

INTERESTING  
ENTERTAINING  
INSTRUCTIVE

# ILLUSTRATED FEATURE SECTION THE PITTSBURGH COURIER

WHOLESOME  
CLEAN  
REFRESHING

## The HOUSE of the HIDDEN GOLD

**Pittsburgh Courier**  
PITTSBURGH, PA., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1929

### THIS IS NERVE!

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 12. (A. N. P.)—Citizens in the vicinity of South Main street here were treated to a real demonstration of nerve Tuesday morning when a bandit walked to the window of the Novick jewelry store, and with hundreds looking on broke the window and gathered up a few diamond rings and ran away.

The owner of the store pursued him and followed him a short distance, but when the cool-headed bandit produced a pistol and ordered him to halt he complied with the order.

though they were not sure. Their father had been exceptionally partial to gold. They had seen many different kinds of gold coins in his possession. He never kept any greenbacks about him, and thought they were a nuisance.

They refused to tell of their disclosures to the detective. Hence, the latter had to make full revelation.

He had led the boys into talking about their father one evening after becoming well acquainted with them. The conversation then was as follows:

"We've got something to be careful about," one of the brothers said. "This when the detective pretended to be a fugitive from justice, himself."

"We're like you, in the same boat. What did you do back in New York that made you come here and hide?"

"The detective told them that he had killed a man."

"Was it as bad as that?" one of the brothers interrogated.

"Every bit as bad," confessed the investigator solemnly. "In fact, if I were to go back to that state they would send me to the electric chair."

"What would you say if we were to tell you that we, too, had committed a murder?" asked the oldest brother.

"I'd sympathize with you," the detective proclaimed. "I know what it means."

"Well," said the older of the Talbott brothers, "we did. We killed our father. Shot him through the window with a sawed-off shotgun, and the sheriff has been out here several times looking around and acting like he suspected something. But he ain't got a thing on us. There's nothing he can do without evidence."

"Did you ever tell this to anyone else?" the investigator inquired.

"They shook their heads simultaneously. They most emphatically had not. Moreover, they didn't ever intend to tell it; and furthermore, they wanted the detective to understand that if he gave them away he'd never live to tell a second version of the story. Besides, they had it on him. He had willingly, of his own accord, confessed to having killed a man, and they thought they could send him to the chair if he tried to send them to the gallows."

That was that. But the detective was not satisfied and tried to get

### Popular In Kansas City Social Life



MISS ANNA MAE JACKSON  
Daughter of Mrs. F. S. Steele, of Kansas City, Kan., who gave up her work as business secretary of the Paseo branch of the Y. W. C. A., Kansas City, Mo., to become a teacher at the Lincoln School, Olathe, Kansas.



MRS. MELVIN BOYD  
The former Roberta Conner who became the bride of Melvin Boyd Saturday, August 31, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. S. S. Hill, Kansas City, Mo. The Rev. G. B. Whitlock read the marriage ceremony.

more information. Did they know what had become of their father's enormous wealth, or did they know the total wealth?

They said they didn't know a thing about the money, but wished they did. They'd take it and get out of the country. However, the gold had been carefully hidden and dead men did not tell tales. They stated further that the old gentleman's wealth had amounted to more than \$50,000 at the time of his demise. This, it was believed, was primarily in gold.

After this, the detective was unable to obtain any more information of a worth while nature. The next morning he saddled his horse and rode to town. The next time the Talbott boys saw him he appeared at the house with the sheriff and had undergone a remarkable transformation in appearance, being neatly and expensively attired in

gray tweed, with gold rimmed spectacles. The moment the brothers caught a sight of him, they knew they had been trapped. They gave up without a struggle.

The Talbott boys were convicted and sentenced to be hanged. They met their fate on the same gallows, when a double trap was sprung. It was the first double hanging in the state and it took place in an open pasture, where hundreds of people could see the gruesome spectacle. The boys met their death unflinchingly. The people of the community claim today, that the Talbott brothers were innocent and died to protect the real killer.

Mr. Charles Martin, influential colored citizen of the county seat, also connected with the Farmer's Trust Company Bank, became an authority on the case. Although he was only a small boy at the time of the Talbott tragedy, he was tal-

ented and a remarkable historian. Mr. Martin rose from the bottom to a substantial position, acquiring a fortune. He was known as Honest Charley and his friends numbered many.

