

The Aztec Mystery

A Thrilling Story of the Old West
BY MURRAY LEINSTER

SYNOPSIS. Sonny Holman, believing he has been cheated out of the Aztec mine, looks up the mine owner, Mr. Laurier, who is a reward for Holman's capture. He is accompanied by Garcia, a gang of cut-throats, but Garcia's intention is to capture Sonny and his horse, and Sonny is determined to escape and find out the truth.

CHAPTER XV. Sonny's horse was barely going faster than a walk, and Sonny himself was nodding in the saddle when he reached the Circle Bar. He rode in and dismounted by the corral. He unsaddled and let the worn animal walk down the enclosure. Then, with eyes half closed from sleepiness, he made for the ranch-house with the heavy saddle under his arm.

A figure stepped out of the house as he approached, uttered an exclamation, and stood irresolute. Sonny stepped the saddle and lifted his hat. "How do, ma'am," he said politely. "It's getting to be a kinda trite saying, but I think it's a small world, ain't it?"

"This looks a cliff left on you," she managed to say, her voice barely more than a whisper. "I saw it fall!"

"No, ma'am," said Sonny wearily. "It missed me by a little bit. Ought I to go for not waiting for it to light on me, ma'am?"

She hesitated, her hand to her throat. "I'd like to say that I told my maids not to kill you. I told them to shoot your horse, to capture you."

"Am I expected to thank you for that, ma'am?" asked Sonny dreamily. "I owned Gunpowder a good long while, ma'am, and he was right close to me. I'd 'a' rather seen a lot of human killed than him."


She hesitated again, there in the gray light of early morning. "I'm sorry," she cried, "I can't help it. You sympathize, ma'am, helps a lot." Sonny stooped for the saddle once more. This here saddle belongs to one of your men. He can get it from Thompson whenever he likes."

She paused. Then she said suddenly, "Don't go! Please don't go!" A messenger had just come in from Mr. Tilford. He had proof now. Sonny smiled grimly. "What kinds evidence, ma'am?"

"A letter from Garcia to you. It was given to one of Garcia's men to deliver to you. Instead, he deserted and carried it to Mr. Tilford, and Mr. Tilford has set it out here to discredit you with the people who have protected you before. He asked that you be sent to jail, but they're afraid you!"

"That, ma'am," drawled Sonny, "ought to be right convenient for you. No," she said anxiously. "I don't want you to die. You're an outlaw and a thief and you've outlived the Aztec when it's the only thing that can save my life." She stopped. "But you did bring me back safe when Garcia would have harmed me, even though you'd planned my kidnapping with him. I only want you to go far away, and never come back. Now you'll

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Reminiscences

Charles from "The Journal of Arnold Bennett, 1856-1919" a thoughtful delightful book. Bennett was a page at the time of her capture. I can't give him that because I haven't got it.

February 29, 1908: "Pett Ridge (the novelist) came on Wednesday for lunch and told me a funny story about a page at the time of her capture. I can't give him that because I haven't got it."

ANNOUNCEMENT TO VOTERS!
The Gila County Cattleman's Association announces that it supports Mr. John Doe for sheriff of Gila County, and invites its friends to consider his qualifications for the office.

Von Hindenburg's Salary About \$6,000 a Year
Berlin.—President von Hindenburg's net salary is less than one-twelfth of that drawn by the executives of the two largest republics, and less than one-third paid by one of the smallest, Finland, to its chief executive.

Settled
A middle-aged man, who was appointed to be a local official, was started on the expedition, and some weeks later he was back in his office. "I say," he said to the officer, "I'd like to go with you on this expedition of yours."

Free Medical Care
The economic situation in London—the relief of persons requiring medical or surgical treatment.

Stops Summer Odors
The heavy smell which weathers brings to many people is largely prevented by regular baths with a free lather of Baby's Own Soap.

