

Estrellita, before the swift tropic night

descended and the lights of the great

"Too late to clear guarantine to-

night," Billy mourned, as he and Do-

lores rode back to her hotel. "All the

same, I'm going to borrow the launch

vessel shimmered across the harbor.

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER L-John Stuart Webster, ing engineer, after cleaning up a for-s in Death Valley, Calif., boards a n for the East. He befriends a young r annoyed by a masher, thoroughly incing the "pest."

CHAPTER IL-At Denver Webster receives a letter from Billy Geary, his closest friend. Geary urges him to come to sobrante, Central America, to finance and develop a mining claim. He decides

CHAPTER III. - Dolores Ruey, the young woman Webster befriended, and who has made a deep impression on him, as he has on her, is also on the way to Sobrante.

CHAPTER IV.-At Buenaventura, capi-tal of Sobrante, Billy Geary, ill and pen-niless, is living on the charity of "Mother Jonks," keeper of a dramshop. She re-ceives a cablegram from Dolores, telling of her coming.

CHAPTER V.-Dolores' father, Ricardo Ruey, president of Sobrante, had been killed in a revolution led by Sarros, the present exocutive. Dolores, a child of eight, was smoughed out of the country by Mother Jenks and supported by her in the United States. The old woman, ashamed of her occupation and habits of life, fears to meet Dolores, and sends Genry to the boat to any she has gone to the United States.

CHAPTER VL-Webster, on his way to Sobrante, is taken ill on the train, and is in a hospital at New Orleans two weeks. Geary bungles his mission, Dolo-res easily seeing through his story. She greets Mother Jenks as her friend and benefa tor. Geary falls desperately in leve with the girl

CHAPTER VIL-At New Orleans, while waiting for the steamer to Buenaventura, Weister naves the life of a young man who is attacked by two assaults. The youth leaves leaves Webster without disclosing

CHAPTER VIII.-On the steamer Web-ster finds his stateroom occupied by a stranger who declares his intention of being his guest to Buenaventura. At first anissed, Webster and the stranger, after a somewhat foreible argument, reach an aminable agreement. Webster recognizes him as the youth whose life he had saved the day before, though the other does not know Webster.

CHAPTER IX.

Prior to leaving New Orleans, Webster had cabled Billy Geary that he was taking passage on La Estrellita and stating the approximate date of his arrival at San Buenaventurawhich information descended upon that young man with something of the charm of a gentle rainfail over a hitherro arid district. He had been seeing Dolores Rucy at least once a day ever since her return to Sohrante. He was quick, therefore, to seize upon Webster's caldegram as an excuse to call upon Dolores and explain the mystery surrounding his friend's nonnppearTHE MONROE JOURNAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921.

of a gentlemma, the courage of a bear | mared interestedly, "So stupid of me cut, a sense of humor and a head for which the presidente of Sobrante will gindly pay a considerable number of pesos oro. Don't give up the head, hecause I like it and we do not need the money-yet. Take him ashore without anybody knowing it; hide him. clothe him, feed him-then forget all about him.

"Ever thine, "J. S. WEESTER."

"Kick the boat ahead again, Cafferty," Billy ordered quietly. He turned to the late arrival. "Mr. Man, your credentials are all in apple-ple order. Do you happen to know that this bay is swarming with man-enting sharks?" The man raised a fine, strong, youthful face and grinned at him, "Hobson's choice, Mr. Geary," he replied. "Atloat or ashore, the sharks are after me: Sir, I am your debtor." He crawled into the cabin and stretched out on the settee as John Stuart Webster's voice came floating across the dark waters.

"Everything well with you, Billy?" "All is lovely, Jack, and the goose honks high. By the way, that friend of yours called with his letter of introduction. I took care of him."

"Thanks. I suppose you'll call for me in that launch tomorrow morning?" "Surest thing you know, Jack. Goodnight, old top."

"Good-night, Billy."

