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WHERE NATURE REIGNS

By **JOHN TWEEDDALE**
 OF TORRANCE

(Continued from last week)

"Tell us professor," he said, "why it is that after a forest fire has denuded the mountains, the flood damage in the burned over areas, and in the lowlands surrounding them, is so much greater than would be the case if a full growth of brush and timber were present?"

"I believe you will more clearly understand the problem," responded the professor, "if I give it to you in the form of an illustration. As you know," he continued, "your heart which after that long climb, is pounding against its walls with more than ordinary vigor, continues to do so to a greater or less degree, hour after hour, and day after day, until the interminable calendar of time checks off your allotted number of years on earth; it your emotions, health, sickness, joy and anguish go, crimson messengers of the brain vibrating through the intricate system of arteries and veins until they reach and nourish or destroy the various other elements of which your body is composed."

"Pardon me, professor," interrupted Dick, "but that much of anatomy, and more, you drummed into my thick cranium many years ago; furthermore I can't see what relation the human heart bears to a patch of burned-over forest land."

"You will see, you will see," the professor replied, impatiently holding up his hand for silence, as was his wont when, as boys together, Dick and I sat and listened to words of profound understanding as they fell from the same respected lips, "only you must let me explain in my own way."

"I shall not interrupt again, professor," Dick said apologetically.

"Every created part," the professor resumed, "of the mighty universe functions in a like manner to the human heart; each part depending upon the other for its existence, and each providing the motive power, so to speak, by which some other thing or being may finally reach its goal or consummation. It is therefore evident that the earth itself was used by the Supreme Architect as the model or pattern, after which every inhabitant thereof was formed, and of which every product of the soil is a replica; no superior comprehension is necessary to convince one's self of the correctness of this assertion. Abundant corroborative evidence is found in the scientific writings of the savants of every period of the world's history, and even a superficial study of the subject on his own behalf will convince any normal-individual of its truth."

"This understanding," the professor continued, "brings us face to face with the most vital and far-reaching problem of modern times: conservation and particularly the preservation of our natural resources. Following out the thought propounded at the beginning of my dissertation, we find the heart of the earth itself to be the mighty oceans, seas and lakes, which cover a large portion of its exterior and whose tides are ever present reminders of the rhythmic beat of the human organ of circulation; whose rivers, creeks and rills are the arteries, veins and capillaries through which life is carried to and maintained in all its parts, and whose exterior growth is dependent upon an uninterrupted flow of these vital fluids to the roots."

"If for example, a vein in my arm is severed, and the flow of blood from the heart permitted to pass over the surface instead of through the sources provided by nature for its distribution; the area thus deprived of its life-giving fluids will eventually wither and die."

"All the cunning known to science may be employed to restore the decaying parts of the arm without avail unless the vital fluids are returned to their normal channels. If the trees and other growth in a watershed are destroyed, one of nature's arteries has been cut apart; the machinery provided by an all wise creator for the gradual percolation of rain and snow water through the rooted earth has been demolished, and the precious life-giving fluids flow along the top in the form of destructive floods."

"All the facilities at the command of the great flood control engineers may be employed to hold these waters in check without avail unless re-forestation brings the two ends of creation's severed artery together and ties them securely."

"Every wheel that turns in the g-r-e-a-t," suddenly the professor's words trailed out into a noiseless whisper, an expression of incredulous surprise crept slowly over his normally calm features as he stared fixedly at some object on the trail up which we had climbed a short hour before. "Tell me my friends," he burst out in an excited tremor, springing up and shading his eyes with a quivering hand, "do I but dream, or is not yonder figure that of my daughter, Alice?" Both Dick and I leapt to our feet and there, not five hundred feet away was the form of a young girl in camping costume, frantically waving a broad-brimmed sombrero in wide circular sweeps, and ascending the steep grade with the lithe grace of a young fawn. In a great bound Dick cleared an immense boulder which barred his way, and ran at top speed

down the rugged mountain side towards the source of this sudden perturbation.

Following him closely, the professor and I, with less agility but almost equal haste, brought up the rear, to find our woodland vision none other than Alice Howard, and for two years or more the subject of Dick's ardent but apparently unrequited affection. Now however, they met us hand in hand and a light was in the eyes of both, that told a story, old as the mountainside on which we stood.

With a glad cry Alice flung herself into the extended arms of her father; meanwhile throwing a friendly kiss in my direction with a graceful wave of her shapely hand. "Alice, girlie, why in the world did you come?" he questioned, holding her slender form with the tender love of an adoring parent. "Why, daddy," she replied, in a low musical voice, "I just became lonesome for you and cousin Jack, and—the forest," I broke in smilingly, my eyes fixed on Dick's happy face. Alice darted a recondite glance in his direction, and a gleam of roseal pink was visible for an instant beneath her clear skin, but Dick's broad back was towards us, as he turned quickly to inspect with more than ordinary interest the prickly green leaves of a holly branch he had plucked from a convenient tree as he turned.

