

TAXI

An Adventure Romance

By George Agnew Chamberlain

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SYNOPSIS.

PART I.—Robert Hervey Randolph, being New York man-about-town, leaves the home of his sweetheart, Madge Van Teller, chagrined because of her return to her parents. His income, \$10,000 a year, which he must surrender to a certain Miss Imogen Pamela Thornton (whom he has seen only as a small girl ten years before) is found, is not considered by the girl of his heart adequate to modern needs. In a "don't care" mood Randolph enters a taxi, unseen by the driver, and is driven to the stage door of a theater. A man he knows, Duke Beamer, induces a girl to enter the cab. Beamer, attempting to follow, is pushed back by Randolph and the cab moves on. His new acquaintance tells Randolph she is a chorus girl, and has lost her position. She is in distress, even hungry, and he takes her to his apartment. There, after lunch, a chance remark convinces him the girl is the missing Pamela Thornton. He does not tell her of her good fortune, but secures her promise to stay in the flat until the morning, and leaves her. In a whimsical mood, also realizing that the girl's reappearance has left him practically penniless, he bribes the taxi driver to let him take his job, and leaving word with the legal representative of the Thornton estate where he can find Pamela, takes up his new duties under the name of "Slim Hervey". He loves the girl, but his pride forbids him approaching her under their changed conditions.

PART II.

Flesh, Spirit and the Veiled God. Mr. Randolph spent the day getting acquainted and proved himself a good talker. By telling a few stories that had not yet sifted down from Clubland and by standing a few drinks he soon found himself made free of all the technical information he needed and some more that was so ultra-technical that it could beat the brains that invented the delicate mechanism of the taximeter. He also established part ownership in a comfortable room in a house very much on the wrong or west side of Broadway, in fact within smelling and almost spitting distance of the North river.

While he was still in funds he bought himself a woolen khaki overcoat with one of those enormous collars which look like an inverted bucket when they are up and surpass in efficiency the traditional black mask so beloved by illustrators of the weekly press. He also had a speaking slot cut in the glass of the cab window just behind his best ear and subsequently removed and lost the slide that had been fitted over it with considerable skill and trouble.

During the next few nights he proceeded to have the time of his life; so much so that he was constantly overwhelmed with wonder at his stupidity in not having become a taxi-driver years before! It should be remembered that Mr. Randolph was of New York York; he knew everybody casually, from Mr. Milvans and his daughter, Elleen, down to the latest addition to the pitiful ranks of the middle-class. More than that, so broad was his acquaintanceship that as a sporting gent he had once or twice been tipped off as to the where and when of a proposed gun-play.

In addition to being by right of birth an integral part of all the social strata of Manhattan, he knew the surface of the island and of the adjacent commoner soil of the mainland considerably better than he knew the palm of his own hand. In fact, he could scarcely ever have been conscious that he had a palm, even as a map of personal fortune; for he who is completely satisfied with the present never worries about the future and Mr. Randolph had been born content.

With such an equipment, it is to be wondered at that he found the taxi field rich with unexpected and surprising blooms? Fair flowers, he had known heretofore to nod only over tea tables and solid silver appeared suddenly transplanted to his cab and ready to nod on a stalwart shoulder. Strong male tiger-lilies of the money market, grafted to the cushions of a taxi, became complacent pillars upon which some clinging ivy twined.

In six nights he learned the sound that a banker makes when a slip of fingers tickle him under the chin; the gasp of a girl, first, the cry of a young man; the cry of a young man upon discovering the absence of his grandfather's gold watch, his loss of graduation day; the cluck of a fat fairy sat upon in the excitement of a moment that also would have been tragic, the exasperating tap, tap, tap, of a hen-pecking tongue that explained and condensed a murder mystery in the next morning's papers, and the sob of a ruined youngster who had played with borrowed money.

All these incidents took place with people whom Mr. Randolph knew or knew of and just to show what an extremely honest young man he was, let it be said that it did not once occur to him that he need never be poor while humanity, supposedly in good standing, continued to lay itself open to blackmail at the rate of a case a night. At the same time, he was not stupid and occasionally tapped out a missive loaded with dynamite on the garage typewriter when no one was around.

