The Rangers and the Range War as Seen by Charles Morris Butler

Author of "The Revenge of Pierre," "A Tenderfoot Tragedy," Stella," Etc.

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CHAPTER XXVIII.—Continued.

It was important to be assured that the retreat to civilization should be begun at once, while the confusion reigned on the inside, and that the main entrance to the tunnel should be discovered.

When the party reached the main quarters in the cave, the plunder was divided up as to weight and value. It was estimated that Denver had lost considerably more than a million had been captured, besides a large quantity of rare "Green" and the consequ felting plate which fell to Lang alone.

When darkness fell, the cavalcade set out. The party was rather hard-capped for lack of horses, on extras being procured. Some of the hardy rangers started out on foot, leading their mounts, trying to keep their stock fresh for the race they expected would follow detection when their flight was discovered.

An advance and rear guard were placed over the trail to guard against surprise. The party had not proceded very far before word was sent in from the front that both had the suspicion pointed towards an ambush and trap. The lines were drawn up closer and preparations made to engage in a running fight; the idea being to put as much space between the rangers and the Denver party as soon as possible, to get into the open country before any real fighting would begin.

To chronicle in detail the adventures of each of the important characters in this history would take too much space—and their mode of escape or death would be so similiar that it would merely be of interest, for fice to say, then, that there was a running fight kept up between the regulars and a band of convicts all the night long.

The regulators were handicapped by desiring to recover possession of the treasure as well as to escape. To do this, all the horses were massed in the center of the party, while two out of every three of their riders were sent in advance and around to draw off the fire. The Denver party went to work systematically, forming a possible to get out into the opening without great loss of life; but it would be necessary to get out, and the quicker the better, while the convicts thought the rangers would do as Denver's scheme was to form an attacking party, by fitting the coach with ropes and tackle, to ride into the very midst of the gang dealing as much destruction as possible.

Lola was placed in the rangers to see who would form the party; each man knowing full well that he was risking his very life at this chance.

Denver and Lang volunteered to be of the party, of sixteen who were to fill the coach, as only 11 others were chosen by lottery; eight of the best and most spirited horses were then hitched to the coach and the regulators took their places, armed to the teeth.

It fell to the lot of Philip Paranum to drive the quintette. But Louis Lang was no coward, and knowing the dangerous duty he was to perform in order to get the coach outside the enclosure, mounted the box with him, ready to take the reins in case Paranum was wounded. Lang protected himself as much as possible by placing a box and a few well stuffed sacks on the top of the coach in a manner that would give the outlaws but one direction to shoot at him.

The intention of the coach party was to cut an opening through the outlaws by the coach, unobserved if, to cause confusion by stampeding the horses and to draw off a large part of the outlaws after the coach to assist the regulators to withdraw from the farm carrying the treasure with them. Each moment was precious, for the convicts were being constantly reinforced by strangers, fully armed, and who imbued spirit into the attacking squad by force of numbers.

At last the moment came for action. The regulators prepared to open the gate preparatory to sending the coach out into the crowd. The gate swung in, the outlaws rushed into a madening galloop, but guided by a masterhand, carried the coach loaded with plunder safely through the very center of the convict camp. Then real fighting began from the coach. The crack of guns were heard from all sides, but as the coach was in the midst, the onslaughter was very much a surprise and the coach got fairly through the crowd before the truth dawned upon the outlaws.

The time necessarily taken up in carrying the treasure from their horses gave the coach a good start. The outlaws not knowing but that the gold had been sent out in the coach, had to give chase, and a running fight was kept up for perhaps a half hour, before the convicts succeeded in crippling the horses to such an extent that the coach was brought to a stand by the darkness aided the regulators more than the convicts and many of the pursuers bit the dust before the coach was surrounded. They for about five minutes ensued a hand-to-hand struggle, but finally the regulators were victorious—one was captured, killed, or had been enabled to escape in the darkness. Among those who had been captured were Lola in the darkness were Louis Lang and Paranum.

And among the captured and alive was Jim Denver!

