New Serial

SYNOPSIS.

rescue of Storm, now a and of her father and his Rhinelander, financier, and red by Seagrue and Capelle, his law-interrupted by Helen while stealing eral Holmes' survey plans of the cut-line for the Tidewater, fatally wound n chase the murderers on a light en-and capture them. Spike has hidden plans and manages to inform Seagrue hey are cached. Her father's es-dly involved by his death, Helen work on the Tidewater. Seagrue helps Spike to break jail and uses him to set fire to a powder train hauled by Storm's engine. Helen saves Storm from

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

CHAPTER IV.

When Helen Holmes took the day key at Signal the little office had already passed from the quiet kind to the remorselessly active kind of those small way stations that drive innocent men mad. Two rival lines maintaining large construction camps and getting all their supplies through Signal station, were engaged in a race to build a mountain cut-off-and a considerable one. Despite all the help Lyons, the overworked agent, could give Helen, she found the tasks of her day about all that her strength would

Nor could Helen, situated as she was, escape occasional office visits from Seagrue, whose activity as head of the opposition construction camp was unabated. Going over to the station one day to watch his men unload a shipment of material, he stepped into the office ostensibly to make inquiries-in reality to steal a few minutes with Helen Holmes, whom he found busy, but alone.

Seagrue spoke blandly: "I hear you're becoming quite a railroad expert." She made no effort to reply. "Getting really clever at the key, Ly ons rays." Helen, entering waybills, went on with her writing. "By the way." asked Seagrue, evenly, "any word this morning from our steam

shovel?" She looked toward the window-the local freight train had just pulled in "It may be out there now, on No. 85."

Seagrue seemed in no haste to investigate, and Helen had almost lost hope of any diversion in that direction, when the office door opened and George Storm walked in.

He was just out of his engine cal and deliberate and composed as usually, but his eyes, lighting to greet Helen, cooled when he saw Seagrue Storm nodded curtly toward him and was greeted in kind. Then the stalwart engine man turned his attention to Helen, and Seagrue was soon made to feel the pangs of being distinctly third in the situation and without an anesthetic.

"And the best of it all is." said Storm at length to Helen, "this is my last run on local freights. I am assigned tonight to the Limited."

Helen lifted her eyebrows in sur-"Some run they're giving you!"

Seagrue took the chance to join sarcastically in: "Right in line for chief of motive power, eh. Storm?"

Storm was not to be disturbed. He only regarded Seagrue calmly for a moment. Then he turned good-naturedly to thank Helen. While soldiering agreeably at this task, his fireman intruded on the scene long enough to remind him they were waiting for him to get out. Storm, with an expression of disgust at the interruption, nodded gruffly to the fireman, concluded his talk with Helen and walked out. Helen rose to go out on the platform also. Seagrue intervened to distract her attention. It was useless. She must deliver a message, she said, to the conductor, and Seagrue, peeved, was left to stay with himself or unwillingly to follow. He followed: but even then it was only to find himself watching Storm's good-bys waved to Helen from the cab. And she saw

Rhinelander, in charge of the Tidewater line camp, was pushing Seagrue. selv in the construction race and as the head of a big crew of men imbued with his own spirit was laughing at obstacles that made Seagrue's head ache; and with equipment actuchairman of the executive committee activities.

"Oceanside. vey of the cut-off pass before thei good friend, Amos Rhinelander. first, our people will withdraw their financial support.

his friend; the executive committee | turn of the picture She was resolved of the board were with him-this he Little Helen Holmes, daughter of Gen-ral Holmes, railroad man, is rescued rom imminent danger on a scenic rail-tom imminent danger on a scenic rail-He suspected Capelle, still a board member, and a continual intriguer. | alone remained to her. Capelle was a master worker in un-

> He consulted a timetable, called his changing his clothes for a trip.

mail. It contained this note:

"Unsuccessful report concerning pass submitted. Persuaded backers friends. Come over sometime." to withdraw support on the first. This will stop operation on Rhinelander's cut-off, as we know he cannot produce survey. CAPELLE." In Seagrue's hut a party of newspa-

per men from Oceanside were waiting shovels that can do everything but to be taken on an inspection trip over | vote. Come on along." the construction. "I'm ready for you, boys," said Sea-

grue, in high spirits, to the journalists. | clared with decision, but she allowed | the platform. She slammed the office "We'll look over the work near here a note of regret to linger an instant | door shut, and locked it. Seagrue first," he announced, ripping open a box of cigars.