Here is a sample.
"Mr. Point-for MacGuler, Sir: As I was driving you and Miss B. B. last night who was foster-mothered by an aunt of a friend of a friend of mine, I heard you talk to her and all I got to say is if I see you out with her again short of the hands of matrimony I'll get another friend of mine to get Mr. Robert Hervey Randolph to tell what he knows about you cheating at cards on Dec. 23 last."
Night's that gave birth to the morning to such illiterary tit-bits could scarcely be called dull, but it was not long before Mr. Randolph found himself threatened by an unexpected monotonous employment. Unfortunately for his entertainment, his reputation as the one par excellence St. Bernard lifesaver to the inebriate elite spread rapidly throughout the Force so that the telephone was constantly burdened during the wee hours with the following: "Say, is Slim Hervey on the job? Well, when he comes in tell 'im I got another tailor-model drunk here what has lost his home address from his mind."

With suspicious suddenness Mr. Randolph proceeded to forget half his school and clubmates and cold-bloodedly leave them to their fate and a night out, not without coming to grief on at least one occasion, however. "What are you comin' over me?" demanded the irate captain of the 17th precinct. "You ain't forgot that you was vally to R. H. Randolph for seven years, have ya? Has all his frens gone on the wagon?"

It looked like a loop-hole. "Sure," said Slim Hervey promptly. "His club's near busted what with water-drinkers and softs."
"Sounds kind-a phony to me," said the captain grimly, "considerin' you took this same gent home a week ago come Friday."
"Did I?" said Slim, and with felicitous surprise managed finally to recognize the mess of clothes that was tucked on a nearby bench. "You're right, Captain. He's drunker than I ever saw him before and besides, he's wearin' a new set of shirt-studs. Kind of charized his looks."

Slim lingered. "Look here," he murmured to the captain confidentially. "You're on to me, but just let me see. I'm getting to be the delivery wagon for all the high-spot soaks in town. The first one of 'em that loses his jewelry between the curb and his own front door, just tell me where I got off, will you? I'm honest; I got a reputation, an' I tell you, Captain, I'm willin' to bill 'em through for you when you ask for the home port, but it's nix on me handlin' all the high-explosive freight north of Forty-second street. Get me?"
"Sure, Slim," said the captain, appreciatively. "I'll pass the word, lad."
Thus did Mr. Randolph make good his new front name and a little capital besides, working on the stalwart



"I'm Getting to Be the Delivery Wagon for All the High-Spot Soaks in Town."

old motto: Every knock is a blow. Instead of becoming a mystery and consequently anathema to the Force, an impression was created in Slim's mind that he was a hustler, but clean. He was ready to sacrifice a fare of the goods he might sit high up alongside Caesar's wife. By stopping at two or three strategically placed police stations during the night before the dawn to ticket some drunk as were of his acquaintance, he was able to give the glad tidings of farewell to a job not

(Continued in Next Issue)

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CARD OF THANKS
We wish to express our sincere thanks to all neighbors and friends for the sympathy extended and for the beautiful floral offerings in our hour of deepest sorrow. It is at a time like this that one appreciates friends.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Oscar O'Bannon and son Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Dick O'Bannon and family.

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TELEPHONE COMPANY JOINS NATIONAL THRIFT MOVEMENT

A savings plan provided for the 11,500 employees of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company has just been announced. This action was taken, President W. B. T. Bell explained, as a part of the national thrift movement.

The plan provides that any employee within his option may fill out an agreement, designating a bank of his choice and telling how much he wants deducted from his wages and deposited to his account each month.

The employee under the plan will retain possession of the bank book, the account to be in his name and he may at any time withdraw all or any portion of the amount which has been deposited to his credit. The company merely forwards a check to the bank each month covering the amount deducted from the employee's wages under his authorization.

As a part of the saving plan the telephone company expects to furnish household budget books for free distribution to those of its employees who may desire them.

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA IS GATHERING ATHLETIC CENSUS

The University of Nebraska athletic department is planning an athletic census of Nebraska high school. Questionnaires have been sent to school officials with the request that they furnish information concerning athletic conditions in their community.

Among the questions is one regarding the number of men participating in baseball, football, basketball, track and other branches of sport. Whether the men are given a physical examination before the games is the topic of another inquiry.

Regarding the football statistics sought questions are asked concerning number of boys taking part in football, number of injuries during the season, average attendance at the games, contest which showed the largest attendance, spirit of the crowd at games, whether players are well outfitted, name of player making the longest punt, longest pass, longest run and longest place or drop-kick.

The athletic department is also endeavoring to estimate the athletic facilities of the state. The questionnaire contains a query regarding swimming pools, athletic fields, and gymnasiums.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Fidelity to Christian Doctrine" and "Is Religious Prejudice Dying?" are the subjects for the minister's sermons next Lord's day. You will desire to hear these discussed. We try to get our hearers to investigate the Word of God and to think for themselves. Reverence in worship and fellowship at every service makes the Gospel feast richer.

