

## In a Signal Tower.

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Ten years ago I was employed in a signal block tower on a railroad. These towers are used to operate the levers controlling the semaphores which direct the engineers of passing trains. They are raised high above the tracks, and those located out in a sparsely settled country are lonely places. At that time some of the towers were worked by women, and I was one of these women. Indeed, I was a girl of twenty.

My duties were not onerous. I had time for sewing or fancy work or music, the latter of which I was very fond. I had the night watch, and I and my colleague of the day watch kept our quarters in splotch and span condition, with plants in the windows—indeed, everything to make the place homelike.

Our tower was some distance from any house, but I was never lonely or afraid, for at the approach of danger I could look myself in, and with arms and ammunition the place had great advantages for defense. But I never thought of defending myself, for I could see no reason why I should be attacked.

One evening shortly before dark I was singing, accompanying myself on my guitar. I did not hear a footstep ascending, and suddenly, looking back of me, I saw a man standing in the room. He was quite respectfully dressed, but there was something in his face I did not like. Bowing to me deferentially, he said:

"Pardon me for this intrusion. I heard the music and was surprised that it should come from a railroad watch tower. I am very fond of music, and your voice is delicious. Would you mind my sitting here," taking a seat, "while you sing?"

I was not deceived by his smooth tongue, but what could I do? I must meet deception by deception. I appeared flattered by his approval and continued my singing, though with a trembling voice. The song was "In the Gloaming." It was very appropriate, but I was not thinking of the gloaming. I was thinking how I might outwit some nefarious scheme I was sure the man had in view. It occurred to me to play Miss Simplicity. As soon as I had finished the song I began to talk about music, how I doted on it and how I felt an immediate liking for any one who loved it. But the man soon turned the subject to my work, asking me all manner of questions with regard to it—the levers, the semaphores and how I threw the trains on to the right track.

I judged from this that he was there rather with some object in view connected with the railroad than myself personally. I made it appear that I was pleased to tell him what he wished to know and talked incessantly in order that I might keep him on that subject, hoping to stave off any intentions he might have with regard to me.

"Now, suppose," he said, "a train should come along. What's the next train?"

"The Bentford express."

"Well, you wish to put it on the right track. What do you do?"

"I pull this lever."

"And if you wished it to take the right hand track of the Y, a short distance up the track, what would you do?"

"I would pull this lever," putting my hand on another.

"It's very interesting. What a simple system when you once know it."

"Very."

He looked at the clock, rather nervously, I thought, and listened. There was a distant rattle of a train.

"Is that the express?" he asked.

"I have no doubt it is."

The expression on his face began to change. The interested look he had thus far worn gave place to one of resolution. He walked back and forth, and I saw him put his hand to his hip. I was satisfied that this was to make sure his weapon was in its proper place, though I did not see why he needed it for a girl like me. Perhaps he was going to shoot the engineer.

When the train came within a short distance of the tower I stepped to the levers and put my hand on one of them. My visitor stooped, evidently so as not to be seen from below.

"Not that," he said from behind; "not that one; the other. Throw the train on the right hand track of the Y."

I heard a click and, looking back, saw the muzzle of a revolver pointing at me. I pulled the lever he ordered me to pull, and the train went thundering by.

Taking a pair of nippers from his pocket, the man cut the wires connecting my telegraph instrument with the main line and, taking a piece of the wire with him, ran out and hurried down the stairs. I locked the door and, staggering to the window, looked out. He was running after the train. He turned and said:

"Goodby, sweetheart. You sing like a nightingale."

As soon as he was out of sight I fell on the floor in a dead faint. Then, coming to myself, I got up and, weak as I was, danced. When he had asked me how to throw the train on to the wrong course I had told him the way to put it on the right one.

I was called on the wire from another station and, not replying, a messenger was soon sent to learn the cause of my silence. Since there was no damage done, the missing wire was the only confirmation of my story. It was enough, and I received a liberal reward. My visitor's intention was never explained. It was doubtless intended to wreck the train and rob it.

HELOISE AMES.

## A Merry Christmas to All

DIXON, The Jeweler.

