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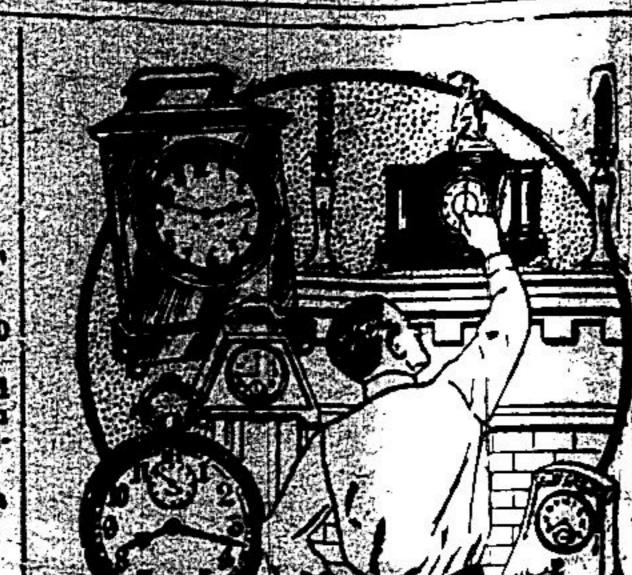
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next few years, and we became close on that subject. only watched Sherrill attentively.

Then something happened."

how to describe it.

"That was the year."

which Corvet's genius and ability had

"In 1896!"

MILTON, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1925.

By William MacHarg and Edwin Balmer

Illustrations by IRWIN MYERS

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"I am Lawrence Sherrill," he said. As the tall, graceful, thoughtful man stood looking down at him, Alan bing in his throat. "That was also could tell nothing of the attitude of the year when I was brought and left questioning consideration of him, that have been about that time; but you Constance Sherrill had had after Alan did not tell my daughter the exact

had told her about himself. "My daughter has repeated to me | "What kind of change came over what you told her, Mr. Conrad," him that year?" Alan asked. Sherrill observed. "Is there anything You will never be sorry for doeing so. Conveyancer, Notary Public, Insurance you want to add to me regarding at Alan, then past him. "A change that?" in his way of living," he replied. "The

"There's nothing I can add," Alan Corvet line of boats went on, exanswered. "I told her all that I know panded; interests were acquired other lines; and Corvet and those, "And about Mr. Corvet?" allied with him swiftly grew rich. But

"I know nothing at all about Mr. in all this great development, for "I am going to tell you some things laid the foundation, Corvet himself about Mr. Corvet," Sherrill said. "I ceased to take active part. He took had reason—I do not want to explain into partnership, about a year later, just yet what that reason was-for Henry Spearman, a young man who thinking you could tell us certain had been merely a mate on one of his things about Mr. Corvet, which would, ships. This proved subsequently to perhaps, make plainer what has hap- have been a good business move. CATER & WORTH pened to him. When I tell you about Spearman had tremendous energy him now, it is in the hope that, in daring, and enterprise; and no doubt that way, I may awake some forgotten Corvet had recognized these qualities They came into my possession day bememory of him in you; if not that, in him before others did. Since then fore yesterday, the day after Corvet or if there is any evidence of what laid out a change of things. you may discover some coincidence of he has been ostensibly and publicly disappeared; I do not want to tell just has happened to him now. It will be "I was to tell you, sir, Mr. Sherrill dates or events in Cornets in Cor dates or events in Corvet's life with the head of the concern, but he has yet how they did that." lates or events in your own. Will you left the management almost entirely tell me frankly, if you do discover any-

> thing like that?" "Yes: certainly." me to describe to you." For several moments, Sherrill paced up and down before the fire; then he returned to his place before the gether; Alan waited.

"I first met Benjamin Corvet," he summer of '96-I had been South durcommenced, "nearly thirty years ago.

I had come West for the first time

Last through the spring—I was im
I had come West for the first time

Last through the spring—I was im
I had come west for the first time

Last through the spring—I was im
I think you know who I am," Alan

I the servants' entrance.

