THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA,

THE RIVER of SKULLS by George Marsh-WNU SERVICE • PENN PUBLISHING CO.

### SYNOPSIS

Alan Cameron, young trapper, Noel, his Indian partner, and Rough, husky Ungava sled dog, look in vain for the Montagnais trappers' camp in the deso-late Big River country of Northern Canada. Their supplies destroyed by wol-verines, they are forced to subsist on wolf meat until they come, amazed, to a substantial log house in the wilderness of Talking River.

# **CHAPTER I**—Continued

"Tonight we'll eat, Noel; tonight we'll eat!"

Dizzy from weakness Alan started for the cabin. Reaching the slab door he struck it with his mittened hand and called out: "Hello! Hello the lower section of the slab and there, inside!"

For answer the door slowly swung the cabin and the food in their stomin and the two pinched faces in achs brought sleep. the hoods stared into the black muzzle of an automatic pistol. Hunched behind the pistol stood a bearded giant of a man whose iceblue eyes glittered hostilely beneath a livid scar that gouged his forehead.

In all the wide north, starving men were not greeted in this fashion. Alan Cameron's hollow eyes flamed with anger as he met the cold stare that probed his.

"You don't need that gun " he rasped. "We're starved out. Our trap-lines are up on the Mad River. We trade at Fort George. A wolverine got into our cache and destroyed every bit of fish and flour we had."

The threat slowly faded from the cold eyes and the gun went back to its holster. "Starved out, eh? You look it!"

"We were on our way to the Sinking Lakes to find the Montagnais." "Well, you'd have been out of luck

if you hadn't struck this place. There are no hunters on the Sinking Lakes this winter." Alan and Noel exchanged per-

plexed glances.

"Now, boys," continued the giant, "I've got some caribou stew in the kettle that'll wipe that hungry look off your faces. Come in!"

"My dog, here," said Alan, "you'll give him something, too?" "There's plenty of stew for you

where were the others? For what |

were they here? As the giant turned to him when he had lit Noel's pipe and his own, knows what lies beyond the Sinking of that stew!" "No more, now," was the answer, "I'm boss here! Lie down, you two, and get some rest like the dog there. He's asleep already."

"Onlee wan more drink?" teased Noel. "No, not a mouthful!" The beard-

ed man lifted a big hand in a gesture of refusal. "In an hour you'll have more. Then, when you get some strength, we'll talk. You're weak as rabbits, now." So Alan and Noel stretched upon almost immediately the warmth of

## CHAPTER II

An hour later Alan and Noel rose from the bunk, their drawn faces Skulls?" beaming at the thought of food.

"You know where you are?" | from! I noticed the trail on the rivasked Alan. "On the edge of an er."

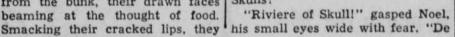
unknown wilderness. No hunter cross the divide."

The bearded man threw back his head with a great laugh. "I suppose there are evil spirits there,

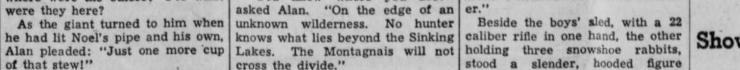
too, and giant Windigo who eat men alive?" Into the dark eyes of Noel stole a look of uneasiness. Among his people belief in the supernatural was universal and to them the unknown heart of Unvaga had, for generations, been a tabooed land, the home

of demons. "It's simply a question of grub," Alan replied. "To go far into this country, a man would have to winter there and find the caribou-or

starve." The big man nodded. "That's it! It's always a matter of grub in the bush. Ever hear of the River of







clothed in white Hudson's Bay duffel. "We've got some visitors," re-

plied the man in the doorway. "Hang those rabbits up and come in before these boys eat up all of your supper." Then he closed the door and turned to his bewildered guests. "I didn't tell you I had a partner wintering with me," he explained, with a chuckle. "In fact I wouldn't have known what to do without her. I see from your face you think I'm crazy to bring a girl into this country," he added to Alan, who shook his head doubtfully. "But she wouldn't let me come alone. I know I was wrong, but what could I do? She's as strong and able as a boy: good shot, handy in a canoe and

can walk me off my feet. Well, here she is!" The door opened and the girl

closed it behind her and stood leaning against it. With a toss of her head, she threw back the hood of

