

Rimrock Trail

By J. ALLAN DUNN

Author of "A Man to His Mate" Etc.

Illustrations by IRWIN MYERS

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CHAPTER XX—Continued.

The mare took the cold river water about her fetlocks with a little shiver, wading in to the girths, sliding to a deep pool where she had to swim a few strokes before she found gravel under her hoofs and scrambled out. Suddenly, while Sandy hesitated how best to arrange his patrol, a horse came floundering out of the pines less than a quarter of a mile away, a black horse, shining with sweat, tired to its limit, staggering in its stride, the rider hunched in the saddle more like a sack of meal than a man.

Before Sandy could turn the mare toward them three riders burst from the trees like bolts from a crossbow, spurring their mounts, the two in the lead swinging lariats. They divided, one to either side of the foundering black stallion, one at the rear, gaining, angling in. The ropes slithered out, the loops seemed to hang like suspended rings of wire for a second before they settled down, fair and true, about the neck and shoulders of the black's rider. They tightened, the lariats snubbed to the middle horse, the horses sliding with flattened pasterns. The black lunging on, pitched forward as it was relieved of a sudden weight and its rider jerked sideways from the saddle, hands clanking out of the ropes that choked his gullet, wrenching, striking deep, shutting off air and light with a horrid haze of blood and the noise of splashing water.

"The ropes wheeled their mounts and galloped back toward the woods, the deep body of their stirrups dragging, bounding over the ground. The third rope to meet Sandy. It was Brandon. He halted Sandy with a gasp.

"How'd you happen here this time of night, Brandon? Not looking for me?"

"No, I was looking for the man you've just caught. I was along a minute too late."

Brandon glanced curiously at Sandy, caught by the grim look in his eyes. But he made no comment.

"Sorry if I spoiled your private vendetta, Brandon. You can have him, what's left of him, if you want. We were going to swing him from a tree with a cord on his chest protruding him to Herford's ragged with our compliments. As it is, Brandon, I'd be relieved if you'd keep out of this entirely. Even forgetting you'd not us, we're within our rights, but we've done some thinking up tonight that we might have to explain if we stayed too long in the state. We got the goods on Pilsnoll, one of his men whose girl Pilsnoll had stolen helped us to pin them on him. We met him at Herford. I'm going to send the facts and proofs to your authorities. They may not approve of lynch law these days, but they wouldn't act—and we did. I don't fancy they'll bother us any. He wasn't worth the ropes he spoiled. Just as well you kept out of the mix up."

Sandy said nothing. There was no need to mention Molly's adventure.

"Want to be sure it's him?" asked Brandon.

The body of Pilsnoll lay at the foot of a big pine. The loops were still tight about his neck. One of the ropes had been tossed over a bough. The two men had dismounted. They nodded to Sandy as he came up with Brandon. They were horse owners, responsible men, who considered they had administered justice, who felt no more qualms concerning the dead man than if his body had been the carcass of a slaughtered steer.

"Waiting for the rest of the boys to come up," said Brandon. "We'll hit the trail home tonight. Bourke wants to identify the body, boys."

Sandy looked down at the contorted, blackened face, and his disappointment at having been forestalled, sedimented down. The gambler's features had not been made placid by death; they still held much of the horror of the last moments of that relentless chase, his horse falling under him, then the whistling ropes, the jerk into eternity. It was a thing to be forgotten, a nightmare that had nothing to do with the new day ahead.

"It's Pilsnoll," said Sandy shortly. "I'm ridin' back to Three Star. I found him hangin' to a tree. Good night, hombra." He left them standing about their quarry and turned the wailing mare toward home. Peace settled down on him under the stars that were fading, the moon below the hills when he rode into the house corral.

A figure was perched upon the fence, waiting. It was Molly and she leaped down almost into his arms as he swung from the mare. In the gray dawn her face seemed drawn and weary. There were the blue

shadows under the eyes that he remembered seeing there the time they had ridden over the Pass of the Goats. She came close to him, her hands up against his chest.

