The Free Bress Short Story

OUT OF THE PAST

ALICE COOPER BAILEY

SIREN sounded a shrill blast. In | Austin an unexpected blow. He another hour the great Trans- stumbled over a cleat in the deck, caught Pacific Yacht Race would start. his balance, and stood staring in a sor Already the harbor was thronged with of daze at the "Jacksnapes" an spectators, and the yachts were jockey- pulled up abeam of the "Manuwai." John ing back and forth to the starting line, heard him repeat the word "dead," and

Five entries were stated for the race as though to clear his vision. this year: the "Constellation," pride of the Western Yacht Club; the "Flying Plah." the new seventy-one foot ketch From Santa Barbara; two sixty-footers the "Jackanapee" and the "Kiwi." halling from San Francisco, and the "Manuwal." a staunch seagoing schooner, representing the Royal Hawaiian Yacht

It was the "Manuwai" that Austin thing of any importance. He was a tall, left far astern. lean chap with clean-cut unsmilling features, and a weather-bronzed skin. deep lines between his gray-blue eyes Up until this time he had been refergave him at first glance the appearance red to simply as a reporter from the of being years older than he actually Daily Record. Gathered at the most was, just twenty. When he had first table, Commodore Holmes inquired his applied for a job on the Daily Record, name. Austin hesitated a moment be-Derwent Nowell, the chief, had looked fore replying. All these men were askance at him; but a recommendation ishinders. He might as well explode a from a professor of a well-known uni- | bombshell in their midst as to utter his versity and a certain something in the own name. There was nothing for him eyes of Austin Hunt-he was known then to do, however, but face matters squareto Nowell as Austin Wayne-coupled ly. with a sudden vacancy-on-the-staff, conthe yacht races.

Wayne, sir. My name is not Wayne, excused himself at the first opportunity, strange silence. Austin tiptoed past it It's Hunt-Austin Hunt." He had spoken | baving the others to sit over their coffee. a hideous sense of homesickness clutchthe name ulmost fiercely.

the chief's mind. "So that's the way is?" the wind blows," Nowell had muttered under his breath, his bushy brows arch- smoke into the air. ed into semicircles of surprise.

"You still want me to go?" Austin had questioned, leaning a little toward adopted son, the one who nearly got playing and singing some plaintive old his chief, an odd expression on his face. Focusing his ferretlike eyes on the young sister, Edythic Blake, made good every reading a book. Across the room, seated man then, he had replied, "Y seldon dollar he had stolen. The boy was told, in a lovely old carved chair, was Edytha make mistakes in human nature. Your however, to get out and stay out of Blake herself. Austin looked at her past life is no concern of mine. I'm Honolulu. trusting you to go straight now."

from botting at the eleventh hour. He he can force Edytha Blake to buy him stood there, Lols arose from the plane had very definite roisons for not want- off nealn." ing to sail on the "Manuwal." It was too late to ask for a transfer, however, clipped Vandyke beard thoughtfully, shadows of a low-spreading hau tree.

had held out his hand.

away. The breeze had freshened, veering been a bad strain in the family some- from her voice that she was frightened around into the southwest. Little clouds, where." like wisps of white cotton streamed Silus Todd snorted. "I knew the he found himself mying 'Don't be afraid across the blue uky. There was a spas- boy's mother and father. Never knew Lols." modio burst of applause us the "Manu- two more improvident people, but homest wal," under full sail, tore through the us the day is long. Hunt felt himself water toward the starting line and cross- eternally indebted to Austin's father ed it first. Close upon her heels came because he saved him from being gored the "Flying Fish," a challenge in the to death by an angry bull up at Aiken's very set of her mile. Meeling over so Runch. The boy's sense of grattende that her bee rull was under water, she toward his foster father took rather s threw off a shower of foam from her different form of expression. They say

Mustin turned his camera on her. Standing at the bow of the "Manuwii," cut short by a report that one of the he adjusted the focus; then with sure, yachts, as yet unidentified, was appear. Honolulu, and we've been searching firm fingers, he pressed the bulb. At ing astern on the horizon. This caused everywhere for you. John and Mother the same instant a dark shadow blurred a flurry of excitement. Going on deck, are both here now. Do come in." found himself face to face with his trying to get the most out of the fitful. you'll have to excuse me. John and I foster brother. John Hunt. He had shifting wind. In the late afternoon it don't exactly agree-" known that this meeting must occur had decreased considerably, and the sooner or later, for he had read of "Manuwai" was wellowing in a heavy He wants to find you now as much as John's enlistment us a member of the sea. character. Austin spoke first.

ploture purposely, I'd-" broke in.