The Bible school and Endeavor society affords a workshop for every young person and a school for the many. Remember that much depends upon you. By your earnest and thoughtful efforts, some one may be won to Christ. Dedicate self-service and substance to his service. Make next Lord's day the greatest day of the harvest and come to the church with a message and a welcome.

STEPHEN J. EPLER, Minister.

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RANDOM SHOTS

Everybody's doing it. The Scottsbluff Daily News is now printing "unconfirmed rumors" that the Burlington will build a line from Kearney to Bridgeport.

The Burlington agent at Scottsbluff is likely to get into difficulties with his superiors. He is quoted as saying: "It would not be improbable, however, for the railroads will have to find some way to reduce their surplus, and they will probably spend the money in extensions and improvements."

If there is so much surplus they have to hunt ways of spending it, why didn't they do a little more paying at Alliance?

And those dear old freight rates—how high, how high. They might be lowered without loss of dignity—or revenue, either.

After listening to Clay Harry's ideas on rate-making, we have been filled with compassion for the telephone company. We are firmly convinced now that we are exceedingly fortunate that the price of a three-minute call to Aurora wasn't \$10.40, instead of only a measly \$2.25.

Today's Best Story.
"I visited the old farm in Scotland, as was my custom each year, and when talking with the old Scotchman who had been a part of the farm organization since my boyhood days, I noted that he was not wearing the big fur cap with the heavy ear flaps which he had always worn in winter time."
"Where is your cap, Sandy?" I asked.

"My cap, mon, why I ha na wore it since the accident."
"Accident? I said, I had not heard of any accident."
"Ah yes, it was when McGregor came over an' we were out together, an' he asked me to have a drink—an' I dinna hear him."

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SOCIETY

Mrs. G. L. Griggs and Mrs. A. V. Arnold were hostesses to about thirty guests this afternoon at a bridge luncheon held at the home of the former. Floral decorations were pink roses, and this color scheme was carried out in the four-course luncheon served. Guests were Mesdames, Percy Cozwell, A. G. Smart, A. V. Gavin, Marcus Frankle, Earl D. Mallory, M. S. Hargraves, E. A. Hall, W. D. Rumer, E. A. Hively, William Mitchell, H. E. Gantz, W. R. Metz, F. W. Harris, E. O. Reddish, C. E. Marks, F. T. Helpringer, Roy Beckwith, H. P. Toohy, L. B. Denton, J. P. Morrow, F. E. Holsten, B. S. Holsten, M. Dickenson, Nellie Wilson, S. G. Tillet, J. Kridelbaugh, C. E. Slagle, E. L. Potarf, William Bebington, Albon Hall, Dorothy Hershman, Rocco Anderson, Misses Josephine Ganson and Fannie Street.

A surprise party was given to Mrs. James Carmody last evening, the occasion being her birthday. Delicious refreshments were served and the evening pleasantly spent in playing rick. Guests present were, Messrs and Mesdames H. D. Condit, John Gross, W. Willis, Misses Thelma Wadell, Leila Cutts, Sylvia De Moss, Frances Fletcher, Leila Cornforth, Messrs Charles De Moss, Kenneth Mohrman, Charles Gross, Horace Fuller, Nelson Fletcher, and Ed Fletcher.

The M. E. Choir went to Hemingford last night where they repeated their performance of "The Minister's Wife's New Bonnet", which was given with great success here last week. The trip was made in a Geo bus, Mr. Walker driving. A six o'clock dinner was served to the performers, upon their arrival.

Misses Lucille Butler and Vera Scott entertained the members of the Kinunka Campfire at the home of Miss Josephine Wright Wednesday evening. Two girls, Inez Hagan and Ethel Traber, were initiated into the mysteries of the campfire. Games furnished the entertainment, and refreshments were served during the evening.

Mother Gerard returned Wednesday. The play illustrating scenes from the life of St. Agnes, which was postponed last week, will be given Sunday evening.

The girls of the Leva campfire will sell homemade candy at the basketball game at the high school gymnasium tonight. The proceeds will go toward the camping trip to be taken by all the Campfire girls next summer.

The young ladies sodality of the Holy Rosary church held a card party Thursday evening in the basement of the church. A two-course lunch was served and a most enjoyable time reported.

The Aktati campfire held a business meeting at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the home of Miss Esther Dedmore.

