

ABOUT BOOKS AND THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE THEM

A Lively Tale of the West
"SMOKE OF THE .45"

Author: Harry Sinclair Drago

"The Smoke of the .45" has a plot, the swindling of one Crosbie Traynor out of his mine by two men. How these two men later murder him to keep their act a secret. How Kent, one of the men involved, has living with him since childhood, the daughter of Traynor, Mollie, who is unaware that Kent is not her real father. Jackson Kent's other partner in crime is Aaron Gallup, wealthy middle-aged man, who desires Mollie in marriage.

Johnny Dice, one of Kent's employees suspects that it was murder and not suicide that caused Traynor's death, and decides to do a little investigating himself. Aply assisted by two faithful Spaniards, their efforts are awarded, and reap, for the villains a just end.

The silver lining to all this cloudiness comes in the last chapter, when Mollie marries Johnny, and is installed as rightful owner of the Diamond Bar Ranch, which was purchased by Kent with the money stolen from her father.

The story is quite exciting. The author uses no theatricals in describing his characters. He employs the lesser used method in the murder story in permitting his readers to witness the crime, and having them sit back to watch the hero wend the torturous, hazardous way to the unravelling of same.

Rose Kushner.

A Domestic Problem Story

"LABYRINTH" By Helen R. Hull

The "Labyrinth" is a story of a highly intelligent woman endeavoring to be a successful mother and business woman at the same time, and somewhat handicapped by a husband who has no interest in helping her to be the latter. The characters of the novel are the members of the middle professional class, living in an apartment house in New York City; a man, his wife, and three small children.

Perhaps the World's War did it, but anyway, Catherine, the wife of Charles Hammond, has become tired of the dead-end monotonous grind of housework and wants to do something "On her own." During the War, while her husband was abroad, she proved an efficient worker—she liked it—and there is the offer of her former job.

Catherine finally accepts the position. She hires a children's nurse in addition to her working housekeeper. From her personal salary, she pays all the extra household expenses, leaving her practically where she was in the beginning financially. Never mind, however, she is successful and happy.

Catherine takes a month's trip for some investigation work. She has just about settled down, and everything is running smoothly in a business way, when she receives a telegram from her husband saying that their boy has been seriously hurt. She drops everything, rushes back home, and nurses the boy back to health. The household runs along now just about as it was when she was a housewife. The husband assumes that she is not returning to business. Catherine weighs the pros and cons, and finally decides that the heart-string pull is greater than any other. Reluctantly and a little hopelessly she resigns herself to settling down as the wife of a Professor in a small city.

Josephine Oakes Wheeler.

Adventure Pure and Simple
"THE SECRET TOMB"

By Maurice LeBlanc

Dorothy is the extraordinary heroine of "The Secret Tomb." She is wise, witty and beautiful. In coping with so formidable an adversary as Antoine d'Estrieher, one has to be clever.

Dorothy is 23 and a circus directress. Her assistants are four adopted orphans ranging in age from 6 to 18.

The story deals with an enormous fortune which is to go to the descendants of Marquis de Beagrarl. In order to obtain a share, each heir must possess a gold medal bearing the words, "In Robora Fortuna."

Dorothy's father, wounded-in the war, is the last known owner of one of the medals. He dies, supposedly of his wounds, and the medal disappears. Dorothy has an idea in whose possession it is now.

On a fete day she visits the Chateau de Chagny, with her circus. There she meets d'Estrieher who desires to possess the money, as well as Dorothy herself. Adventures follow. It is Dorothy's cool headedness and quick wit that saves those she loves and herself from death on several occasions.

In the final struggle, she remains victor, and sees her father's death avenged. Dorothy's deduction of the words "Robora Fortuna" reveals the money, when all seems lost. She divides it equally amongst her cousins, the heirs, and then departs with her circus for the open road.

Rose Kushner.

YACHT CLUB HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING

Gail Aiken, Jr., of Winnetka and Harold Elliott of Glencoe were elected vice-commodore and treasurer respectively of the Sheridan Shore Yacht club at the annual meeting of the club held this week in the Pompeian room of the Orrington hotel.

In response to a questionnaire sent out recently by the Yacht club it was learned that 80 per cent of the members were unanimously in favor of continuing the club along both boating and social lines. More than 20 have indicated a desire to own boats. Twenty-one have expressed a willingness to take an active part in the activities of the club.

The Sheridan Shore Yacht club is composed of men and women living in Evanston, Wilmette, Winnetka, Glencoe and other north shore suburbs. The clubhouse is located on Sheridan road at the Wilmette harbor.

Kenilworth Woman to Head Little Garden Club

Mrs. Neil M. Clark, 408 Winnetka avenue, Kenilworth, was elected president of the Little Garden club at its January meeting last week. Other officers chosen to direct the affairs of the club during 1924 were: Mrs. C. D. Ewer, vice-president; Mrs. R. E. Sonneborn, secretary; Mrs. Arthur B. Smith, treasurer.

A feature of the annual meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Clark, was

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the reading of an interesting paper by Mrs. Walter Gore Mitchell on "Winter Bouquets" rendered particularly appropriate by reason of an exhibition of winter bouquets arranged by members of the club.

The February meeting of the Little Garden club will be held Friday afternoon, February 1, at the home of Mrs. Carl Bessey, 2721 Hartzell street, Evanston.

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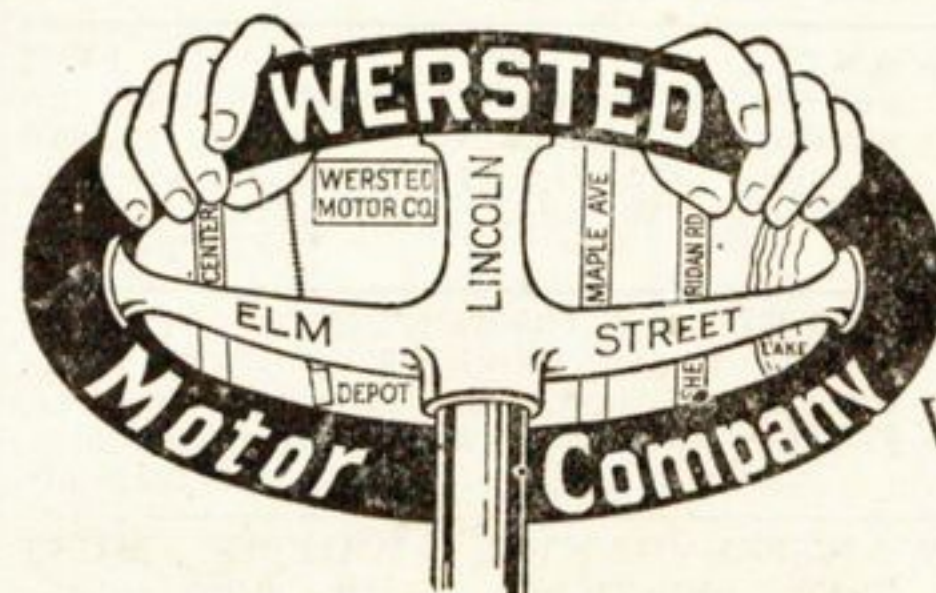
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