LOOT

By E. P. WARE

Copyright.—WNU Service.

LIN SUTFIN, returning from Rock Landing, gave the "Combers" camp, situated on a bluff overlooking Black river, a wide berth. There were four men there whom Lin did not want to meet. Too shiftless to work hard, the Combers were content to live today and let tomorrow take care of itself; by gathering refuse mussel shells from other camps—sometimes stealing them—and marketing them at the button factory at Lone Rock, five miles down the river, they provided themselves with a minimum of food and a prodigious quantity of drink—the drink being moonshine whiskey.

Sutfin knew that the quartet, drifters from nobody knew where, had been keeping close watch upon his pearling operations at Morgan's bar. He had caught glimpses of them now and then, spying upon him while he worked, and only the day before he had seen "Buster" Neeley lurking in the patch of buckbrush directly across from the bar. In view of these facts, Lin had been forced to this conclusion:

They meant to descend upon him the moment they had reason to think he had made a strike.

Well, he had made it. Only three days before he had taken four large pearls, almost perfect in shape and extremely rare in color, from his week's take of shells. They were worth, Lin thought, at least two thousand dollars each—and he was a good judge of pearls in the rough.

But he was worried about the Combers for another reason: his young wife, Norah, was alone in his cabin during the long hours of the day, hours he spent at work. She was an Ozark hill girl, which means that she had courage—but what is the courage and resistance of one woman when pitted against the passion-inflamed strength of even one man? The Combers were four—all-alike—and Sutfin's cabin was just a mile away from them. It stood alone in a small clearing near the river's edge.

As Lin skirted the camp that afternoon, he found himself wishing more than a little, for the coming of Blackwell, the pearl buyer.

In the meantime the pearls were hidden, and no one, save himself and his wife, knew of their existence. In that fact was a measure of safety. The Combers would not risk a raid, unless they were positive they would make a haul worth while. To Lin's way of thinking, that was their sole reason for coming to the pearling grounds of Arkansas—Loot, and lots of it. Thinking over these things he hastened on.

Sutfin's fears were well founded, and his danger more imminent than he dreamed. Two men dodged into a growth of hazelnut bushes just in time to avoid meeting him on the path that afternoon. They were Eph Bannerman and "Buster" Neeley from the camp below.

"Wonder if he's got 'em on him?" speculated Eph, after the pearler had passed.

"Course not," declared Neeley emphatically. "He wouldn't be such a fool!"

"Reckon not," agreed Eph, as they resumed their way to camp. "Say, now Bus, how come you feel so sure that he's made a killin'?" he asked, for perhaps the fifth time that day. Eph was one who always expected something lucky to happen, but was extremely doubtful that it would.

"Ain't I done told you?" demanded Neeley, irritably.

"Yep. But I can't feel certain that you're correct in your—"

"Lissen!" exclaimed Neeley, pausing in the path and speaking with ill-natured emphasis. "I was hid in a bush-brake at Morgan's bar yestiddy, and I heard Sutfin ask Pogue, the netter, if he knew when Blackwell would be back down-river. Now then, what's he so blamed anxious about Blackwell for if he ain't aimin' to sell him some pearls? He knows Blackwell don't buy no buttons and slugs; he just takes the cream, he does. Now, am I right or am I wrong?"

"Danged if I don't believe you're right. Bus! Danged if I don't! And say, boy! If you are—when do we go after 'em?" he broke off to ask greedily.

"Tomorrow morning," Neeley replied. "Can't tell when Blackwell will come along—liable to any time now. We mustn't take no further chances. Once he gets 'em they're gone, because I ain't aimin' to go up against them gun toters of his!"

In camp that night it was definitely decided to raid the cabin the following morning, after Sutfin had gone away. After the raid, they planned to strike off across the hills to a point west of Lone Rock, where, because of a steep grade in the road-bed, freight trains barely crept; there they would divide the loot, and each man be on his own thereafter.

Having plotted matters to their own satisfaction, the Combers turned in for what they fondly hoped would be their last night in the river country.

