



### WHISPERFOOT.

Synopsis .-- Warned by his physician that he has not more than six months to live, Dan Failing sits despondently on a park bench, wondering where he should spend those six months. Memories of his grandfather and a deep love for all things of the wild help him in reaching a decision. In a large southern Oregon city he meets people who had known and loved his grandfather, a famous frontiersman. He makes his home with Silas Lennox, a typical westerner. The only other members of the household are Lennox's son, "Bill," and daughter, "Snowbird." Their abode is in the Umpqua divide, and there Failing plans to live out the short span of life which he has been told is his. From the first Failing's health shows a marked improvement, and in the companionship of Lennox and his son and daughter he fits into the woods life as if he had been born to it. By quick thinking and a remarkable display of "nerve" he saves Lennox's life and his own when they are attacked by a mad coyote. Lennox declares he is a reincarnation of his grandfather, Dan Failing I, whose fame as a woodsman is a household word. Dan learns that an organized band of outlaws, of which Bert Cranston is the ader, is setting forest fires. Lan dry Hildreth, a former member of the gang, has been induced to turn state's evidence. Cranston shoots Hildreth and leaves him for dead.

Shortly after nine o'clock, Whisperfoot encountered his first herd of deer. But they caught his scent and scattered before he could get up to them. He met Woof, grunting through the underbrush, and he punctiliously, but with wretched spirit, left the trail. A

CHAPTER II.

fight with Woof the bear was one of the most unpleasant experiences that could be imagined. He had a pair of strong arms of which one embrace of a cougar's body meant death in one long shriek of pain. Of course they didn't fight often. They had entirely opposite interests. The bear was a berry-eater and a honey-grubber, and the cougar cared too much for his own life and beauty to tackle Woof in a hunting way.

A fawn leaped from the thicket in front of him, startled by his sound in the thicket. The truth was, Whisperfoot had made a wholly unjustified misstep on a dry twig, just at the crucial moment. Perhaps it was the fault of Woof, whose presence had driven Whisperfoot from the trail, and perhaps because old age and stiffness was coming upon him. But herd to which the doe must have beneither of these facts appeased his anger. He could scarcely suppress snarl of fury and disappointment. He continued along the ridge, still stealing, still alert, but his anger increasing with every moment. The fact that he had to leave the trail again to permit still another animal to pass, and a particularly insignificant one too, didn't make him feel any better. This animal had a number of curious stripes along his back, and usually did nothing more desperate than steal eggs and eat bird fledglings. Whisperfoot could have crushed him with one bite, but this was one thing that the great cat, as long as he lived, would

describe, as the far-off reports of a rifle. Just today Blacktail had seen his doe fall bleeding when this same sound, only louder, spoke from a covert from which Bert Cranston had poached her-and he left the lick in one bound.

Terrified though he was by the rifle shot, still Whisperfoot sprang. But the distance was too far. His outstretched paw hummed down four feet behind Blacktail's flank. Then forgetting everything but his anger and disappointment, the great cougar opened his mouth and howled.

The long night was almost done when he got sight of further game. Once a flock of grouse exploded with a roar of wings from a thicket; but they had been wakened by the first whisper of dawn in the wind, and he really had no chance at them. Soon after this, the moon set.

The larger creatures of the forest are almost as helpless in absolute darkness as human beings. It is very well to talk of seeing in the dark, but from the nature of things, even vertical pupils may only respond to light. No owl or bat can see in absolute darkness. It became increasingly likely that Whisperfoot would have to retire to his lair without any meal whatever.

But still he remained, hoping against hope. After a futile fifteen minutes of watching a trail, he heard a doe feeding on a hillside. Its footfall was not so heavy as the sturdy tramp of a buck, and besides, the bucks would be higher on the ridges this time of morning. He began a cautious advance toward it.

For the first fifty yards the hunt was in his favor. He came up wind, and the brush made a perfect cover. But the doe unfortunately was standing a full twenty yards farther, in an open glade. Under ordinary circumstances, Whisperfoot would not have made an attack. A cougar can run swiftly, but a deer is light itself. The big cat would have preferred to inger, a motionless thing in the chickets, hoping some other member of the deer longed would come into his ambush. But the hunt wat: late, and Whisperfoot was very, very angry. Too many times this night he had missed his kill. In desperation, he leaped from the thicket and charged the deer.

At a Cost of \$5,600 it is Found That County Treasurer Made a Mistake of 33 Cents in Four Years.

Fayetteville.-It cost Cumberland county \$5,600 to find out that its county treasurer made a mistake of thirtyeight cents in four years. Also to learn that the county owes the clerk of the court \$218.90 and the sheriff \$234.94. These are outstanding facts revealed by the audit of the county officers' books under an act of the special session of the legislature.

The total liabilities of the county are shown to be \$916,549.11, with funds surplus of \$563,048. The total assets are \$1,479,079.23.

Charlotte .- A large rally will be held at the city auditorium for farmers and business men Monday morning, January 17, under the auspices of the American Cotton association, for the purpose of beginning a drive for stock in the American Products Export and Import corporation.

Ex-Gov. Richard I. Manning, of South Carolina, will be one of the speakers. Mr. Manning is president of the corporation.

