

Mysterious Case of Frank Rogers and Miss Florence Ely

The Fruitless Search Which Has Been Made For the Missing Couple.

THAT fact is often stranger than fiction and the mystery in real life sometimes too deep for even the keenest detective of the country to find a solution thereof is strikingly illustrated by the Ely-Rogers case, of Evanston, Ill. Since the disappearance of Frank Ely Rogers, a boy of 14 years, from his home last July accompanied by his aunt, Miss Florence Ely, the police and detectives of Chicago and the country have been untiring in their efforts to trace the couple and return them safely home to the sorrowing parents of the boy and the aged mother of Miss Ely. Every clue has been followed up and every means employed which might possibly furnish a solution of the mystery or induce the infatuated aunt and her young nephew to return to the home where only loving welcome awaits them.

Miss Ely, up to last July, had been a music teacher in Evanston. She is a handsome gentlewoman of more than usual intelligence, with large, expressive dark eyes, dark brown hair and slender form and a delicate physique. She is 40 years old, and for 20 years has made her home with her sister, the wife of Mr. James C. Rogers, as did her mother, who is heartbroken over the peculiar conduct of her daughter. The family lives on Hinman avenue, one of the beautiful residence streets of Evanston, only a short distance from the campus of the Northwestern university. Mr. Rogers is connected with the mercantile firm of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., in Chicago, and is a man of ability and some means.

Fourteen years ago, when Frank was born, Miss Ely idolized the baby, and was as devoted to him as if she had been his mother. It was her supreme delight to care for and amuse him, and as he grew into boyhood her affection grew to be an infatuation which led her to forsake all her social duties and devote her entire time to her nephew.

On the morning on which they disappeared (July 13) it is known that Frank left home ostensibly to attend a picnic in the woods near the town, but that he walked by a circuitous route to the station of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. There he met his aunt, Miss Ely, who had left a satchel with the station agent the day before. This she secured and placed therein the contents of a box she carried, and then threw the box away.

"Frank," she called to the boy. The boy turned quickly, took the satchel from his aunt's hand, and the

Several times the couple have been reported as being in Chicago. Ballin Winger, of Evanston, declares that he one day saw Frank Rogers sitting in a window of Le Grand hotel, Chicago, but when the police whom he notified arrived, the boy had gone. At other hotels and restaurants the couple have been partially identified, but have always eluded capture. They are believed to have spent some time at Waukegan, a summer resort. The latest clew, from Casselton, N. D., appears more hopeful than any of the others.



MISS FLORENCE A. ELY.

A woman and a boy answering the description were living in that town, but are now proved not to be the Evanston runaways.

Hoping against hope and with the heartbreaking sorrow crushing their hearts, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers early last December inserted an advertisement in the newspapers calling upon the missing boy and his aunt to come home for Christmas and all would be forgiven. All day Christmas they watched for the return of the fugitives, and during the night a lamp was kept burning brightly in the window of the home on Hinman avenue to welcome their return. The family felt sure that they would come, but they were doomed to disappointment.

As a last effort to reach the missing couple or secure information regarding them, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have resorted to the chain letter scheme. Here is their plea for help:

Dear Friend—Will you kindly help a heartbroken father and two mothers in an effort to find their loved ones by writing three copies of this letter and sending them, over your own signature, to three friends, making the same request of them, and so on, forming an endless chain. Miss Florence A. Ely and nephew, Frank Ely Rogers, disappeared from their home, 713 Hinman avenue, Evanston, Ill., July 13, 1901. Nothing has been heard of them since.

Miss Ely is 40 years of age, about five feet three inches in height, very thin and weighs from 90 to 100 pounds; face rather long and very expressive; dark brown hair; large dark brown eyes, with an intense expression, are her most noticeable feature; good music teacher; attractive to children.

Frank E. Rogers will be 14 years of age in March, 1902. Height about five feet two inches; weight about 80 pounds; medium brown hair, gray blue eyes, long, slender hands, is left handed, writes with either right or left; draws well, always using left hand. Only love and a glad welcome await them both. A large reward will be cheerfully given for information leading directly to the restoration of either or both. Printed letters with pictures will be sent upon request. Send all information to JAMES C. ROGERS, 713 Hinman avenue, Evanston, Ill.

