

THE LEADING CHARACTERS EDISON FORBES, a young resident of Scottdale with an inherent the afternoon," she said, smiling. manded. When they were alone in craving for liquor is held for the death of a woman who has been killed by enoiugh." prison sentence. He is soon par- Here." doned, however, but back in Scott- She thrust a roll of bills into his spoiling him now.

And he are the is soon particular to the point of "I suppose you believe with stupid" dale he and

agree that public sentiment against face was pale; that the warm little killed?" She paused for a reply, but him is too strong so they migrate fingers were stained purple. up north to some land that has been "Where did you get it, Pat?" he derstand that a chap could be big wouldn't be held up. He was our "I discovered that it has a trein the family for years. While there asked, kissing the fingers. they form the acquaintance of

neighbor who is anxiouh to buy their make it. So I arranged to do Mr. must be something disgraceful to property. Eddie learns that the back Kinnane's work evenings. I've been conceal. avert forfeiture. Sealman makes a picker. some value unknown to him to warrant his neighbor's interest. Things do not go well. Eddie fails to get work and succumbs to his old yearning by falling in with a bootlegger's gang, getting drunk and being shanghaied to Chicago. Upon his return he discovers that Pat has left him and will not return until he has quit drinking. This he determines to do. He secures work on a nearby ranch. run by Davenant, and after many temptations at least beats his enemy, John Barleycorn. All this time he is slowly earning money but realizes that when the tax is due he can't possibly have enough. Sealman renews his offer and is again refused. One day

NANCE ENCELL, his former sweetheart calls, finds him alone, offers to pay the deficit but is rebuffed. Then Nance kisses him-and is seen by Patsy who had called to attempt a reconciliation with her husbanl. Pat leaves without listening to his explanation. Broken-heartel, Eddie tries harder than ever to earn the money and one morning early while berry picking, notices fresh tire marks on his property.

Eddie discovers that two men, one of them the youth who deserted him the night of the truck accident are they have used. At Long Portage he for his first year's taxes, which would For an instant he held her close, with humoredly. enable him to pay, but at the bank he at tender violence that left her breath- also discover that a check he gave a tender violence that left her breath- but I knew if I were talking to him "It is a certified copy of the company of Sealman for five dollars for a pig has less through starry-eyed. Then they but I knew if I were talking to him been raised to five hundred, complet- went back together. ly wiping him out. Then he tries to "Here's your money," said Eddie, You'd come in and taken him on the see Patsy, but learns that she is not briefly, counting it out. There were a wing. I felt sometimes as though I

the fatal days on which his property charged his pipe. not understand.

CHAPTER XXIII

SAVED "Eddie!"

closed the door behind him.