"Hold it, Mr. Seagrue,' cried a camera man, focussing on the manager. "We want you, first, right there where you are, at your desk. Hold it!"

The picture was taken, a copy promised to Seagrue within an hour and the party started out. Had he left his hut two minutes earlier he might have seen Amos Rhinelander, followed by Seagrue's own Spike with Rhinelander's bags, entering the waiting room door of Signal station.

Helen, looking up from her table perceived Rhinelander's anxiety re flected in his manner.

"Bad news, Helen," he said, plunging at once into the unpleasant subject. "I am on my way to Oceanside." he added, when she had read Bowers' note. "The directors meet tonight. Someone is trying to undermine us. But whether I succeed in changing their views or not. I'm going to fight if I have to fight all night."

Helen was too upset to speak for a minute. For her, so much depended on the success of her own road in reaching the mountains with a cut-off first. Rhinelander, worried though he was, tried to cheer her up. Spike outside, listening, gathered that Rhinelander was on his way to the city. He hung around the platform till the passenger pulled in, watched Rhinelander board it, and, mingling with Seagrue's men, walked unobserved over to the latter's camp. He found his boss with the journalists.

"What is it?" demanded Seagrue scenting news in Spike's appearance. "Rhinelander has just gone to

Seagrue smiled. "Did he get a letter this morning?" "He did."

Their confab was broken in on one of the newspaper men who had print of the photo he had taken of Seagrue at his desk. Seagrue inspected this with the greatest pleasure. "Good pic "Fine!" he exclaimed.

A whimsical idea seized him. He wrote a word or two across the back of the print and recalled Spike. "Take this over to Helen Holmes. Give it to her with my compliments." So saying he turned to the photographer.

Spike's reception at the station was always a chilly one. This time Helen took his message and dismissed him before she opened the envelope. When she saw what Seagrue had sent she was angry. Her first impulse was to tear the hateful print in two. stead, she contemptuously impaled in on a steel file near at hand. A m ment later, removing the print to fil a message, she looked at the picture them, too; nothing escaped her at- again. Her attention was attracted to a paper lying on Seagrue's desk It had been caught by the camera lens. The longer she looked the more carefully her eyes fixed on this ob ject revealed in the photograph. Very curious now, Helen opened a drawer, took from it a reading glass and studied the contents of Seagrue's ally somewhat inferior was forging | desk. Her heart almost stopped beat daily ahead of his rival. But the mail | ing as she realized that her suspicions now brought him a note from the must be correct. With the aid of the ordinary glass she could plainly se of his board that almost paralyzed his | the survey that had been stolen from her father's library.

looked toward Seagrue's party advise that they cannot re-lo- she could recover the precious find it cate the pass over the Superstition was not too late to save her own inrange. Unless you can furnish a sur- terests as well as those of her own reluctant than that of Scagrue's guest, death. Panting and bewildered, she

abrupt communication. Bowers was The more she thought the more im-

time to help Rhinelander's fight that night at Oceanside.

But what Helen could not devise herself, was being already devised for her., Following up what Spike-an inconscionable liar-had declared lattering reception of the Seagrue resolved to seize a mo while the going was good to forward himself with Helen.

She was studying the telltale print then she heard footsteps and, startled, the platform. She felt frightened Could he possibly have realized his Force, she was hopeless of ences must be at work against him. as a possible aid in her difficulty. Stratagem and a woman's weapons

Her wits rapidly cleared. derground effects and besides being snatched the photograph. Seagrue, Scagrue's own attorney, was himself opening the door, caught her, picture heavily interested in opposing enter- in hand. He walked forward pleased prises of the Coast line. To throttle It was not hard for Helen to counter-Rhinelander in the construction effort | feit an embarrassment; nor was it in begun by Helen's own father before the least unbecoming to her. To Seahis death, was to advance his own in- grue her look came like a burst of ly, but could not get away. For a moterests as well as those of his client. | sunshine after many chilling storms. Rhinelander's decision as to what "What do you think of my construcmust be done to meet this opposition | tion headquarters?" he laughed Helen's gaze rested modestly on her

table. She seemed to contemplate the foreman, asked for a man to carry his | picture with a quiet pleasure. Then handbags to the station and began she looked slowly up at Seagrue. "This doesn't show very much of the Not far away, and at about the same | camp"-she drawled the words the time, Seagrue was reading his own | very least bit-"you are awfully busy over there, I suppose.' "Never too busy to welcome our

