

Table Top

By Eden Phillips
CHAPTER VI
Continued

"RESYEG TA EGROG RETEN-AM CACHE SOGAPALAG WEST NOTAUGE NO POTELEBAT." "So much for that," said Jane. "Now all you have to do is first to turn each word round and read it again backwards. Let Gregory do it."

Mr. Barbour obeyed. "To do this with precision will take a little time," he said, "so I beg you to bear with me."

"I've put an 'a' into the fourth word," explained Jane, "but you'll see why in a moment when you come to it. The 'a' isn't sounded, so the parrot missed it, but it belongs all right."

Then, very slowly, Gregory revealed the truth and read as follows:—

"GEYSER AT GORGE MANEATER CACHE GALAPAGOS WEST EQUATOR ON TABLETOP."

"There you are!" said Jane. "Now the bouquets, please."

They were all silent for a moment; then Nicholas spoke.

"The Tevised version doesn't seem much to make a song about," he said, "and if you turned all the other words backwards, why did you leave 'cache' and 'west'?"

But Gregory was able to explain this.

"A reasonable question, Nicholas, and the answer is clear. If you turned 'cache' backwards, you would get the letters 'ehac,' which do not constitute a pronounceable sound in any strict sense, and similarly with 'west.' Reverse the let-

ters and you get 'tsew.' Neither a rude sailorman nor a primitive parrot could make anything of these vocally, so Benny Boss left them as they were. "Now," he continued, "much stands revealed and this feeble enigma has been advanced one step towards solution, but it would be idle to say that all is transparently clear as yet. Did your researches carry you any further, Jane?"

"Rather," she answered. "I knew it was no use expecting any of you to help, so I did it all myself."

"Push on then," said Tom.

"Not content with making every word go backward, Benny Boss made the whole sentence go backward," explained Jane. "The one thing followed the other instantly in my acute mind, though none of you even saw that. Now read the definitive and complete edition, Greg."

She handed Mr. Barbour another paper and he read what she had written.

"TABLETOP ON EQUATOR WEST GALAPAGOS CACHE MANEATER GORGE AT GEYSER."

"Let's go," suggested Tom, and Jane agreed.

"But just one moment more before we start," she said. "Nothing like simplification when one is dealing with the masculine brain. Now you've heard how Benny boiled down his secret for the parrot; no doubt before he had finished he was quite sure the bird had got it right; but here is my last edition. A very few words will make the message clear. 'Tabletop' is an island, of course. West of the Galapagos group there can't be anything but islands till you come to China, so we get the following:—

"THE ISLAND OF TABLETOP UPON EQUATOR WEST OF GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, CACHE IN MANEATER GORGE AT GEYSER."

"How simple!" said Angus

now the really interesting work begins.

"Getting an expedition together and plunging into the equatorial depths of the Pacific Ocean? Would you suggest anything so mad, Jane?" asked Gregory.

"You're beginning at the wrong end — most unscientific, darling. No; the first thing to do is to collate all the known facts, weigh them in the balance and then decide if it's good enough," explained Jane. "Needless to say I have collated all the known facts."

"There aren't any," declared Angus, and she pretended disappointment.

"You can say that! And I've had hundreds of cast-iron facts from Tom's own lips. And you heard them, too. This must be the dire results of relations in Aberdeen," mourned Jane.

"Now listen," she continued. "We have next to combine all that we know of Benny Boss with what he taught his parrot, the result and decide, on the findings, exactly what we're going to do about it."

"If you have already decided, as I begin to suspect, Jane, then it is probably going to be our task to modify your decision," declared Mr. Barbour.

"I haven't decided at all," she answered. "It's nothing to do with me. I may know what I'd like to happen, but what does the wish of one lone woman matter? Well, it's like this — Mr. Boss dredged in Lake Titicaca an understanding with the Garcia brothers. Then he made a slip, as the cleverest people sometimes do, and instead of handing his big topaz to the company, gave it to his daughter. Of course, it's easy to see that all the time he was working in the lake he was carefully keeping the really swaggy treasures for himself, no doubt considering that the lion's share ought to go to the man who had the wit to find them."

To be continued

Pownal And Vicinity

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Johnston and daughter, Carolyn, Toronto, are visiting here, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Weatherbie.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Acorn, Toronto, are visiting relatives here and at other points of the Island.

Miss Lois Weatherbie, Toronto, is spending a holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Weatherbie.

The friends of Mr. Walter Ings will be glad to learn he is making satisfactory progress, following his recent operation in the Prince Edward Island Hospital. He expects to return to his home soon.

His friends will be pleased to learn that Mr. Everett Weatherbie has returned to his home after being a patient in the P. E. Island Hospital for the past few days.

Former Islander Dies In Winnipeg

Mr. H. G. (Bill) Robertson, 66, of 636 Jessie Avenue, died Friday, Aug. 14 at Winnipeg, Man.

Born in Marshfield, P. E. I., he went to Winnipeg at an early age. Employed with the C. N. R. for 40 years, he retired as a conductor in 1951. He served in the First Great War with the 13th Canadian Light Railway Company. He was a member of the Fort Garry Branch Canadian Legion. The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen Local 801 and the Ionic Masonic Lodge No. 25.

Surviving are two brothers, Preston, in Manitoba, Arthur in East Royalty and a sister, Mrs. J. F. Robertson in Toronto.

Burial was in Brookside Cemetery, Winnipeg.

WINSLOE NORTH W.M.S.

The regular meeting of Winsloe North W.M.S. met recently at the home of Mrs. Omar Younker with Mrs. Walter Roberts as leader.

The meeting opened with Hymn "Lord, Speak to Me," followed by Meditation and prayer from the Missionary Monthly, and a short program on the theme of Courage. Mrs. Hardy led in prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison. Mrs. Hardy gave a reading "How Late, Is It in India." Mrs. Omar Younker read from

ST. ANN'S W. I.

Mrs. Eric Bell entertained the members of St. Ann's Women's Institute on August 20. In the absence of the president, vice-president, Mrs. Eric Bell, presided.

Roll call was answered by 11 members. One visitor was present.

Committees appointed for next month are as follows: Sick, Miss Marjorie Walsh and Miss Rita Power; School, Mrs. Louis Walsh and Mrs. Eric Bell; Program, Mrs. Austin Bolger and Miss Margaret Walsh; Lunch, Mrs. James Barlow and Miss Faustina Doyle.

Proceeds from an auction sale of articles made from a flour bag realized \$5.80. Collection for the evening amounted to \$1.50.

Mrs. Louis Walsh invited members to meet at her home for the September meeting when the roll call is to be answered by exchanging pickling recipes.

ST. ANN'S W. I.

the Study Book and Mrs. E. M. Cudmore. The revised version of the Bible and Foreign Missions. Eight members answered roll call.

The word for next meeting is "Faith." The meeting will be at the home of Mrs. E. M. Cudmore, leaders Mrs. E. M. Cudmore and Mrs. James Cudmore. Collection amounted to \$1.85 and Travelling Approx \$9.80. Articles were passed in for the Relief Parcel. Meeting closed with "O Master Let me Walk With Thee" and Mizpah Benediction.



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