Don Juan Cafetero swung the launch and headed back for the city. At Leber's little dock Billy stepped ashore, while Don Juan backed out into the dark bay again in order to avoid Inquisitive visitors. Billy hastened to El Buen Amigo and returned presently with a bundle of clothes; at an agreed signal Don Juan kicked the haunch into the dock again and Billy went aboard.

"Hat, shirt, necktie, duck suit, white socks and shoes," he whispered, "Climb into them, stranger."

Once more the launch backed out in the bay, where Webster's protege dressed at his leisure, and Billy handed Don Juan a couple of pesos.

"Remember, John." he cautioned the bibulous one as they tled up for the night, "nothing unusual happened tonight."

"Divil a thing, Misther Geary. Thank you, sor," the Gaelle wreck replied blithely and disappeared in the darkness, leaving Billy to guide the stranger to El Buen Amigo, where he was taken into the confidence of Mother Jenks and, on Billy's guarantee of the board bill, furnished with a room and left to his own devices. . . .

John Stuart Webster came down the gangplank into Leber's launch hard at the heels of the port doctor.

"You young horse thief," he cried, affectionately. "I believe it's the custom down this way for men to kiss each other. We'll dispense with that, but by-" He folded Billy in a paternal embrace, then held him at arm's length and looked him over.

"Lord, son" he said, "you're as thin as a stake. I'll have to feed your up." As they synd toward the landing, he blackness; as the little craft slid up slooked Billy over once more. "I have It," he declared, "You need a change of elitante to get rid of that malaria. Just show me this little old mining claim of yours. Bill, and then like for Gal's country. Three months up there will just you right again, and by the time you get teses, we'll be about rendy

not to remember. Where did we meet?"

"He has a profound sense of humor." she sollioquized. "He's going to force me into the open. Oh, dour, I'm helpless." Aloud she said: "On the train in Death valley last mouth, Mr. Webster."

Webster should his head slowly, as if mystified, "I fear you're mistaken. Miss Rusy. I wasn't on the train in Death valley last month. I was in Denver-so you must have met some other Mr. Wehster."

She flushed furlously, "I didn't think I could be mistaken." she answered a triffe coldly.

"It is my misfortune that you were," he replied gracloasly. "Certainly, had we met at that time, I should not have failed to recognize you now. Somehow, Miss Ruey, I never have any luck."

She was completely outgenerated, and having the good sense to realize it. submitted gracefully. "He's perfectly horrible." she told herself, "but at least he can lie like a gentleman-and I always did like that kind of man."

So they chatted on the veranda until funcheon was announced and Dolores left them to go to her room. "Well?" Billy queried the moment

she was out of earshot. "What do you think, Johnny?" "I think," said John Stuart Webster,

slowly, "that you're a good pleker, BIH. She's my ideal of a fine young woman, and my advice to you is to marry her. I'll grub-stake you, Bill, this still coltar is choking me; I wish you'd walt here while I go to my room and rustle up a soft one."

In the privacy of his room John Stuart Webster sat down on his bed and beld his head in his hunds, for he had just received a blow in the solar plexus and was still groggy. Presently, however, he pulled himself together and approaching the mirror looked long at his weather-beaten countenance.

"Too old," he murmured, "too old to be dreaming dreams."

He changed to a soft collar, and when he descended to the patio to Join Billy once more he was, to all outward appearances, his usual unperturbed self, for his was one of those rare natures that can derive a certain comfort from the misery of self-sacrifice-and in that five minutes alone in his room John Stuart Webster had wrestled with the magedy of his life and won, He had resolved to give Billy the

right of way on the highway to happlness

In Mr. Webster's own whimsteal phraseology, his clock had been fixed. on the lustant he recognized in the object of his youthful partner's adoration the same winsome woman he had enthrougd in his own secret castle of love. From that precise second Billy's preserve was as safe from encroachment by his friend as would be a bale of Confederate currency in an armor-

steel ynult on the three-thousand-foot level of a water-lilled mine.