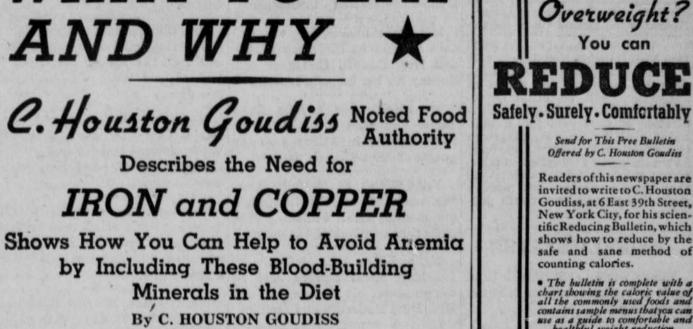
her parka. Her face, browned by sun and wind, was framed in a tumbled mass of gold.

"Heather," said the giant, with a wave of the hand, as the questioning eyes of the girl sought his, then curiously met the embarrassed gaze of the boys, "Alan Cameron, here, of Fort George, with Noel and Rough, walked in today, starved out."

"Gosh! That's too bad!"

"She's John McCord's daughter," thought Alan, as he noted the tall, symmetrical build of the girl which even the parka coat and the heavy duffel leggins failed to conceal. 'She has it all, the blue of his eyes and the yellow hair."

The girl gave her hand to each of the boys then, as Rough nosed tentatively forward, ears pricked, brown eyes watching her closely, she cried: "What a beautiful dog! Dad, if we only had a team likewhat did you say his name was?" She turned to Alan, painfully aware of his ten days' growth of beard and his winter-worn clothes.



WHAT TO EAT

6 East 39th Street, New York City O F ALL the nutrition problems that challenge the home-maker, none is more important than supplying her family's need for iron. This mineral is sometimes described as the supreme element in nutrition because it is an essential constituent of the blood.

of time.

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### How Blood Is Constructed

If you should examine a drop of blood under the microscope, you would observe that it is composed of red cells and white cells. In normal blood there are about 25 million times a million red blood corpuscles, owing their color to the iron-

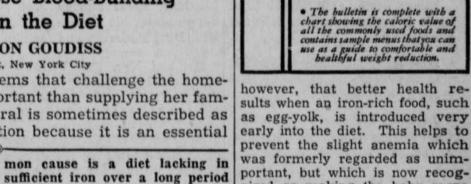
bearing protein hemoglobin. They carry oxygen to all the body tissues, and remove the carbon dioxide formed during the combustion of body fuel. A reduction in the amount of hem-

oglobin in the blood may cause shortness of breath. quickened respiration and an accelerated heart action. Lack of appetite, weakness, and a slowing of all vital functions may also re-

oxygen to the tissues. -\*-

## Lack of Iron May Lead to Anemia

In many young people the blood does not function normally, though frequently parents are unaware that anything is wrong. You may never heeding the things you tell of milk which constitutes the chief eaten frequently. Dried beans are them, when the real trouble is due food during the first six months of inexpensive and when baked with



portant, but which is now recognized as making the baby more susceptible to infection and retarding growth.

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Children's Requirement High

It is desirable to keep the iron

intake at a high level throughout

childhood, for it has been discov-

ered that better health results

when a surplus is allowed above

the daily requirement. But there

is a very special need for iron in

girls from the beginning of ado-

lescence through the eighteenth

Are You

Overweight?

You can

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Goudiss, at 6 East 39th Street,

New York City, for his scien-

tific Reducing Bulletin, which

shows how to reduce by the

safe and sane method of

counting calories.