The loss of a number killed, the chagrin of not recovering the treasure, so enraged the outlaws that they were little better than wild Indians, shooting and slashing among the victorious party, and his rage was something terrible. He recognized Denver at first sight, and he was ordered to shot still in fighting shape. Both of these worthies had only been released from the treasury vault a few minutes, and doing something desperate to regain the treasure stolen, and were on their mettle to save their necks.

The helpless Jim was kicked and cuffed and spit upon. He was hacked and scarred and unmercifully by the enraged convicts, who recognized in him the head and front of the expedition which had cost them the loss of fortune and homes and the loss of many of their kind. They would have torn him limb from limb, if they had not been restrained by a few led by Schiller, who desired to see a hanging!

Denver by was a spot of tree—an oasis in the desert of prairie—and toward this Jim was carried for the last time. He was dragged by the ankles, all Jim acted heroically, and stood the taunts and jeers and tortures like a martyr. Though he felt that his soom was sealed, Denver uttered no cry, nor begged for mercy. The only request he made—"Let me shot like a man and be done with it."

Then Schiller thought to make Denver beg and cringe for mercy by delaying his death. "You will swing soon enough," retorted Schiller, "now before you do so shall allow you to look upon the cringing, cowing forms of a number of your companions! Death, instantaneous, would be too easy a lot—for you!"

Jim shuddered, and tears, the only ones that ever came to his eyes, dropped down his hardened face at the thought of his fate. He was dragged slowly strung up to the trees with ropes around their necks. But he did not cry for mercy—neither did he attempt to buy his freedom, which he could possibly have done. At last, as it was decided to hang him, he stood beneath a tree with a halter around his neck, while swinging by his side were the blackened bodies of his comrades.

While Schiller was fastening the rope around Denver's neck, a voice shout went up: "To the train! To the money! We can save it yet!" and during the silence which for a moment prevailed, far in the distance could be heard the rapid discharge of firearms—and then the glare of a light could be seen like the waving of a torch!

In a moment the desire to obtain money overpowered the convicts' sense of gratification which the mob had taken in hanging the man who had Denver strung up, and a few on the outskirts mounted their steeds prepatory to following af'er the regulators' train.

"String him up and let w him tied to the tree!" cried Schiller, and quick as a wink was Denver swung off into air, and the end of the rope tied around the tree.

Scarce was this ghastly deed performed before the whole gang set off hunting for the stolen, unappropriated treasure train, as guided by the noise of firing and the flaring of torches.

And Jim Denver's body was left swaying in the breeze!

(To be continued.)

ALMOST A PARDONABLE DECEIT.

Woman's Triumph Over Envious Friend, Mrs. Shoddy.

The portly woman in the cross seat of a Madison avenue car looked at the thin friend in a voice which was heard above the rattle of the train.

"I had a bargain," she said to the little wanted—a trim little thing to fit in a corner of my parlor—when who should come in but Mrs. Shoddy! Of course, I wouldn't have her know, for the world, that I was paying only $3.50 for the table, so I turned to one marked $18 before she saw me.

"'Buying a table!' she asked, with that deceitful smile of hers.

"'Yes,' I said coolly. 'I have almost decided upon this one.' I said, pointing out the expensive table.

"'You should have seen her face. Isn't it rather expensive?' she said.

"'Oh, no,' I said, 'one can't expect to get good things for nothing. Send that table to my address,' I said to the salesman, 'I'll pay for it on delivery.' Then I walked out. I walted outside until Mrs. Shoddy went away, then we had to be very careful to manoeuvre the order for the $18 table and took the one for $3.50. I was sorry afterwards that I didn't decide to a table worth about $100 just to spite that woman."—New York Press.

Plowing Salt.

One of the sights of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, developed by the process of scientific farming, is the system of immense salt-making ponds on the shore of the lake. The brine is drawn from the water pumped into a great settling basin, where the impurities fall to the bottom, leaving a substratum of iron, form a reddish deposit. From this basin the water is drawn off into harvesting ponds, generally about 100 square yards in area, and six inches in depth. The ponds are kept supplied with water, which evaporates more on from May to September, when the salt harvest begins. The water having evaporated, a deposit of pure salt, two or three inches thick, is found covering the bottom of the ponds, and is gathered and piled up before being conveyed to the mills, where the final cushing and winnowing are done.—Youth's Companion.