As these letters, by the aid of sympathetic and kind people, go broadcast over the country in ever widening circle and reach perhaps every nook and corner of the United States, the result sought for may be attained and a mystery cleared up which in some respects is one of the most puzzling ever coming to the notice of the police. If Frank Rogers and Miss Ely are alive, how has it been possible to elude the shrewdest detectives of the country? If dead, what has become of their bodies and why have they not been discovered? If they have left the country, where have they secured the means for so long an absence and so extended a trip? These are some of the questions one is led to ask in considering the case, and which may never be answered this side the grave.



FRANK ELY ROGERS.

two walked out of the depot together. They took a north-bound electric car which runs from Chicago to Milwaukee, and that was the last time they were seen in Evanston. On the 29th of last December a bundle of clothing belonging to Miss Ely and Frank Rogers was found tucked away under the Central street station of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad in North Evanston, and where it is now surmised by the police that the pair stopped and changed their clothing, the boy possibly disguising himself as a girl—for he left his collar behind—and Miss Ely transforming herself into an older and shabbily dressed woman. Since then dozens of clews have been followed, but not one has led to a reliable trace of the couple.

A DISAPPOINTED DARKY.

His Watermelon Proved to Be Unripe and There Was a Terrible Transformation.

I stood one Saturday afternoon on the porch of a Luray (Va.) hotel, and saw file past a hundred or more darkies, returning from work, each and every one of them carrying a "water-melon" under his arm. They had been paid off, and a convenient farm wagon loaded with melons happened to pass as they filed along and the darkies all bought, relates a writer in Forest and Stream.

One young buck, after hugging that melon for several blocks, "just couldn't stand it no longer," and without ado sat down upon the curb, and in the absence of a jackknife he deftly tapped the melon against the edge of the curb until it broke asunder. Mansfield, in transforming his Jekyll face into that of Hyde upon the stage, never equaled the lightning change of countenance exhibited by that darky. One moment his eyes bulged, his mouth distorted, his teeth glistened, and his face fairly glowed

with pleasurable expectancy, and in the twinkling of an eye, when the parted halves of that unripe and white-seeded melon fell from his palsied hands, his eyes contracted to mere slits, showing an angry, snake-like red, his face became of an ashen hue—call it pale, if you will—and through his slightly parted lips like a devil incarnate, he hissed out imprecation after imprecation upon the farmer, showing the fact clearly that the disappointed one was a past grand master in the art of profanity.

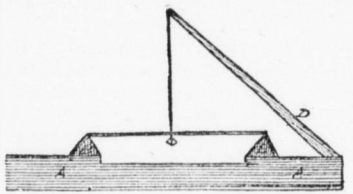
In the Wrong Place. An old printer is quoted as authority for the story of Horace Greeley: "One day as he sat at his desk he looked up and saw a small boy standing beside him. 'Well, sonny, what do you want?' he piped. 'I want a place to work in your office.' 'And what do you want that for?' asked the old man. 'I want to grow up and get rich,' was the answer. Mr. Greeley looked at him for a moment. 'Get rich?' he said. 'I guess you didn't notice that this is a newspaper office. You must be looking for the druggist next door.'—Detroit Free Press.



DITCHES AND DRAINS.

Simple Apparatus by Which Any Bright Farmer Can Easily Obtain a Proper Grade.

A device for assisting in getting the grade while digging drains is described by H. W. Smith, Somerset county, Me. I took a piece of board a, a, eight feet long, seven inches wide, and nailed on two three-cornered pieces, b, b, cutting out the section of the board between them, as shown in the illustration. Then I nailed a piece of lath across the tops of the three-cornered pieces. A piece of clapboard, d, three feet long, was sharpened nearly to a point on the thin side and nailed diagonally to the side of the eight-foot board, thin edge down, so that the



APPARATUS FOR PROPER GRADE.

point of the clapboard would be about 20 inches above the center of the lath.

A plumb line and bob is suspended from the point above the center of the lath. If the lower edge of the board is straight and placed in a level position the line will hang at right angles with it. Have the edge of the lath planed. Take a sharp pencil and mark each side of the line and cut a notch on the lath. To illustrate the use of the device, when the board is level, if a two-inch block is put under one end and a notch cut behind the line, the plumb line will indicate the grade and the operator will get a two-inch fall for every eight feet, eight feet being the length of the board.—Orange Judd Farmer.