## How Much Iron?

It is believed that about 10 per cent of the total hemoglobin in adults is destroyed daily. And for this reason iron-rich foods must be included in the diet every day. Investigators have found it difficult to determine the exact iron requirement, but according to the latest estimates, from 12 to 15 milligrams a day will not only provide adequately for bodily re-

# sonable reserve. -\*-

quirements, but will allow a rea-

### Women Need More Than Men Women require more iron than

men, in proportion to the body weight, to make good the losses that occur during the menses. Expectant mothers need a generous amount of iron, not only to provide for their own needs and for sult from the diminished supply of the normal development of the fetus, but to create a reserve supply in the baby's body which will last through the period of lacta-

tion. The percentage of iron in the baby's body is about three times that of the adult. Nature has wisely designed this reserve to lacking interest in their work, or make up for the low iron content so much richer that it should be

year. **Iron-Rich Foods** To maintain top health and prevent the possibility of nutritional anemia, the homemaker must learn to meet the daily iron requirement of her family and not leave this vital matter to chance. Iron-rich foods include egg yolk, liver, molasses, dried beans and peas, whole grain cereals, lean meat and green leafy vegetables. While milk has only a small amount of iron, experiments show that its iron is readily absorbed and is utilized to good ad-

vantage. Eggs are such an excellent source of iron that one egg yields about one-tenth of the standard requirement. Lean meat furnishes a considerable amount, but liver is

all. Unhitch him and bring him in." Dropping to his knees beside

Rough, as he threw off his collar and belly-band, Alan whispered into a hairy ear: "You hear that, Roughy? No more tough wolf! Stew! Deer stew for the big dog!"

did you lose your grub?" "Drop your coats and moccasins and make yourselves cozy, boys," said their host, as the two starved men sucked in the appetizing odors emanating from a huge copper kettle, perched on a sheet-iron folding stove which stood at the side of the clay-plastered fireplace. The giant filled two aluminum cups and a pan from the kettle. "You'll get just one cup apiece, now. It'll knock you out, if you hog it in your condition. I guess the dog can stand a panthat dog?" asked McCord. ful."

The speaker placed a dish, cooled north coast Eskimo." with a handful of snow, before the ravenous husky, dropped some snow into the cups and handed them head with its black and white markto Alan and Noel. ings, the great frame, with white

"Steady, boys-not all at once!" he warned, as the two feverishly drank the nourishing and palatable broth.

"We've been living on wolf the last week-what there was of it," said Alan. "I got two but they factor at Fort George. My partwere like rawhide-no strength in ner's name is Noel Leloup." them."

"Timber wolves?"

"No, white arctic wolves."

name is John McCord. Welcome to "That explains it-hunting south Castle McCord!" he added with a for the caribou, and most of the laugh. deer have moved east out of this country." mystery of how this yellow-haired

"That's why the Montagnais did giant had found his way to the Talknot winter on the Sinking Lakes," ing River whose headwater lakes nodded Alan. lie on the frontier of an unknown

Seated on a chair made of split country. Who was he? Why did he spruce slabs, Alan threw curious glances about the interior of the dogs? cabin while the big, yellow-haired man offered Noel a plug of smoking filled again. Then, lighting his pipe, tobacco and cut fillings for the huge McCord observed, "Worst tangle of pipe he held in his hand. The spruce lakes I ever saw-the head water log walls were carefully chinked country of these big rivers!" with moss plastered with mud. Two small windows made of caribou eyes of Cameron met the sudden parchment through which the last scrutiny in the cold stare of his rays of the sun dimly entered were host. aided in lighting the room by a large candle set in a horn stick. On ted the latter, after an interval, the a wall a pair of caribou antlers glitter slowly fading from his iceheld three rifles, while from their blue eyes. "I came in from Rupert brow tines hung two belts with House with two canoes and six Insheathed skinning knives. Built into a corner of the room was a doubledecked bunk, mattressed with spruce boughs and covered with went to East Main for more." Hudson's Bay blankets and dressed caribou and bear skins. Near the Noel exchanged puzzled looks. bunk a ladder of spruce poles reached to a trapdoor in the loft over the main room, and, at the end of the room, for the chimney was on the side of the building, a closed Lakes. So here I am." slab door, hung on rawhide hinges,

communicated with a second room. These details the quick eyes of Alan covered with a glance. The clamoring of his stomach was forgotten in his amazement at finding a permanent camp, which no man could built alone, on the headwa- in the solitudes of the Talking Rivters of the Big River-on the fron- er country? From the appearance

"Hello, dad! Where did this sled and dog harness come from?"

asked for more.

with three rabbits."

'Rough?"

chest and socks.

"what's your name?"