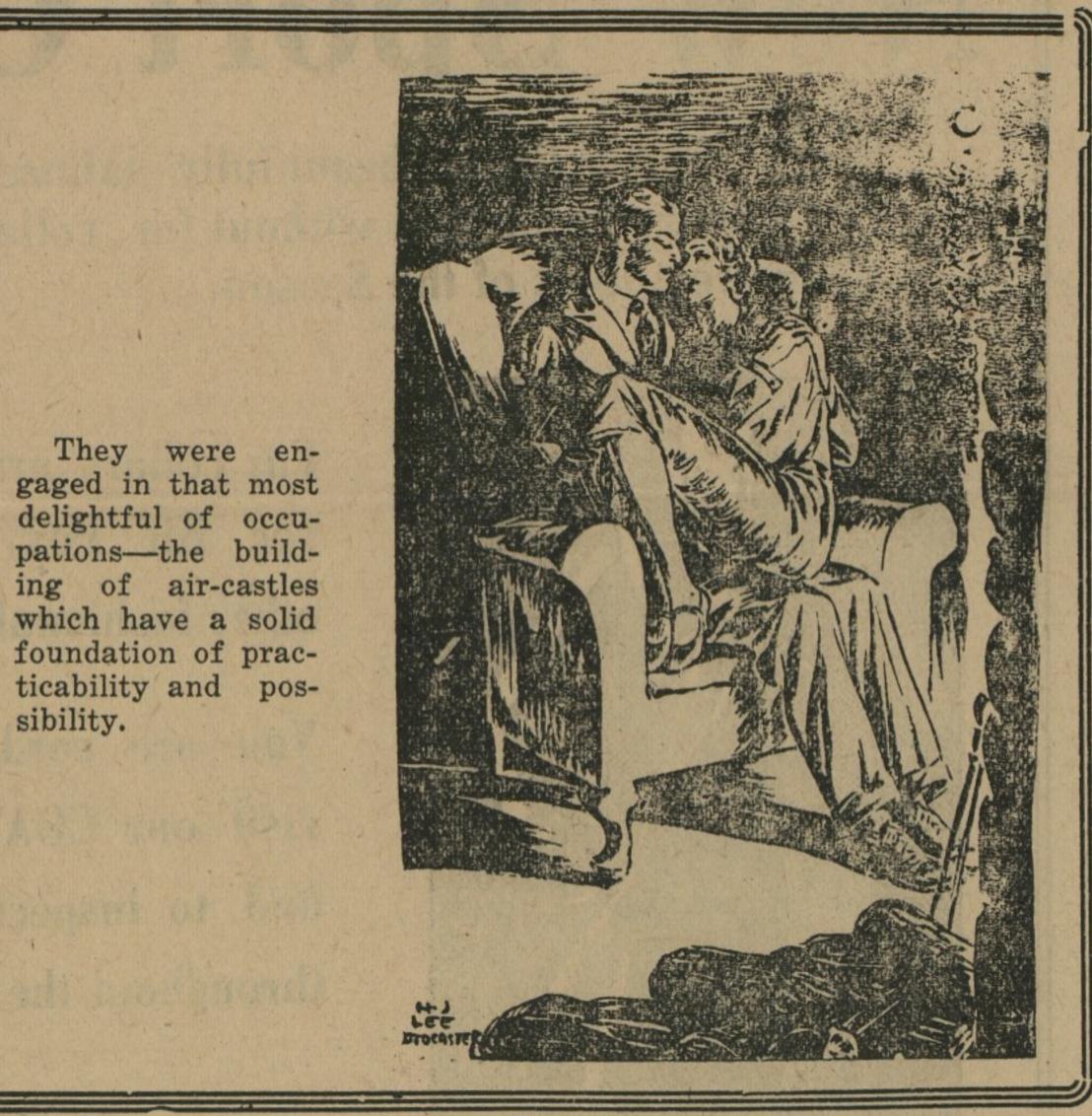
"you haven't-any money?"

than tell the truth of the episode, he the raised check and warned me husband that's a real man, Pat. stands trial, which results in a long your account would be held up. You've had a lot to do with making

"Ive been watching for you all "Come on outside, Patsy," she comthe vestibule she placed both her He shook his head bitterly. "Not hands on the other girl's shoulders, as she had on Eddie's that Sunday, a bootlegging truck. Circumstantial "I know, Mr. Kinnane is attor- "Don't be a fool," she admonished, evidence points to Forbes and rather ney for the bank. He knew about with a gentle shake. "You have a him. But you're taking chances on

speechlessness, he took it automati- old Scottdale that I was with your there was none. "You couldn't unenough and generous enough to keep "Huckleberries," she smiled. I another's secret, even at considerable

taxes total over eight hundred dollars in the marshes for three weeks. It "That seemed so silly to me, knowand must be paid in five months to really wasn't bad. I was a good ing Eddie. You see, I knew him betgenerous offer which is refused— "It wasn't exactly necessary," she a movement to free herself but she



few small bills left when he had done wanted you both to suffer. That's all A week slips by and just before so. Peter Wimple grinned as he re- the clinic stuff. Do you know who