In his leisure moments, Mr. Martin developed his ability to reconstruct facts of ancient happenings. His account of the Talbott case is intensely interesting. He said that when the money was found, it would be unearthed somewhere near the House of Hidden Gold, and it was. In fact, he was so accurate in his deductions that people remembered his disclosure in regard to the hiding place of the money. While others were making wild guesses, "Charley" Martin was making intelligent deductions, proving his opinions. Others made expensive excavations for miles around the scene of the murder. If his advice had been taken in the beginning, no doubt the money, at a much earlier date, would have been found.

His opinion of the way the murder was perpetrated would have made interesting reading, but he never put it in print. Mr. Martin was somewhat of a criminologist as well as historian. He made a thorough and able study of crimes. If Charley Martin had furthered his interest in the Talbott case to the extent of buying the old house, he would have been more than \$50,000 in profit. His interest was not of that nature.

What had become of the hidden gold? That was the question, and no one knew the answer to it. The old Talbott place was called the House of Hidden Gold; while searches and excavations were made there without result.

Recently a poor farmer, while moving the house, heard something rattle to the floor and roll away, dropping from a hole in the unplastered wall. When he looked, he caught his breath. A pile of gold coin burned his eyes.

The farmer picked it up and carried it away. And it was not a dream; for the Talbott gold was there. He had paid \$100 even for the house.

Strangely enough, no one had

## KING PREMPEH and the GOLDEN STOOL

In Two Parts  
PART I  
By J. A. ROGERS

Many now living will recall the stirring story of King Prempeh and the Golden Stool—how for several months during 1900 the civilized world waited with breathless interest to learn of certain events that were happening in King Prempeh's capital, Coomassie.

I said King Prempeh and the Golden Stool, but if one is to deal with them in order of importance, it would be better to say: The Golden Stool and King Prempeh, for it is the former that is the real hero of this story.

King Prempeh's people, the Ashantis, gave him up readily enough when overawed by British cannon, but when an English governor expressed his desire only to sit on the Golden Stool, England had a costly little war on her hands. The governor and his wife nearly lost their lives while a good many other white people lost theirs.

The Ashantis are the most warlike people in West Africa. Their history dates back to the dimmest antiquity and some historians say that they are the descendants of those civilized Ethiopians who were driven southwards by the conquering Egyptians as told by Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus, ancient historians.

As to the Ashantis, many of them, like the Brahmins, believe that they came directly from heaven.

The Ashantis, along with other peoples on the Gold Coast, had traded with the Phoenicians before Christ was born, and with Europe for hundreds of years. Ashanti trade with France began in 1666, and with England in 1672. Further, it is asserted that black men from this region had been coming over to America long before Columbus. At least that is the theory set forth by Prof. Weiner of Harvard, and in his book, "Africa and the Discovery of America."

The Gold Coast is so-called because of the quantity of fine gold to be found in its streams and even in the streets of the towns after the rainy season. It was gold and the slave trade that had first brought the Europeans there. A large proportion of the Negroes who were brought to the New World came from this region.

The Ashantis are a very proud people, and not without cause. For two centuries they had not only dominated their neighbors but had fought off the Europeans who sought to take away their country.

The British and the Dutch were both compelled to pay tribute to the Ashanti kings, and several British expeditions sent against them were defeated.

Expedition Annihilated  
In 1823, a British expedition commanded by Sir Charles McCarthy was killed to a man. A cast of Sir Charles' skull was made in gold and used as a drinking cup by King Kwaka, while the skull itself was placed in the fetish house (a fetish house is the equivalent of the church in civilized lands).

For the next four years the British tried to conquer Ashanti in vain, and finally had to make a treaty by which they paid rent for the land they held. "The white man" laughed King Kwaka, "bring many cannon to the bush, but the bush is stronger than the cannon."

In wealth, the Ashantis also ranked with the richest peoples in Africa. Thomas Bowditch, who went to make a treaty with them for England, said in his report:

"The chiefs, as did their superior captains and attendants, wore Ashanti cloths of extravagant price made from the costly foreign silks which had been unravelled to weave them . . . and massive gold necklaces intricately wrought."

"Some wore necklaces reaching to the navel, entirely of aggr. beads; a band of gold and beads encircled the knees from which several strings of the same depended; small circles of gold, like guineas, rings and casts of animals were strung around their ankles . . . and rude lumps of rock-gold hung from their left wrists which were so heavily laden as to be supported on the heads of the handsomest boys."

