ROBBERS' ROOST

Zane Grey

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SYNOPSIS

Jim Wall, young cowpuncher from Wyoming, seeks a new field in Utah. He meets Hank Hays, who tells him he is working for an Englishman, Herrick. Hays and others are plotting to steal their employer's cattle and money. With Hays, Jim Wall goes to Her-rick's ranch. Hays and his lieutenants drive off a bunch of cattle. Heeseman is Hays' rival among the cattle rustlers. Jim is sent to meet Miss Herrick. Hays betrays unusual interest in the girl's coming. Wall finds himself falling in love with Helen, and he fears Hays has designs on the girl. Jim coaches her in riding western style, and finally kisses her. She is angry and dis-misses him, but relents and asks him not to leave the ranch. Have' men return from the drive, having sold the cattle and brought back the money. A quick getaway is imperative. Hays tells them to go on ahead, that he will join them. He comes, with Helen Herrick—a captive. Hays explains that he stole Helen for ransom. Realizing that Helen will be worse off if she falls into Heeseman's clutches. Jim Wall does nothing. Heeseman's riders some in pursuit. Hays leads the gang into a canyon retreat—The Robbers' Roost. Latimer, one of Hays' gang, wounded with Heeseman, tells Jim that Hays has held out some of the money he stole from Herrick. In the "roost"

Jim keeps a watchful eys on Helen.

Heeseman's riders are seen approaching and the desperadoes prepare to

CHAPTER IX—Continued --15-

"I should shiver she did. Struck Hays' hair-trigger gun-cocked-right into my belly, an' says: 'Will you tie this villain-an' swear by your honor not to release him or allow any of these other men to do so-or will you have me shoot you?"

"How'd she get that gun?"

"Wal, she snatched it quicker'n lightnin', that's how. An' when she cocked it with both hands it went off bang! The bullet went between Hank's legs. Tickled him. You can see the hole in his pants. Scared? My Gawd, you never see a man so scared. Thet gurl, cool as a cucumber, cocked the gun again, an' held Hays up-then all of us.

"We was sittin' at the table. She made us all stand, hands high, an then she performed thet little trick with Hank's gun agin my gizzard. Jim, I hepe to die if I didn't go cold an' stiff. But I promised on my word of honor-as a robber-thet I'd tie Hank up, an' make the other fellers play square. It was so funny, too, thet I near bust. Hays, soon as he was his scare, an' ther was he mad! I reckon no one on this earth saw a madder man. He cussed so terrible thet she made me gag him."

"Well I'll be-blowed!" gasped Jim. "No wonder. We was wuss. We'd had breakfast, an' Hank was tryin' to face us fellers. I'll say he came clean, Jim. He divided all the money he got from Herrick an' his sister, an' the gold things an' diamonds. / 'Fellers,' he said, 'I could lie an' say I meant to give this to you later. But I'm not built thet way. I doublecrossed you all-first time in my life. I meant to keep it all, an' the ransom, fer the girl. But now there won't be no ransom, for I'm not goin' to give her up. She's mine, an' I can do as I want, an' if any of you don't like it you can make your kick now.' . . Wal, we was so plumb flabbergasted

thet we didn't see the gurl, who came close on the sun side of Happy's shelter. She heard the whole d-n' show. . . . Jim, I wish you could have seen her when she stepped up to Hank. I don't know what did it-mebbe her

eyes-but he shore wilted. It was then she snatched his gun." "So that's the deal!" ejaculated Jim.

"What are you going to do?" "Don't ask me. I gave my word an I'll keep it. For thet matter the rest of our outfit air fer the gurl, ransom or no ransom."

Suddenly Jim awoke out of his stupefaction to remember the approach of Heeseman.

"Smoky, I know what you're all going to do, and that's fight," he flashed, curtly, "Heeseman's outfit is coming. I sighted them perhaps three miles. Traveling slow, but sure. We've no time to pack an' get away. We've got to find the best place to stand an' fight, an' pack our stuff into it bronto."

"Heeseman!" cried Smoky, coolly. "So it's come, I reckoned on thet. Git busy, men."

Jim strode under the shelter to face Bliss Herrick. She had heard, for she

"We're all but surprised by Heeseman's outfit," he said, abruptly. "We must fight. You will be worse off if you fall into their hands. I'm sorry must release Hays, We need him."

"Too late!" she exclaimed. "Pack your things quickly and hurry over to the cave on this side." Then Jim picked up Hays' gun from the table and ran out. First he removed the gag, then in terse terms he stated the situation. Next he released the

robber from his painful fix and nanded him the gun. "Heeseman, huh! Wal, so be it!" Hays said, facing Jim with an air of

finality that intimated relief. "How far are they away?" he asked. "Two miles."

