

CEDAR SWAMP

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Illustrations by Henry Jay Lee
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"He told me nothing, sir," resumed the jurists. "He has protected you, as he protected you at the trial. He accepted a prison sentence at my hands while he spared my son." He turned to Eddie:

"Mr. Forbes, I have reconsidered. I shall publish a statement making amends to you. And I shall say in it that my son was with you that night."

"Dad!" implored Randolph. "Be silent!" commanded his father. "Hold on, Judge," interpolated Eddie. "I asked Ran to go with me. I bought the liquor. He wasn't as much to blame, by a long way, as I was. That's why I kept still."

"He shall learn to bear the responsibility of his own acts," replied the judge, implacably. "If he hadn't been a coward and run away, he wouldn't have put me in this—this humiliating position."

"As a favor to me, Judge, please don't mention him—"

The judge raised his hand. "You said there was another matter you came to see me about, Mr. Forbes."

"Yes. I've had the sour earth from that mound on my place analyzed too, Judge. It's precisely the same composition as your supply in Texas, which is about exhausted."

"Do you mean to tell me that the mound which Randolph discovered near Long Portage is on your property?" The judge's surprise was obviously genuine.

"It certainly is. Ran left a sack when he came to get samples a few weeks ago. The name 'Mineral Medicine Corporation, Austin, Texas,' was printed on it. I found out that your mound not far from Austin is about exhausted. That the 'ore' in your mound, known as sour earth by the Indians and settlers, is a sandy material containing salts of calcium, magnesium, sodium and iron and free acid. That it was overlaid by a solid vein of rock salt—a sort of cap."

"I discovered that it has a tremendous sale when reduced to solution by boiling to free the medicinal salts, and that it is bottled and sold under the trade name 'Mineral Magic.' I know that hundreds of thousands of people regard it as a panacea for rheumatism and indigestion and things like that."

"You've been combing the country for another supply, especially where

geologic conditions were somewhat similar. You became, a couple of years ago, principal stockholder in the Mineral Medicine corporation by the death of your uncle. When the analysis of my stuff proved up—well, I thought you might want to see me."

The judge permitted himself a grim and appreciative smile. "That was considerate. Because, when Randolph made his report, I should certainly have had to look you up. Apparently we are to be rather closely associated, Mr. Forbes. Had you thought of any basis of doing business; say a sale of this mound outright to us?"

"Not an outright sale, Judge. I'm getting some money to play with. I yearn now for a steady income. I've set my heart on a royalty—say a certain percentage of the price of every bottle sold."

The Forbes family occupied the one large and comfortable chair in the cabin on Portage creek. It was tight; and outside the northern lights were putting on a show with half the sky as their stage. Bars and pennons and lances of white radiance, the greatest of them in dimension like Lake Huron set on end, blazed from horizon to mid-heaven. The air was crisp with coming frost, and whiny with the tang of the pines and the aromatic wild growth of the barrens. The creek, swollen by autumn rains, splashed and murmured beyond their front door.

Eddie sat in the chair and Patsy in his lap, her knees well up to her chin. His arms were about her; her head on his shoulder. They were engaged in that most delightful of occupations—the building of air-castles

which have a solid foundation of practicability and possibility.

"I want to stay here until after the first deep snow," said Patsy, dreamily.

"The deer season's early November," answered her husband. "We'll get our deer and stick around until the snow comes up to the windowsill. That suit you, Pat?"

"I'll love it," breathed Patsy. "Anyway, till the novelty wears off. Then we'll follow the sun southwest for the rest of the winter."

"Next spring we'll come back here," Eddie pursued the thread, "and I'll study up cattle feeding with Davenport. He's a good old scout, after all, Pat. He apologized like a man for threatening to lick me over the bottle that squarehead got. We'll live here—"

"But the dam: Won't this be all under water?"

"They won't start construction until a year from next April. Malone says we may have this house all next summer, because I'm going to buy a ranch from them somewhere near here. They have a lot of acreage they don't need above the new water level."

"Isn't it wonderful?" sighed Patsy Jane, in utter content.

His arms tightened about her. "Not so wonderful as you, Pat," he whispered.

(THE END)

TEXTBOOK ON GOOD LOOKS IS LATEST

New Publication May Be Used In Teaching Girls How To Be Attractive

Old-fashioned Tom Moore, whose poem says that "my only books were women's looks and folly's all they taught me," is about to be reversed, as most of the other critics of pretty women have been. In fact, public schools throughout the United States are going deliberately into the business of making girls good looking, upon the theory that it is folly not to be good looking.

When the new book for ultra-modern girls by Helen Rawson Cades, beauty expert for the Woman's Home Companion, came from the Appleton press on August 26 under the title "Any Girl Can Be Good Looking," numerous principals of high schools and colleges ordered early copies with the declared intention of using them in a new branch of education, that of making girls attractive as well as educated.

"Any Girl Can Be Good Looking," though not a text book, treats in an expert way for girls between twelve and twenty, of the theory of dress, good grooming and the science of color and line. It analyzes tasteful dressing for blondes, brunettes, red-heads, tall, short, fat and thin girls.