Two hours after sun-up, the following morning, Norah Sutfin, slim and pretty as a may-apple blossom, sat on the door-log before her cabin, cracking nuts for a cake. Blackwell and his men would quite likely arrive that day, and Norah meant to feed those three hungry bachelors as they had never been fed before. As she worked at her nut-cracking, she thought of Lin toiling away on the bar, and of the success that had rewarded his back-breaking effort. That thought called up a vision of a certain little canvas bag, buried deep in a coffee can on the cupboard shelf; in it were four large, pinkly beautiful pearls!

"A fortune—at last!" she exclaimed aloud—then looked up suddenly, staring off across the clearing, sharp fear throbbing in her heart.

Eph Bannerman leading, the Combers were coming rapidly towards the cabin!

She leaped up and ran inside the house, closing and barring the door. Placing the pan of nuts in the cupboard, she reached up after Lin's long rifle lying across its tip, but before she could take it down the flimsy door crashed inwards and the Combers swarmed about her.

At that instant, coming from far up the river, she heard the putt-putt-putt of a motor boat's exhaust—Blackwell! If only it proved to be he, and a kindly fate would let him arrive in time!

But the Combers heard it also.

"No time to lose, Eph!" shouted Lon Grider, who had remained outside. "Boat a-comin'!"

"Them pearls—get 'em! We know they're here, so be quick! No foolin', now—or you get something worse than just robbed!"

It was Eph Bannerman who made the demand, and at sight of his big hands stretching for her threateningly, Norah abandoned all thought of trying to hold them off until help should have time to reach her. She went, trembling with fear, to the cupboard. Her fingers shook, and she dropped the little bag when she dug it out of the coffee; she picked it up, and it slipped from her nerveless fingers again—

"Quick!" shouted Grider, thrusting his head inside the door. "That danged boat is comin' closer every minute!"

Without further delay, Bannerman snatched the bag from Norah's hand—yelling with triumph when his fingers closed round its precious contents—and, fear of Blackwell's gunmen spurring them, the entire pack made off into the wooded hills—leaving Norah a shaken, sobbing heap on the cabin floor.

Just as night was falling that day, four men came to a stand, breathless and weary, at the peak of the grade west of Lone Rock. They were not any too soon, for the whistle of a freight engine was even then announcing its departure from the town, two miles away.

"Hurry, Eph! The divvy! Share and share alike!" ordered Buster Neeley. "Kick in! That ole rattler'll be here before we know it."

"How many? Did you count 'em yet, Eph?"

"How we goin' to divvy if they's one odd one?"

"Oh, shut up! Everybody'll get his share!" said Eph, producing the canvas bag. Untying it, he emptied the contents into his broad palm—and a hot oath sizzled between his parched lips as he glared wildly at those hard faces just visible in the dusk.

"She's tricked us, men!" he wailed. "Fooled us, so help me!"

In his hand lay half a dozen common, ordinary hazelnuts—value about one cent!

Norah's fingers had been as nimble as her wits.

Tobacco a Great Aid

In a sense, tobacco built the industrial structure of early America. When in 1612 John Rolfe planted the first acres of commercial tobacco, and the export of tobacco began soon after, the foundation was laid for the export trade of the new country. Tobacco became the backbone of the Colonies' foreign trade. Tobacco purchased the machinery and tools abroad that enabled America to begin its early industries. It paid for the educational and cultural facilities that the Colonies imported from the old countries. It was the legal tender that paid the preachers. When a new church was to be built, its cost was estimated in pounds of tobacco. In 1619—quaint as it seems—it paid for wives for the Virginia settlers. "Ninety agreeable persons, young and incorrupt," sailed from England to be married to Virginia planters—at a cost of 120 pounds of tobacco each.

Be Chic This Fall in Handsome Lace

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

LACE, lace, lace! Write it down on your shopping memoranda as many times as you wish and then add a postscript in favor of lace, for lace reaches a new high this season in the matter of importance. Yes, indeed, if you are seeking style distinction, the sooner you turn laceward the better.

What the style creators of our day and generation are doing with lace in the way of daring and ingenious handling leaves nothing to the imagination. For instance, there are the stunning lace trimmed black sheer wool dresses that bear the Paris stamp and carry that "something different" look which we all covet. Perhaps it is the sleeves banded with insertions of fine black Chantilly that bespeak a new lace story, or it may be that befrilled edgings of Val edging (black or white) impart a charming and youthful air to a simple black wool frock for practical daytime wear. The way Val lace is used for neckline finishings and for outlining decorative little pockets likewise for trimming the new blouses is most enchanting.

