

ONE OF OURS

By WILLA CATHER.
Famous Nebraska Author.

(Continued from Yesterday.)

SYNOPSIS. Claude Wheeler, living on a Nebraska ranch, with his wife, left Temple college, denomination school at Lincoln, in his third year, in order that he might spend most of their time on their Colorado ranch. An older brother, Baylis, runs an implement store at Frankfort, in Lincoln. Claude became a friend to the Erlich family, a motherly widow and five sons. Claude's love for Enid Boyce, daughter of Jason Boyce, Frankfort, Kansas, tells him marriage for them would not be the best thing. World war is raging. Claude and his mother deeply interested in German advance on France through Belgium.

(Continued From Yesterday.)
The fall plowing had begun as usual. Mr. Wheeler had decided to put in 600 acres of wheat again. Whatever happened on the other side of the world, they would need bread. He took a third team himself and went into the field every morning to help Dan and Claude. The neighbors said that nobody but the kaiser had ever been able to get Nat Wheeler down to regular work.

Since the men were all afield, Mrs. Wheeler now went every morning to the mail box at the crossroads, a quarter of a mile away, to get yesterday's Omaha and Kansas City papers which the carrier left. In her eagerness she opened and began to read them as she turned homeward, and her feet never too sure, took a wandering way among sunflowers and buffalo burrs. One morning, indeed she sat down on a red grass bank beside the road and read all the war news through before she stirred, while the grasshoppers played leapfrog over her skirts, and the gophers came out of their holes and blinked at her. The noon, when she saw Claude leading his team to the water tank, she hurried down to him without stopping to find her bonnet, and reached the windmill breathless.

"The French have stopped falling back, Claude. They are standing at the Marne. There is a great battle going on. The papers say it may decide the war. It is so near Paris that some of the army went out in taxis."

Claude drew himself up. "Well, it will decide about Paris, anyway, won't it? How many divisions?"
"I can't make out. The accounts are so confusing. But only a few of the English are there, and the French are terribly outnumbered. Your father got in before you, and he has the papers upstairs."

"They are 24 hours old. I'll go to Vincent tonight after I'm done work, and get the Hastings paper."
In the evening, when he came back from town, he found his father and mother waiting up for him. He stopped a moment in the sitting room. "There is not much news, except that the battle is on, and practically the whole French army is engaged. The Germans outnumber them five to three in men, and nobody knows how much in artillery. General Joffre says the French will fall back no farther." He did not sit down, but went straight upstairs to his room.

Mrs. Wheeler put out the lamp, undressed, and lay down, but not to sleep. Long afterward, Claude heard her gently closing a window and he smiled to himself in the dark. His mother, he knew, had always thought of Paris as the wickedest of cities, the capital of a frivolous, wine-drinking, Catholic people, who were responsible for the massacre of St. Bartholomew and for the grinning atheist, Voltaire. For the last two weeks, ever since the French began to fall back in Lorraine, he had noticed with amusement her growing solicitude for Paris.

It was curious, he reflected, lying wide awake in the dark: four days ago the seat of government had been moved to Bordeaux—with the effect that Paris seemed suddenly to have become the capital, not of France, but of the world! He knew he was not the only farmer boy who wished himself tonight beside the Marne. The fact that the river had a pronounceable name, with a hard western "r" standing like a keystone in the middle of it, somehow gave one's imagination a firmer hold on the situation. Lying still and thinking fast, Claude felt that even he could clear the bar of French "politeness"—so much more terrifying than German bullets—and slip unnoticed into that outnumbered army. One's manners wouldn't matter on the Marne tonight, the night of the 8th of September, 1914. There was nothing on earth he would so gladly be as an atom in that wall of flesh and blood that rose and melted and rose again before the city which had meant so much through all the centuries—but had never meant so much before. Its name had come to have the purity of an abstract idea. In great sleepy continents, in land-locked harvest towns, in the little islands of the sea, for four days men watched that name as they might stand out at night to watch a comet, or to see a star fall.

CHAPTER X.
It was Sunday afternoon and Claude had gone down to the mill house, as Enid and her mother had returned from Michigan the day before. Mrs. Wheeler, propped back in a rocking chair, was reading, and Mr. Wheeler, in his shirt sleeves, his Sunday collar unbuttoned, was sitting at his walnut secretary, amusing himself with columns of figures. Presently he rose and yawned, stretching his arms above his head.

"Claude thinks he wants to begin building right away up on the quarter next the timber claim. I've been figuring on the lumber. Building materials are cheap just now, so I suppose I'd better let him go ahead."
Mrs. Wheeler looked up absently from the page. "Why, I suppose so."

Her husband sat down astride a chair, and leaning his arms on the back of it, looked at her. "What do you think of this match, anyway? I don't know as I've heard you say."
"Enid is a good, Christian girl."
Mrs. Wheeler began resolutely, but her sentence hung in the air like a question.

He moved impatiently. "Yes, I know. But what does a husky boy like Claude want to pick out a girl like that for? Why, Evangeline, she'll be the old woman over again!"

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Our Children

By ANGELO PATRI.
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Benjie's mind was in full pursuit of that example in arithmetic when the clock called him off, and he hasn't adjusted himself to the reading at all. He feels that example slipping away from him and he longs to follow it and drag it back to safety. His position at the desk says reading, but his mind is numbering.

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The United States Bureau of Education has prepared a list of 23 books on American history with the hope that many persons may be stimulated to learn more about this country's past.

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time grows more and more precious and a child's learning time must be conserved to his greater good if he is to be fitted fairly for the complex life ahead of him.

Couldn't we work a little easier if the program called for a week's work instead of one day's at a time? Couldn't we get further if we stayed on a job until the children who had it in hand mastered it? Couldn't we save time this way and let the child who did not need the lesson take a wider view of it, helping himself while he searched for it?

Loosen up the program and give the children a chance to work with out interruption and with a definite notion of accomplishment. Why should he worry about an unfinished job if the bell rang and he couldn't go on? Suppose he grows up, not worrying about finishing his job? Just following the clock? The clock program is not altogether good. Amend it.

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Ring Canapes.

To prepare the ring canapes cut slices of bread with a doughnut cutter and saute lightly on one side in butter. Spread the untoasted side with butter blended with minced canned pimento, a teaspoonful of shredded chives and two tablespoonfuls of chopped cream. Garnish with halved stuffed olives, pressed into the butter mixture.

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