

THE GIRL AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE

A STORY OF THE PLAINS BY E. HOUGH, AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE COWBOY

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

Franklin had small notion of Curly's locality, but he heard his voice, half taunting and half encouraging, and calling on his pluck as he saw some hope of a successful issue, he resolved to ride it out if it lay within him so to do.

he was the guiding mind in the affairs of the odd partnership which now sprang between him and his friend, Battersleigh would have lived till autumn in his tent, but Franklin saw that the need of a house was immediate. He took counsel of Curly, the cowboy, who proved guardian and benefactor.



At last he did get the horse's head up.

a rider—worthy the old Forty-fourth—yes, more, I'll say ye might be an officer in the guards, or in the Rifle Irish itself, 'gad, yes, sir!—Curly, ye divvil, what do ye mean by puttin' me friend on such a brute, him the first day in the land? And, Ned, how are ye goin' to like it here, me boy?

CHAPTER VIII.

The Beginning. Franklin's foot took hold upon the soil of the new land. His soul reached out and laid hold upon the sky, the harsh flowers, the rasping wind. He gave, and he drank in. Thus grew the people of the West.

gling street. These new edifices were for the most part used as business places, the sorts of commerce being but two—general merchandise, which meant chiefly saddles and firearms, and that other industry of new lands which flaunts under such signboards as the Lone Star, the Happy Home, the Quiet Place, the Cowboy's Dream and such descriptive nomenclature.

centrifuge. Having arrived, we wave scented kerchiefs between us and the thought of such a beginning of our prosperity. Having lost touch of the earth, having lost sight of the sky, we opine there could have been small augur in a land where each man found joy in an earth and sky which to him seemed his own.

CHAPTER IX.

The New Movers.

Far away, across the wide gray plain, appeared a tiny dot, apparently an unimportant fixture of the landscape. An hour earlier it might not have been observed at all by even the keenest eye, and it would have needed yet more time to acquire an observer even now that the dot was a moving object.

Meantime, from the direction of the north, there came traveling across the prairie another cloud of dust more rapid than that stirred up by the slow-moving emigrant wagon. Sam, the stage driver, was crossing on his regular buckboard trip from Ellisville to Plum Centre, and was now nearly half-way on his journey.

Waits for His Master. "Hello, Ribs, he ain't on this train!" Thus brakeman or baggage-master greets a big black and white dog which every evening trots down to the station in a small Pennsylvania town to meet the train on which his master used to come home.

ILLINOIS NEWS

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

PECULIAR ACCIDENT AT PANAMA

Two Handcars Collide and Hotelkeeper is Badly Injured. A. J. Mack of the Flint hotel, Panama, and several section men were more or less seriously injured, the result of an unusual accident which occurred on the Big Four railroad near the hotel.

TWO DEEDS TO SAME PARCEL

Tenant is Perplexed When It Comes to Paying Rent. Two parties holding deeds to the same piece of ground was the cause of a lawsuit which was tried before Squire Stehlin at Bunker Hill.

Sunday School Conventions.

The executive committee of the Jackson county Sunday school association has announced the dates for township conventions as follows: Murphysboro, March 27; Somerset, June 19; Grand Tower, April 11; Kincaid, June 26; Carbondale, April 18; Sand Ridge, July 3; Ora, June 24; Degonia, July 10; De Soto, May 1; Fountain Bluff, July 17; Elk, May 8; Vergennes, May 15; Pomona, May 22; Levan, May 29; Makanda, June 5; Bradley, June 12.

M. E. Salem District Dates.

Dr. W. H. Nelson, presiding elder of Salem district, Methodist Episcopal church south, has announced the following quarterly meeting assignments for the second quarter of the conference year: Clarkdale and Xenia, Jan. 30-31; Pana and Clay City, Feb. 6-7; Tower Hill and Altamont, Feb. 13-14; Patoka, Feb. 20-21; Denison, Feb. 27-28; Casey, March 5-6; Kimmunity, March 12-13; Salem and Vandalia, March 19-21.