"You're safe, Sandy. Safe!" "I was too late," he said. "Brandon's men had been ahead of me."

"I'm so glad, Sandy. Your hands are clean of his blood. They are my hands now, Sandy."

He swept her up to him, kissing her mouth and eyes, the eager pressure of her lips returning all with full measure. A streak of rose glowed in the east behind the amethyst peaks. Her face reflected it like a mirror.

"I don't have to go back East," she said presently. They had left the corral and were under the big cottonwoods by Patrick Casey's grave. "Do I?"

"I don't reckon you can, even if you wanted to," answered Sandy. "I forgot to tell you, Molly, that you're busted, so far's the mine is concerned. Listen."

She laughed when he finished speaking.

"Is that all?" She patted the turf on the green mound. "I'm sorry, Daddy, for you, it didn't pan out bigger. But I guess what you wanted most was my happiness—and I've got that." She turned to Sandy. The big bell of the ranch boomed brassily. Molly put her hand in Sandy's. "It may be most unromantic, Sandy dear," she said, "but I'm hungry. Let's go in to breakfast."

CHAPTER XXII

The Very End.

There was a council held later that day, that was almost a council of war. Sandy was in the chair, Mormon and Sam present, Molly the indignant speaker-in-chief.

"I'm very much ashamed of all of you," she said. "An agreement is an agreement, and we were to share as we arranged. We shook hands upon it. I've had three times as much as any one of you, as it is. I haven't spent all of it, Sandy tells me."

"I've got to accept Sandy's share of it, I suppose, because it goes with Sandy. As for you, Sam Manning, you'll need your third when you marry Kate Nicholson."

"Sole water Sam gasped."

"Harry Miss Nicholson?"

"Certainly. She expects you to."

"She—Molly, it ain't no joke matter with me. She wouldn't look at a rough-hidder like me."

"You ain't her, Sammie, Mormon. I suppose you'll have to hang for me if you find out about that third wife."



A Figure Was Perched Upon the Fence, Waiting.

hope the fourth time will be the charm. It will if you marry Miranda Talley."

"You're sure talkin' like a matrimonial boorow, Molly," said Mormon. "I sure think a sight of Miranda. She's different from my first three. They all married me, so me to look out for them. If Mirandy can be persuaded to take me it's becos she is willin' to look after me. She 'lows I need it," he added, sheepishly.

"Then the meeting is closed," said Molly. "I accept your apologies and you keep your money."

Mormon and Sam rose. With a glance at each other that ended in a wink, they left the room. Molly turned to Sandy.

"You didn't give me back my luck-piece, Sandy?"

"What does a mascot want with a luck-piece?"

"She would like it made into an engagement ring, Sandy."

"Why not a weddin' ring, Molly, Molly mine?"

[THE END]

A Philosopher. During a nature study walk with her class, the teacher asked the children:

"Who made the beautiful world?" One little boy answered reverently: "God."

A little later they were admiring the brilliant autumn coloring of the leaves on all the trees, and the teacher asked:

"Who makes the trees grow?" The same little boy answered quickly: "The devil."

Prompt Handling of Potato Crop

Government Bulletin Points Out Great Importance of Heavy Early Shipment.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Prompt, quick, careful handling of the early potato crop is the keynote of the marketing problem, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The market season for any early potato district lasts only a few weeks and into that short time must be condensed the net results of the season's work and planning. Farmers' bulletin 1316, just published, tells how the crop is sold in the leading early potato sections; the location, shipping points, and relative importance of the heavy early-shipping districts are shown; kind and source of information which the grower should use are described; and the grower told how to make the most of them in marketing his crop.

Factors to Study. Study is better than guess work, says the bulletin. There are a number of factors to consider and the grower should keep in touch with crop news, shipment reports, and market quotations. Study of the best official reports until experience makes it possible to size up their practical meaning almost at a glance, is a practical and profitable part of the work of marketing.