They had been friends since childhood, this delicately beautiful girl of twenty, and gentle, courageous man of thirty, and small wonder it would be if the winged messenger of tender devotion had not flown into the innermost sanctuary of their free hearts and there deposited a missive of heavenly import.

"But Alice dear, you have not told us," protested the father, "what wonderful dispensation of Providence is responsible for your sudden appearance in our midst."

"I was trying to tell you all about it daddy," she replied, "when that naughty cousin of mine spoiled it all. It was like this," she continued in her melodious western drawl, "I simply wanted to see you and to get away from the shallow, useless, uninteresting life of the city, so after you left this morning, I decided to drive up in my own car all alone, and here I am," she concluded, with a graceful hop skip and jump, around a wild gooseberry bush.

"Thus at last, the mystery is solved," I added, "and now I suppose all that is required to make you genuinely happy is for us to 'round up' horses for Dick and you, in order that you may be able to explore every nook and corner of the ranch. I will however, send for the horses only on one condition," I concluded.

"Oh! Cousin Jack do tell me what it is," she teased excitedly.

"You must promise," I stipulated, "to remain here until your father's vacation is over."

"Done," she agreed quickly, her blue eyes bright with wholesome anticipation.

Meantime Dick had wandered to the rim of the canyon, and there stood, his bronzed face set in deep meditation, the sunlight glinting on his dark wavy hair, and the clear honest eyes fixed on the ant-like procession of shiny automobiles moving slowly along the state highway deep in the valley below.

Alice crept softly to his side and placed her hand in his, slowly he turned until his eyes met hers, and so they stood and plighted their troth silently, beneath the wreathed branches of the trees they loved. And as we watched I saw in fancy an elfin spirit dance out in joyful abandon from its hiding place in a flower strewn dell and place a forest garland on the brow of each. Thus in the morning time of life in the crimson glow of a woodland retreat Alice found her mate.

"Come professor," I said, "this is no place for us, and thus," I added, "has the winged herald of love brought to an end, our first journey into the province of conservation."

Buy Equipment for P. E. Shops

Calculated to improve the mechanical requirements of both the Sherman and Torrance shops of the Pacific Electric Railway, the purchase of considerable new equipment and the relocation of some now in service was announced yesterday by D. W. Pontius, vice president and general manager of the interurban system.

Calling for an expenditure of \$71,100, a new air compressor, together with other miscellaneous equipment will shortly be installed at the Sherman Shops. The new compressor will have a displacement capacity of 350 cubic feet. It will be driven with a 50 horsepower motor, which is to be equipped with a 50 horsepower starter. The storage tank is to be 42 inches by 10 feet in size.

To care for the ever increasing mechanical work being performed at the Sherman shops, additional equipment consisting of one car washer, two chain blocks, three floor creepers, one grinder, two car jacks, one piston aligner and one electric drill has been ordered, Mr. Pontius stated.

The 800 cubic foot capacity air compressor that is now being used at Sherman will be moved to Torrance to supplement the 1000 cubic foot compressor now in service at that point.

INDIANA PICNIC
 The mammoth annual picnic reunion of all the Hoosiers out west will be held all day Saturday, July 28, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles.

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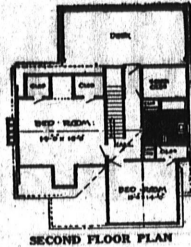
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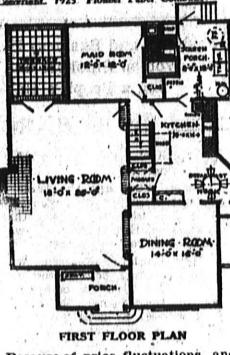
GIRL—"WE WERE LISTENING TO THE ONE NEXT DOOR, FATHER. THEY GOT IT AT"

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BUILD AND LIVE IN TORRANCE
 A TYPICALLY AMERICAN HOME



This typically American home shows an interesting combination of cream colored stucco and shingles on side walls and roof. The spacious interior is well conceived and accommodates the average family and a maid. While large and substantially built it can be reproduced with comparative economy.



Because of price fluctuations and varying conditions in different localities, it is impractical to set an inflexible figure on the cost of constructing the house pictured above. However, the Pioneer Paper Co., Los Angeles, Calif., will furnish an accurate estimate of the cost on request. Please refer to Plan No. 27. Designed by William H. Kramer, Architect.

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