Rocky Mount.-Creation of an aldermanic purchasing committee, instructions to the mayor to advise the county representatives in the legislature to secure permission from that body for the city to sell \$160,000 gas improvement and construction bonds as low as 95, and the selection of Mr. J. L. Suiter to succeed Mr. J. L. Horne, Jr., resigned, as alderman from the first ward were the outstanding features of the regular ses-

Durham.-More than 40 Durham Shrine:s met in the local chamber of commerce rooms and organized the Durham Shrine club.

sion of the board.

The Shriners are planning for



Effectively Employed, They Are of Immense Importance in Improving Appearance of House.

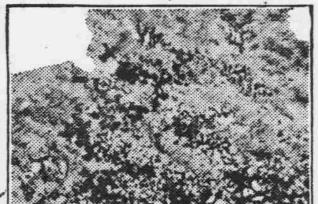
USE OF TREES AND SHRUBS

It sometimes happens that barns are necessarily of greater size than the dwelling, and so have the appearance of being more important. Yet



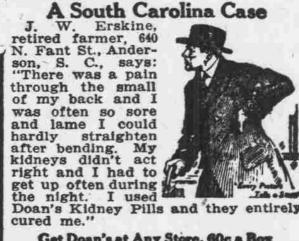
### Unsightly Barns.

the building of chief importance always is the home. That fact can be made plain by manifesting special regard for the appearance of the house. Trees and shrubs will hide the encroaching but necessary service buildings and emphasize the true center

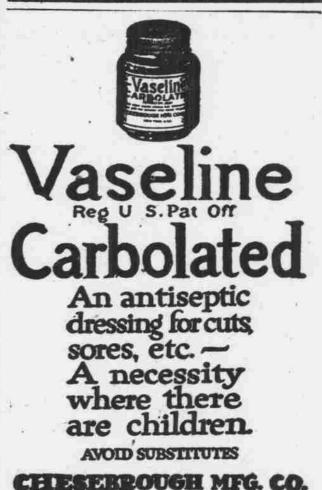


# Feel All Worn Out

Has a cold, grip, or other infectious disease sapped your strength? Do you suffer backache, lack ambition, feel dull and depressed? Look to your kidneys! Physicians agree that kidney trouble often results from infectious disease. Too often the kidneys are neglected because the sufferer doesn't realize they have broken down under the strain of filtering disease-created poisons from the blood. If your back is bad, your kidneys act irregularly, and you feel all run down, use Doan's Kidney Pills. Doan's have helped thousands. Ask your neighbor!







## CHAPTER I-Continued. -8-

For when all thiugs are said and done, there were few bigger cowards In the whole wilderness world than Whisperfoot. A good many people think that Graycoat the coyote could take lessons from him in this respect. But others, knowing how a hunter is brought in occasionally with almost all human resemblance gone from him because a cougar charged in his death agony, think this is unfair to the larger animal. And it is true that a full-grown cougar will sometimes attack horned cattle, something that no American animal cares to do unless he wants a good fight on his paws and of which the very thought would throw Graycoat into a spasm; and there have been even stranger stories, if one could quite believe them. A certain measure of respect must be extended to any animal that will hunt the great bull elk, for to miss the stroke and get caught beneath the churning, lashing, slashing, razor-edged front hoofs is simply death, painful and without delay. But the difficulty lies in the fact that these things are not done in the ordinary, rational blood of hunting. What an animal does in its death agony, or to protect its young, what great game it follows in the starving times of winter, can be put to neither its debit nor its credit. A coyote will charge when mad. A raccoon will put up a wicked fight when cornered. A hen will peck at the hand that robs her nest. When hunting was fairly good, Whisperfoot avoided the elk and steer almost as punctiliously as he avoided men, which is saying very much indeed; and any kind of terrier could usually drive him straight up a tree.

But he did like to pretend to be very great and terrible among the smaller forest creatures. And he was Fear itself to the deer. A human hunter who would kill two deer a week for fifty-two weeks would be called a much uglier name than poacher; but yet this had been Whisperfoot's record, on and off, ever since his second year. Many a great buck wore the scar of the full stroke-after which Whisperfoot had lost his hold. Many a fawn had crouched panting with terror in the thickets at



A Full Twenty Yards Farther.

never try to do. He got out of the way politely when Stripe-back was still a quarter of a mile away; which was quite a compliment to the little animal's ability to introduce himself. Stripe-back was familiarly known as a skunk.

Shortly after ten, the mountain lion had a remarkably fine chance at a buck. The direction of the wind, the trees, the thickets and the light were just a tawny light on the gnarled limb | all in his favor. It was old Blacktail, of a pine. Many a doe would grow | wallowing in the salt lick; and Whis-

In spite of the preponderant odds against him, the charge was almost a success. He went fully half the distance between them before the deer perceived him. Then she leaped. There seemed to be no interlude of time between the instant that she beheld the dim, tawny figure in the air and that in which her long legs pushed out in a spring. But she didn't leap straight ahead. She knew enough of

the cougars to know that the great cat would certainly aim for her head and neck in the same way that a duckhunter leads a fast-flying duck-hoping to intercept her leap. Even as her feet left the ground she seemed to whirl in the air, and the deadly talons whipped down in vain. Then, cutting back in front, she raced down wind. It is usually the most unmitigated folly for a cougar to chase a deer against which he has missed his stroke; and it is also quite fatal to his dignity. And whoever doubts for a minute that the larger creatures have no dignity, and that it is not very dear to them, simply knows nothing about the ways of anirials. They cling to it to the death. But tonight one disappointment after another had crumbled, as the rains crumble leaves, the last vestige of Whisperfoot's self-control. Snarling is, fury, he bounded after the doe.