Ralph Graham left last night for a visit with friends at Albion, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Miller, of Hershey, were visitors in town yesterday.

The Bridge Whist Club will meet Monday evening with Miss Nellie Bratt.

Frank McGovern goes to Denver tonight to spend Christmas with his parents.

T. T. Keliher, of Cheyenne, came down last night and will spend Christmas in town.

Miss Lela Dunn, who is teaching school at Moorefield, is home spending the holiday vacation.

For Rent—Furnished room in furnace heated house. Mrs. Annie Church, west Fourth street.

Mrs. Fred Rasmussen came down from Ogalala this morning to spend Christmas with her parents.

A marriage license was issued Wednesday to G. W. McIntire and Miss Emma Oppedahl, both of Sutherland.

Over twenty thousand Christmas post cards have been sold at Rincker's Book store since the Christmas buying began.

Wanted—A girl for general housework. MRS. W. V. HOAGLAND.

Mr. Silver, who has been conducting the special sale for Sam Richards, leaves Sunday for Oklahoma, where he will put on a sale.

F. A. Stroup reports the sale of \$78,000 worth of real estate to the party of land seekers taken up the Platte valley by the Payne people Wednesday.

Weather forecast: Fair tonight and tomorrow; Maximum temperature yesterday 51, one year ago 42; minimum this morning 23, one year ago 24.

The room in the Hinman block south of Johnson's racket store has been rented to a Mr. Cunningham, late of Pierre, S. Dak., who, we are told will engage in the grocery business.

A. D. Calkins, of Lincoln, is in town for the purpose of looking over the hotel situation. He is an experienced hotel man, and is inclined to believe that a modern hotel in North Platte would prove a paying proposition.

The reports from the first of the examinations in the Normal Training course of the city schools is received and shows that every member of the class has passed these examinations with credit. There are sixteen girls taking the Normal Training course this year.

**\$100 per acre**

will buy 5 and 10 acre tracts

ten blocks southeast of court

house. For Sale by Wm. E.

Shuman.

Mr. and Mrs. L. I. Tucker went to Roscoe this morning to spend Christmas with relatives.

Mail train No. 9 last evening had nine cars, and was sent out of this terminal with two engines.

Fred Hanlon, U. P. watchman at Columbus, came home yesterday to spend Christmas with his family.

Ed Ewell, of Grand Island, was in town yesterday. He had been at Hershey cleaning up the sugar beet business.

On account of the busy times during the holidays, the W. C. T. U. union will be postponed until next regular meeting day.

Charley Reynolds, who is attending a business college at Quincy, Ill., arrived home last night to spend the holiday vacation.

Miss Grace Anderson of this city, and Walter C. Wilson, of Nichols precinct, were united in marriage last evening at the home of the bride in this city. The bride has been a North Platte resident since childhood and of late years has been one of the popular teachers of the rural schools, having this fall been employed in the Platte valley school in Nichols precinct. The groom is a well known young man of that precinct.

Professor Frank H. Hall, of Aurora, Ill., has been invited jointly by the Board of Education and the County Superintendent, to visit North Platte some time in February. Professor Hall is the author of a number of standard text books in use in schools, the Hall Arithmetics in use in the city schools being among his latest works. It is desired that he spend some time in the rooms of the city schools inspecting the work in arithmetic and advising the teachers as to the proper use of his texts. Then it is proposed to have him address the teachers of the county on the following day. Patrons of the schools interested in the subject of arithmetic will be given a chance of talking with Dr. Hall and getting his views of arithmetic instruction.

Since acquiring control of the Colorado & Southern as an adequate gulf outlet to his big trunk lines, James J. Hill is said to be contemplating the Harriman scheme of consolidating his railroads into one system, with one president, for the purpose of closer working relations between the various lines. This report also contemplates the appointment of George B. Harris, now president of the Burlington, as president of the allied Hill lines; Darius Miller, first vice-president in charge of traffic, and Daniel Willard, second vice-president, in charge of operation. The information further is that the general headquarters of the Hill system will be in Chicago.

