Nat impatiently. "I presume you know best."

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Br'er Groundhog—am he a liar, or amn't he?

MIAMI AND ITS BEAUTY

Mr. W. P. Lester, city ticket agent for the Southern Railroad, has returned from a trip to Miami, Fla. Mr. Lester in talking of his trip said: "Passing through St. Augustine, Ormond Beach, Palm Beach, and spending five days at Miami, At St. Augustine we touched the edge of the Orange section. The trees are hanging full. At Palm Beach we reach the beautiful scenery of the hotels, 'The Royal Palm' at Palm Beach surrounded by green grass and beautiful flowers. Royal palm trees, Australian pines and coconut trees make a picture no artist can paint."

"Miami, only 15 years old, with a population of 15,000 people, and the some beautiful hotel scenery has the bay on one side and the river on the other, makes a beautiful picture. The streets are made by crushing the white lime rock and covering some with water forms a soft cement street or side walk—pretty and white. Such a thing as mud is not known. The rules of the town are excellent. The colored people have to live on one side of the town. They have their drug stores and picture shows. They are not allowed on the streets after six o'clock unless on business. They also have nice banks; also a few bar rooms but nobody is allowed to get drunk. In a whole week there I did not see a single drunk man."

"Miami is a fine fishing resort, and bathing in the year round. The day that was so cold and snowy in Charlotte I went in surf bathing. I didn't have very much luck fishing. I only caught four, which weighed about two pounds each, but saw three shark measuring about eight feet in length. After they catch these large fish they have to shoot them before they bring them to the shore."

"I also visited the orange and grape fruit groves. One particular grove, owned by Count La June, about six miles from Miami is beautiful. This count was in the banking business in Paris, but on account of a duel had to leave and can't return to his country. He owns about 100 acres of grape fruit and oranges. Up to the present time he has sold about twenty thousand dollars worth of fruit. He has one orange tree that was brought from Italy. It is called the 'Pineapple orange'—the sweetest I ever tasted."

"It is impossible to describe the country with the beautiful white roads of the same lime rock. There are no hills at all. I didn't have time to visit the Everglades or the alligator farms. I hope on my next trip I can spend at least a month. I will certainly spend it in Miami—the town—no words can describe its beauty. Everybody who visits Florida should see this beautiful town."

Reunion and Social At N. Char. Church

There will be a grand reunion and church social at the North Charlotte Baptist church Saturday night at which will be representatives of every Baptist church in Charlotte. An attractive program has been arranged containing addresses of importance by the various Baptist ministers of the city after which refreshment will be served. The ladies of the North Charlotte Baptist church have charge of refreshments.

The following program is arranged for the occasion:

Opening Exercises and Music by Greater Charlotte Band. Word of Welcome, by the pastor. Music.

An address by Dr. E. E. Bomar, "The Obligations of Church Membership, or Does Jesus Expect all of His Followers to be Active Christians?"

Music. An address by Rev. R. L. Pruett, "What are Some of the Encouragements Given us to Work for Our Lord?"

Music. An address by Rev. J. R. Pace, "Cotton Mill Work—Its Difficulties and How to Meet Them."

Music. An address by Rev. J. C. Gillespie, "How to Secure and Maintain Regular Attendance Upon Church Service."

Music. An address by Dr. H. H. Hulsten, "Encouragement of Missions."

Music. An informal handshaking and personal greeting.

Refreshments served by the ladies.

Aycock and Clark Are Indignant

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 28.—Ex-Governor Chas. B. Aycock and Chief Justice Walter Clark and their respective supporters for the United States Senate, express considerable indignation at what they charge seems to be concerted disposition on the part of Governor Kitchin and Senator F. M. Simmons to ignore the fact that they are in the race for the senate as well as the governor and the Senior Senator, who is making the fight for re-election for a third term. Ex-Governor Aycock says the fact both Kitchin and Simmons realize that there are one hundred thousand or more voters in North Carolina disposed to vote for neither of the two and that the effect is to make such a noise of a strictly Simmons-Kitchin contest as that other candidates will not be considered.

Governor Aycock says he will make his initial speech in his campaign for the senate here in the auditorium about April 1. Chief Justice Clark will not make a campaign of speech-making to any extent, but will have strong speakers in the field in his interest. Both are making considerable headway as the bitterness of the Kitchin-Simmons fight is developing.