> "What, to a construction camp?" asked Helen, feigning just enough

> amazement. "Why not? Talk about Rhinelander's steam shovels! I'll show you

For an effective moment she hesitated. "I couldn't possibly," she de-

Where could the survey be, now? was the question recurring always to Helen's mind. Toward the close of the dinner, Seagrue, rising, unlocked his desk for a flask of Chartreuse. There, lying in the corner exactly where she had seen it, Helen again beheld the survey, a blue print beside Seagrue was pawky enough to close and lock the desk after he had taken the flask out. How, she asked herself, was she to get that desk open

Seagrue dismissed his serving man, and this did not allay Helen's uneasifor herself. She did not want left alone a minute with him things were getting too compli-But could she in some way get into the desk? Rising, she said she would clear the table a little. Taking hold of the flask he had just taken from the desk and holding out her hand with a smile she

asked him for his keys. Seagrue was in no position to refuse so intimate a request. With an air of camaraderie he handed them over and Helen pushed back the cover of the desk. But as she did so Seagrue threw his arms around her. She struggled indignantment there was a flerce struggle. Then with a superhuman effort she tore herself free, caught up the first happened to be a bronze match trayand struck Seagrue across the fore-

He went completely over, leaving | the cockpit. Helen horror-stricken at what she had done. She listened. Outside she Leard no sound. Seizing the blue print that lay under her hand, she gained the door and ran out just as Seagrue regained his feet. She had resolved to flag the Limited. Hardly touching the earth, she dashed to the station, hurried to the key and telegraphed Rhinelander:

"Have blue print of survey. Will be on Limited. HELEN." It was not too soon. Through the window she saw Seagrue rushing down



1-Seagure and the Engineer Glared at Each Other, 2-His Wines She Persistently Declined .- 3-"Rhinelander Has Just Gone to Oceanside." 4-Storm Is Discharged.

in the tone of her explanation and

off?" asked Seagrue feverishly. "Oh, not for a long time yet."

His hopes were burgeoning fast. "See here, Helen: come over and take I'll show you what can be done with-

She regarded him with an expressuch a proposal shocked her. of it. Then she rejected the invitation; yet with enough indecision to invite a renewal. For the moment Helen was a heartless angler, and Seagrue deluded by vanity was unsuspectingly playing fish. Before he left-in the highest spirits he had known for many a day-he had, to his astonishment, secured Helen's promise to dine with him that night in camp. And at the

appointed time she was ready. The night was warm and a moon, rising full and into a clear sky, flooded the landscape. And after Helen's situation had worn off, she was able throughout the trying hour with Sealanguid interest successfully. The table was served with surprising delica-

at once. There was a window in the "Well, but what time do you get | freighthouse, and she ran into the freightroom. Seagrue had snatched up a stone. He reached the operator's window, only to see Helen, who had sprung through the freighthouse wina camp dinner with me. Come, do. dow, running up the track. He followed her at top speed. Intent on escaping, she gave no thought to where she was running; it was only to get sion that indicated how completely away from her hated enemy and save what she had so hardly regained. Helstruggled an instant with the thought | ter-skelter through a grove of scattered oaks that fringed the hills above the sea, on and on she ran, until breath and strength were deserting her, but at every turn her detested pursuer was fast upon her heels. Between his lunging footfalls she could hear his panting threats, and the clearness of the night gave her little chance to elude his savage pursuit. She realized she was running across what had been her own father's estate. The ocean spread suddenly below her She had reached Signal bay and the precipitous cliffs that frowned high above it. Like a frightened fawn she ran up the rocks and down, only to hear Seagrue breathing maledictions close behind, and with the distance steadily lessening between her and certain capture. Brought at last to intriguer, a whole hour never went so offered a hope of concealment, and a slowly, nor was appetite ever more misstep where she trod meant certain Though she went through the form of heard Seagrue climbing down the How could she recover it? With eating and assumed a carefree air, his ledge on which she had found a narfast kindling hatred of its dishonest food choked her. His wines she per- row foothold. Her escape was cut Amos Rhinelander, sitting at his possessor, a dozen projects for regain- sistently declined; but that did not off, and Seagrue descended triumphdusty and littered desk, stared at the ing her own flashed across her mind. dismay Seagrue, who drank quite antly toward her. She warned him

threw himself viciously against it.