Austin slowly.

a threatening rooster.

on John. "Don't push me too You've had your innings, but I'vd paid out of my way." . .

think you-"

John, however, had no mercy. cause you disgraced-"

saw him rub his hand across his eyes

"Shut up!" said Austin sharply, A sudden shift in the wind. Holmes, and the ship was put on starboard tack. For a moment all personal enmittes were forgotten as the

"Manuwai," logging eighteen and fairly

flying, drew well ahead of all yachts. If this breeze continued, by nightfall the other vatchts would be

Not until supper time did it become Two generally known who Austin Hunt was

vinced the chief that he could not go when he was at home, lived a more or far wrong in enlisting the services of kess isolated life on one of the big sugar this young man for his paper. For a plantations, some forty miles or so outmoment, however, he had doubted his side of the city of Honolulu, the name own judgment when Aust had at first conveyed nothing of any importance to curtly refused the chief's offer to cover him. A quick, surprised glance from Silas Todd, however, the gentleman on "Scared of being seasick, ch?" Nowell his right, who was acting in the capacity had bellowed, surprised, and half angry. of first mate, caused him to look ques-That strange disclosure had followed. Honingly from one to the other. Todd lowed the windings of the path, to find which explained a certain alcorness that offered no comment at the time, but the chief had noticed about the young Austin had caught his accusing glance. man. . "You've known me be Austin Sensing the older min's antagonism, he empty, and, it seemed enveloped in a

Slins Todd was not the sort of man to ing at him. Like an arrow plercing the heart of remain allent long. As soon as Austin's

For a moment Nowell had hesitated. Got off scot-free, though, because Hunt's her sat his own foster brother, John

ed Todd, "going back now that the old he had never seen that proud head held It was this handclasp that kept Austin | man's dead. I suppose he thinks maybe other than high. Suddenly, as Austin

'All of the juchts made a splendid get- like a rotter," he mused. "Must have there?" cried Lois, and Austin knew

old man Hunt-died of the dispuce." Further discussion of Austin Hunt was

"Manuwai's" yolunteer crew. For a Auntin sprawled full length on the moment the two stared in utter silence deck far aft, watched with mingled at each other; then a smeering smile emotions the setting sun lay an undulat- tell you. Somehow I knew all the time, crept over John's face. John was per- ing golden truck across the heavy sea. Austin, that you couldn't do anything haps a year or two Austin's junior, a It was easy to dream in the half light, wrong," said Lois, softly. big, broad-shouldered chap, solidly built; and as he lay there upparently intent with a square jaw that betrayed at once on the happenings of the moment, a himself in the great living room filled a marked degree of stubborness in his swift succession of incidents raced with priceless treasures of air. Lois through his mind. He saw himself being led him directly to her mother. With-"If I thought that you spolled that carried down the gang-way of one of the out ceremony of any sort, she introducbig Maston liners on the shoulders of ed him. "It's Austin, Mother. Don't "Oh, yeah, what'd you do?" John some of his college mates. There were you know him?" There was no conyells and cheers, and then the native coaling the joyful note in her voice. "Lick you, like I used to," continued band on the dock had played "Pair Har- At the sound of the young man's vara." That was only a little more than name, Edytha Blake rose to her feet. "Just try it!" scoffed John in an a year ago; then, like the bursting of a Austin could see that her hands were undertone, advancing upon the other like skyrocket, his life had been shattered, shaking like leaves in a violent storm He shuddered at the thought of those He had always thought of her as an iron