Before the time of planting the grower who studies conditions will be able to figure with a certain degree of accuracy the probable market situation for early new potatoes. The price of early potatoes seems to vary according to the size of the main crop the year before and the quantity of old stock available for shipment after January 1, as well as according to shipments of the new early crop. For example the average price of new potatoes in 1917 was nearly double that of 1916, yet about the same number of carloads of new early stock were shipped in each of the two years. But the 1917 new crop followed a short old crop of which the shipments were light after January, while the 1916 new crop followed a heavy old crop.

Success in Marketing. While the selling end of the potato question deals mainly with the crop when ready for market, it is well to bear in mind that success in marketing depends much on having the right stock at the right time. The variety should be one that is marketed in large quantities from the locality, thus making sure of earliest shipments throughout the season and of plenty of local cash buyers.

The bulletin contains much of interest regarding the various market outlets for the small grower as well as for the larger commercial planter and a copy may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., as long as the supply lasts.

Beefing Young Bull Is Not Profitable Practice

Don't send the promising yearling bull to the butcher's block before he has had a chance to show, through his daughters, his quality.

This is the warning of the men at the New York state college of agriculture who are encouraging the use of better sires.

They say that many times farmers have disposed of young bulls only to find that some of their daughters have developed into remarkable producers. They cite figures that show on many farms the tendency is decidedly for the use of young bulls and then to dispose of them before their real worth can be learned.

In a study of 376 purebred bulls it was found that 45 were under nine months of age; 121 were one year of age; 112 were two years of age; 64 were three years of age; 19 were four years of age; 17 were five years of age; 5 were six years of age and only 1 was seven years of age.

Ordinarily stock men figure that a bull must be five years old before much can be known about his first daughters, and seven years must elapse before there is definite knowledge of his breeding qualities. Yet of all the bulls considered in the survey, only 13 were of sufficient age to admit of an estimate of their value.

Pigs Require Less Salt Than Other Farm Animals

Although pigs require less salt than other farm animals, they should be provided with it regularly. In a trial by Professor Eward at the Iowa agricultural experiment station, pigs allowed free access to salt made better gains than those receiving no salt or others getting allowances of 1-64, 1-32, or 1-16 ounce per head daily. Salt may be supplied in a trough or a snail self-feeder. If pigs have not had free access to salt they might at first overeat when allowed free access to it. Brood sows should also be supplied with salt which is best fed in a suitable box or self-feeder.

Japanese Millet Useful as Feed for Live Stock

Japanese millet may be used as a green feed, cured for hay or made to produce a seed crop. When used as a feed it has the advantage over other millets, in being having been known to cause little trouble in live stock. It is a better feed than sorghum, it is generally well liked and a few heavy millets have been used as a winter crop.

Right Treatment for Sunstroke in Horses

First Step Is to Get Animal in Cool, Shady Spot.

Sunstroke, a disorder of the nervous system caused by exposure to the direct rays of the sun, is likely to cause trouble in hot weather, says the veterinary division of the Clemson Agricultural college.

In severe cases, death is sudden, due to paralysis of the nerve centers in the brain controlling the respiration and circulation. In the less severe cases there may be marked excitement, the animal becoming uncontrollable; or the opposite condition may be present, the animal appearing sleepy and depressed.

As the condition occurs in the open, and usually while the animal is at hard work, the first step is to get the animal in a cool, shady spot out of doors.

If there is excitement, all precautions should be taken to prevent the animal injuring itself. Then cold water, or better still, ice should be applied to the head. If ice is not available it is well to turn the garden hose on the animal's head. The cold water tends to relieve the congested condition of the brain, and the colder the better. The water should not be applied all over the body, but only to the head.

The animal should not be drenched, for he is likely to be unconscious and the drench will, in that case, pass into the lungs, where it may set up a fatal inflammation.

