

With Hearty Good Wishes
to all
Our Patrons and Friends for
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

S. B. BERNHART ESTATE

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SHEARER FURNITURE

35-37 South Market Street, ELIZABETHTOWN, PA.

OWL-LAFFS



BY O. W. L. (On With Laughter)

The Girl on Smoky Top

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD

(Copyright.)

SHE was a source of great interest to the people in the valley below—that unknown girl who had taken possession of the old Clark farm set aslant on old Smoky Top's slope. Farmers harvesting their crops would pause and glance curiously at the thin spiral of smoke traveling skyward above the treetops and wonder why she was there.

Especially young John Hayes who had recently inherited his father's broad acres on which he and his mother lived alone.

"Your turn will come," his mother frequently prophesied. "And I dare say Kitty Weatherby will suit me as well as anybody."

At which her son would clumsily shift the subject. Oh, he supposed he'd marry Kitty ultimately, but for the present he had no wish to settle his fate too definitely. Had his mother known that, since the day he drove to town and parked next a dusty little runabout, his mind had been filled with visions of a slender, brown-eyed girl with sun gold curls clustering under her felt hat, she herself would not have felt so sure of being mother-in-law to Kitty.

As fall drew near, one might indeed have been pardoned for leaning on the pasture bars and gazing at Smoky Top, whose sides were a colorful mass of reds and greens and browns, set off by the more somber evergreens. And, as the season progressed, without rain, John would so lean on the bars. But sometimes he would frown and think of fire.

"Just a spark and she'd be set off like silt shingles," he muttered one day.

Then one evening, out driving with Kitty Weatherby at his side, he suddenly swung off from the main highway onto a hard-packed dirt road that wound in sharp, foliage-hidden curves up the mountain.

"This is exciting," giggled Kitty. "Haven't been up there since I was a kid. Besides, I'd like to catch a sight of that city girl, Jim Lawrence—" she paused, catching John's quick look, then continued defiantly—"well, he's been working for her, although why he should, with his big farm—anyhow, he says she's poor as Job's turkey. That her uncle left her the place, and it's the only home she's got, and she's got to make it pay, but Jim says it wouldn't grow enough to feed a starving cat."

Her companion's thoughts were a jumble of speculations. So the stranger girl wasn't a rich young lady riding a hobby. So Kitty was still seeing Jim, his old rival.

"What Jim says seems to carry considerable weight with you," he remarked coldly. "Just when—" he paused abruptly. "What's that?" he cried. "Smoke!"

The car shot forward beneath the pressure of his foot, while Kitty clutched his arm in terror, both at the mad swerve with which they rounded curves and at the thought of fire.

"Can't you turn?" she managed to gasp.

John shook his head. He hadn't thought of turning—only of going forward to find out just where that fire might be. If it were well above the farm, the wind might carry it by, or a well-planned back fire or trench might do it. At the best he could get the girl and bring her down to safety. His heart glowed within him and he was not conscious of Kitty's grasp on his arm.

"John, where are you going? See how smoky everything is and—oh, do you hear that?" she fairly screamed.

Sounds of crackling came to them through the acrid, darkening atmosphere.

Then as they swung around the bend, they saw the fire. It was the farmhouse itself, and John's expert eye saw at once that, set as the old house was in the very center of the clearing, there was little likelihood of the surrounding forest catching.

Two hurrying figures were moving to a safe distance what few pieces of furniture they had evidently been able to take from within the building.

John, followed by Kitty, leaped to the ground.

"No use trying to save the house," yelled Lawrence. "Let 'er burn. My wife here—"

"Your wife!" both Kitty and John cried the word.

"Married only this afternoon," shouted Jim, still busy lugging chairs and tables. "Chimney must have caught while we were gone. Sparks on the roof did the rest. Makes no real difference. Going to live at my place, of course." He threw a tender, protective glance at the girl who seemed lovelier and even more desirable than John remembered her. "The old tinder box might as well go one time as another."

And so it did, burning clear to the ground until only the blackened, smoldering embers were left. And it seemed to John as if, hidden in the debris, were the ashes of his idle dreams. Idle because he had made no effort to bring them to fruition.

"You seem dreadfully quiet," complained Kitty as they drove homeward.

For answer, John resolutely put his arm about her plump waist. Then "It's about time you and I thought of our own wedding," he said. "Mother's been expecting it this long while."

After all, realities are better than a dream. Perhaps.

Several Chinese generals have issued edicts imposing the death penalty on any soldier found smoking opium.

The birth rate of the United States has declined more than 30 per cent in the past thirty years and is still declining.

A man seldom turns over a new leaf until the old one is all smeared.

A WISE OWL

HEAT FOLKS

SOME FOLKS START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT OTHERS START THE NEW YEAR TIGHT THE HEAT FOLKS ALWAYS UP TO FORM WILL HELP YOU START THE NEW YEAR WARM



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Chandler's Drug Store

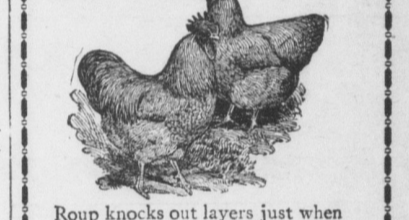
West Main Street, Sunday Hours, 8 to 9 and 5 to 7 MOUNT JOY, PENNA.



SANTA IS COMING so we'll catch the spirit and smile. Here's one: REST ASSURED that this "Weary Willie" was next to his job when he approached a Real Estate Dealer and asked if he would give \$2.00 to have his sub-division beautified. When asked how it could be done, he said: "Why, for \$2.00 I'll go on to the next town!" You won't have to go to the next town to secure Dayton tires. Young's Tire Stores carries a complete stock of them to fit every car. Drop in and see these tire bargains.

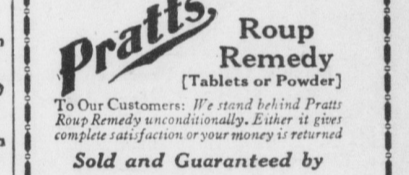
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