"We've got half an hour-mebbe. Did you think to look fer the hosses?" "Eight horses in the-valley. Others not in sight."

"Fine scout you air. How come you didn't spy them soon enough fer us to rustle out of hvar?"

"I couldn't have seen them half a mile sooner," snapped Jim, "They came out from behind a bank." "Hell's fire! Tell thet to me? You was sleepin'."

"You're a liar," flashed Jim, leaping clear of the others. "Open your

trap to me again like that!" "Say, it's you who'll shet his trap." replied Hays, stridently. "Or you'll git a dose of the medicine I gave Brad Lincoln."

"Not from you-you yellow dog of a woman thief!"

Smoky Slocum ran out in time to get in front of Jim.

"Hyar! Hyar!" he called, piercingly. "Is this a time fer us to fight each other? Cool down, Jim. Make allowances fer Hays. He's wuss'n drunk."

"I don't care a d-n if there's ten outfits on our trail. He can't talk to me that way. . . . And, Smoky, I reckon you're presuming on friend-

"Shore I am," returned Slocum, hurriedly. "I'll not do it again, Jim. Hays is what you called him. But leave your dispute till we settle with Heeseman."

"All right. You're talking sense," replied Jim. He had been quick to grasp the opening made by Hays. "There must be ten riders in Heeseman's out-

"Wal, thet suits me," rejoined the robber, harshly.

"Now think fast," snapped Smoky Hays pulled himself together. "Mac, you an' Jeff run to fetch what hosses you can find quick. . . . Jack, you an'



Jim's Riffe, Already Raised, Swerved a Triffe-Cracked. The

Smoky an' Wall hustle the grub, cook kft, packs an' beds into thet cave across the wash. I'll git up high an' watch, When I yell, dig fer cover." "You almin' to fight or run?" quer-

ted Smoky. "We might git packed light, if somethin' holds them up. But we can't leave the way we come in. Dirty Devil too high. Heeseman has stumbled on the next best way. If we had plenty of time. . . . But rustle, everybody."

Mac and Jeff were already in lumbering flight up the oval. And Happy Jack, not concerned enough to stop his whistling, was sacking his utensils. Hays made for the notch in the bluff west of the cabin. Jim sprang into action, while Smoky dashed off toward the cottonwood grove.

Upon Jim's first return trip from the cave he encountered the girl burdened with her effects.

"Helen, I'll carry that. Hurry. We've no time to lose."

At the back of the cave there was a crack deep enough to protect Helen. He directed her to hide inside and await developments.

Jim ran on toward the camp, resolving to withhold a shell in his rifle and to keep a sharp watch on Hays.

The next quarter of an hour was filled with strenuous and unceasing action. Their united efforts collected all the supplies, utensils, saddles and packs, and several of the beds in the three-cornered cave back and to one side of the shack. A huge slab of stone lay across the top of this triangular notch in the cliff. The wall had been hollowed by the action of water. A small stream flowed out from the base of the wall.

It was the best place for defense in the oval, and Jim believed Hays' outfit could hold it indefinitely, though they couldn't save the horses. If it came to a siege they could be re-

CHAPTER X

Smoky came panting in with Hays' pack, and started off again.

"That's enough, Smoky," called Jim. Slocum returned. "Nothin' leftcept Hank's bed," he panted, "Icouldn't-locate thet."

"Listen!" "What do you hear?"

"Jim, keep your eye peeled on the cliff," said Smoky, and stole forward under cover or the brush,

Presently a white puff of smoke showed above the ragged rim. Spang! The fight was on. One of Hays' men -Bridges-let out a hoarse bawl and swayed over, almost losing his balance. Jim looked no more at him, but concentrated his gaze on the rim. Another puff of white! Something darka man's slouch hat—bobbed up. Jim's rifle, already raised, swerved a triflecracked. The hat went flying,

The horses came over the bench, frightened, but not stampeding, and Mac drove them into the corral. This was around the corner from the range of the sharpshooter of the rim. Bridges, reeling on the horse, followed Mac, who ran out of the corral to catch him as he fell. Then, as they came along close to the wall, Hays arrived from the other direction,

"Heeseman-with his outfit-nine in all," he heaved. "They're scatterin' to surround the roost. . . . But they can't cross-below us-an' across there it's -out of range. . . . We're all right." A bullet thudded into the wall, fol-

lowed by the report of a rifle. "Duck back! That was from some

where else," shouted Hays. They dove twenty feet farther back. Here they were apparently safe, except from the grassy ridge of the oval in front, which it was unlikely any sharpshooters could reach in daylight,

After a careful study Jim crept into the brush, stirred by a renewal of firing from the west rim. Wisps of white cloud, thinning on the light wind, located the positions of the shooters. First Jim peered through

Almost at once he caught a movement of a dark object through a crevice in the rim. The distance was great for accurate shooting at so small a target. But with a rest he drew a coarse, steady alm and fired once.

the growth of brush directly in front.