John Stuart Webster had unanimously resolved upon the course he should have pursued in the first place. He would investigate fillly's mining concession immediately; provided it should prove worth while, he would finance it and put the property on a paying basis; after which he would see to it that the very best doctors in the city of Ruonaventury should inform Rilly, nuofficially and in the strictest confidence, that if he desired to preserve the life of Senor Juan Webstaire be should forthewith pack that rapidly disintegrating person off to a more salubrious elimate;

Filly slemmaded.

"I have to see a man, and write some letters and send a cablegram and walt for an answer. I may have to loaf around here for two or three days. By the way, what did you do for that friend I sent to you with the letter of introduction?"

"Exactly what you told me to do Johnny."

"Where is he ndw?"

"At El Buen Amigo-the same place where I'm living."

"All right. When you get back to your hostelry, you might tell my friend I shall expect him over to dine with me this evening. If he can manage it.

For an hour they discussed various subjects; then Billy, declaring the siesta was almost over and the shops reopening as a consequence, announced his intention of doing his shopping, said good-bye to Dotores and Webster, and lugubring departed on the business in hand.

"Why are you in such a hurry, Mr. Webster?" Dolores demanded. "You haven't been in Buenaventura six hours until you've managed to make me perfectly miserable."

"I'm terribly sorry, I didn't mean to.'

"Didn't you know Billy Genry is my personal property?"

"No, but I suspected he might be Bill's generous that way. He never hesitates to give himself to a charming woman."

"This was a case of mutual selfdefense. Billy hasn't any standing socially, you know. When old Mrs. General Maldonado lectured me (the dear, aristocratic soul conceived it to be her duty) on the Impropriety of appearing on the Malecon with Billy and my guardian, who happens to he Billy's landlady, I tried to explain our American brand of democracy, but fuiled. So I haven't been invited anywhere since, and life would have been very dull without Billy. He has been a dear-and you have taken him away?

Webster laughed. "Well, be patient, Miss Ruey, and I'll give him back to you with considerable more money than he will require for your joint comfort. Billy in financial distress is a joy forever, but Billy in a top hat and a frock coat on the sunny side of Ensy street will be absolutely irresistible."

"He's a darling. Ever since my arrival he has dedicated his life to keep ing me amused." She rose. "Despite your wickedness, Mr. Webster, I am ments owned by the Dothan Rotary going to be good to you. Billy and I club were supplied to the demonstraalways have five o'clock ten here in tors and a serum-distributing point the veranda. Would you care to come to my tea-party?"

"Nothing could give me greater pleasure," he assured her.

She nodded brightly to him. "I'm going to run up to my room and put some por der on my nose," she explained.

"But you'll return before five

"clock?" Webster was atunzed to he .. himself plead.

"You do not deserve such consideration, but I'll come back to about vation. Forty-four farmers in the twenty minutes," she answered and county were interested in stump releft him.

As Webster viewed the situation, his was cleared in this movement. About decision to see as little as possible of five tons of dynamite was bought for Dotores during his brief stay in the purpose largely on the co-operative Sobroute way a wine one. The less he plan. saw of her the told himself) the bet-



HOG-CHOLERA LOSS REDUCED

Estimated Saving of \$6 000 to Farmers of Alabama County Brought About by County Agent.

Losses by hog chclera have been materially reduced in Bullock county, Alabama, as a result of the work of the county agent in training farmers in various centers throughout the county to use the serum and apparatus developed by the United Scates Department of Agriculture. Forty-nine cars of



Vaccinating a Hog for Cholera-Don't Run Risks or Waste Feed With Unhealthy Live Stock.

hogs, 3,928 head, have been marketed from the county through co-operative work, with an estimated saving of \$6,-000. In Houston county the department's representative taught 18 men to vaccinate hogs. Six sets of instruwas established in charge of a reliable veterinarian. More than 9,000 head of hogs were treated. In many cases it was found that sickness, other than cholera, was due to some incidental cause, such as had peanut meal, and balanced rations were advised. The county agent's work resulted in 32 farmers establishing pastures to keep their hogs off the open range, the land thus pastured being freed from many noxious weeds by the rooting of the animals, and prepared for future cultimoving, and about 2,000 acres of land