Then Alan suddenly demanded:

"He's out by the sled. Call him

"I got him as a pup from a

"He's a beauty," said the man

with the scar, admiring the massive

The big man extended a calloused

Alan's mind was busy with the

"How did you get here?" The gray

"That's a fair question," admit-

hand to each of the boys. "My

drank the nourishing liquid and | spirit riviere, far een de lan' of de Caribou People!" "No, not yet!" refused their host.

"The old Montagnais have many "It won't do to eat too fast. When tales of this unknown country," explained Alan. "This River of Skulls is supposed to be haunted by spirits. "We left our camp ten days ago, No one has ever been there. It is The cold eyes softened. "Tough!' old men's talk."

The man with the livid scar looked hard at the speaker, as he said: "How do you know no one has ever been there?"

Alan opened the door and the Alan answered coolly. "No one husky limped stiffly inside, emptied from Fort George has ever been the pan offered him and sprawled there." on the floor with a contented grunt. "Guess you're right, lad! And it's "Mind telling me where you got

supposed to flow into the Koksoakthis River of Skulls?" "I don't know. It may flow into

the Koksoak. Gabriel Dessane, at Fort George, says that all the rivers northeast of here must flow north into Hudson's Straits. He was once trader for the Revillon Freres at Fort Chimo, on the Koksoak."

"Since we're going to see some-The eyes of the giant burned with thing of each other before you head sudden interest. "On the Koksoak, for home," went on the giant, eh! At Chimo, and he's now at Fort George? By glory, that's in-"Alan Cameron. My father was teresting-'

The sudden rising of Rough who moved to the door, a low rumble in his throat, checked the speaker. "Someone is coming," announced Alan, watching the face of the big man slowly expand into a smile. McCord threw open the heavy

slab door of the shack. "Hello, dad! Where on earth did this sled and dog harness come

(TO BE CONTINUED)

#### Dogs Are Used in Palestine to Track come? Where were his men and **Outlaws; Dobermanns Prove Efficient** The cups and pan were shortly

Murder is no longer safe in Pales- | Quaggaport, near Pretoria. The two tine, due almost entirely to the natural ability of the animal which for the African language, which is the hundreds of years has been despised only one the dogs understand. They in the Holy Land-the dog, writes a also studied how to work the dogs. Jerusalem United Press correspond- Then they returned to Jerusalem ent in the New York Herald Tribwith two Dobermann pinschers.

Six hours after two kilted youths changed. The outlaws began to fear had been shot down from behind by and respect these four-footed deteclocal terrorists while walking outtives that were so phenomenally side the walls of the "Old City," the successful.

suspected murderers were arrested. dians. Some of my dogs were Jan and Elsa, two dogs belonging drowned in October on the young to the Palestine police, had scored ice. My men took the rest and the latest feat in a series of spectacular triumphs which has thrown "From Rupert House?" Alan and fear into the hearts of Palestine's

"Yes, it took all summer. We hitherto confident "organized" killwere lost half the time. But we ers. finally picked up a Montagnais who For years brigands and terrorists knew the portages to the Sinking

have laughed at the efforts of the police to track them down. Outlaws Alan's suspicions, aroused by felt safe as they hid in caves and crannies of the mountains of Judea

their hostile reception, were fast and Galilee, in the sandy wastes of fading under McCord's seeming frankness. But whom had McCord with kinsmen in the countless vilfeared when he opened the door? Whom did he expect to meet here lages dotting Palestine.

une.

tiers of the unknown interior of of the cache he had plenty of sup- police sent detectives to South Af- the soundness of the principle he Ungava. Who was this man and plies and men working for him. rica's police-dog training school at had developed.

'Rough."

"Come, girl, get off your coat and those heavy moccasins and socks

and have some supper," broke in the giant. "It will soon be dark and we have no candles to waste." The girl left the men and went into the connecting room while her father started a batch of corn bread

and filled a tea-pot. Then he set a small slab table with aluminum plates and cups and moved it to the center of the room.

Embarrassed, Alan and Noel heated water from the river and did their best to make themselves more presentable but without marked success. When Heather McCord appeared, Alan refused a

seat at the table, where he could not eat, and placed his stool back in the shadows of the room lit by the

single candle and the fire. "I'm sorry," she said to Alan, "that you cannot eat with us." "I'm living high on this deer broth, thanks. In a day or two Noel and I'll make up for lost time."