The object flopped over. A shrill cry, unmistakable to any man used to gunplay, rent the air. Jim knew he had reached one of the Heeseman gang, to disable him, if no more. Next instant a raking fire swept the brush on both sides of Jim. He dropped down into the cave,

Smoky stood there, in the act of climbing.

"They near got me," rang out Jim. "I hit one of them way over where they shot at Bridges. There's a bunch of them hid on that cliff to the right of the outlet, you know, where Jeff went up to scout."

"Jim, they got us located," replied Slocum, gravely. "Sure. But so long as they can't

line on us in here-" "They can move all around. An'

pretty soon Heeseman will figger thet men behind the high center in front can shoot straight in hyar." "They're below the ridge now. Look

sharp, Smoky, or they might get a couple of shots in first." "Wal, if they do I hope both bullets

lodge in Hank's gizzard." "My sentiments exactly. . . . Smoky, I saw something shine. Tip of a rifle.

Right-to the right, . . . Ah!" "Take the first feller, Jim . . . One -two-three. The rifles cracked in unison. Jim's

mark sprang convulsively up, and plunged down to roll and weave out of sight. The man Smoky had shot at sank flat and lay still. Next moment a volley banged from the cliff and a storm of bullets swept hissing and spanging uncomfortably close,

Jim slid and leaped to the floor of the cave below. Smoky, by lying down, lowered the rifles to him, and then came scrambling after.

Hays had slouched back to them, followed by Happy.

"Jack, gimme Jeff's gun an' belt." Hays said, and receiving them, he buckled them over his own. Next he opened his pack to take out a box of rifle shells, which he broke open to drop the contents in his coat pocket on the left side. After that he opened his shirt to strip off a broad, black money belt. This was what had made him bulge so and give the impression

lean. He hung this belt over a projecting point of wall, "In case I don't git back," he added. "An' there's a bundle of chicken-feed

of stoutness, when in fact he was

change in my pack." There was something gloomy and splendld about him then. Fear of God, or man, or death was not in him. Rifle in hand he crept to the corner on the left and boldly exposed himself, drawing a volley of shots from two quarters. Then he disappeared,

"What's Hays' idea?" asked Jim. "He must know a way to sneak

around on them." A metallic, spanging sound accompanied rather than followed by a shot, then a sodden thud right at hand choked further speech. Happy Jack had been cut short in one of his low whistles. He swayed a second upright, then uttering an awful groan, he fell

"Dead! Hit in the temple. Where'd thet bullet come from?" "It glanced from a rock. I know the

Smoky leaped to him, bent over.

sound." "Jim, the only safe place from thet is hyar, huggin' this corner," declared Smoky. "An' there ain't room enough fer the two of us."

"Keep it, Smoky. I'm not going to

get hit. This is my day. I feel some thing in my bones, but it's not death." "Huh. I feel somethin' too-clear to my marrow-an' it's sickish an' cold. Jim, I'll sneak out an' crawl back of them. Thet's my idee. I don't have wrong idees at this stage of a fight." That was the last he spoke to Jim. Muttering to himself he laid a huge roll of bills under the belt Hays had deposited on the little shelf of rock.

Then he vanished. TO BE CONTINUED.

First Fraternity Started 1750 The first American college fraternity was organized at William and Mary college in 1750 in Virginia.

IMPROVED' UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL CUNDAY

CHOOL **Lesson** (By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Member of Faculty, Moody Bible institute of Chicago.) ©. Western Newspaper Union.

PETER HEALS A LAME MAN LESSON TEXT-Acts 3:1-10; 4:8-12. GOLDEN TEXT—Then Peter said, liver and gold have I none; but such

Lesson for February 24

as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.—Acts 3.6. PRIMARY TOPIC—How Peter Helped Lame Man

JUNIOR TOPIC-Peter Carrying on INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOP-

IC-A Helping Hand.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOP-IC-Gifts That Are Better Than Money.

In the teaching of this lesson it will be necessary to include all the material in Acts 3:1 to 4:31.

I. Peter Healing the Lame Man (Acts 3:1-10). 1. The place (vv. 1, 2). It was at

the gate called Beautiful, which leads from the outer to the inner court of the temple.