it to you. I'll die first. Don't you was pushing to a vote with every prosover the cliff if I have to go over my- | work.

where she stood on the edge of the telegram? Where can Helen Holmes low. He stood spellbound. She struck | would justify us in keeping on?" with a great splash. He saw her come up, strike out and sink again, as if helpless. But he knew her unquenchable determination, her resource and her daring, and was shrewd enough to watch the surface of the bay closely. Sure enough, in a little while could see her, after swimming a distance under water, regain the surface and with long, powerful strokes swim

At no great distance from where she had plunged into the bay a speed launch lay at anchor. Helen recogbeen her own, and she had named it saw her reach the launch and climb resolutely up over the gunwale into

without losing a minute, Helen spread the wet blue print out on the deck. broke the motor lock on the ignition switch, and turned the engine over. She knew the motor well; it was a powerful Loew Victor, and after her second effort it hummed like a dynamo. While it was warming up she cut the mooring line. Seagrue easily suspected she meant to get to Rhinelander at Oceanside. He looked at his watch. If he could catch the Limited he could still reach the city ahead of her. Exasperated, and out of breath, he hastened back to camp routed out his chauffeur and took his racing car for the station. Hardly a minute was left to him, and his hope of reaching a point where he could flag the through train vanished when he heard its whistle and saw the gleam of its headlight coming down

the Signal grade. But he would not give up. Urging his man to speed, he gained the highway paralleling the railroad track, and as the Limited shot by, Seagrue, with all the power that could be got out of his motor, actually held for a time abreast of it. He yelled and shouted as one sleeper after another drew slowly past-both the train and the motor car were running very fast -but he could attract no attention. Helpless with rage, he saw the last the seat and as the car drew past him, against crediting what they had just he jumped over the rail and landed on | heard. the observation platform.

bay laps almost the edge of the rail- | We'll get it yet." road track, but her heart sank as she ! looked back and saw the night train | room to report to Seagrue. The chairing his fireman over they listened to tub. Helen?"

Storm, as he shut off the throttle and that re-echoed in jerky succession cab. On a leaf, torn from a pad, Storm scratched out the signals:

The engine whistle shrieked his an-

swer to her eager ears. "Something wrong with engine al ready." .

storm, tried to persuade him, whatever happened, not to delay the train. It would cost Storm, he urged, his job. "What's the job to me?" demanded Storm, applying the air and bringing up the train with a jolt. So saying, he

The fireman, learning the truth from

snatched a small handful of tools from the box and prepared to get down. Seagrue had made his way into the oach. He summoned the conductor. and being known was accorded every courtesy. But the race was now first on his mind, and when he heard the brakes grinding, and running back on the platform saw fire screaming from the wheels, he called the conductor. lemanding to know the cause of the stop. Going forward together for an explanation, the two men found Storm under his engine with wrench and hammer, while in the distance Seagrue could see the Spiderwater cutting the waves like foaming glass and slipping away to where a stormy directors' meeting was in session at Oceanside, and Rhinelander was in the fight of his life to prevent summary action be- were speeding contentedly back to Sig ing taken to stop the cut-off work. In nal bay. vain he showed Helen's telegram.

"Give me that blue print!" he shout which had come in time to rescue him from complete defeat. But Seagrue's "Keep away from me." Helen pant henchman, Capelle, conniving with the ed. "You're a wretch. I'll never give d'saffected element in the directorate, dare come down here. I'll drag you pect of success the resolution to stop

"What have we got to go on?" he Nothing daunted, he came on demanded, facing Rhinelander down. There was but one chance left to get "You know as well as I do we are away and, unhesitating, she took it. throwing hundreds of thousands into a Turning, just as he thought he had project absolutely uncertain. You ofher in his power, she sprang from fer a telegram. What good is the precipice far out over the ocean be get a survey at an hour's notice that Beside the engine of the limited the

conductor and Seagrue were volleying sharp and suspicious questions at the fireman. He told, reluctantly, of the mysterious launch and of Storm's exchange of signals. No more was needed to infuriate Seagrue, who now understood the connivance. Storm crawled out from under the engine and Seagrue met him with an abusive epithet. The stalwart engineman promptly knocked him down. The crew dragged the two men apart and the conductor ordered the fireman to take nized the boat; it had, in truth, once the limited in, Storm, with folded arms, refusing to lend further as-The Spiderwater. It belonged now to sistance. But despite his stubbornthe owners of her father's estate, but ness the big train pulled into Oceanshe believed she might borrow it once side just after Helen stepped from the Seagrue, impotent with rage, deck of the speed launch to the dock. and following her down the shore, She ran all the way up the esplanade, survey in hand, to where she could catch a taxicab and drove hard for the Tidewater building. There she alight-Shaking herself like a duck, and ed only to be confronted by two men -Seagrue and an officer. Seagrue pointed to Helen: "There she is! There are the documents she stole-in her hand. Arrest her!"