Another adaptation of lace is in insets and appliques of individual motifs. These are positioned anywhere on the dress much after the manner that gay print motifs were used on monotone fabric during the past summer. While these insets, which are apt to be bowknot or bouquet cutouts, adorn evening gowns for the most part yet some designers are working discreetly and most attractively into daytime wools and other fabrics. This furore over lace has also resulted in the revival of the dress with a deep lace yoke and sleeves. Leading couturiers are showing some lovely models of this type.

The biggest thrill, however, comes in the acceptance of lace used in a fabric way. The idea, to be sure, is not new for its practicality has been demonstrated without question during the last several seasons. Nor has the advent of fall and prospect of winter retarded the movement to use lace as one would any material for the making of practical day dresses and the blouse to wear with your smart autumn wool suit. On the contrary we have come to realize and appreciate that a handsome lace dress tailored to utmost simplicity is not only good looking and practical but being lace it flatters and "does something" for you as none other but lace can do.

You'll love a dress like the one shown to the right in the illustration to wear this fall and winter under your furred cloth or all-fur coat. Just try out the idea and see how practically and logically this theory of lace for the daytime frock works out. This tailored frock of black lace over a black slip fits ideally into the mood for simple elegance that dominates the new fashions. It is an almost classic style accenting the slenderizing lines that are a fashion "must" this season. The zipper fastening from neckline to hemline is the piece de resistance, giving the gold touch that glorifies black this season throughout the mode. Speaking of this fastening, most everything, dress, coat, blouse, bag and girdle, is decoratively, at the same time practically and conveniently zippered this season.

If in doubt as to the new blouse to wear with your autumn suit, let lace, either handsome wool lace or the now-so-modish macrame or some equally as sturdy type, solve your problem. In a noted Paris collection showing new clothes for fall, Martial et Armand presented the black crepe suit with silver fox which we are showing to the left in the picture. The most outstanding thing about the ensemble is the combination of lace with crepe. Lace is also being combined with many other fabrics in the fall showings of eminent French designers. In this case the blouse is of china-blue lace with interesting neck treatment. A black belt accents the color contrast.

© Western Newspaper Union.

HER STARLET BAG

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

The movies have a great deal to do with the modern trend in child thought, and when a child sees her favorite star carrying a smart little handbag, as little girls in filmland are wont to do, she wants one too. To satisfy this longing a well-known designer is creating miniature replicas of "grown-up" handbags for aspiring starlets. You can see by the picture that a "starlet" bag carries with it just such movie glamor as delights the heart of any and every little girl.

WOODEN TRIMMINGS FOR FALL COSTUMES

Novelty wooden buttons adorn many of the newest sports frocks while handsomely carved wooden clips, pins and buckles are also featured as trimmings. Polished themes are noted with the real grain of the wood brought out as well as though an antique cabinet maker had been working on it. Plaids, cut-out leaf and flower motifs and many other themes also are introduced.

Belts made entirely of wooden pieces hinged together or of wood in alliance with metal chains are decorative assets to suits as well as dresses while the same ideas are repeated in the designing of necklaces and bracelets.

Pouch Bags Fashionable as an Accessory for Autumn

Pouch bags are back in style for fall and are shown in soft dull leather broader at the base than at the top. Fashioned with round or rectangular caps that fit over the opening of the bag, when it is opened the sides may be spread out so that the contents may be found easily.

Silky antelopes with severe gold and silver trim are the loveliest of afternoon bags.

Evening Headdress

You must wear, when you dress formally for evening, either a feather, a flower or a fantasy of glittering sequins in your hair.

Rubber Trees Withstand the South Florida Winters in United States Test

Rubber trees of both the Hevea, the Brazilian tree cultivated in the East Indies, where 95 per cent of the world's rubber is produced, and the Castilla of Central America, have withstood several winters in south Florida, where scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture are experimenting to see if wastelands of the peninsula state may be made into a rubber reserve for times of economic or military stress. They have withstood temperatures as low as 30 degrees as far north as Palm Beach.