2. The man (v. 2). This beggar was infirm from his birth. When he saw Peter and John, he asked alms, 3. The method (vv. 3-8).

a. Gaining the man's attention (v. 4). Peter and John commanded him to look on them, but not because they had any power within themselves,

b. Peter commanded him in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to rise and walk (v. 6). He had been unable to do this all his life, but with the command went the ability to do.

c. Peter took him by the right hand (v. 7). This act was meant to give impetus to his faith, not strength to his ankles.

4. The man's response (v. 8). Strength came into his feet and ankle bones at once. He stood, he walked, be leaped, and praised God.

5. The effect (vv. 9-11). The people were filled with amazement.

a. This helpless beggar had to be carried to the temple gate. Men and women out of Christ are so helpless that they need to be brought where the life of God can be applied to them.

b. Peter, in taking the man by the hand, shows the manner of helping the lost, While ministers and Sunday school teachers of themselves have nothing to give to the lost, they have the dispensing of the gospel of Christ-II. Peter Witnessing Before the Mul-

titude (3:12-26).

He told them it was faith in Jesus Christ, whom God had glorified and whom they had deliberately betrayed and crucifled, that had healed this man. Despite their awful guilt, he appealed to them to repent (v. 19). God would pardon them if they would repent, and refreshing seasons would come to them when God should send back Jesus Christ to the earth to consummate the work of redemption.

III. Peter in Prison for Christ's Sake

(4:1-4). 1. The leaders in this persecution (vv. 1, 2). Both priests and Sadducees joined in this wickedness. The priests were intolerant because these new teachers were encroaching upon their functions. The Sadducees joined the priests because they did not believe in the resurrection, which was a vital part

of the apostolic teaching. 2. The result (vv. 8, 4). Peter and John were arrested and imprisoned. Though the witnesses were held in bondage by chains, Christ was not bound. The number of believers had greatly increased, so that there were now about five thousand.

IV. Peter Witnessing Before the

Sanhedrin (4:5-22). 1. The inquiry (vv. 5-7). They inquired as to by what power and name

they had wrought this miracle. 2. Peter's answer (vv. 8-12). With stinging sarcasm he showed them that they were not on trial as evildoers, but for doing good to the helpless and needy man. Since they could not deny the miracle, he boldly declared that it had been done in the name of Christ, and that the only way for them to escape God's judgment was to believe on

his name. 3. The impression upon the San-

hedrin (vv. 13-22). a. They marveled (vv. 1-13). They were made conscious that they were on trial instead of sitting as judges upon Peter and John.

b. They took knowledge that Peter and John had been with Jesus (v. 13). c. They forbade them to speak in Christ's name (v. 18).

d. Peter and John expressed their determination to obey God rather than man (vv. 19, 20).

e. Their release (v. 21). Seeing that the people were on the side of the apostles they had no way to punish them.

V. The Church at Prayer (vv. 23-31). They praised God for deliverance and prayed for boldness to speak the Word of God.

Religion

Religion should be to every man not nerely a creed, but an experience; not restraint, but an inspiration; not an insurance for the next world, but also program for the present world .-Stalker.

Peace of God

We need the peace of God in our heart just as really for the doing well of the little things in our secular life as for the doing of the greatest duties of Christ's kingdom.

WOULD RISK LIVES TO ASSIST SCIENCE

Scores Offer Selves for Testa to Revive Dead

Berkeley, Calif.-Scores of men, women and young people of America are not afraid to risk their lives in the cause of scientific research, nor to give

their lives should science fail, Dr. Robert E. Cornish, young Berkeley scientist, who achieved worldwide fame in bringing back to life "Lazarus IV," a terrier experimentally but to death in a laboratory, revealed he has received such letters from near ly every state in the Union.

The offers began to deluge him shortly after he had attempted to gain permission from the governors of three western states to apply his resuscitation methods to a criminal immediately after his execution by gas.

Permission Refused.

Permission was refused by the governors. But If Doctor Cornish wishes a human body for experimentation he has only to pick and choose from names in a bulging letter file.

Amazing as these offers sound, sincerity shines from most of them.

From a medical man in California: "If you wish a subject for experimentation, I will offer myself in any

way you suggest for science." From a man in the Bronx, New York:

"I have been reading in the papers about your dead dog. . . . I am willing to take the dog's place, to let you put me to death and bring me back to life again. If you fail it will be my hard luck."

Nothing to Lose.

