

THE LEGEND OF HANGING ROCK

(By E. C. S.)

From the lower regions came the determined clang of pewter upon steel, Ellen's call to meals. The Colonel arose heavily and entered the pride of his new building, a kitchen built around a natural spring, the beginning of the stone house which was to be both home and fortress. A yeasty smell greeted him, and his appetite responded to the swell of his heart as he silently thanked God for a woman who could make rolls in the wilderness, and for a daughter whose sight took some of the pain from his loneliness.

Awkwardly he patted Ellen's shoulder as she stooped to take with a light laugh that easily turned the embarrassment of the moment, "shall have the little leaves, and a hunk of the new siding with them. And ... and corn bread, fried." She finished triumphantly.

The Colonel chuckled happily and dished out hunks of deer meat. Life was good and spring-time would see the beginning of a new goodness.

Ellen's bare toes recoiled in horror from the slithering coldness, and she stood transfixed in fear paralysis as the snake, with whirring rattles, worked its coils into the heap from which it could launch its attack. Her gaze was riveted upon its sinister head and dully she stared at the scales which covered its eyes while through her brain coursed the warning of her father: "Don't mess with a rattler in the

spring while he's shedding and blind. He's mean." Mean, mean, mean...the word ran like a shudder through her frame and in her brain paralysed the cells which, acting, could have carried her to safety. Mean, mean, mean, and the swaying head lifted and drew back in the instant for the strike.

A noise, (or was it a noise?), behind her, and the writhing coils of the monster struggled and whipped the ground in a vain effort to loose the ugly head from the trunk of the oak where it was transfixed with an arrow. The buttons of the mangy tail struck her bare foot and broke the spell. Hand to mouth, Ellen sought to bring out the scream which might have released her stiff throat. It would not come. She dropped in a heap, crumpled on the ground where the coils slowly writhed. Dimly she felt hands pulling at her shoulders.

Returning consciousness brought embarrassment. An Indian youth sat on his heels before her; black eyes peered unblinking into her own as she struggled to sit. Involuntarily her hand flew to her mouth.

"No fear. Snake he gone." Surprise got the better of fear.

"You, you speak English?" Even to the distraught Ellen the question seemed insane under the circumstances. But the youth was unmoved.

"The brother of my father rules my people in the land of the Big Waters. He taught me to speak the tongue"

Gravely the youth spoke, and gravely he sat, holding her eyes with his own. Ellen leaned back upon her hands to support her weak body, and found nothing to

say. They sat thus, girl and youth, fair skin and red, black eyes and grey, for minutes. Time stopped as youth regarded youth and knew no difference for the moment in skins or parentage.

Strangely, it was the Indian who broke the spell. Without a word, scarcely with a motion, it seemed, he was standing over her. He made no motion to help her arise. His right hand raised swiftly, palm outward, in the salute of his fathers, and he turned into the forest. Ellen came to her senses and called and scrambled to her feet in the same instant.

The youth turned at the call, and waited. Ellen, patrician that she was, waited also for the male to come to her. Gravely they regarded each other under the trees. Strangely again, it was the youth who had been trained to accept the services of his womankind, who broke the tension maiden.

Involuntarily Ellen put her hands upon his upper arms in earnestness.

"You saved my life," she said, unafraid in her gratitude to meet the startling directness of the black eyes which never wavered.

"I am very grateful. If you will come to the house of my father he, too, will thank you, and give you...." she faltered as the black eyes changed, changed so slightly that it might have been her imagination. Then suddenly they dropped before her gaze, and she drew back, confused, and dropped her hands from his arms. For a moment he stared at his right arm where her hand had been, then at the left where a faint indentation marked her fingerprints.

(To be continued.)

Know Your Language

By C. L. Bushnell

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"BUNKUM" and the shorter word "bunk" both derive from Buncombe, the name of a county in North Carolina. During a famous debate in Congress many years ago the representative for the district insisted on making a rambling speech when the House was impatiently waiting for an opportunity to vote. The speaker explained his insistence by saying the people of his district expected it of him; so he was bound "to make a speech for Buncombe."

Do not say, "That is an entirely different matter than the one you have in mind." "Than" indicates a comparison. Distinction or separation is indicated by "from." Say, "That is an entirely different matter from the one you have in mind."



TO SELL 'EM, TELL 'EM - With An Ad

Hints For Motorists

By Joseph R. Rollins
The Atlantic Refining Company

PETROLEUM and automotive engineers figure that the average car depreciates a cent and a quarter for every mile it is driven, but this depreciation can be slowed down or speeded up according to the care and attention the car receives. Regular, scientific lubrication will retard depreciation; neglect of lubrication will hasten it.

Don't try to save gasoline by coasting down hill with the ignition turned off. If your gear shift is neutral you can't stop or pick up speed as quickly as you might have to to escape an accident. If the car is in gear you are using gasoline anyway, and you may have a dangerous backfire when you turn the ignition on.

Brakes that squeal and squeak should be given immediate attention, for the chances are the cause is worn brake linings with consequent metal to metal contact between the drum and the lining rivets. It doesn't take much of this to damage the drum to the point where the cost of repairs will be far greater than the cost of promptly retinning the shoes.

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