I do not an, whom he found there, is tracked. age and had been graduated from college only a short time, and a busi- alarming change in him. I was re- "You have guessed, if I am not mis- know of any other keys." ness opening had offered itself here. minded, I recall, of a friend I had taken, that you are Corvet's son." Times were booming on the Great had in college who had thought he was The color flamed to Alan's face for now?" Alan asked. Lakes. Chicago, which had more than in perfect health and had gone to an an instant, then left it paler than be-All makes of cars Repaired and Over- recovered from the fire, was doubling examiner for life insurance and had fore. "I thought it must be that way." its population every decade; Cleve- been refused, and was trying to deny be answered; but you said he had no disappeared, thought that, if he had had been able to give; and was land, Duluth, and Milwaukee were to himself and others that anything children." leaping up as ports. Men were grow- could be the matter. But with Corvet | "Benjamin Corvet and his wife bad back to his birthplace near Manistique, joined them half a minute later Alan Millon Ballery Service and Garage ing millions of bushels of grain which I knew the trouble was not physical no children." they couldn't ship except by lake; The next year his wife left him." "The year of-?" Alan asked. tens of millions of feet of pine and question of their understanding and ling. Steamers were taking their place.

Corvet-

hardwood from the Michigan forests. affection up to the very time she so Sailing vessels, it is true, had seen strangely left him. She died in France, their day and were disappearing from in the spring of 1910, and Corvet's the lakes; were being 'sold,' many of first information of her death come them, as the saying is, to the insur- to him through a paragraph in a ance companies' by deliberate wreck- rewmaner." Towing had come in. I felt, young would own the ships. I have never dollars." engaged very actively in the operation

surprised to hear this; rather it appeared to be confirmation of some-

Her Dizzily-Benjamin subjects; he corresponded with vari- show you which one it is."

ous scientific societies, the passions which, wh almost the whole of his attention to had not told him all he knew—that sitting in the darkness thinking out dreaming of his father, he had felt. vet was—7" he asked.

Yet was—18 a lakeman," Sher- such things for about twenty years, there were some things from him; but which had been ticking steadily in the But he has made very few acquaints posely was withholding from him; but which had been ticking steadily in the then, remembering the book which he rill said.

Alan sat motionless, as he recol- succes in that time, and has kept the could not force Sherrill to tell more blackness tinkled six. Alan heard a held, he drew a chair up to the light, than he wished: so after an instant's knock at his door and when it was a held, he drew a chair up to the light, Alan sat motionless, as ne record and the short, dry biography of lected the strange exaltation that had almost none of his old friendships, then he wished: so after an instant's knock at his door, and when it was read the short, dry biography of lected the strange exaltation that had almost none of his old friendships, then he wished: so after an instant's knock at his door, and when it was reand read the short, dry biography of lected the strange exaltation that had almost none on irresolution, he accepted the dismissal. and the strange exaltation that the saw the lake He has lived alone in the house on irresolution he accepted the dismissal. peated, he called, "Come in." come to him when he saw the same with only one servant— Sherrill waited with him to the The light which came in from the site the portrait. It summarized in the first time. Should be tell Astor street with only one servant— Sherrill waited with him to the hell as the floor wat are the site the portrait. It summarized in the first time. Should be tell as to same one all these years. e first time. Should be some one all these years. door, and gave his directions to the hall, as the door was opened, showed a few hundred words his father's life, of that? He decided it was the same one all these years. Sherrill of that? He decided it was the only bouse he has visited with servent; he stood watching as Alan a man servent. The man, after a re-Alan shut the book and sat thoughtoo vague, too indefinite to be menoo vague, too indefinite to be menon the has man went up the stairs. Then
one of the control of the con e too indefinite to be men the time the best mine. He has and the man went up the stairs. Then spectful inquiry, switched on the light, ful. The tall clock in the hall struck doubt any other man used any frequency has been mine. He has and the man went up the stairs. Then spectful inquiry, switched on the light, ful. The tall clock in the hall struck doubt any other many other many process of the last he went back and seated himself in He crossed into the adjoining room—nine. He got up and went out into prairie might have felt the aiways liked my wife; he had be had be had been back and seated himself in He crossed into the adjoining room—nine. He got up and went out into

pand. I met him frequently in the not necessary to say anything more ant was not with Alan, he closed the

