

The Kris Kringle Chariot

By EDITH RANSOM AVERILL

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ROSY-cheeked schoolboy on his new red sled sped down the long snow-clad hill. A dozen gayly chattering girls tripped towards the lightly frozen pond with their skates. A farmer came into view with a wagon load of newly cut Christmas trees. Yuletide cheer was effervescing, but there was no responsive echo of its fervor in the hearts of John Lane and Martin Freer.

"I'm in accord with you completely," the latter was saying. "My son, Sidney, has the chance of his life to enter a law career in the city. Since he fell in love with your half niece and ward, Edna, he seems to have lost all ambition of making his way outside of winning her."

"A foolish fancy," declared John Lane. "Edna is too young to think of marrying."

"We are going to send Edna away to a private boarding school after the holidays," he continued. "and that will probably end the affair."

Meantime Edna Merrill pined in her prisonlike solitude and Sidney sought to devise a way to get word to her.

At their last meeting he had said, "no matter what comes, they shall not part us."

"They are going to send both of us away, widely apart," mourned Edna. "Oh, don't let them do it!" and Sidney replied,

"Have you the faith to believe in me, to act with me without question if I find a way to defeat two old men, who have forgotten what love means?"

"I have given you my heart solely and trustingly," answered Edna staunchly.

"Then you shall hear from me when I have matured all my plans," promised Sidney.

There was a certain solace for Sidney in climbing the high garden wall at the rear of the Lane grounds and gazing up at the window of the room that held his heart's treasure. He had a note written detailing his plans and hopes, and he had almost despaired of delivering it, when, the afternoon before Christmas, he observed that the window was open.

Sidney added a few lines to the note, gathered up a handful of snow, enclosed the note in the white sphere, aimed, let fly and it passed through the open window.

The note had suggested the elopement he and Edna had previously discussed. He had added a line, "I will be in the lane at eight o'clock. Don't fail me."

There was a light in that upper window, now closed, when Sidney returned, and the lamp was set in a peculiar way. Across the frosted inside of a pane two words had been scratched, reading: "At eight."

A few minutes later the light was extinguished and a speeding figure crossed the garden, unlocked a rear door in the wall and the lovers were taulted.

"Quick," spoke Sidney. "It is a question of getting to a friend of mine, a clergyman at Amherst."

He clasped Edna's arm and they hurried down the lane.

The lane the fugitives were now in was deep with snow. As they neared a large barn within which showed a light Sidney drew Edna through its open door.

"We must hide for a spell," he said, and, as quite breathless, they entered the great rambling structure, they stared in amazement at a scene strange and striking.

In its center was what looked like an old circus chariot. There was gilt and holly and evergreen trimming in profusion. Four horses were attached and upon a sort of throne in the center was seated a gorgeously attired Santa Claus.

"We'll better start," spoke one of the men, "if we want to get to Amherst before everybody is abed," and catching sight of a sign on the chariot Sidney was made aware of the fact that to advertise a new soap this modern publicity van was touring the district, giving away samples as holiday presents.

"Step into that low space at the back," he whispered to Edna. "We shall be safe there."

When the unique Santa Claus vehicle arrived at the edge of Amherst, the fluttering lovers left it unnoticed. There was a hurried walk to the home of a clergyman.

The same telegram was sent by the happy bride and bridegroom to John Lane and Martin Freer. It read: "Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Freer wish their loving friends a Merry, Merry Christmas."



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Until Saturday Night, December 27th (store closed on Christmas day only.) We will sell our entire stock of General Merchandise at Greatly Reduced Prices and the goods were bought right. 25 per cent OFF on all Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Clothing, Underwear, Auto Goods, Etc., Etc.

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Beginning Wednesday, December 17 and continuing to Saturday, December 27th inclusive. We will offer our stock at greatly reduced prices.

25 per cent off on all Shoes, Boots, Hats, Caps, Underwear, Clothing, Dry Goods and Notions.

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A GOOD LINE OF XMAS GOODS.

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We have a general line, and too many articles to mention, but ask you to come see for yourself. It won't cost you a penny to look at the line. A word to the farmers and whom we always rely. Now is the time to get your goods for the work season and save these unnecessary trips to the stores.

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LABOR SEEKS AID OF AMERICAN FARMERS

Entire Platform Drawn Up With View of Making it Acceptable to Producers.

Washington, Dec. 14.—American Federation of Labor officials made another effort today to establish relations with farmers' organizations, the federation's "cooperation committee," appointed at the Atlantic City convention, meeting there with the representatives of several farmers' groups.

While only one delegate from a farm organization participated in the federation's "reconstruction conference," which opened yesterday, it was understood the invitations sent by the committee for today's meeting were more cordially received. Federation officials declined to discuss the conference today, saying that the committee would make a report to the executive council of the organization.

Anxious to Have Farmers Join In view of the declaration of principles adopted by the conference yesterday, it was generally believed in labor quarters that the cooperation committee had made greater progress toward a common ground on which to meet the farmers' representatives than has any previous union group.

Organized labor was declared by several spokesmen to be anxious to get organized farmers in the fold for the campaign which the workers plan to wage in the forthcoming election. Must Have Producers' Help In this contention the statements made in the declaration, adopted by yesterday's conference, appealing to "all of those who contribute to society to unite in furtherance of the principles," were explained today by labor leaders to mean that organized labor must be joined by the "producing classes if its victory is to be complete." These leaders asserted that the problems faced by organized labor are as much the problems of the agriculturist class, because they are both political and economic.

Against Radicalism Every pressure is being brought to bear on the farmer groups to line them up for labor's program, it was indicated at federation of labor headquarters. Efforts, it was said, will be made to show the farmers that the conference's declaration against radicalism means as much to the tiller of the soil as to the industrial worker, and that the organized aid of the country worker is needed in the fight against "autocratic control of monopolistic maneuvering of the nation's raw supplies."

Under Gompers' Direction The whole "platform" of yesterday's conference was understood to have been drafted with a view to making it as acceptable as possible to the farmers. It was the work of the conservative element of the American Federation of Labor and was understood to have been prepared under the personal direction of Samuel Gompers, president of the federation. For the reason that it was put out as a feeler for the farmers, Mr. Gompers would permit no changes to be made in it the conference, according to authentic information.

While it was noted that a strong sentiment for some political party declaration permeated the general conference yesterday, this, as well as the proposed endorsement of the new Labor party, fell by the wayside because of the likelihood that it would be acceptable to few farmers, labor delegates said.

BOY IS ARRESTED MOTHER OF DEAD Atlantic City, N. J., Dec. 14.—The body of James M. Blake Jr., six year old son of a wealthy Philadelphia insurance broker who was declared by his mother to have been kidnaped last Friday night, washed ashore at Ventnor today. Mrs. Blake has been placed under arrest. Mrs. Blake who on Friday night crawled to the home of Benjamin Fox

in Ventnor and told of being attacked by two negroes, who, after beating her, robbed her of a handbag and then fled with her child is charged with the murder of the boy. She was removed from the home of Mrs. A. G. Miller, in Ventnor today, to the Atlantic City hospital, where she is attended by a policeman. She is said to be suffering from a nervous collapse.

The boy's body was found less than five blocks from the pier in Ventnor where Mrs. Blake's handbag was recovered yesterday, and about the same distance from the scene to the alleged kidnaping. County Physician L. R. Souder performed an autopsy and pronounced death due to drowning. He said it had not yet been decided whether to hold an inquest. "There were no marks on the body to indicate that the boy had been killed before he was thrown into the water," said Dr. Souder.

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