will be forfeited Eddie is instru- "Sort o' thought you'd do it," he "You know I don't," returned mental in the wholesale capture of all said. "Your place is safe for a year Patsy. the rum runners by the State police. now. No one can take it away from Nance tilted her head toward the Somewhat encouraged at this turn of you. We'll fix up the papers tomor- room they had just quitted, and the affairs he drifts into the tax office row, but I'll give you a receipt now. other girl's eyes widened in surprise. ure true. What is your purpose in Morse Verticle Oil Engine. Heavy and there finds Nance Encell, the I'm acting as his agent," he pointed "Not-" she began, and stopped. | coming to me? The press will pub- built for electrical work, good as youth he encountered on his property with his penholder toward the dark, "Yes. He told me so just the oth- lish this, and you will be set right in before, and another stranger. Nance scowling young man, "just as I was er day. He was a pretty weak sister, the eyes of the community." congratulated him—but Eddie can- for Mr. Brower." It was plain that Pat. He let Eddie all but go to Eddie leaned forward. "Judge." he RUSSELL, this office.

taken, markedly plain. Nance rose from her chair, saun- moral courage yet. But I'm working tion was 'a miscarriage of justice' tered to Patsy Jane, who stood with on him." He started quickly at his name, averted eyes by her husband. She The color rose in Patsy's cheeks. could to ruin me. Now-" called in those soft tones, and turn- linked her arm through Patsy's. She knew it was so. Many remarks "I did make such a statement," ed. Patsy Jane stood in the door- There was a motion of aversion and that Eddie had made, even while agreed the jurist. "I was not trying way. She was smiling and beckon- resistance, but the smile on Nance's guarding closely his secret, fitted in. to ruin you. But you were halfing. He went to her, wondering, and wilful, attractive face only deepen- And she had distrusted and disbe- drunk when the accident happened.

carting away the soil from a mound. "The Kinnane's would have loaned it was doing a big thing and a brace big jaw was thrust out. He stops them, whips the young cow- to me. They're the dearest people, thing. I was about the only one that

—well, Pat, I was a little nasty, too. ly." was really with him that night?"

he did not share his principal's ill-humour over the turn affairs had moral courage to face his dad and statement from you after the gover-

that Eddie was drinking hard and gan and stopped. "Didn't know you Then we'll follow the sun southwest level." headed straight for the bowwows; were busy." He scowled as he rec- for the rest of the winter." that he was going to lose his proper- ognized Eddie. "What's he been "Next spring we'll come back here" Janue, in utter content. ty; and that you had left him under telling you?" fire, when he needed you the most. "He has been trying, because So I went there to find out for my certain circumstances," said the judself and to-to grab him if you'd ge formidably, "to force me to rebeen so foolish as to cut him adrift. verse myself on that accident of last

vised my opinion of you, Patsy. I the thing to do. And you spoil-" had thought you a little simpleton. "Randolph." His father's hard without brains or character, mostly voice stopped him. "Do you mean because that's what I wanted to that you—you were Forbes' companthink. But that leaving him to fight ion—that you were on a drinking liquor his own way was really a mas- bout-" terstroke. It was the only thing He paused to stare fixedly at his that would have cured him." She son, whose attitude confessed guilt. paused to smile whimsically.

CHAPTER XXIV

THE JUDGE That finishes that. No, you know, turned to Eddie: marry-" And she moved her head night." backward again.

"I'm glad, Nance." "Oh, I've undertaken a job" the er.

from the Browers, you know. But I ing position." wouldn't have permitted him. If you "As a favor to me, Judge, please two hadn't found the money, I'd have don't mention him-" paid it myself."

gratefully. office. "Been waiting to see who'd Texas, which is about exhausted." I'm Malone, of the National Power. near Long Portage is on your proper-You know us. We furnish light and ty?" The judge's surprise was obpower for the Great Lakes states, viously genuine.

your quarter-section." gan Eddie.