"Between 1886, when I first met him, told him had excited him by the coin- his indecision seemed to receive di and 1895, Corvet laid the foundation of cidences it offered between events in rection and inspiration from it; and great success; his boats seemed lucky. Benjamin Corvet's life and his own; he put it down on Alan's dresser. got the best skippers and crews. There Corvet, but it had given definiteness "the key to your house." ship never asked help; it gave it; to Corvet's relation to himself. certainly in twenty years no Corvet Sherrill drew one of the large chairs "To the house on Aster street,"

Sherrill looked away at evident loss As Alan took it, he saw that it was before yesterday at the same time I "To the ships?" Alan asked him. "No; to him. In 1896, for no ap-"That is you?" Sherrill asked. parent reason, a great change came

rapher in Blue Rapids." "And this?" Alan bent forward, his heart throb-

> a shepherd dog was jumping. "Yes, that is Shep and I, Mr. Sher- eyes were blank with thought. day; he liked Shep and wanted a in that house practically alone; dur-

Shep jump, and he took it." "Doesn't it occur to you that it was all, Alan, what that shadow was. But your picture he wanted, and that he had been sent to get it? I wanted it is certain that whatever it was that your verification that these earlier had changed him from the man he pictures were of you, but this last one was when I first knew him culminated is easily recognizable."

Sherrill unfolded the third picture; it was larger than the others and had been folded across the middle to get he had sent the letter, he could not it into the envelope. Alan leaned for | bring himself to face them and so has ==

for end my junior year and tackle when something that I know nothing of. In dation, whether the man would extend I was a senior. Mr. Corvet-7" "Yes; Mr. Corvet had these pictures.

Alan's face, which bad been flushed to Spearman. The personal change at first with excitement, had gone for you—not me, Alan," he said simply, Sherrill will be here. Dinner and to Corvet at that time is harder for quite pale, and his hands, as he "to make that search. I have thought seven sir." clenched and unclenched them nerv- seriously about it, this last half hour, Alan dressed slowly, after the thin oursly, were cold, and his lips were and have decided that is as he would had gone; and at one inherite in the thought, his lips pressed closely to- very dry. He could think of no pos- want it—perhaps as he did want it— seven he went downstairs. sible relationship between Benjamin leo be. He could have told me what his There was no one in the lower had Corvet and himself, except one, which prouble was any time in these twenty and, after an instant of irra training could account for Corvet's obtaining years, if he had been willing I should and a glance into the empty which his "When I saw Corvet again, in the



"That Was 1897."

frustrated all your father's life." Sherrill crossed the room and rang that

de Alen's sultere. He hung Alen's other When he reached the house of his fa-

door carefully behind him. Then he turned back to Alan, and forward; he made no interruption but Alan shook his head, flushed, and what he wanted to say. As he glanced then grew a little pale. What Sherrill down at a key he took from his pocket,

men liked to work for him, and he it had not made him "recollect" "I've brought you," he said evenly, was a saying that in storm a Corvet and direction to his speculations as Alan gazed at him, bewildered. "The __ key to my house?"

ship had suffered serious disaster, nearer to Alan and sat down facing Sherrill confirmed. "Your father deed-Corvet was not yet rich, but unless him. He felt in an inner pocket and ed the house and its furniture and all accident or undue competition inter- brought out an envelope; from the en- its contents to you the day before he rened, he was certain to become so. velope he took three pictures, and disappeared. I have not the deed handed the smallest of them to Alan. here; it came into my hands the day a tintype of himself as a round-faced got possession of the pictures which might-or might not, for all I knew then—be you. I have the deed down-"Yes; it was taken by the photog- town and will give it to you. The house is yours in fee simple, given you by your father, not bequeathed to The second picture, Alan eaw, was you by him to become your property one that had been taken in front of after his death. He meant by that, the barn at the farm. It showed Alan think, even more than the mere acat twelve, in overalls and barefooted, knowledgment that he is your father." holding a stick over his head at which | Sherrill walked to the window and

stood as though looking out, but his It was taken by a man who "For almost twenty years," he said, stopped at the house for dinner one "your father, as I have told you, lived picture of him; so he got me to make ing all those years a shadow of some

three days ago when he wrote to you. It may be that the consequences of his writing to you were such that, after merely . . . gone away. In that

football team," he said. "I am the still alive. On the other hand, his articles on the dressing stand. writing you may have precipitated | Alan wondered, with a sort of trendeither case, if he has left anywhere to stay and help him dress; he he any evidence of what it is that changed only put the buttons in the chair shirt