From a West Virginia youth of twenty-two: "I was wondering if you could use me to experiment with. I've got noth-

ing to lose and there is nothing to hold me." From a former wealthy society wom-

an of California: "If you can arrange to put in trust \$5,000 for each of my children I will submit to your experiment. I've got

to make good to my children." From a girl in Brooklyn, N. Y .: "I have always wanted to do some thing good for humanity. I will offer myself for your experiment, but I must be assured my mother will be cared for the rest of her life."

So went the letters-scores and scores of them. They are still coming. None of the offers have been accepted.

Teach Horses to Dance

in Real Pony Ballet Boston.-This town has recently become so enthusiastic about horses that now certain favored individuals of the equine species are being sent to dancing school. This, too, is being done without any thought of these nags graduating into a circus from the everyday canters of life.

In brief, 16 horses of the mounted patrol will do a "soft-shoe" dance for the edification of the police commissioner. The term is easily explained. These horses have been prancing and keeping time to music at the head of parades for years. "Why not teach them some regular waltzes?" asked Sergt. Edward B. Kane, in charge of

the mounted division. Training of these animals for the dance had not progressed far when it was discovered, quite accidentally. that horses dance better without shoes. All 16 members of this genuine "ponyballet" will complete their dance drills without shoes, and thus qualify for all the intricacles of the art before putting on their show for the police commissioner.

Lots of Room Left for Human Race on Earth

Eugene, Ore,-The earth is a long way from over-population yet, according to Dr. Warren D. Smith, professor of geography and geology at the Uni-

versity of Oregon. Doctor Smith says that science is now able to compute that the world would support some 5,500,000,000 people, more than twice as many as it now supports. The estimate of 2,024,-286,000 is generally accepted as a fairly accurate total of the present population. The five billion figure is nossible, however, he says, only with careful planning and development of re-

sources. Among other findings in Doctor Smith's recent survey are: That birth control and birth selection are imperative if a high plane of civilization is to be maintained; that the tropics are now the great goal of the whites; and that brunette whites will probably dominate the earth in time.

Strange Waters Puzzle Fish From Caribbean

Atlantic City, N. J.-Slightly bewildered in the strange waters, a unique fish-peristedion finiatum-whose habitat is in the Caribbean sea, was caught off shore with little trouble. Carroll B. Atkinson, a local ichthyologist, identified the fish. It had a weird appearance, seemingly to represent a cross between a modern armored tank and a fabled Chinese dragon. When it was captured the fish was colored blood red, but gradually lost its brilliant hues.

White Hen Pheasant Seen South Charleston, Ohio,-A pure white pheasant, one of the rarest of game birds, was reported seen at close range near here by three persons.

WORLD'S WAR RECORD

World history tells us that during the last 3,421 years, war has been going on continuously on some part of the globe except for 270 years. During this period, 8,000 peace treaties have been written and signed that lasted an average of two years each. During the same period. 25 combinations of nations of one kind or another have been formed and continued for a time, comparable to the present League of Nations.-Capper's Weekly.

Appetite gone?



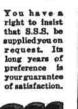
V losing weight **√** nervous √ pale √ tired

then don't gamble with your body

A simple thing, perhaps...yet a very serious one, resulting in loss of strength . . . body weakness . . and possibly many other ills. So why not check-up and snap back to the zest of

eating and well being.
You will find S.S.S. a great, scientifically-tested tonic-not just a socalled tonic, but one specially designed to stimulate gastric secretions and also having the mineral elements so very, very necessary in rebuilding the oxygen-carrying hemo-glo-bin of the blood to enable you to "carry on."

Unless your case is exceptional, you should soon enjoy again the satisfaction of appetizing food and good di-gestion . . . sound sleep . . . and renewed trength. So many say, "S.S.S. makes you feel like yourself again." O s.s.s. Co.



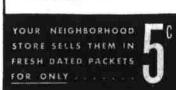


Their Relationship Old Lady Backbite is the devil's aunt.-Old Saying.



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WATCH YOUR KIDNEYS!

Be Sure They Properly Cleanse the Blood

YOUR kidneys are constantly fil-tering impurities from the blood stream. But kidneys get functionally disturbed—lag in their work fail to remove the poisonous body wastes. Then you may suffer nagging

backache, attacks of dizziness, burning, scanty or too frequent urination, getting up at night, swollen feet and ankles, rheumatio pains; feel "all worn out." Don't delay! For the quicker you

get rid of these poisons, the better your chances of good health. Use Dogn's Pills. Dogn's are for the kidneys only. They tend to pro-mote normal functioning of the kidneys; should help them pass off the irritating poisons. Does's are recommended by users the country over. Get them from any druggist