Couldn't See Rogers.

H. J. Allen, of Lake Ottawa (Kan.) Herald, tells of his efforts to interview H. H. Rogers when the Standard Oil magnate's special train stopped at his town.

"Get off that, you," yelled a voice from the crowd.

Upon the next car Allen reached the second step.

"Get you aiming to see any pusson arouv' here?" inquired a dark complexioned party. He swung himself carefully on one foot and swung the other through the air as though to try its movement.

"Yes, I have outen dis, and do hit lively," said the porter. "Mistah Rogers doan allow to be seen by nobody no time, least of all no newspaper folk."

Bread Hint.

"Mamma," said the 7-year-old West port girl, entering the sitting room one morning recently, "don't you want some candy?"

The mother was writing a letter. "Why, yes, dear," she replied. "Give me a piece."

"I ain't dot any," came from the child, "an' I ain't dot any nickel to dit nona."

She got the nickel.—Kansas City Times.

ILLINOIS NEWS

Chelsea Weekly Gazette gives the state, especially some news readers.

FARMERS BUILD PHONE LINES

Much Benefit Results to Southern Illinois Rural Districts.

Since the coming of a telephone system to the southern portion of the state "Egypt" now is feeling more civilized than ever before. The citizens has been little behind the envious during the last few weeks and the coming of the telephone marks a severing of the ties that bound the region with the traditions of the past. Comparatively young men can well remember when the ox team was used generally and when the whistle of a railroad locomotive would have caused a panic.

The farmers call the new system the "harvest" line, because the farmers themselves built and are maintaining it. Pleased with the advancement they have made since install a line of their own, which for a mond prevailed, far in the distance could be heard the rapid discharge of firearms—and then the glare of a light could be seen like the waving of a torch!

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REIGN OF CRIME STIRS PASTORS

Seven Murders in Kane County in Two Years Go Unpunished.

Ministers of Kane county are up in arms because of Kane county's epidemic of crime. Seven murders committed in two years and not a single conviction is the condition existing.

There is one minister in the county who does not attribute all the crime to Satan. He is the Rev. William H. Atchison, pastor of the First Methodist church of Aurora. The self-indulgence of the people in both eating and drinking, growing lack of reverence of law and old-fashioned morality, the indifference of the best citizens to their civic duties in the avoidance of jury service—these are some of the causes for crime, in the pastor's opinion.

"There seems to be an awareness to inflection of the death penalty, a few days ago John and Edward Milroy accused of the murder of George McDonald of Sugar Grove, were acquitted by a jury in Judge Willis' court after it had been clearly shown that McDonald died from a blow on the head caused by blows from a club in the hands of Edward Milroy. The Milroy were salooon keepers and claim that they fought off McDonald in self-defense.

EXPLOSION IN MINE AT BENTON

Terrific Crash Occurs When Only Two Men Are in Shaft.

A terrific explosion occurred at the Benton Coal company's mine in Benton. No one was in the mine at the time but two shot-firers. One of them, Emmet E. Neal, received injuries from which he died shortly after the accident. E. McIntyre, narrowly escaped death. They happened to be near the air shaft in a secondary exit in the mine when they would probably have been inevitably killed. Although the mine is 640 feet deep, the force of the explosion blown from the bottom of the shaft and lodged in the tipple timber. John Outhouse, who was working on the top of the ground, was blown thirty feet by the force. The damage to the mine will amount to $10,000, it is believed.

THERY'S CHILL GETS NEW GUN

Government Equipment Worth $50,000 Is Awarded to Waukegan.

Battery D, Waukegan, successor to Battery D, Chicago, has been chosen from all state batteries to receive the new $50,000 set of guns and equipment now under construction at the Rock Island arsenal and awarded the state by the federal government. There are only six batteries of these guns to be issued to the entire national guard of the United States. The new equipment will consist of four Colts, heavy field guns of new design, chosen by the government to be adopted by all regular army artillery.

To Test Check Charges.