She seemed to Alan hardly more than seventeen or eighteen. But she was a head taller than Berthe Dessane, down at Fort George, and the sweater she wore accentuated the clean lines of her shoulders and bust, and well developed arms. Still, he told himself, as he watched the candle-light pick up the deep gold in the unruly hair, bobbed at the nape of her round neck, lovely as

not lovelier than the raven-haired Berthe.

policemen spent six months learning

Within a few weeks everything Street, New York City.

In no way do the Dobermanns resemble the bloodhounds of detective fiction, but they are just as efficient in following a scent. They stand about three feet high, have sleek, brown, wire-haired coats and rippling muscles. When properly trained, these hounds can follow

even a faint human scent for days over dry, sun-baked terrains.

#### **First Diesel Engine Exploded**

When Dr. Rudolf Diesel built his first compression-ignition engine the Mediterranean coastal plain, or more than 40 years ago and tested it, the new-fangled contraption blew up and the parts flew far and wide. Exasperated by the mounting list Dr. Diesel was simply delighted. of unsolved crimes, the Palestine That terrific explosion had proved

to iron starvation which, if long continued, may lead to anemia.

The person who has a tendency toward anemia usually tires eas- Regal Peacock in ily and lacks pep; complains of cold hands and feet; worries over Easy Cross Stitch trifles, and may have a complexion that is anything but rosy.

The great danger of an irondeficient diet is that it deprives the body of its chief defense against disease. For when the quality of the blood is poor, one becomes an easy prey to infection. Moreover, if a serious illness occurs, lowered resistance makes it difficult to fight it off.

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### Two Forms of Anemia

Anemia may be due to loss of blood, deficient blood formation, or to increased blood destruction in the body. The different forms of the disease are sometimes classified as primary and secondary

Primary anemia is usually known as pernicious anemia. It is a grave condition in which the marrow of the bones has lost its power to make red blood cells.

Diet

READERS are invited to write for a free bulletin containing a list of foods rich in iron and a list of quate amounts of foods rich in these blood-building minerals. Send your request-a post card will do-to C. Houston Goudiss, 6 East 39th

those rich in copper. Also included are sample menus showing how to plan a balanced diet containing ade-

a color chart and key; material requirements; illustrations of all stitches used. To obtain this pattern, send 15

cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle, Household Arts Dept., 259 W. 14th Street, New York, N. Y.

molasses become a good source life. Nutrition authorities believe, of iron.

It is a pity that parsley is so often used only as a garnish, because it has a higher iron content than most green leafy vegetables. Though potatoes contain only a moderate amount of iron, they are usually consumed in sufficient quantities to make them a significant source.

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## **Copper Also Necessary**

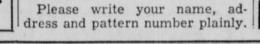
Investigation has demonstrated that adequate iron alone is not enough to prevent nutritional anemia, for the body cannot convert iron into blood pigment unless copper is also present. Therefore, in order to obtain the full benefits of iron, the diet must contain sufficient copper. Foods that supply copper in abundance are liver, nuts, dried beans and peas. Smaller but significant amounts are provided by whole grain cereals, dried fruits and poultry.

I shall gladly send to every homemaker a list of foods rich in both iron and copper, and also sample menus showing how to plan a balanced, blood-building diet.

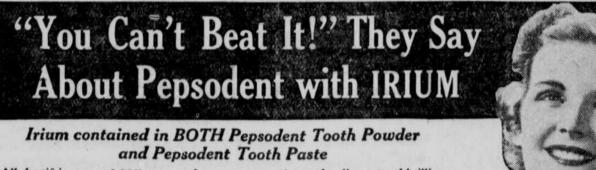
I urge you to write for this material and keep the blood-building foods in mind when planning menus. Never forget for an instant that good blood is the best form of life insurance.

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was the picture she made, she was

Foods Rich in Iron, Copper

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Including a List of

Secondary or nutritional anemia may result from loss of blood in an accident, or it may follow a long, infectious illness. For any infection lowers the iron reserve in the body. But the most com-Send for This Free