"Well, Dolores," he began, in his excitement colling her by her first name for the first time. "I've heard from Jack Webster,"

"Wint's the news, Bill?" Dolores inquired. From the first day of their nequilitance she had been growing increasingly fond of Geary; for nearly a week she had been destrous of calling him Hiff, which is a comfortable name and, to Dolores' way of thinking, a pecultariy appropriate corponen for such a distinctly American young man. At mention of the beloved word he glanced down at her pleasurably,

"Thank you," he said. "I'm glad you got around to it finally. Those that love me always call me Bill." "You called me Dolores."

"I move we make it unanimous. I'm a foe to formality."

"Second the motion, Bill, So am Iwhen I care to be-and in our case your formality is spoiling our comradeship. And now, with reference to the extraordinary Senor Webster-"

"Why, the poor old horse has been down with promnine poisoning. They carried him off the train at St. Louis and stood him on his head and pumped him out, and just did manage to cancel his order for a new tombstone. He says he's feeding regularly again and has booked passage on La Estrellita, so we can look for him on the next steamer arriving."

"Ch. the poor fellow !" Dolores murmured-so fervently that Billy was on the point of burling his heart at her feet on the instant.

The thousand dollars Webster had cabled Billy "for a road-stake" had been dwindling rapidly under the stimulus of one continuous opportunity to spend the same in a quarter where it was calculated to bring the most Joy. Mr. Geary was absolutely bogged in the quagmire of his first love affair, but until his mining concession should amply justify an avowal of his passion, an instinctive sense of the eternal fitness of things reminded Billy of the old proverb that a closed mouth catches no flies. And in the meantime (such is the optimism of youth) he decided there was no need for worry, for when a girl calls a fellow Bill, when she tells him he's a scout and doesn't care a whoop for any society except his-chrombal it's great!

A wireless from Webster warned Billy of the former's imminent arrival. Just before sunset Billy and Dolores, riding along the Malecon, sighted a blur of smoke far out to sea-a blur that grew and grew until they could

ad voice unswered him.

"That you, Bill?" he should.

rail.

"I know you'd come, Billy boy." "I knew you'd know it, Johnny. Can't come afternid, you know, until the ship clears, but I can lie off here and suy helto. How is your Internal meetin alson ?"

"That You, Bill?" He Shouted.

of my good friend Leber and his pro-

tege Don Juan Cafetero, and go out

to the steamer tonight. I can heave to

a little way from the steamer and wel-

Fortunately, good little Leber con-

sented to Filly's request, and Don Jush

Cafebro ans sober enough to turn the

engine over and run the launch. From

the deck of the steamer Webster.

smoking his post-pranifial eigar enaght

sight of the launch's red and green

sidelights churging through the linky

to within a cuble's length of the steam-

er and have to, something told Web-

ster that Hilly Geary would soon be

paging him. He edged over to the

"Hoy! Jack, old pal !" Billy's delight-

come the old rascal, anyhow."

"Groud. However, your query reminds me i heven't taken the medicine the doctor warned me to take after ments for a couple of weeks. Walt a minute, fill, until 1 g. to my stateroom and do my duty to my stomach."

For ten minutes Billy and Don Jdan Cnfetero bobbed about in the launch; then a stentorian voice shouted from the steamer, "Hey, you! In the launch, there. Not so close, Back off."

Don Juan kloked the launch back fifty feet. "That will do!" the voice called again.

"Helto !" Billy solloquized. "That's Jack Webster's voice. Wonder what he's up to. I thought he acted strangely-preferring medicine to me the minute I hailed him !"

While he was considering the matter, a voice behind him said very softly and indistinctly, like a man with a harellp:

"Mr. Geary, will you be good enough to back your launch a couple of hundred feet? When I'm certain I can't he seen from the steamer, I'll come aboard."