Chicago, Jan. 24.—The legality of the rule adopted by the Clearing House association fixing the charge for the collection of out-of-town checks is to be tested. The clearing house committee and the Illinois Manufacturers' association have agreed on a test proceeding which has been instituted. The matter was referred by the clearing house committee to its attorney, Lyman Trumbull, and the manufacturers's association to its attorney, Levy Mayer, who are to confer and arrange upon a test case.

Major Yeager is Re-elected.

Maj. Phil Yeager of Danville was re-elected major of the Second battalion, I. N. G., at a stormy session of the captains in the adjutant general's office at Springfield. The opponents of Yeager were Capt. Charles Ewing and C. Craig of Galesburg, but some were absent and he would not consent and an effort was made to postpone the meeting, the opposition to Yeager voted for Capt. Miller, a name not on the roster. The vote was 7 to 5 in favor of Yeager.

Chicago Postoffice Unsafe.

In justifying an appropriation of $138,000 to make necessary changes in the Chicago postoffice building, Mr. Littager in the House made this remark: "This building has turned out physically worst for the work. There are features in connection with it that demand immediate change in order that life may be secure."

Lacked Year of Century.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Bailey died at age and a resident of Chicago since the fire of 1871, died at her residence in Kouwalski, Ill., Jan. 24. She was born in England, was the mother of Mrs. B. L. Anderson and the grandmother of Mrs. Ernest Ernest E. Anderson and Lucretia Thayer.

Tax Collector Resigns.

Henderson county commissioners have accepted the resignation of Treasurer Private, who claimed to be short $11,000 in tax collections. It is announced that his total shortage, including private accounts, is $29,000. Roy R. Parsons of the Oquawaka bank was named as Allen's successor.

Street Car Kills Southerner.

George Klingman of Louisville, Ky., aged 15, was struck by a Belleville suburban street car. He died one hour later.

FARMERS GO TO STATE SCHOOL

Instruction Given Delegates to Convention at Urbana.

The Illinois farmers institute and stockmen's convention has begun a two weeks' session at the university at Urbana. One hour each morning will be devoted to addresses on topics of general interest. The remainder of the day will be devoted to classes in corn, stock-judging, farm mechanics and allied subjects. The convention closes Feb. 7 and examinations will be given for certificates as expert corn judges. There will be classes especially for the benefit of young men who competed in various farmers' institutes in this state for prizes involving a trip to the university.

Father and Son Guilty.

The most noted murder trial ever held in the county was concluded Saturday night at Golconda in the circuit court before Judge W. W. Duncan, it having occupied the entire week. Mrs. Lucy Cullom and William Cullom, father and son, were on trial for the killing of Roy Chamberlain, a neighbor boy, aged 17, in 1904. The jury at six hours the jury returned a verdict of guilty, fixing their punishment at fourteen years each in the penitentiary.

Mourns New Wife and $1,000.

Stephen Hassery, Sr., aged 70, of West Point, and Miss Lola Lancon, 18 years old, of Quincy, were married here Jan. 22, and when the old man woke up next morning he found that $1,000 he had kept in his trousers leg was gone. The money was the savings of the old Dutch families which settled on Manhattan Island in 1640.

Life Sentence for Murderer.

Judge Burroughs at Belleville sentenced Frank Brinkerhoff to the penitentiary for life imprisonment in Chester penitentiary. He pleaded guilty to the murder of Henry Link of Belleville last September.

Cheese Poisons Wedding Guests.

Several persons were poisoned at a Waterloo by eating brick cheese at a wedding reception in the home of Fred Durres and Miss Louisa Loehr. It is thought that all the sufferers will recover.

Prominent Citizen Drops Dead.

Dr. William Powell, prominent physician, business man and former postmaster at Mackinaw and chairman of the Republican county central committee, dropped dead while hunting.

Fatal Fall From Loft.

Charles Wildt, a prominent farmer of near Waterloo, fell from the loft of his barn and broke his neck.

Fall Down Stairs Kills.

John Kleinemeier of Kewanee, aged 68, after threatening to shoot his son's family, fell down stairs, fractured his gun stock in two, and broke his neck.

Boy Found Dead in Field.