### Dissolve Partnership.

Bragg & Schrieber, proprietors of the City Meat Market, dissolved partnership Monday, Mr. Bragg retiring and Mr. Schrieber continuing the business. Mr. Bragg has not yet decided whether he will remain in North Platte.

### Show Wins Match.

In the wrestling match at the opera house last evening Jimmie Show, of Missouri, who is visiting his brother at Hershey, won two out of three falls with John Dugan of this city. Snow won the first fall in seventeen minutes, Duggan the second in two minutes and Show the third in seven minutes. A fair sized crowd was in attendance.

### Pool Tournament.

A pool tournament was opened this week at the Green parlors with eight entries. Each man will play seven games of 100-ball pool. The standing up to last evening was as follows:

Won Lost Percentage			
Perry Carson	2	0	1000
Perry Sawyer	2	1	666
Guy Boyer	3	1	750
Wiley Crane	1	1	500
Harry Reese	1	1	500
Harry Hart	1	2	333
Lem Bailey	0	2	000
Musselman	0	2	000

Two games are played each day, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

### Blankets! Blankets!

There are still a few of those durable 5A horse blankets left, which will be sold at a sacrifice. Come early and get your pick while they last. E. Blankenburg's Harness & Hardware Store.

### Dissolution Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the firm Bragg & Schrieber has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All accounts due the firm will be paid to Henry Schrieber who will also pay all bills owing by the firm.  
HENRY SCHRIEBER,  
A. BRAGG.  
December 21, 1908.

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The Big Shoe Man.

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**GRAHAM & COMPANY.**

### Baptist Church.

Next Sunday the Bible school will convene at 10 o'clock a. m. There will be no preaching at the morning hour. The Juniors will meet at 3 o'clock.

Another evangelistic service will be held at 7:30 p. m. The pastor will preach on "Working for Wages." A man and his wife, perhaps others, will be immersed at this evening service. All are welcome who can find accommodations in the building.

### Notice.

All accounts due The Lerdner must be settled by the first of January, 1908, if credit for the future is desired. Statements will be sent to all debtors.  
THE LEADER,  
Julius Pizer, Prop.

### Birthday Party.

(Communicated.)

On Saturday, December 19, Delbert Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Martin, celebrated the anniversary of his twelfth birthday at their pretty home on the Rosedale ranch six miles northwest of Hershey. The day was fine and just enough snow for snow balling. The dining room and parlors were beautifully decorated. Miniature bells festooned with ribbon hung over windows with a beautiful arch of twelve bells over the door and twelve candles lit up the tables spread with delicious viands and sent their cheer to illuminate the scene.

At 1 p. m. nearly all the invited guests began to arrive. They came from all the surrounding country. Some of them twelve miles away. A tally-ho weighted down with young Americans brought Delbert's class and teacher from Hershey schools where he attends. The children entered heartily into the spirit of the day and celebrated in true rural style. The most exciting part of which was the riding of a bucking steer and Master Edward Gentry, aged 11, proved the hero of the hour. Earl Roberts beat in an impromptu encounter at wrestling.

Other games were indulged in until the supper bell drew the happy juveniles to a feast of which the king might long to partake. Mrs. Hoatson assisted the hostess and both ladies proved themselves adepts not only in a social way but also in the part of culinary excellence. The party closed with a floral contest or guessing game. Master Funkhouser won first prize and Bennie Dikeman second. Then with many congratulations and wishes for

### DR. O. H. CRESSLER,

Graduate Dentist

Office over the McDonald State Bank.

the future, the merry party hied away to their homes leaving Delbert to his many beautiful presents and pleasant memories.

### Puckerie Island.

Charley Trembley and wife departed overland Tuesday for Holbrook, Neb., to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Sides.

Elmer Chase visited his aunt at Hershey over Sunday.

Warren Warnock visited his parents at North Platte over Sunday.

The dance at C. O. Hutchinson's Saturday night was well attended and all report a fine time.

Mrs. Ella Drake and son Claude departed for Delphos, Ia., Tuesday night to visit her mother.

Sam Warnock departed for Kimball, Neb., Tuesday night to spend Christmas.