far. them from his mind. Eleven days it took the "Manuwai" his name. Something caught at his my debt in full and I warn you to keep to make the voyage from California to heart. Gently he put his arm around Honolulu, eleven days of all kinds of her thoulders and led her back to her John gave an insulting, raucious laugh; weather. Pinally there came a high chair, but Austin did not speak again. Shoving serene dawn, bringing with it the long- For a moment the woman sat there, his camera back into its case, he turn- looked for trades, that sent the "Manu- trying to regain her composure; then ed on his heel. 'Suddenly John's face wai" scudding on her way. During all with something of her old show of spirit, went livid with an uncontrollable rare, these days Austin was conscious of the she said, "God forgive me, I've been of and the young man dung his words ut fact that wherever he went, conversa- cruel woman." Austin. 'You've no business to go back tions were halted, only to be resumed to Honolulu. You promised Aunt Edytha, after he was out of hearing. He came and now just because Dad's dead, you soon to feel like an outcast. He kept month ago my brother George died. more and more to himself, particularly Just before he died, he made a confes-It was as though John had struck avoiding all contact with his foster slon to me. He told me that it was he

who embeszied the money that you were accused of taking." tremendous relief that, on the morning of their last day at son. Austin suw the mountains of Molokal over the

Like a race home returning to stable, the "Manuwai" sheered through the waters of the channel between Molokal and Oahu, nosing her way around Diamond Head, that tawny volcanic crater that guards the entrunce Honolulu harbor, a full eight hours ahead of the 'Plying Pish." The other three yachts did not put in their appear ance until early the next day. For the third time Commodore Holmes had provod himself a master sailor. Honolulu eccived him with enthusiasm. The water front was lined with cheering people and the band was there, too, to play as he and his victorious crew came

There was one, however, who took no part in the festivities that followed. was Austin Hunt. He evaded the crowds. having mipped away from them that first day by turning into a narrow back street that skirted the city proper. This street from view by a thick grove of breadfruit and mango trees. Here Austin ented a room. The "Constellation" on where for you. Yesterday I learned that which he was scheduled to return to the mainland would not leave until Sunday.

It was but a matter of hours for Austin Hunt to get his photographs developed and printed and his copy off to his chief. at Austin's hand. He was too overcome he was coming out of the post office, then, he caught a glimpee of his Aunt Edytha Blake. Fortunately she did not see him. How he despised her! If just once she had shown the slightest sign of sympathy for him in his plight; he would have forgiven her.

Perhaps it was the sight of Edytha, or maybe it was only the white of fragrant ylang-ylangs which sailed Austin's nostrike one day, that filled the young man with a sudden over-Perhaps because Commodore Holmes, powering desire to revisit his old home. However It was, he found himself one night hurrying along a street that led him up into Manoa Valley. Before an Iron gate he stopped, fumbling at the latch in his haste to open it. The gate opened into to path hedged with flaming hibbseus, and as Austin half ran through it, he caught the pungent odor of ylanghimself standing at last before a low. rambling white house. It was unlighted

Cutting across a corner of the garden a target, the name had roused into per- footsteps had, died away, he turned to which was abloom with oleanders, he fect consciousness a sleeping memory in Commodorce Holmes. 'Realize who he came to another house, larger and of a much more formal design. Aunt Edytha Commodore Holmes blew a circle of Blake's home! Light streamed from the "Can't say that I windows, and Austin, peering through one of them, caught his breath. His Silas Todd grunted. "George Hunt's foster cousin, Lois, was at the plane, sent up on a charge of embezzlement. Hawaiian love song. At a table near again. Yes, her haid was bowed in her "The fellow's got his nerve," continu- hands. Vaguely he wondered why, for und walked straight out into the moon-The commodore stroked his close- lit garden. He stepped back into the and he had given his word to his chief. "Somehow this young Hunt doesn't look but he was not quick enough. "Who's Although his first impulse was to flee,

There was a moment of utter silence, then a whispered cry from the girl. "Austin, Austin, you've come at last."

The young man took one or two stens toward_the_girl._"Lois,_you_muan_it You're glad to see me after-what hap-

"Oh, Austin!" There was a note of "John, told us that you were here in

"Don't be too hard on John, Austin.

"Why now?" asked Austin. "Come in with me and let Mother

Austin followed her, and soon found

With tight lips Austin turned flercely last terrible days, and resolutely put woman. To his amazement he now heard her half crying and mouning out

Austin shook his head dumbly.