Trades Assembly Election.

The Belleville trades and labor assembly has elected the following officers: President, James Borden; vice-president, Charles Bender; recording secretary, E. P. Leuschner; corresponding secretary, Chas. Muehleisen; financial secretary, William C. Spies; treasurer, J. P. Face; business agent, James Borden.

Dedicate Odd Fellows' Home.

The new home of the Dixon Odd Fellows was dedicated Jan. 20 with impressive ceremonies. The hall is a three-story pressed brick building with carved stone ornaments, and cost \$30,000. The construction was made possible by a legacy from the late C. F. Emerson of \$20,000.

Honor Old Odd Fellow.

Capt. Jones Worden, the oldest member of the Upper Alton Odd Fellows' lodge, celebrated his 83d birthday Jan. 21. Members of the lodge gave him an informal surprise party.

Must Ride on Regular Train.

All railroads centering in Chicago have decided to forbid passengers to ride on freight trains, which will be a hard blow to commercial travelers.

State Fair Dates.

The state board of agriculture is sending out cards announcing the Illinois state fair dates as September 29 to October 7.

Farm Hand is Killed.

Robert McKenzie, a young farm hand, was accidentally killed by a train on the Illinois Central railroad near Maroa.

Land Transfers.

Edward Rose of Bunker Hill has purchased the southwest quarter of section 11 from J. M. Cooper for \$3,000.

Lost Summons Causes Suit.

Circuit Clerk Isaac B. Betts of Salem has been made defendant in a \$5,000 damage suit as the result of a summons, which was alleged to have been lost some three years ago.

HUNTING PARTY IS BROKEN UP.

Fear of the Law Saves the Life of a Venturesome Stag. The discovery that the Illinois game law forbids the killing of deer in the state for ten years cut short a projected hunt in the vicinity of Newbern and Dow, in Jersey county.

PREPARE FOR THE G. A. R. MEET

Springfield Veterans Co-Operate to Entertain War Comrades. All local posts of the G. A. R. have united to make elaborate plans for the state encampment of the Grand Army, which will be held in Springfield May 10-12.

Heirs to \$300,000.

An organization of the Starr families and their descendants was effected at Red Bud for the purpose of pushing their claims to an estate in Baltimore, Md., amounting to over \$300,000.

Launch for Naval Militia.

Congressman W. A. Rodenburg has sent word to the Alton division of naval militia that he has made formal application to the secretary of the navy for a steam launch for use by the militia.

Divorce or Pension?

Mrs. George Heatherly of Alton, a blind woman, will be the first applicant for a county pension of \$150 under a new law. Her husband has been fined frequently for spending money for drink that was given her by charitable people, and before receiving the pension she will be required to get a divorce.

Odd Division of Estate.

The late Thomas Lewis, by his will, which has just been filed for probate at Decatur, bequeathed \$500 to Mary Lewis, a daughter; \$5 to Ben Lewis, a son, and \$1 to Michael Purcell, a grandson. The remainder of the estate is left to Davis and Will Lewis, sons.

Kills Innocent Man.

Allen Woodard, a contracting carpenter, was accidentally killed at Bloomington by Edward Maher, a bartender. George Kistner assaulted Maher with bricks. Maher fired two shots, one striking Kistner in the arm and the other penetrating the heart of Woodard, who was passing.

Claims Mormons Threaten Woman.

According to officers of the Illinois W. C. T. U. the elders of the Mormon church in Chicago have threatened the life of Mrs. Maria Reed, a speaker of the national W. C. T. U., who has been lecturing against Mormonism in that city. Mrs. Reed lived for a time in Utah.

Want Rates Reduced.

Decatur shippers, jobbers and manufacturers have decided to make another appeal to Gov. Yates and the railroad and warehouse commission for a reduction of the local rates. A reduction was promised some months ago.