ROADS IN GERMANY.

How They Are Kept in Repair Without Any Appreciable Cost to the Taxpayers.

Americans concede that roadmaking in Germany is a fine art. Few, however, realize that road repairing has been reduced to a comparatively cheap art as well. I wish devotedly that local societies could be formed in order to study it, and apply the results of the study to country roads in America. I spoke once on the subject to an audience of leading citizens in Ulster county in New York, an ideal county to experiment in, having all the three chief things for success. I mean stones, papers and fruit trees. Germans, namely, find that it pays to encourage peasants to free their fields of stones; the property rises in value—taxing value. The stones thrown into heaps by the roadside are purchased by the district road-repairing commission. Poor men, who otherwise would have to be supported in almshouses, are hired to break these stones, and then are trained to the work of repairing the roadbeds. The money to pay the men is made by auctioning off to the highest bidder the crops of the fruit trees that were planted on both sides of the highway when it was built, and which are nourished well by the manure that falls along the road and is pushed at intervals by a road tender upon their roots. The purchaser of the crop sees to it that his fruit is not stolen. The road commissioners have no bother about that. And although the sale is by auction, it brings in considerable. Every burgher knows how much, because the sales of highway fruit crops are published in the local newspapers.—Countess von Krockow, in Chicago Tribune.

Amount of Seed to Sow. The amount of grain to sow per acre is a question of considerable importance, since the saving of half a peck per acre is \$15 to \$20 on every 100 acres of wheat sown. It is not well to skimp the seed, but too much is as bad as too little; not only is it a waste of seed, but the plants will be too crowded to develop in the highest degree. The right amount of seed, then, is the question, and yet to say what will apply in every case is not possible. By using averages, the proper amount under average conditions may be stated, but what would be too little in a dry summer would be too much in a wet one. The implement used in sowing also has an influence on the amount of seed to sow. It is generally conceded that it is good practice to sow a peck less of seed with a drill than with the broadcast seeder.—Midland Farmer.

Farm Lands in the West. Whatever may be said of low prices of farm lands east of the Alleghenies, there is no doubt that farms of the central valleys, from the eastern to the western mountains, are advancing rapidly, and are in demand at greatly increased prices. Plenty of land in Illinois has reached the \$100 mark, and farms of the Missouri valley, from Kansas to Minnesota, are steadily increasing in value. As western competition becomes more intense, western farmers and the congressmen who represent them demand expensive irrigation and more free farms, while eastern farmers have failed to ask for government supplies of free fertilizers; and eastern gardeners have made no demand for appropriations for plant houses and other aids to production.—Country Gentleman.

Got His Dispensing Mixed.

The police justice had formerly been a bartender. He had gone into politics and had been elected by a big majority. This was his first case. Mary McManis was up before him for drunkenness. The justice looked at her for a minute, and then said, sternly: "Well, what are you here for?" "If yer please, yer honor," said Mary, "the copper boyant pulled me in, sayin' I was drunk. An' I don't drink, yer honor; I don't drink." "All right," said the justice—his former bartender habit getting the best of him—"all right; have a cigar."—Beverages.

\$25.00 TO CALIFORNIA.

Everyday, During March and April Phenomenally Low Rates to the Pacific Coast and Intermediate Points.

Colonist Excursions open to all. Later on at intervals during the summer special round trip excursions to the Coast at less than One Cent Per Mile, going one way, returning another. An excellent opportunity to visit any part of all parts of the Great West for pleasure, education or business. People with interests at various points will show you attention. Address a postal to W. H. Connor, General Agent Union Pacific, Southern Pacific Rys., 53 East 4th St., Cincinnati, Ohio. Write on the back: "Send details low rates to California," adding your own name and address, also those of any of your friends, and you will receive in return information of fascinating interest, great practical value, of educational and business worth. Whether or not you are thinking of taking this delightful trip or looking to better your condition in life, it will pay you, your family or friends to write a postal as above. As the colonist rates open to all are good during March and April only, send your postal to-day.

Only Sent Him to Funerals.