She was lost no sight at once in the darkness, but for fully thirty yards he raced in her pursuit. If he had stopped to think, it would have been one of the really great surprises of his life to hear the sudden, unmistakable stir and movement of a large, living creature not fifteen feet distant in the thicket.

He didn't stop to think at all. He didn't puzzle on the extreme unlikelihood of a doe halting in her flight from a cougar. It is doubtful whether, in the thickets, he had any perceptions of the creature other than its movements. He was running down wind, so it is certain that he didn't smell it If he saw it at all, it was just as a shadow, sufficiently large to be that of a deer. It was moving, crawling as Woof the bear sometimes crawled, seemingly to get out of his path. And Whisperfoot leaped straight at it. It was a perfect shot. He landed high on its shoulders. His head lashed down, and the white teeth closed. All oners jury. the long life of his race he had known

banquet on the night of January 20, with Past Potentate William A French, of Wilmington, and the potentates of the Oasis and Sudan Shrine temples as invited guests.

Wadesboro-The Anson Sanatorium, the local hospital, has recently been enlarged by the addition of two large annexes. It is now one of the best equipped hospitals in the state. The X-ray department is under the sup rvision of Dr. James M. Covington, who won distinction as an X-ray specialist while in charge of a hospital in France during the world war.

Raleigh .- The North Carolina Master Printers' Association organized at Greensboro on December 8-for the betterment of the printing industry industry in North Carolina, will hold its second meeting in Raleigh January 19. Sessions of the association will be held in the morning, and afternoon with a banquet at night.

Goldsboro .- With quite a sum of money and other valuables on his person the dead body of McKagy Wiggins, a well known farmer of Fork township, this county, was found in a field near Whitleys on the Southern railway, about eight miles from Goldsboro, with two pistol shot wounds over his heart.

Greensboro.-Henry B. Varner, of Lexington, must furnish counsel for Mrs. Florence Varner, his wife, with specific amplification of certain allegations against her character, Judge James E. Boyd, of the western district of North Carolina, federal court, ruled here.

Concord.-Frank Blackwelder, Tom Lefler and Luther Smith, three white men held in connection with the shooting of M. W. Allman, a prominent white man, have been carried to a jail in an adjoining county for safekeeping.

Kinston. -The health bureau here has drawn another ex-army man to direct its activities. Dr. Robert S. McGeachy, who has assumed charge of the bureau, was with the 120th infantry and other units during the war.

Asheville.-Elmer Hughes, aged 20, came to his death by accident, and was not murdered, as first reported, according to the finding of the cor-



With Trees and Shrubs.

of interest-the home. The illustrations show how the scheme may be carried out to the best advantage.

EASY TO GROW GRASS LAWN

Perfect Greensward May Be Quickly Realized by the Use of Novel English Method.

It is proverbially a slow business getting a good grass lawn in a gar; den, but a new English idea makes it possible to secure a fine stretch of verdure just as one would buy a carpet at the stores. Grass seed is sown thickly on strong canvas and, when this is thickly covered with growth it is ready for making the lawn.

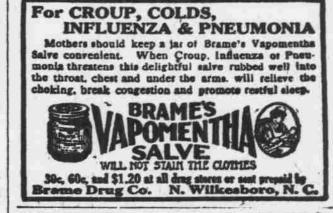
The site is well prepared, being made perfectly level, and special attention is given to getting the soil so that it is a favorable rooting medium for the little plants. Then the grass mats are put down on sections, these being closely fitted together. As time goes on the roots push down through the canvas and, in this way, establish a permanent lawn. Ultimately the material will rot. The value of this lies in the fact that an immediate ef-

fect can be secured. It is quite easy to have a splendid grass lawn in a situation where, a few hours before there was nothing of the kind. Thenceforward the grass will go on improving and the little plants speedily take a hold on the soil.-Scientific American.

## Trees Beyond Valuation.

Ten million dollars' damage annually is done to the shade trees and hardy shrubs of the country by shade tree insects, according to estimates made by the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture.

It is very difficult to estimate the money value of the shade trees and shrubs of the country, but a very conservative estimate would place their



New York

State Street



fouses, etc., stops all pain, ensures comfors to feet, makes walking easy. 15c. by mail or at Dr rista Hiscox Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. T.

An, Old Timer. "How old is Miss Sereleaf?" "I don't know, but I can give you some idea." "Well?"

"Ive seen her sitting at the plano and accompanying a young man who was singing 'On the Banks of the Wabash.' "-Birmingham Age-Herald.



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