Billy turned, and in the dim light of his binnacle lamp observed a beautiful pair of white hands grasping the gunwale on the starboard quarter. He peered over and made out the head and shoulders of a man,

"All right," he replied in a low voice. "Hang where you are, and you'll be clear of the propeller."

He signaled Don Junn, who backed swiftly away, while Billy doused the binnacle lamp.

"That'll do," the thick voice said resently. "Bear a hand, friend, and I'll climb over."

He came, as naked as Morcury, sprawled on his belly in the cockpit, apened his mouth, spat out a compact little roll of Unfoil, opened it and drew out a ball of paper which he flattened out on the floor of the cockpit and handed to Billy.

"Thank you," he said, very courteously and distinctly now. "My credentials, Mr. Geary, if you please."

Billy relighted the lamp and read: "Dear Billy: "I do not know the bearer from

Adam's off ox; all I know about blun is that he has all the outward mer

weigh the first elentiup Billy shoo's his head. "I'd like to

mighty well, Jack," he replied, "hut I fust can't."

"Huh ! I summer you don't think I'm cound to the tusk of straightening out this concession of yattrs and making a huvamer out of it, ch?"

The young follow looked neross at him sheepaldy "Mine?" he jeered. "Who's talking about a mine, I'm thinking of a girl!" "Oh !"

"Some girl, Johnny."

"I hope she's not some parrakeet." Webster bantered. "Have you looked up her pedigree?"

"Ah-h-h !" Billy spat over the side in sheer disgust. "This is an American girl-born here, but white-raised in the U. S. A. Fve only known her three weeks, but-ah !" And Billy kissed his hand into space.

"Well, I'm glad I find you so happy, boy. When do you pull off the wedding?"

"Oh," said Billy, "that's premature. Jack. I haven't asked her. How could I until I'm able to support her?" "Look here, son," Webster replied, "don't you go to work and be the kind of fool I was. You get married and take a chance. A man ought to marry young, Bill, Hang the odds. I know what's good for you."

At the hotel Billy sent a note to Dolores, apprising her that John Stuart Webster had arrived-and would she be good enough to receive them?

Miss Rucy would be that gracious. She was waiting for them in the veranda just off the patio, outwardly calm, but inwardly a foment of conflicting emotions. As they approached she affected not to see them and turning. glanced in the opposite direction ; nor did she move her head until Billy's voice, speaking at her elbow, said :

"Well, Dolores, here's my old Jackpartner waiting to he introduced. Jack, permit me to present Miss Dolores Ruey."

She turned her face and rose graclously, marking with secret triumph the light of recognition that leaped to his eyes, hovered there the hundredth part of a second and departed, leaving those keen, quizzient blue orbs appraising her in the most natural manner imaginable. Webster bowed

"It is a great happiness to meet you. Miss Rucy," he sold gravely.

Dolores gave him her hand "You have doubtless forgation Mr. Weisser 1 1.6

Having made his decision, John Stuart Webster immediately took heart of hope and decided to lead trumps. Dolores rejoined them for a sigsta after juncheou.

Webster lenned over and slapped Billy Genry's kness affectionately, "Well, Bill, you suffron-colored old wreck, how Jong do you suppose It will take for you to pick up enough strength and courage to do some uptive mining? I'm anxious to get that property on a paying basis, so I can get out of the country."

"Why, Johnny," the annazed Billy declared, "I thought you would stay and help run the mine."

"Indeed! Well, why do you suppose I spent so much time teaching you how to pan a mine, you young idlot, if not against just such a time as this? You found this concession and tied it up; I'll finance it and help you get everything started; but after that, I'm through, and you can manage it on salary and name the salary yourself. You have a greater interest in this country than I. William; and so with your kind permission we'll hike up to that concession tomorrow and give it the double-O:

then, if I can O. K. the property, we'll cable for the machinery I ordered just before I left Denver, and get busy. We ought to have our first clean-up within ninety days,"

"Gosh, het you're in a hurry," Billy murmured. He disliked exceedingly the though, of having his courtship. interrupted on a minute's notice,

"You know me, son. I'm a bustler on the job," Webster reminded him brutally; "so the sooner you start, the sooner you can get back and accumulate more mularin. What accommoda-

"None, Jack."