Jacob Bliffer, 17 years old, was found dead in a field on his father's farm east of Paxa. He was son of Jacob R. T. Bliffer, a prominent farmer. Heart trouble was the cause.

START WAR FOR TEMPERANCE

Women of Carlyle Seek to Enforce Sunday Closing.

The Woman's Christian Temperance union of Carlyle is about to open a crusade against violators of enforcing the statutes in keeping their places of business open on Sunday.

The president of the union is circulating a petition which reads as follows: "Let every loyal American citizen sign this petition and help to uphold the law as affected by our community. Let us be as diligent in prosecuting the violators of the Sunday law as we are in prosecuting the violators of the state law. The men who killed the two down on Sunday had a license to hunt, but the law placed restrictions upon the time they should use their license and because they violated the law they were prosecuted and fined to the full extent of the law.

The saloonkeeper is licensed to sell liquor, but the state law restricts the time to six days in the week, and yet there are men who violate the law fifty-two times every year and but little effort has been made to prosecute offenders. The fine attempted that have been made have been met with the plea that the defendant took on oath to prosecute the law to its fullest extent have made a farce of it. Let us be as diligent in prosecuting this community and let us hope for the support of every law-abiding citizen."

A majority of the eight saloons had the rear entrances open for business and drinks were served as usual Sunday. It is not known what will be the next move of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, but from indications a temperance war is at hand.

SUIT FOLLOWS RAILWAY DEAL

Galesburg Men Sue Recent Purchasers for $100,000.

Fred H. Holmes, Henry M. Chase and Fred Gustafson of Galesburg began suit at that place against Joseph G. Plain of Aurora, W. H. Hopkins of Galesburg, Thomas Dolan of Aurora and John W. Plain of Galesburg for $100,000 damages for alleged failure of defendants to pay for the Illinois Coal and the Western Illinois Railway company properties. These properties were sold by the plaintiffs to the defendants ten months ago, and $65,000 is said to be due the plaintiffs, because of this delay, the plaintiffs say they have been unable to meet the liabilities due on the railroad construction and other contracts, suits on which have been started.

Discuss New Election Law.

One hundred city clerks and attorneys representing twenty cities of Illinois, met at Bloomington Saturday in response to a call to discuss the amendatory features of the new election law. It was decided to recommend that the city shall furnish all supplies, and that in addition appoint judges and clerks for the elections at a sufficiently early date that they could attend the primary. Many other phases of the law were discussed and uniform action was taken. It was also decided that steps be taken for the formation of an organization taking in all municipal elective officers in the state.

Will Pay Husband's Losses.

It is reported that Mrs. Robert S. Ward, wife of the Equitable Life Assurance society president, who died in Paris, left a bequest of a $20,000 forgery charge, is willing to offect a settlement with the Equitable society, although Mrs. Ward is under no legal obligation to do this, she is anxious to save her husband from the stigma of prosecution. No trace of Ward has been secured. He is said to be in Mexico. It is generally understood no further part is that he has gone West.

State G. A. R. Encampment.

At a meeting at Galesburg of the council of administration of the G. A. R. it was decided to recommend Galesburg as the place of the next annual state encampment, and the date was fixed for May 22, 23, 24. On the afternoon of the first day the Mother Bickerdyke monument, for which the state appropriated $5,000, will be unveiled by the Women's Relief corp, assisted by the G. A. R. On Wednesday afternoon a dance will end on Thursday an election of officers.

Takes Year to Collect Cent.

Illustrative of the governmental red tape was the payment recently to H. H. Barnes of the Chicago office of which the Postoffice Department owed him. Mr. Phares was postmaster seven years ago at Chicago. When his accounts were checked up it was found that the cent was due him, and it has taken just a year to settle the account.

Cigar Dealer is Sentenced.

Alfred Schlesinger, a cigar dealer, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Chicago penitentiary by Judge K. M. Landis in the United States district court at Chicago on charges of selling counterfeit revenue stamps, of failing to keep proper records of his cigars, and of violating a southern cigar law.

Guilty of Stealing Mailpouch.

James A. Jones of Alton was sentenced to the workhouse for one year for stealing a mailpouch