F. M. Drake and wife left for Omaha Wednesday morning to visit the former's sister, Mrs. J. M. Stroud.

Roy Lantz presented his wife with a \$2.35 gold watch and chain for Christmas.

Paul Beauchamp returned from Greeley, Colo., Tuesday.

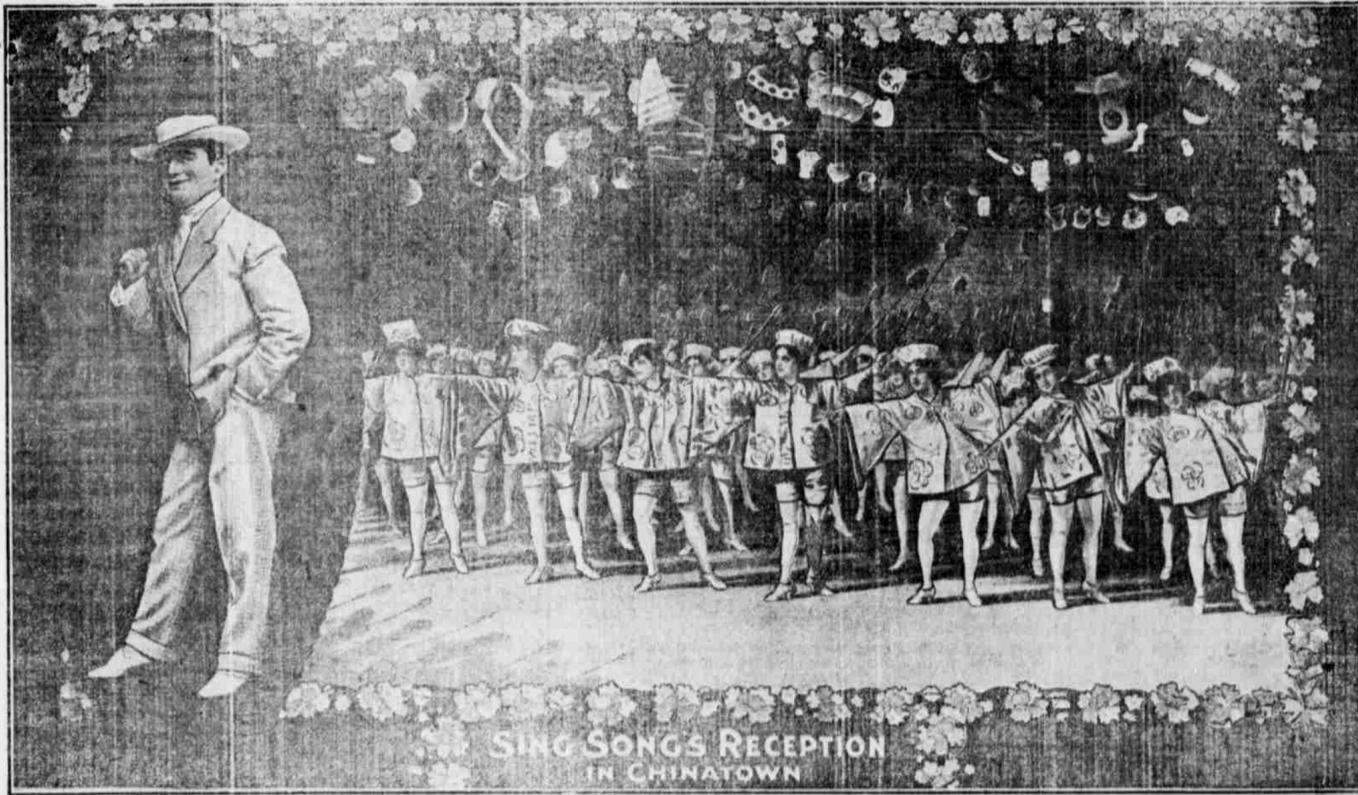


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A. M. Lock.



The Famous American Beauty Chorus in Geo. M. Cohan's Musical Winner, "Little Johnny Jones," at the Opera House Saturday Night.