"Then you had better get some, Billy. I think you told me we have to take horses at San Miguel de Padua to ride in to the mine." Fuly nodded. "Then you had better buy . tent and bedding for both of us, ship the stell up to Sun Mignet de Dudra. we have heldedy for most arts, or bestmines in good contraining accompte of collecter times, Where went trices are 1,102

ter for his pence of mind, for he was forty years old, and he had never loved before. For him this fever that burned in his blood, this delicious agony that throbbed in his heart-and all on the very ghost of provocationwere so many dauger-signals, heralds of that grand passion which, coming to a man of forty, generally lasts him the remainder of his natural existence. Webster was forced to admit he was afraid of himself. His was the rapidly

disappearing code of the old unfettered West, that a man shall never betray his friend in thought, word, or deed. To John Stuart Webster any crime against friendship was the most helnous in all the calendar of human frailty; even to dream of slipping into Billy's shoes now would be monstrous; yet Webster knew he could not afford a test of strength between his ancient friendship for Billy and the masculine desire for a perfect mate. Remained then but one course:

"I must run like a road-runner," was the way Webster expressed it. Continued in next issue.

NOTICE OF SUMMONS AND WAR-

RANT OF ATTACHMENT. North Carolina, Union County-In the Superior Court.

J. D. Futch et al. partners, trading as J. D. Futch & Sons, vs. D. A. Ramsey.

To D. A. Ramsey, defendant abovenamed: -You will take notice herefrom that a summons in the aboveentitled action was issued against you on the 16th day of December, 1920. in the Superior Court of Union

county, North Carolina, on a cause of is to place it in a grantine upon its action damages in the sum of \$800 breach of warranty in the sale of a carload of oranges, said summons bemond, clerk of superior court of that the animal is healthy, and in case Union county on the 25th day of January, 1921.

You will also take notice that on the same date a warrant of attachment was issued against your property in the State of North Carolina which warrant is returnable at the time and place named for said sum mons, when and where the defendan vo-named is required to appear answer or demar to the con esting for \$1 filed within the time provide Law

le 2rd January, 1921. W. LEWMOND, clerk of Super stourt of Union county, North

A M. M.

FEEDING GARBAGE TO SWINE

Practical Means of Producing Pork, According to Department of Agriculture Sulletin.

When properly managed, the feeding of gurbage to sume is a practical means of pork production, according to Farmers' Bulletin 1133 issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In addition it helps to settle a problem which confronts many citles and towns-that of effective and economical garbage disposal. The wholesomeness of garbage depends greatly on the care it receives in households. Tin cans, glass, paper, oyster shells, sawdust, soap, and other foreign materials when mixed with garbage may cause numerous losses of hogs. But it has been found that this evil can be minimized by proper precaution and published requests to householders to be careful.

Immunizing of hogs is necessary to prevent hog cholera and frequent collection is urged to keep the feed fresh, Copies of the bulletin may be had free by applying to the United States Department of Agriculture.

SEGREGATE ALL NEW ANIMALS

Wise Plan to Place Recent Purchases In Quarantine for at Least Twenty-One Days.

The proper and only safe thing to do with the recently purchased animal for which plaintiff claims arrival. Better keep it there not less for than 21 days at least. This enables you to keep a careful watch over the animal at all times, and to determine there should be any disease, it would not be carried to those animals already on the farm,

SUPPLY PIGS PLENTY WATER

Young Porkers Drink Often and in Small Quantities-Non-Freezer In Very Useful.

A pig likes to drink water often and in small quantities. It drinks water the same as it eats feed-a little at a time and often. That is why a nonfreezing waterer and a self-feeder for grain are so very valuable in the hog lot.

tions have you up there?"