Following sunstroke the animal should be rested for several days, and brought back to hard work gradually.

Sheep Need Protection From Sun in Hot Season

There are very few days from June on till fall that sheep do not need some protection from the sun. Where tillable fields are pastured and inclosed with wire fencing, there is little provision for supplying shade. On a great many farms all the shade trees have been removed from the fields to facilitate cultivation.

Some flock owners supply shade for their flocks by allowing the sheep to occupy the shade during the summer months. This is a good plan as the shade can be frequently retreated, kept dark and sanitary. By removing the windows and substituting light frames covered with thin muslin the flow can be kept out and the shade will remain cool and be well ventilated.

Where large sprawling trees, small groves, or a portion of the woodlot are not available for furnishing shade some artificial means should be constructed. This can be done by setting posts in the ground about ten feet apart, nailing cross-pieces to the top and laying a roof made of old lumber, overlapping just enough to shed water. This kind of shade answers the purpose, is cool and sanitary.

Proper Care and Feed Will Help Draft Foals

With the draft horse market improving steadily, for the best quality animals, anyway, some recent experiments conducted by Professor Fuller at the Wisconsin experiment station will be of interest and practical value.

A lot of seven pure bred draft foals was given careful feeding for 182 days during the winter before last, on an average daily ration of 11.4 pounds of concentrates and 6.4 pounds of alfalfa hay. The grain mixture consisted of 90 pounds of crushed oats and 10 pounds of wheat bran. The foals made an average daily gain of 1.9 pounds, and averaged 1,141.4 pounds in weight at an average age of 377 days. The result of this work checked very closely with the trials of previous years, and it appears safe to conclude that, by proper care and liberal feeding, good draft foals can easily be made to weigh 1,000 pounds at one year of age.

Prairie-Dog Eradication Saves Arizona Farmers

For every dollar invested in the Arizona campaign for prairie-dog eradication in 1922, there was a \$15 return in the value of farm products saved from destruction by these pests, according to reports to the United States Department of Agriculture. The state and federal appropriation for the campaign was \$30,000. Farmers estimated the value of crops, fruit trees, range grasses, or other products saved as a result, at \$475,000, over fifteen times the amount put into the work.

Kill Cucumber Beetles With Arsenate of Lead

Cucumber beetles are running wild in truck patches and gardens wherever growers have failed to protect their crops. Dusting or spraying with arsenate of lead will get them. Dust when the dew is on. A small quantity can be made by using a quarter of a pound of arsenate of lead to two and a half to three pounds of powdered lime.

Dealers Sometimes Cause of Poor Quality in Eggs

Dealers are sometimes at fault in causing poor quality in eggs which consumers receive, by buying over quality eggs in a warm place after separating them and holding them for sale. A dealer's quality eggs will not keep good unless they are cooled.

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

BOY SCOUT HEROES

"The boy scout movement takes a boy at the age when he craves the opportunity to translate heroic words to deeds," says an observer, "and stirring are the incidents of youthful bravery and self-sacrifice fulfilling the ideals for which scouting stands."

The following trio of heroic acts are typical.

At the risk of their lives, Scouts Maurice Shanahan and Irving Seltzer of Syracuse, together with Arthur A. Mullett, a painter, recently saved a bed-ridden invalid from being burned to death when a fire broke out in the building in which her apartment was located. The boys, in passing, were attracted by the smoke. Calling to the painter, who was working nearby, the three made their way into the burning building. The flames drove the boys back when they reached the second landing. Mullett continued on to the third floor, reaching Mrs. Sheeran as the flames were licking the posts of the bed on which she was lying helpless. Mullett picked the woman up and carried her to the second floor, where Seltzer and Shanahan joined him and aided in carrying the invalid from the building.