"The servant is in charge there rill. Her reserved, yet this too house. The servant, after your father ticulars about bluseif which Stagrill merely gone away, he might have gone stance came down the stairs and and he went up there to look for him. was certain that she man knew. I had a wire from him today that he Dinner was announced, and they

picked up the key which Sherrill had from him. the ring with two or three other keys father had been iterating itself again he had, and dropped them into his and again in Alan's thoughts; now he pocket; then he crossed to a chair and recalled that Sherrill had said that has

pened" to Corvet; but it was plain he moment how that could be; and as he amine Corvet's house; but he had not her, it puzzied him stil to be determined by Alan. This dinner was finished and showed clearly that Sherrill believed had gone upstairs; but he did . -perhaps had sufficient reason for be. then how to go about it. married in 1889. But Sherrill in long you would rather be alone?" knowledge of his friend, had shown firm conviction that there had been winge twisted Alan's no mere vulgar liaison in Corvet's life. All, of-my father?" he asked. ships still had a most favorable record. face; he tried to control it but for a Did this mean that there might have "Do not misapprehend your father," father—some marriage which had share such thoughts with them. There | Corvet's son; and such things as this, "Our friendship had strengthened is much in this I cannot understand; Alan knew, had sometimes happened,

great affection for my daughter, who, the chair Alan had occupied and sat a bedroom; the room where Alan was the hall and asked for his hat and when she was a child, ran in and out with hands grapping the arms of the he thought, must be a dressing room coat. When they had been brought

case, as we stand here talking, he is backed brushes and comb and other

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Sherrill turned back to Alan. "It is bur tonight. Mrs. Sherrill and Miss

and keeping these pictures of him know; but he never did. Your father, room, he turned into the south room

had not found him and was coming went into the great dinling I will. where the table with its linen, sixer, Sherrill waited a moment to see and china gleamed under shaded

whether there was anything more lights. The oldest and most dignified Alan wanted to ask; then he went out of the three men servants who waited upon them in the dinling room Alam thought must be a butler- a species of creature of whom Alan had heard but never had seen; the other servants, at least, received and handed things Uan went over to the dresser and through him, and took their orders He put it, after a moment, on What Sherrill had told Alan of his

daughter believed that Corvet's dis-Sherrill had spoken of the possibil- appearance had had something to do that something might have "hap. with her. Alan had wondered at the

He did not answer that.

"Have you a picture here, Miss Sherbeen some previous marriage of Alan's tures taken; but there is one here." them with those Sherrill said quietly. "I cannot pre- strangely overlapped and nullified his back with a book open at a half-tone Since vent what other people may think public marriage? In that case, Alan picture of Benjamin Corvet. Alan took ripened during those years. The but I know that it is not merely the and had happened by a strange combi-If a wife in more ports than one, parties. Corvet's public separation There were imagination and vigor of which as a younger man ne that as you will hear the lakemen put it. from his wife, Sherrill had said, had head; the eyes were strangely moody rected wholly to the shipping, was as you will hear the lakemen put it. from his wife, Sherrill had said, had head; the eyes were strangely moody misadventure which had changed and separation between them might, possibly, have taken place long before pelling, haunting face. This was his father! But, as Alan held the picture. The afternoon had changed swiftly gazing down upon it, the only emotion when you see it is a straight of the ships; my daughter would like of them for a man whose youth nad been gathering which came to him was realization that before thinking of eating any funging to ask you to be my into night; dusk had been gathering which came to him was realization that before thinking of eating any funging to ask you to be my into night; dusk had been gathering which came to him was realization that during his last calk with Sherrill, so he felt none. He had no emotion of nounced, "I have had your bag that he hardly had been able to see sherrill's face, and just after Sherrill wan, because he bore the name which ould not discolor when broken or year that, I began that sort of invest- geology, chinology nearly a score of which one it is." ment that I first met Corvet." subjects; ne corresponded with value Alan healtsted; he felt that Sherrill did not know how long he had been ther's, the passions which, when Alan looked up quickly. "Mr. Cor ous scientific societies; he has given Alan healtsted; he knew—that altting in the darkness thinking out