Its principal advice is for the young girl to acquire good looks by care of the body, exercise, diet, manner of speaking and carriage. It does not forbid girls the use of "makeup," but urges them to accomplish their results in so far as possible by natural methods. But when they do find cosmetics necessary they are told how to use them to gain barely the natural effects they lack.

ISSUE BULLETIN ON USE OF OIL BURNER

Department of Agriculture Is Furnishing Information on Subject

In response to a general demand for information on oil heating for homes, the Department of Agriculture has just issued a comprehensive booklet to assist the "man in the street" in deciding whether he will join the army of home owners who have cast aside the coal bin for the enormous conveniences and comfort of oil fuel.

"Heating with oil appeals to home owners," says the government expert, "because of the relief from furnace attendance, dirt, the uncertainties of coal supply, and the ease of heat regulation."

The principal arguments advanced for the universal adoption of oil fuel are its convenience, comfort and cleanliness. The employment of an attendant for an oil heating plant is unnecessary. As to cleanliness, the oil plant will almost pay for itself in the saving in cost of cleaning and decorating.

A poor Australian woman was notified the other day that she was one of the heirs to the great Senator Clark estate, and the newspapers say that she took it very calmly and went on with her washing. Maybe she figured that the lawyers would get most of it anyhow.

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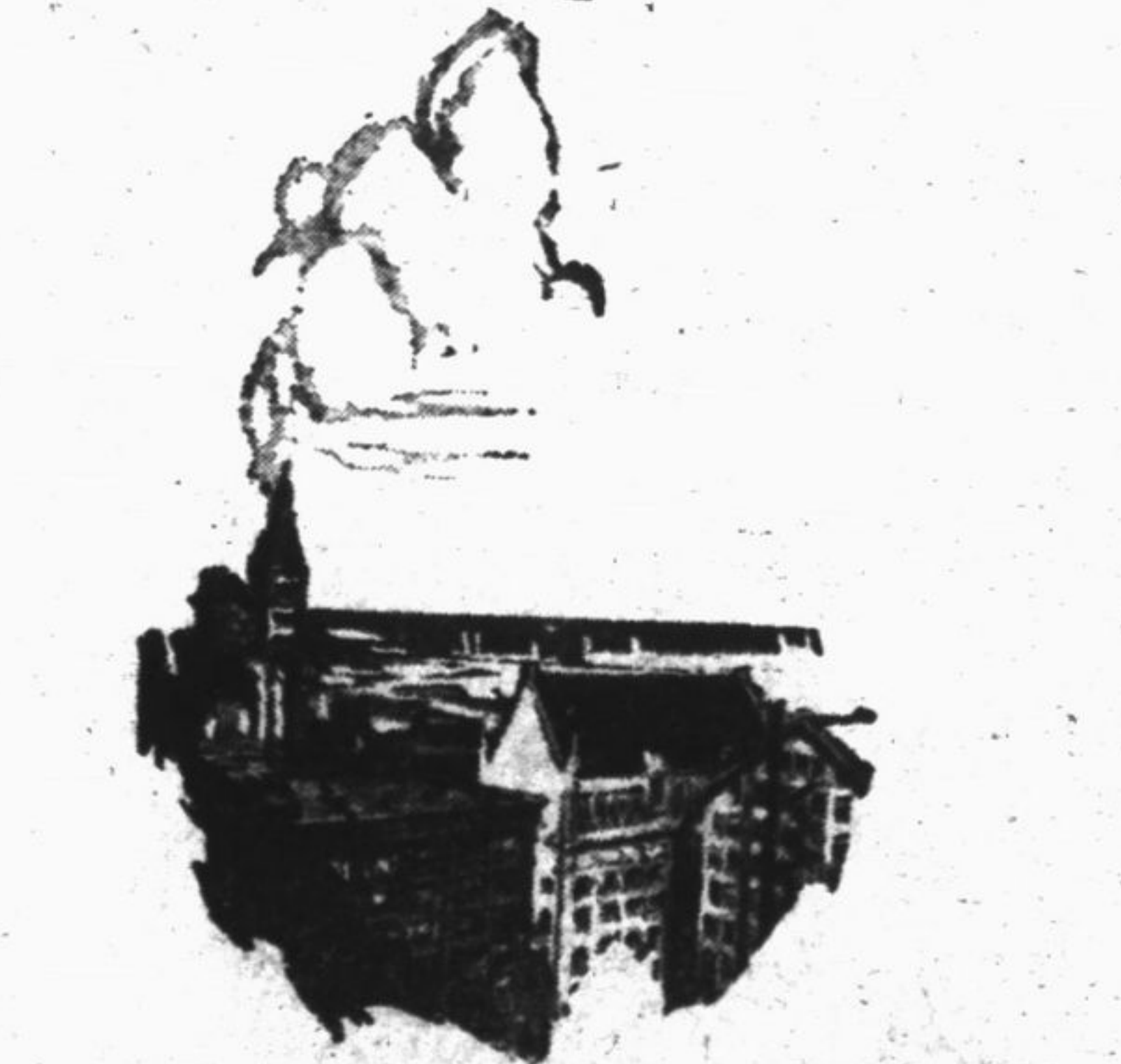
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