SHERIFF OF RICHMOND COUNTY DIES SUDDENLY. Special to The News. Rockingham, N. C., Feb. 28.—Sheriff M. L. Hinson, of this county died yesterday morning at six o'clock of heart failure after suffering intensely all during the night and had all the medical skill that could be rendered but to no avail. He was perfectly rational until the end came. No funeral arrangements have been made as yet.

News' Contest

How Votes Will Be Used.

Besides votes issued on subscriptions a coupon good for a certain number of votes will be published in each issue of The News, unless otherwise notified. The date within which each will be counted will be limited and the coupon must be in the office of The News before the expiration of the date printed thereon.

Candidates are not restricted to getting subscriptions of votes in their own particular district but may secure subscriptions anywhere in the United States or foreign countries, and if cash accompanies the order, votes shall be issued on it in accordance with the scale published below.

Candidates in one district are not competing with candidates in other districts, only in the instance of the grand prizes.

The division of districts as shown herewith so equalizes the competition that every candidate has an equal chance to win a grand prize.

Division of Districts. For the purpose of this contest, the states of North and South Carolina have been divided into four districts as follows:

District 1. All territory in Charlotte and Mecklenburg county.

District 2. Counties of Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, Lincoln, Catawba, Burke, McDowell and Caldwell and adjacent territory in Western North Carolina.

District 3. Counties of Cabarrus, Iredell, Alexander, Davie, Rowan, Stanley, Davidson, Randolph, Montgomery and adjacent North Carolina territory north and east.

District 4. Counties of Union, Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Robeson and all of South Carolina.

Awarding of Prizes. The judges of the finish of this contest will be guided by the following rules:

First Grand Prize—The man or woman having the greatest number of votes at the close of the contest, regardless of district, will be awarded a White Steamer, Model O. Value, \$2,000.

Second Grand Prize—The man or woman having the second greatest number of votes at the close of the contest, regardless of district, will be awarded a Buick five-passenger Touring Car, fully equipped. Value, \$1,100.

District Prize No. 1—After the grand prizes have been awarded, the two candidates standing highest in any two districts will be awarded a \$350.00 piano, and the two candidates standing next highest in the two remaining districts will be awarded a \$300.00 piano each.

District Prize No. 2—The candidates standing next highest in each of the four districts will be awarded a \$100.00 furniture outfit.

District Prize No. 3—The candidate standing next highest in each of the four districts will be awarded a \$50.00 bank account.

District Prize No. 4—The candidate standing next highest in each of the four districts will be awarded a \$25.00 gold watch.

District Prize No. 5—The candidates standing next highest in each of the four districts will be awarded a \$12.50 jewelry credit.

Scale of Votes. Votes will be issued on paid-in-advance subscriptions to The Charlotte News as follows:

Subscription Price: \$12.00 Two Years36,000 \$ 6.00 One Year12,000 \$ 3.00 Six Months6,000 \$ 1.50 Three Months2,000 Daily Only.

Subscription Price: \$10.00 Two Years30,000 \$ 5.00 One Year15,000 \$ 2.50 Six Months7,500 \$ 1.25 Three Months2,500 Sunday Only.

Subscription Price: \$4.00 Two Years9,000 \$2.00 One Year4,500 \$1.00 Six Months2,250 Semi-Weekly (Times-Democrat.)

Subscription Price: \$2.00 Two Years3,000 \$1.00 One Year1,500 This scale of votes will apply to all subscriptions whether they are old or new.

Votes issued to one candidate can not be changed to the credit of another. No vote will be issued on payments other than those scheduled.

In case of a tie the value of the prize will be equally divided.

Why She Left. Minerva sprang from the brow of Jove. "He parted his hair in the middle," she exclaimed. Therefore none wondered why she did not stay.—Harper's Bazaar.

ARE EVER AT WAR. There are two things everlastingly at war, joy and piles. But Bucklen's Arnica Salve will banish piles in any form. It soon subdues the itching irritation, inflammation or swelling. It gives comfort, invites joy. Greatest healer of burns, boils, ulcers, cuts, bruises, eczema, scalds, pimples, skin eruptions. Only 25c. W. L. Hand & Co.

About the only man who can dictate to his wife is the fellow who marries his stenographer—and then he can't!

Auto Tires

REPAIRED, VULCANIZED, RECOVERED. Inner Tubes Vamanted. We guarantee they will never leak while we vulcanize them. First puncture 25 cents. Second puncture 35 cents. Third puncture 35 cents. All sizes new tires carried in stock.

Realy Mfg Co 221 and 233 S. Tryon St.

CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of The Kind You Have Always Bought In Use For Over 30 Years.



ARIZONA'S GOVERNOR. Governor George W. Hunt, who was inaugurated the first governor of the new state of Arizona on February 14th. Governor Hunt in his inaugural address promised the citizens of his state a "golden rule" administration.

In praising the things mother used to make, don't forget how father used to kick about them.

S. A. L. Ry.

SCHEDULE. JAMES KER, JR., T. P. A. Selwyn Hotel. J. B. WYLLIE, T. A. Selwyn Hotel. Charlotte, N. C. Trains Leave Charlotte—Effective Nov. 24, 1911. January 2, 1912. NO. 49—5:00 a. m., through train to Wilmington with parlor car attached. Connects at Hamlet with No. 33 for Portsmouth and Norfolk. No. 66 for Raleigh, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Dining car service and vestibule coaches to Washington. No. 24, Pullman sleeping cars to Jersey City. NO. 48—7:30 a. m. for Monroe, connecting to all points south. NO. 132—10:10 a. m.—Local for Lenoir, Sebelly and Rutherfordton. NO. 47—4:45 p. m.—For Lenoir, Sebelly, Rutherfordton and points West. NO. 44—5 p. m.—For Wilmington and all local stations. NO. 132—7:25 p. m.—Handles local sleeper to Portsmouth, Norfolk, connects at Monroe with No. 48 for Atlanta and Southaven. No. 48 through sleeper to Birmingham. No. 48—11:00 p. m.—Pullman sleeping to Portsmouth and Norfolk and Jersey City. Connects at Hamlet with No. 24, Pullman through vestibule coaches to Washington. Dining car Richmond to New York. Pullman sleepers to New York. Trains Arrive at Charlotte. NO. 136—10:10 A. M. from the East. NO. 45—12:10 P. M. from the East. NO. 46—10:05 A. M. from the West. NO. 132—7:05 P. M. from the West. NO. 43—7:25 P. M. from the East. NO. 32—11:00 P. M. from the East. C. B. RYAN, G. P. A. Portsmouth, Va. T. P. A. Charlotte, N. C. H. S. LEARD, D. P. A. Raleigh, N. C.



Monitor Radiator

tells us "I am heating seven rooms with the amount of coal I would ordinarily consume in one grate" (See the space heated on the same coal consumption.) He is just one of the many pleased users of this wonderful stove, that are doing likewise.

THE FIVE RADIATING FRONT FLUES is what does the work. No other stove has them. Let us show you.

J. N. McCausland & Company "THE STOVE MEN" 221 South Tryon Street

Nomination Coupon

To enter the contest fill out this coupon and send to The News Contest Department. Each contestant is entitled to one Nomination, good for 1000 Votes.

In The Charlotte News' Great Automobile Contest. I hereby nominate Mr., Mrs. or Miss. Street No. District No. Postoffice. State. Signed. Address. Profession. Date. Only one nomination will be credited to each contestant. Under no circumstances will the name of nominator be divulged.



"THOUGHT I'D DROP OFF FOR A NIGHT."

holding him at arms' length and looking him over. "What in thunder are you doing here?"

"On my way to Cincinnati on business. Thought I'd drop off for a night and size you up. How are you?"

"Me? Look at me—picture of health. Harry, you've made a new man of me." Duncan pranced round his friend in a mild frenzy. "No booze, no smokes, no swears—work! I feel like a two-year-old. I could do a Marathon without turning a hair. Watch me kick up my heels and neigh! And listen!" Nat crowed. "I'm a business man. Didn't you believe it? Pipe my shop!"

Kellogg turned to obey the admonition of Duncan's gesticulations and took a long look round the store. "Gad!" said he. "I'm blowed if it isn't true! It was hard to credit your letters. But it's great, old man. I congratulate you with all my heart."

"Just wait and I'll tell you all about it. You'll see how new you're going to be here."

"Well, I plan to hang around with you a couple of days. My business in the west isn't pressing."

"Good! I wrote you about taking a new place for the Gramhams?"

"Yes, and I'm mighty keen to meet 'em. The girl here?"

"Betty? No; she's coming home tomorrow. But Graham himself is upstairs in the laboratory. Take you up in a minute, but not before I've had a good look at you."

Thin, Feeble and Under-Fed

people need more coal, clothes and doctors than the strong, robust and hearty.

Scott's Emulsion

saves coal bills, tailors' bills and doctors' bills.

ALL DRUGGISTS