Florida cannot compete with the cheap labor of the East Indies in producing rubber, but if Florida wastelands were in rubber trees and rubber rose above a dollar a pound, as it did when restriction measures were applied in the East Indies shortly after the World war, home production might become practicable.

The Castilla and Hevea rubber trees belong to unrelated families, and different methods of tapping are required. The Hevea has a continuous network of microscopic tubes in the inner bark, which seep the creamy latex to a single cut. Tapping is repeated by paring the rim of the cut, the latex becoming more liquid and the flow increasing on successive days, the so-called wound response. This method of wound renewal led to commercial planting in 1896, 20 years after the seeds were taken east from Brazil.

Tapping by the Hevea method cannot be used on the Castilla tree, because the latex tubes are not connected, but the latex is more abundant and was much easier to collect by native methods—tapping with many cuts—which, however, soon killed the trees. The department is investigating mechanical methods of extracting the rubber from the bark, leaving the wood available for paper pulp, etc.

What Women Want to Know About Fashions

Dog collar necklaces remind of the Gay Nineties.

Every woman is demanding a long-sleeved dress to start the autumn season.

Evening shoes are climbing higher with skirts rising from the heels in slits.

Jackets of silver fox are the newest of designs for afternoon and evening.

Shoulders are squared but never built out in the fall suits.

Feathers on hats, feathers for evening headdress.

Much use is made of decorative quilting.

Fall blouses are of luxurious materials.

Colors are vivid and many startling combinations are used for a single ensemble.

Ask Me Another?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

1. What American statesman was the grandson of a king?
2. How much does a single inch of rain over an acre weigh? Over a square mile?
3. How many wars have there been since the signing of the Armistice in 1918?
4. Do Chinese surnames precede or follow the given names?
5. Who was the author of "Give me men to match my mountains"?
6. Name some famous musicians who had the gift of absolute pitch.
7. How many cabinet members were there in the first President's cabinet?
8. What is the usual order of business for general meetings of clubs and similar organizations?
9. What caused a farm to "sink" in Idaho?
10. How many words are there in the English language?

Answers

1. Charles Bonaparte, a member of Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet.
2. A single inch of rain weighs 113 tons an acre, or 72,300 tons a square mile.
3. There have been 17 wars since November 11, 1918.
4. They precede.
5. Samuel Foss.
6. Among them are Mozart, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Von Bulow and Max Reger.
7. Three: secretaries of state, at first called foreign affairs; treasry and war. The attorney general and postmaster general were not at first given the rank of cabinet members.
8. Reading of the minutes; reports of boards and standing committees; reports of special (select) committees; special orders; unfinished business; general orders; new business.
9. The geological survey terms this a landslip. The Salmon Falls river undercuts its canyon walls until some of the land overhead breaks away, causing cracks or other land adjustments at some distance from the rim.
10. According to the World Almanac the reputable English language contains approximately 700,000 words. Possibly 300,000 more terms may be stigmatized as nonce, obsolete, vulgar, low, etc., and therefore seldom or never sought in dictionaries.

Favorite Recipe of the Week

FRESH fruit pies are always good, but fresh grape pies are worthy of superlatives in description. The thickening may be cornstarch, eggs, flour or tapioca, depending upon preference. Tapioca is suggested in this recipe.

Grape Pie.

3½ cups prepared grapes
2½ tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
¼ teaspoon salt
1¼ cups sugar

Wash and stem the grapes. Press the pulp from the skins with the fingers. Simmer pulp slowly until soft, then press through sieve to remove the seeds. Combine 3½ cups of pulp and skins together with salt, sugar and tapioca and let stand for 15 minutes. Place rolled pastry in pie pan. Fill pan with grape mixture. Moisten edge of pastry and fold inward, even with the edge of the pan. Moisten edge again and place top pastry on pie. Press edges together with a fork and trim off surplus crust. Bake in hot oven (425 degrees) for fifteen minutes. Decrease heat to 350 degrees, moderate heat, and bake about twenty-five minutes longer.

Uncle Phil Says:

Laws Are a Retreat

It isn't laws that Americans need to enable them to get along together, but a decent regard for each other.

You cannot often communicate the lesson you have learned by experience.