HEMINGFORD

Floy Bunce has been on the sick list.
E. S. Moser transacted business at Scottsbluff Sunday.
Irma Wright spent Monday night at the home of Lola Whelan.
Mr. Whitsell was a passenger to Ne-light Wednesday afternoon.
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Anderson were Alliance shoppers Wednesday.

Arthur Carrell and Burt Brown were Alliance callers, Monday.
The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Squibb, Jr., has been very sick.
Rev. Richardson was a passenger up to Marsland Wednesday afternoon.

Gail Price visited his wife and daughter Wednesday between trains.
Archie Morrill of Hastings was in town a few days of the first of the week.
Eugene Andrew and William Hopcock have been nursing the chicken-pox.

Mrs. Lena Britton transacted business in Alliance Monday and Wednesday.
The women of the Rebekah circle met at the Frank Caha home Monday evening.

Miss Grace Hansen who has been on the sick list does not seem to show much improvement.
Mrs. H. P. Knight and son of Marsland were shopping in town Wednesday between trains.

A heavy snow storm swept the town Sunday night and Monday, but the weather is clear now.
F. D. Walls of Fairmont is spending a few days in town visiting old friends and transacting business.

J. H. Warn, Jerry Butler, Bill and Jack Walker and Anton Urig, transacted business in Alliance Monday.
Mr. Shradler who has been transacting business here, departed for his home at Silver City Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hughes and family and Mr. and Mrs. O. Wynkoop and family motored to Alliance Sunday.
The ladies' aid of the Congregational church is planning another bazaar to be held some time in the near future.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Schneider who has been on the sick list, does not seem to show much improvement.
Miss Eva Barrett of Berea, was a passenger up on No. 43 Tuesday. Miss Barrett has accepted a position at the National bank.

The Women's club met at the Rubert Walker home Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. P. J. Michaels acted as hostesses.
Miss Vera Friend who has been visiting at the Bunce homes and Miss Elva Bunce have been enjoying a light siege of the chicken-pox.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leavitt and daughter Margaret and Mrs. Alta Slayton and son spent Saturday and Sunday visiting friends at Gering.
The aid of the M. E. church met at the home of Mrs. S. A. Grimes Wednesday afternoon. The regular monthly missionary meeting was also held in connection with the aid.

Mrs. Edison Mooier and little daughter of Sheridan, Wyo., but who have been visiting at the home of Mrs. Mooier for the past few months, departed Tuesday. Mrs. Estes accompanied them as far as Alliance.
A number of the young people of the Sunday school classes, gathered together Tuesday evening and went for a sleigh ride which was fully enjoyed by everyone, after which they returned to the home of Vera Graham where a warm fire and good oyster stew was enjoyed.

Mrs. Elmer Warn was very pleasantly surprised Tuesday evening at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cox. The crowd gathered at the H. E. Ford home and went to her home in a body. They presented her with a cut glass dish and the evening was spent in playing rick, after which a lunch was served.

The freshman class entertained the upper high school classes Wednesday evening in the high school rooms. The Frohnafel orchestra furnished the music for the evening. Also a few solos were rendered. Games were played and a delightful lunch was served. The guests departed stating that the freshman class are most delightful entertainers.

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Some Thoughts on Clothing Discounts

To Our Patrons and to those whom we would like to number among our patrons, we present the following thoughts concerning the present and future clothing situation.

Tides ebb and flow, waves dash up and subside but through the years stands unmoved the strong rock of QUALITY.

One merchant shouts "DISCOUNT" as if that were all he had to sell. Next day his competitor steals his thunder with "GREATER DISCOUNT" and soon a third comes out even stronger than either one.

The man who wants to buy, not "DISCOUNT", but a good overcoat or suit, is therefore puzzled. He decides to wait awhile. What he wants is quality, but some merchants hide quality, and flaunt discount. Some persons have bought discount and will never again accept it as a substitute for Merit in Goods. Next Spring discount will be at a discount, and Quality will be at a premium.

Prices on "Modern clothes for Men," at LAING'S have been marked lower than is warranted by existing costs of and materials.

We have gone through our Fall and Winter stock and marked each garment at a pro-rata reduction according to QUALITY. This is the only fair way to reduce prices. It is fair to the goods, fair to the customer, and fair to ourselves.

For Spring "Modern Clothes for Men", will if possible surpass anything we have hitherto offered. Style will be tailored into them by experts and specialists.

Yours for "QUALITY",

E. G. LAING

"Modern Clothes for Men"