At the "captains of industry" luncheon to Prince Henry one of the hosts asked the conventional question: "How do you like America?" The prince, in a burst of sailorlike confidence, replied: "Oh, I'm having the time of my life. I don't count for much over there, you know. They only use me to send to funerals."—N. Y. Sun.

The Wheels of a Railroad.

On the Burlington Railroad system of 8,000 miles, over 385,000 wheels are in service under the various passenger, freight and way cars, locomotives and other rolling stock. An average of 40,000 wheels are purchased each year and they are very carefully inspected, as they are bought with a guarantee. According to the stipulation, each is warranted to last six years or cover seventy-five thousand miles. All the wheels are numbered and a careful record kept. When they fail to do the work they are returned to the manufacturer, who is compelled to make the loss good.

An Investment.

Myer—You say the count is looking for something in the way of American securities?

Gyer—Yes. He hopes to secure about \$2,000,000 in matrimonial bonds.—Chicago Daily News.

Earliest Russian Millet.

Will you be short of hay? If so plant a plenty of this prodigally prolific millet 5 to 8 rows of rich hay per acre. Price 50 lbs. \$1.50; 100 lbs. \$3.00, low freights John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis.

Pace Was Too Fast.

The Belgian hare has gone out of style. The Kansas jack rabbit set the pace too fast for the foreigner.—Washington Post.

Ask To-Day for Allen's Foot-Ease.

 It cures swollen, aching, tired feet. At all Druggists and Shoe stores. 25c. Sample sent FREE. Ad's Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

We are all such excellent managers of other folks' business.—Athenian Globe.

What is the use in employing some one to do your dyeing for you. If you use PUTNAM FADELESS DYES you can do it just as well as a professional.

Sneers are the weapons of a helpless fool.—Chicago Daily News.

DAN GROSVENOR SAYS:

"Pe-ru-na is an Excellent Spring Catarrh Remedy---I am as Well as Ever."



HON. DAN. A. GROSVENOR, OF THE FAMOUS OHIO FAMILY.

Hon. Dan. A. Grosvenor, Deputy Auditor for the War Department, in a letter written from Washington, D. C., says:

"Allow me to express my gratitude to you for the benefit derived from one bottle of Peruna. One week has brought wonderful changes and I am now as well as ever. Besides being one of the very best spring tonics it is an excellent catarrh remedy."

DAN. A. GROSVENOR.

In a recent letter he says:

"I consider Peruna really more meritorious than I did when I wrote you last. I receive numerous letters from acquaintances all over the country asking me if my certificate is genuine. I invariably answer, yes."—Dan. A. Grosvenor.

A Congressman's Letter.

Hon. H. W. Ogden, Congressman from Louisiana, in a letter written at Washington, D. C., says the following of Peruna, the national catarrh remedy:

"I can conscientiously recommend your Peruna as a fine tonic and all around good medicine to those who are in need of a catarrh remedy. It has been commended to me by people who have used it, as a remedy particularly effective in the cure of catarrh. For those who need a good catarrh medicine I know of nothing better."—H. W. Ogden.

Treat Catarrh in Spring.

This spring is the time to treat catarrh. Cold, wet winter weather often retards a cure of catarrh. If a course of Peruna

is taken during the early spring months the cure will be prompt and permanent. There can be no failures if Peruna is taken intelligently during the favorable weather of spring.

As a systemic catarrh remedy Peruna eradicates catarrh from the system wherever it may be located. It cures catarrh of the stomach or bowels with the same certainty as catarrh of the head.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

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SALZER'S LIGHTNING CABBAGE.

This is the earliest cabbage in the world and a regular good mine to the market gardener and farmer.

By the way, there is lots of money to be made on earliest cabbage, beets, peas, radishes, cucumbers and the like.

For 1c, and this Notice the John A. Salzer Seed Co., LaCrosse, Wis., will send you their mammoth catalog and 150 kinds of flower and vegetable seeds. Market gardeners' catalog, 5c postage.

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Allen's Ulcerine Salve cures Chronic Ulcers, Bone Ulcers, Venereal Ulcers, Venereal Eruptions, Indolent Ulcers, Venereal Sores, White Swelling, Milk Eruptions, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, all old sores. Absolutely no failure, no matter how long standing. By mail, 5c and 10c. J. T. Allen, St. Paul, Minn.

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