The hardy pioneer, rest his soul, cut down so many trees that his descendants, bless their souls, now have to restore them for their descendants.

Truth IS stranger than fiction, but most of the facts about truth never come out.

A Very Salutary One

The best part of experience is the scares it puts into you.

Photograph albums should be revived. That was the only way of getting some idea of the family tree.

Be free with compliments. They cost you nothing, but the surrender of your stiff-necked ill will.

Boys who run away from home usually repent within a week and they have learned a valuable, lasting lesson: that imagination can't be trusted.

One way to learn patriotism toward your country is to have to live in a foreign land.

It's Considered Eccentricity

In a village, as elsewhere, genius is usually not encouraged. But few know that is what it is.

Logic, in time, conquers all. Because logic is distilled common sense.

Display windows of a large city are a great expositional delight, even if one can't afford many objects he sees or cares not to have them.

Overeating is what shortens a pig's life, too.

Reason why people forgive is because they do forget.

87 SPEED RECORDS BROKEN TO MAKE TIRES SAFER FOR YOU

Never Before Have Tires Been Put to Such Gruelling Torture

Ab Jenkins, World's Safest Driver, Establishes 87 New Records for Safety, Speed, Mileage and Endurance . . . He Drove 3,774 Miles in 24 Hours on the Sharp Granite-like Surface of the Bonneville Salt Bedsat Average Speed of 157.27 Miles an Hour

AT SPEEDS as high as 180 miles an hour — with the hot, coarse, abrasive salt grinding, tearing, scorching his tires — Ab Jenkins' special racer, weighing nearly three tons, pounded over the Bonneville Salt Beds at such terrific speed that it caused the surface to break up. Before the end of the run the track was so pitted and rough that it was almost impossible to hold the car on its course. Yet Jenkins set 87 new World, International and American speed records on Firestone Tires.

Building tires capable of establishing such records is made possible by patented Firestone manufacturing processes. These exclusive features enable Firestone to provide car owners with *extra safe* tires.

For the greatest protection equip your car with Firestone TRIPLE-SAFE Tires. By TRIPLE-SAFE we mean —

1 PROTECTION AGAINST SKIDDING —The scientific tread design stops your car up to 25% quicker.

2 PROTECTION AGAINST BLOWOUTS —The Firestone patented Gum-Dipping process counteracts internal friction and heat that ordinarily cause blowouts.

3 PROTECTION AGAINST PUNCTURES —Two extra layers of Gum-Dipped cords under the tread give extra protection against punctures.

Firestone HIGH SPEED TIRE

3.75-18	$ 7.85
4.50-21	10.05
4.75-19	10.60
5.00-19	11.40
5.25-17	12.25
5.25-18	12.70
5.50-16	13.75
5.50-17	13.95
5.50-18	14.30
6.00-16	15.55

Other Sizes Proportionately Low

Make your car tire-safe for fall and winter driving. Join the Firestone SAVE A LIFE Campaign today by letting your Firestone Dealer or Firestone Auto Supply and Service Store equip your car with a set of new FIRESTONE TRIPLE-SAFE Tires—the safest tires that money can buy!

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO DRIVE WITHOUT FIRESTONE TRIPLE-SAFE TIRES

Last year highway accidents cost the lives of more than 38,000 men, women and children and a million more were injured!

More than 40,000 of these deaths and injuries were caused directly by punctures, blowouts and skidding due to smooth, worn, unsafe tires!

Left is a section cut from anew Firestone Tire. Note the thick, non-skid protection against blowouts and punctures. Come in and see a demonstration.

Left is a section cut from a smooth, worn tire, with non-skid protection worn off. Tires in this condition are liable to punctures, blowouts and skidding.

JOIN THE FIRESTONE Save-a-life CAMPAIGN TODAY!

EXTRA POWER BATTERY

Ask About Our "Changeover" Price

AUTO RADIO

8" Dynamic Speaker. $39.95 Includes Universal Control Head

Custom Built Dash Mountings Available

CAR HEATER

$19.95 Custom Fit Defrosters Available For Popular Cars

Firestone TRIPLE-SAFE TIRES

Listen to the Voice of Firestone featuring Margaret Speaks Monday evenings over Nationwide N. B. C. Red Network