out the name scornfully. "Maybe terial containing salts of calcium, PATSY JANE, his trusting wife, cally. He saw that the dear little husband the night that woman was you're surprised we're out in the magnesium, sodium and iron and free open, and Sealman's the answer. We acid. That it was overlaid by a solid tried to do it under cover, so we vein of rock-a sort of cap. agent. But we found out he was mendous sale when reduced to solutaking about half the options in his tion by boiling to free the medicinal ISAIAH SEALMAN, a shifty saw that what I was earning wouldn't risk to himself. You thought there own name. He was to be his own salts, and that is itbottled and sold

outright. He needs quite a wad of ands of people regard it as a paneca money, quick, and he ran in a cargo for rheumatism and indigestion and ter than you did." Patsy Jane made of liquor to raise the wind. That was things like that. his booze the state police captured "You've been combing the coun-Eddie thinking the land must have went on, giving time to recover. supple, slender hands held her. "He today. So he fell down, and I've try for another supply, especially been over to the jail and gotten re- where geologic conditions were some-

> on an average around sixty dollars ation by the death of your uncle. an acre, and that's more than the When the analysis of my stuff provstuff is worth. Yours-" "Will cost you a hundred, but I want to see me."

reserve the mound above the water | The judge permitted himself line." "All right!"

with your language, young fellow." doiph made his report, I shall cermy price. It's a little high, but it'll parently we are to be rather closely compensate for some of the things associated. Mr. Forbes. Had you that crook agent of yours did to me. thought of any basis of doing busi-By the way, I reserve that mound on ness; say a sale of this mound outthe southwest corner. It must be right to us?" away above your proposed water- "Not an outright sale, Judge. I'n

the outer office. When Eddie and set my heart on a royalty—say a cer-Malone came out, he approached the tain percentage of the price of every former sulkily. "About that mound, bottle sold." Forbes-" he began, but Eddie cut The Forbes family occupied the

You know why." read, Judge Randolph Perkins shift- half the sky as their stage. Bars and

ed his thick white hand until it threw pennons and lances of white radia shadow on his face, making its ex- ance, the greatest of them in dimenpression impossible of interpreta- sion like Lake Huron set on end, tion. But when he had quite finish- blazed from horizon to mid-heaven. ed, the jurist's head went up and his The air was crisp with coming frost, "This purports to be a confession and the aromatic wild growth of the

ard and gets the address on a bag Eddie! They treated me like a daugh- appreciated it. And I couldn't go to by one Herman Libbey that he was barrens. The creek, swollen by author have used the Lorg Portogo by driving the truck which collided with tumn rains, splashed and murmured learns there is only three hundred and ter. But I wanted to get it myself. him and tell him how I admired a motor car on the River road last beyond their front door. fifty dollars instead of eight hundred Go in now; it's nearly closing time." him." She tossed her head good summer, causing the death of Mrs. Eddie sat in the chair and Patsy Maria Knokles," he said, in meas- sat in his lap, her knees well up to

your court because of that accident." rooms including bath and kitchen-"Yes, the evidence-" "Was mostly prejudice. I was real- elor quarters. Inquire a this office.

ly convicted of taking a drink." "Granted that may be in a meas- FOR SALE—Six H. P. Fairbanks-

the rest of Scotdale. He hasn't much nor pardoned me. You said his acand a 'travesty.' You did all you

lieved him. She had joined in the un- You had liquor illegally in your pos- practicability and possibility. charity of feeling toward Nance. session. You had been drung be"I'm sorry, Nance," she said, simfore. In the circumstances, I confirst deep snow," said Patsy, dreamhere—" sider the statement quite justified." ily.

you weren't to be blamed," she smil- subject. But I came for something get our deer and stick around until til a year from next April. Malone ed. "Now that that's off my chest, else, really. You own-" I'll tell you something else. You The door of the judge's study op- That suit you, Pat?" know that Sunday morning? ened. A dark, weak-faced young "I'll love it," breathed Patsy. here. They have a lot of acreage "I'd been hearing things. I heard man entered. "Hellow, dad," he be- "Anyway, till the novelty wears off. they don't need above the new water

"But I know Eddie pretty well- spring. He has told me-" I've told you that—and I found out "You sneak!" interrupted the dark that Dame Rumor was about 99 per- young man, passionately, turning on cent wrong. I saw that he had the Eddie. "So you had to go come and booze whipped. That while you were spill it that I was with you that away you hadn't left him. And that night. I was coming to tell him anyhe thought the world of you. I re- self. We agreed, Nance and I, it was