> Before Helen could collect her senses, the officer had seized her and Seagrue had snatched the survey. "Stop," she cried, "that is my property, stolen from my father. I, not he, am its rightful owner!"

While she protested, stormed and wept tears of humiliation and anger. Seagrue was producing papers to convince the slow-witted official that the survey belonged to him and that Helen was the thief. In spite of all she could say, he won out. Indeed, the guardian of the law was ready to take Helen to the station when Seagrue magnanimously intervened, told him to let her go and said he was satisfied to recover his property.

Upstairs the directors were closing their protracted session. Rhinelander vainly trying to hold them together until his ally should appear. The sound of an opening door raised his hopes. Helen rushed into the room and hastened to his side.

"The survey-where is it?" he cried. reading bad news in her face. She told him of her battle-of how

she had been robbed at the very foot of what were once her father's stairs. car pulling gradually past, and furi- Everyone listened. Then half a dozen ous at being balked, he stood up on men began talking-some for, some

Rhinelander put his arm around the Helen was pushing the launch to- despairing girl. "No matter. We know ward Oceanside. The ocean below the low who has our property, gentlemen.

Capelle, laughing furtively, left the

tearing up the track and rapidly over- man rapped for order. Rhinelander, hauling her. Instinct told her that trying to comfort Helen, took her to Seagrue would somehow board that her taxicab and they drove back to the train in an effort to get to the city launch together. Dazed, furious at her first. As the engine drew nearer, she misfortune, Helen met another surpicked up a pair of glasses and level- prise at the pier. Storm, awaiting ing them on the cab, discovered her return there, helped her to alight George Storm on the right side. She from the taxicab. She could only rewaved a signal flag at him, but his gard him breathlessly. He laughed in eyes were glued on the track ahead. his reassuring way: "It's really I," he Then, as if by an inspiration, she said to her, offering his hand. "I'm seized the cord of the air whistle at | discharged-but I told the superinher hand and in the Morse code sig- tendent I might yet live long enough naled for help. Storm turned his to discharge him. What do you think looked back questioningly he threw back at me? 'I hope if I ever along his train; then up at his own | deserve it as much as you do, you will whistle. The whistling continued, and discharge me.' I guess it was comhis attention was finally drawn to the ing," concluded Storm good naturedly. launch, now dropping behind the train. | "But I've got a marine license and I'm Helen caught up her signal flag again. going to run your launch to Signal bay In a flash he recognized her, and call- for you. Got plenty of gas in the old

His robust humor was infectious "Give me paper, pencil," shouted With Storm at the driver's wheel, they soon reached the offing in the launch listened to the long and short toots and were discussing the exciting an eextra skirt with every suit you events of the night when Helen's eyes order. from the surface of the sea against the fixed on the canvas covering the deck towering cliffs and through the flying of the boat. It was on this she had laid the blue print to dry and the impression had been definitely trans-"Have survey. Seagrue on your ferred. She seized her uncle's arm, train. Delay so I can reach Oceanside, pointed and explained. Rhinelander jerking a knife from his pocket, cut the canvas from the deck and showed it to Storm, who headed the launch in a great foaming circle back toward Oceanside.

> The directors were preparing to g home when three half-crazed people dashed into their room. Rhineland er. Helen and Storm told story and showed their find. Excited in spite of themselves, the listeners crowded about the table. They inspected, objected and argued. The evidence was indisputable and the chairman called the meeting to order and asked its sense. Sympathy for the plucky daughter of their old president was perhaps not wanting in influence ing their action; at all events, simost before Helen could realize it was be ing done, a resolution declaring their support should not be withdrawn, was put and carried. Bowers, the chairman, clinched his own feelings by catching Helen's hands and congratu-

Seagrue-pleased with what he lieved his escape from a serious complication-was bound for his camp on a returning train. Helen, with Rhinelander and Storm,

was again aboard the launch. They

THE PARTY AND ASSESSMENT ASSESSME

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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