Germany's President Favors Coffee
In these days of giant Trans-Atlantic liners, it is interesting to learn that the "Great Eastern"—full-rigged ship with auxiliary engines—built over eighty years ago, still holds one record of the ship-building world; no other ship has ever had five funnels and six masts.

Money
No one who is a lover of money, a lover of pleasure, or a lover of glory, is likely to be a lover of truth. Only he who is a lover of virtue—Elizabeth Carter.

The 40th Anniversary of "SALADA" TEA

For 40 years SALADA has given the finest quality in tea. Present prices are the lowest in 15 years.

Farmers
What if the back be stooped and the spine be dried, Tending the soil? The sun, the wind, and the rain. Leave kindlier marks than such, and pride. On the face and hands of a man, God's share of pain. Had better be got from simple things like drought. And yellowing plants, than from the dread disease Of melancholia that puts upon the mouth. A smile deformed, and lashes memories Untill they burn. O Farmer, you know And the sweat you drop on the seedlings in the ground, Bring you a harvest of verdant blades. While who ever occupied the soil, With thoughts and cunning schemes, whose souls are carved Even as your back is, have not sown the fruit.

Naval Cutter for Sea Scouts
A naval cutter was recently presented to the I. I. Barbados Sea Scout Group by the captain, officers and crew of the H.M.S. Repulse.

English College Scout Visitors
A change of policy to travelling within the Empire instead of visiting British colonies in the East.

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WITH THE LONE SCOUTS

Lone Scout Camp
When this paragraph appears in the press the boys who were fortunate enough to spend two weeks in camp at Ebor Park with the Lone Scout Staff from Headquarters will just be thinking of returning to their homes, and we know it will be with regret.

Empire Scouts at World Gathering
The number of Scouts to represent the British Empire at the next World Scout Conference, in Hungary, next to be held in London, is estimated at 2,500 to 3,000.

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New Style Upper Berth

A permanent folding stairway, a dormer window and dressing platform are the features introduced in this new upper berth, eliminating many of the discomforts of train travel.

Sunday School Lesson
Lesson III.—The Passover.
Exodus 12: 1-28. Golden Text.—Even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.—1 Corinthians 5: 7.

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Cancer of the Bowels Easily Detectable By X-Ray

This article has been written for the Canadian Social Hygiene Council by an eminent specialist; and in addition has received the endorsement of the Provincial Department of Health of Ontario.

Forest Tree Seeds
The Forest Service, Department of the Interior, maintains a plant at New Westminister, British Columbia, for the extraction of forest tree seeds.

Checking the Compass
The Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior, in the course of their regular surveying and mapping operations, have made numerous measurements of the direction of pointing of the magnetic compass needle.

Interesting Wild Life
Many interesting wild animals are to be seen in the natural environment in Waterloo Lakes and in the province of Alberta, in this reserve there are bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, black bear, moose, elk, beaver, and many kinds of small fur-bearing.

Astrophysical Researches
Recent researches at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Department of the Interior, at Victoria, B.C., confirm the existence, throughout interstellar space, of an extremely tenuous cloud of gaseous particles.

Simplicity
I have grown to believe that the one thing worth aiming at is simplicity of heart and life; that the world is a very beautiful place; that copious labor is the secret of happiness.—A. F. Benson.

MUTT AND JEFF—By BUD FISHER
IS THAT ALL? ALL? ALL? IF SO, I'M ON MY WAY TO TELL HER. TELL HER I THINK OF HER BY NIGHT AND LONG FOR HER BY DAY—I WOULD RATHER HAVE ALL THE EARTH'S TREASURES, TELL HER I LOVE HER.

Only wealthy people can afford cheap oil, says lubrication expert
One kind of oil is as good as another in the container. It's the service that makes the difference. Cheap oil is never worth the price you pay for it. You are getting proper lubrication for your sewing machine, lawnmower, washer, electric fan, vacuum cleaner and other expensive equipment when you are not.

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