Interurban to Run Aug. 1.

The management of the Springfield and Decatur interurban railroad says cars will be running between Decatur and Springfield by Aug. 1.

Want Curfew to Ring.

The ministers of Taylorville have petitioned the city council to pass a curfew ordinance, and their request will likely be granted. They desire that all boys under 15 years of age be compelled to be off the streets at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Water Drillers Strike Oil.

While drilling for water on the Dick White farm, in Moore's Prairie township, oil was struck at the depth of 210 feet.

BREAKS WILL AND GETS OWN

Luther T. Scott is Victim of a Test in the Courts. The many friends of Luther T. Scott of East St. Louis are elated over his success in breaking the will of his father, Capt. J. C. Scott, who left the bulk of his estate to the Swedenborgian society of New York. Capt. Scott died about a year while on a business trip to Yankton.

Bankruptcy Petitions.

William Owens of Taylorville has filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States district court. His liabilities are scheduled at \$2,500 and assets \$2,514.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 21.—Henry E. Linne a baker of Danville, filed a petition in bankruptcy, scheduling his liabilities as \$4,783.98 and his assets as nothing.

A petition was filed by John Anger, residing near Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, who scheduled his liabilities as \$1,866.26 and his assets as \$186.

Funeral of Mrs. Mendenhall.

The remains of Mrs. Isabel Mendenhall were conveyed to Olney for burial. She died at the soldiers' orphans' home at Bloomington, aged 96. Her son-in-law, Col. R. E. McCauley, is superintendent of the institution. Deceased was one of the oldest members of the Rebekah order, the obligation being administered at Olney in 1851 by Schuyler Collins, afterward vice-president. She was president of the sanitary and Christian commission of Indiana under Gov. Morton.

Steals Gas Meter.

Charles T. Edwards, colored, was caught in the act of stealing a gas meter from the saloon of Clementine Jones in East St. Louis. The meter contained \$50. Edwards admitted that he is one of a gang of negroes who have been stealing gas meters for some time. He claims that they have succeeded in getting away with about thirty-five, containing from \$3 to \$5 each.

Snow Explodes Blast Pile.

Snow caused an explosion of slag taken from a smelting furnace at the Federal lead plant in Alton. Roy Hartman was severely burned on the face and neck and Frank Burford's face was burned slightly. The men were dumping the contents of a tub for hauling slag. When the tub was turned over the molten lead and slag exploded from contact with a snow bank.

Miner is Killed in Explosion.

While making a test of a new smokeless blasting powder in the mine of the Chicago-Virgin Coal company at Virden James Williams, a miner, was killed, and Mine Manager John Handley was quite badly burned about the hands and face. Williams was in the act of tamping the charge when it exploded.

Observes 104th Birthday.

Leonard Roeder, one of the early settlers in Quincy, and probably the oldest man in western Illinois, quietly observed the 104th anniversary of his birth Jan. 21. He has the distinction of being in the ranks of Wellington's army at his victory at Waterloo and is very well preserved at his advanced age.

Y. M. C. A. Meet at Alton.

The committee representing the Alton Y. M. C. A. returned from Chicago, bringing with them the decision of the state executive committee adopting Alton as the convention city.

Miners' Delegates.

The United Mine Workers' local of Taylorville has selected J. G. Frost as a delegate to the state miners' convention to be held at Springfield in February.

Gets Collar and Cuff Factory.

A collar and cuff manufacturing company of New York has made arrangements to locate its western factory at Pana.

Militia Encampment Date.

An order has been issued by Adj. Gen. Scott to the effect that the state encampment of the Illinois national guard would be held at Camp Lincoln, Springfield, beginning July 2 and ending Sept. 1.

Victims of a Flood.

L. A. Richardson of Taylorville, who was in a boat on the river, was nearly drowned when the water rose to a height of 210 feet.