Confused by this blunder, Randolph stood with head bowed and hangdog

"He told me nothing, sir," re-"When I saw there weren't any sumed the jurist. "He has protected pieces to pick up—That kiss you saw you, as he protected you at the trial. was goodbye. The 'Come soon' I He accepted a prison sentence at my threw in was just pure cussedness. hands while he spared my son." He

Patsy, the mending idea is like any "Mr. Forbes, I have reconsidered. other. When you set your heart on I shall publish a statement making picking up pieces and making over amends to you. And I shall say in into a better model—So I'm going to it that my son was with you that

> "Dad." implored Randolph. "Be silent." commanded his fath-

girl went on with her astonishing "Hold on, Judge," interpolated frankness. "But the difficulty mak- Eddie. "I asked Ran to go with me. all the more fascinating. Did I bought the liquor. He wasn't as you know Eddie thrashed him the much to blame, by a long way, as I was. That's why I kept still."

"I'd heard something about it." | "He shall learn to bear the respon-"That was a forward step. That sibility of his own acts," replied the young gentleman thought for awhile judge. implacably. "If he hadn't been he was going to take your land away a coward and run away, he wouldn't from you. He bought the tax title have put me in this-this humiliat-

The judge raised his hmand. "You "You're good, Nance," said Patsy, said there was another matter you came to see me about, Mr. Forbes." "Get out!" she scorned. "It's better | "Yes. I've had the sour earth fun to shoot straight. That's all." | from that mound on my place analy-Meanwhile the city stranger had zed too, Judge. It's precisely the drawn Eddie into Wimple's private same composition as your supply in get that quarter-section, so I could "Do you mean to tell me that the deal," he began, briskly. "Mr. Forbes mound which Randolph discovered

manufacturing the juice from water- "It certainly is. Ran left a sack power wherever we can. We're plan- when he came to get samples a few ning a big dam five miles below your weeks ago. The name 'Mineral Mediplace on Portage Creek We need cine Corporation, Austin, Texas, was printed on it. I found out that your Light flooded a landscape long mound not far from Austin is about darkened. "Then Sealman-" be- exhausted. That the 'ore' in your mound, known as sour earth by the "Yes, Sealman!" The other spat Indians and settlers, is a sandy ma-

under the trade name 'Mineral Mag-"Some of the land he had to buy ic.' I know that hundreds of thous-

what similar. You became, a cou-"Now this quarter-section of ple of years ago, principal stockholyours, Forbes. We've been paying der in the Mineral Medicine Corpored up-well, I thought you might

grim and appreciative smile. "That "Ouch- You're certainly careless was considerate. Because, when Ran-"But you have to have it. That's tainly have had to look you up. Ap-

getting some money to play with. 1 The dark youth waited patiently in | yearn now for a steady income. I've

one large and comfortable chair in "I'll deal only with headquarters. the cabin on Portage creek. It was night; and outside the northern It seemed to Eddie that, as he lights were putting on a show with and winey with the tang of the pines

her chin. His arms weer about her; "It is a certified copy of the con- her head on his shoulder. They were it would make the care worse. And fession," Eddie corrected him, quiet- engaged in that most delightful of occupations—the building of air-castles The judge bowed. "So I see. which have a solid foundation of

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> > new. No better made. L. BATES

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The hands on her shoulders be- "All right," replied Eddie, easily. "The deer season's early Novem- under water?"

ant. He's a good old scout, after all, whispered. Pat. He apologized like a man for

threatening to lick me over the bot-

"But the dam: Won't this be all came subtly caressing. "In a way "I wanted to get your ideas on the ber," answered her husband. "We'll "They won't start construction un-

ranch from them somewhere near

"Isn't it wonderful?" sighed Patsy Eddie pursued the thread, "and I'll His arms tightened about her. study up cattle-breeding with Daven- "Not so wonderful as you, Pat," he

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