"Because his older brother passed boy scout resurrection tests for persons burned by live wires," states the Detroit Evening News, "eleven-year-old Herman Scott of Plakwell, Mich., is alive today." The Scott boys, accompanied by a companion, were returning home along an interurban line when Herman stepped on the third rail. The rail was knocked down and rolled under the rail, where his body was terribly burned. Sending their companion for a doctor, the scout pulled his brother's unconscious form from under the rail and carried it down to the street. There the scout held the smaller boy's limp form in the cold water until he revived, and upon the arrival of the physician the scout assisted in dressing the burns.

A quarry hole at Woodbury, N. J., might have gone down in local history as the scene of tragedy had it not been for the training and presence of mind of Scout de Vere Loring.

With some other boys, the scout, following a baseball game, went swimming in the quarry hole. Suddenly one of the group, Thomas Lenthin, evidently becoming paralyzed in the cold water, began to sink. The scout dived in after him and, as Lenthin was about to go under the third time, succeeded in bringing the unconscious boy to shore. Loring worked on the prostrate form of his companion, pumped the water from the lad's lungs and finally succeeded in restoring him to consciousness. After a short rest Lenthin was able to return to his home.

TYPICAL SCOUT GOOD TURN

A mantle of charity in the way of a coat of whitewash was recently covered over all the shabby poles, tree trunks and unsightly spots in the city of Abilene, Tex., by its scouts in a recent clean-up campaign. The scouts received the official thanks of the city and in addition, four prizes were awarded as many troops for their outstanding service. Troop No. 10, which mixed the whitewash and therefore had not the time to compete in applying it, was awarded the consolation prize.

"The work of the scouts having the clean-up campaign in charge was declared a big success," says the Abilene Daily Reporter. "Some residents whose trees the boys whitewashed wanted to remunerate the scouts for their work, but of course, no money was taken, as it is one of the laws of scoutdom that no boy scout is to receive pay for any act of kindness and help he does."

The scouts have promptly taken up another community good-turn in aiding in the erection of \$800 worth of playground apparatus, consisting of merry-go-rounds, swings, see-saws, slides and other paraphernalia. The work is being done under the direction of the local executive, and "the scouts, of course," adds the Daily Reporter, "are donating their services."

SAVES SISTER'S LIFE

When Edmund Schultz of Troop 19, Moundsville, W. Va., saw his little sister's dress catch fire from a gas heater he instantly seized her and rolled her on the floor to extinguish the flames. Her brother's prompt action, presence of mind and knowledge of how to act in the emergency saved the child from serious burns.

SCOUTS HELP MOTORIST

Chief Seattle in a recent issue of the Seattle Sun expresses his official appreciation of the good turn spirits of the Boy Scouts and Leaders: "It is a mighty fine thing for you to assist a lady motorist on the Emery highway, when her car was stalled by an exploded tire. You stopped and very gallantly placed a new tire after hundreds of other motorists had abandoned by without even looking. Thanks, scouts for the courage of highway courtesies."

After Every Meal
A universal custom that benefits every body.
Aids digestion, cleanses the teeth, soothes the throat.

WRIGLEYS

a good thing to remember
Sealed in its Purify Package
THE FLAVOR LASTS

His Keeper.
He—Marriage is a great institution!
She—Yes, I know there are a lot of inmates.—Judge.

Cutting Teeth Made This Baby Deathly Sick

"When my baby began cutting his teeth he became deathly sick and his constant crying almost broke my heart," writes Mrs. D. H. Tidwell, Grand View, Texas, "but as soon as I started giving him Teethinga he got over it and next day was laughing and playing as if nothing had ever been the matter with him."

Teethinga is especially designed to allay the irritation and feverish conditions that are the cause of so much fretfulness in teething children. It soon stops the pain, relieves the trouble and gives the distracted mother rest and comfort.

Teethinga is sold by leading drug stores or send \$1 to the Moffet Laboratories, Columbus, Ga., and receive a full size package and a free copy of Moffet's Illustrated Baby Book—(Advertisement.)

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