Edythia Blake went on. "Over it

"It doesn't matter," Austin broke in hurriedly. "Please, you must hear me out. He of Agriculture. told me how terrified he was at the widely recommended at the present time thought of being found out, and of how is to dueb the affected parts with in the end, when he couldn't stand it three per cent, solution of potassium any longer, he went to you, and you permanganate. The stain left by this insisted upon taking the blame for his solution soon disappears or may be recrime. It was cowardly of him, of moved slowly by soap and water. Iodine She told tincture will also be found useful, Once her story haltingly, as though every the blisters have appeared all rubbing word was an effort. "I hated you for the diagrace I thought you, an adopted son, had brought on the family name. am tifraid now, as I look back, that showed you no mercy. I beg you tonight, Austin, to forgive me. "It's all right, Aunt Edytha."

young man found himself strangely at "I haven't finished yet, Austin;" Aun Edytha continued. "You see, Y my brother's confession a secret. couldn't bear to have the public glost over it. I was determined that unless the grave with me. At least, give me credit for having tried to find you. have had detectives searching I told Lols and John the whole story." remove the danger. bounded suddenly forward, and caught

with emotion to speak Austin, deeply affected by this display of feeling, found himself fumbling for words, "Porget it." he said a bit roughly. He then laughed, and that relieved

the tersion of the situation. "If you don't," he went on, "I'll take you outside and-lick you, like I used to when we were youngsters." Turning to them all the added boylshly, "Say, It's great

Long before Austin Hunt's assignment covering the yacht race had reached the Dally Record, another story, teeming with heart interest, was being flashed over the cable to Derwent Nowell, its chief: "Gratitude leads adopted son to assume gullt of foster father."

HOW TO TREAT POISON IVY

Various treatments for lvy poisoning are given in the free pamphlet on polson tyy issued by the Dominion Department should be avoided, and care taken to prevent infection spreading by painting lodine bround the edges of the sores and by using compresses soaked in two per cent. solution of aluminium acetate, alcoholic solution of sugar o lead (50 to 60 per cent, rubbing alcohol) or any other cooling substance (baking soda, boracle acid solution, etc.). In persistent cases the treatment may be varied by the use of ointments which may be removed again by aponging with hot solpy water. Avoid dusting dry baking powder or bornele acid powder on oozing sores, as the latter will be sealed over by a hard crust, thus aggravating conditions while frequent exposure to air relieves them. In slight cases where the oil of the lvy has not as yet penetrated the skin, scrubbing with laundry soap in running water will

BALESMANSHIP

Grocer (to his clerk)-'Feel of those

eggs. George, and two if they're cool enough to sell yet."

Worms in children work havoc. These peaks attack the tender lining of the ntestines and, if left to pursue their ravages undisturbed, will ultimately perforate the wall, because these worms are of the hook variety that cling to and feed upon interior surfaces. Worm Powders will not only exterminate these worms, of whatever variety, but

will serve to repair the injury they have

HOW TO water. After six minutes strain liquid into two-quart container. While hot, add dissolved, fill container with cold water. Do not allow ten to coal before adding the cold water, otherwise liquid will become cloudy. Serve with chipped ice:

INNOCENTY

SAFE KEEPING Judget 'Do you find

Poreman: "Not guilty, with by recome mendation that he should be told not

"No, thank you, my dear." Then will you look after these cara-

POOR CIRCULATION

NEVER WRONG

to do it again."

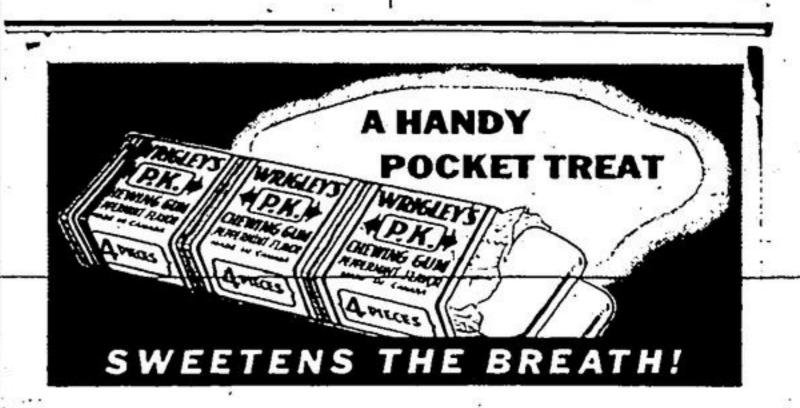
He (at the dance): 'Duncing is in my

blood, you know. She: "Then, your circulation must be

"It is."

"It Isn't

"I tell you it by cos mummy savs poor. It hasn't reached your feet yet!" If it lan't."





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