"Gold and silver pipes and canes dazzled the eyes. Wolves' and rams' heads, large as life, cast in gold were suspended from their gold band and swords which were held around them in great numbers."

Dutch Pushed Out  
Prior to 1874 this powerful black nation had overrun the whole of the Gold Coast and had finally forced out the Dutch. In 1873 an Ashanti army of 45,000 fighting men laid siege to Elmina, a fortified town and castle, seven miles from the coast. They were led by King Kofi Kall Kall, distinguished equally as a warrior and a spendthrift.

Over 3,000 Wives  
King Kofi's favorite sport was to throw gold nuggets among his wives and watch the scramble for them. The Ashanti kings held the world records for the number of wives. One was forced by tradition to maintain 3,333.

In 1874, the Ashantis, however, met their first serious check. The Fantis, with whom King Kofi was at war, called in their allies, the British. A powerful army of 3,000 European soldiers and regiments of West Indians and African soldiers, as well as the Fantis and their native allies, under Lord Wolseley, marched on Coomassie. The Ashantis fought with their traditional valor, but the long distance cannon of the whites triumphed and Lord

(Continued on Page 7, Sec. Section.)

his sons killed him, Doctor M. Talbott, rugged old Miss, left his money hidden so that it took many years to even a trace of its whereabouts. The hidden gold had been partly solved. The remarkable deductions of Mr. Talbott, a self-educated his- have been largely responsible for the partial solution.

The shotgun exploded in the win- of the Talbott farm house. With mean and clutching spasmod- at his breast, Doctor Perry M. Talbott pitched headlong to the dead.

Talbott was with her hus- at the time and although com- pletely unnered, she managed to a doctor. Afterwards, she gave detailed account of the happen- ing, although vague, furnished authorities a clue. The sheriff immediately went to work.

This took place in the late '80's, a state-wide sensation and drew the interest of the public. Talbott's two sons, good men, were appearing young men, and their father's work, getting the farm crop and doing what they knew their father would have done.

Doctor Talbott was the commu- nity's favorite physician, and was in the worth considerable money. However, when the time for a settlement of his debts, he encountered no little difficulty in raising the required amount of money, making it known to the moment that they knew nothing about what had be- come of Doctor Talbott's wealth. They were barely able to meet the expenses of the funeral after squar- ing Doctor Talbott's outstanding debts.

Of course the public was mysti- fied. And to aggravate the matter, there had been no arrests made. The disappearance of Talbott's wealth. The people residing in the town of Arcoe, Missouri, where the case took place, insisted upon the authorities making a more strenu- ous effort to apprehend the mur- derer.

At this particular stage of the case, several rumors were afloat. One of these had to do with the evidence recently uncovered, that the boys were acting queer.

The meaning of "queer" was not ob- vious. Next, a stranger had ap- peared at the farm and was work- ing as a hand. This individual was known. Mrs. Talbott simply said that he appeared at day-break, took the house one morning and asked for employment; and because her boys were behind with their work, she had hired him on the spot. This caused further uncertainty.

The authorities made no effort to thoroughly investigate the situa- tion. They seemed content to sit and wait. Eventually interest in the matter considerably dimin- ished. The killer had planned his crime well, and the authorities were completely baffled.

On the other side of the question, the other side several people were working frantically and re- luctantly, to bring the matter to a head. They had certain suspicions. They were doing their best to con- sider the detective, a man with a good reputation for detecting crime and unearthing obstinate cases.

What surprised the community was the fact that Talbott's hand and private detective were one and the same. Of course this was not revealed until the detective came forward with the evidence which caused the sheriff to make a spe- cial trip to the Talbott farm, and to the two brothers under arrest in the murder of their father. The private investigator disclosed the startling fact that the Talbott boys had destroyed the life of their fa- ther because of his extreme cruelty to their mother.

The authorities sought to drag the truth from the set lips of the brothers and failed, only because the boys realizing that they had talked freely to the detective, were de- termined to talk no more.

During the trial, the following facts of evidence were forced from the defendants: They did not know that Doctor Talbott had done with money. Yes, they knew he had considerable money somewhere, usually in some hidden place which would be difficult to find. They thought there was at least \$50,000.

The House of the Hidden Gold, at the little Missouri town of Arcoe, where the mysterious Talbott murder occurred.



## THE LIFE OF BERT WILLIAMS No. 14 . .

Text by BEN DAVIS, JR.  
Drawn by A. W. RENNEGARBE



For a long time, he was associated with Leon Errol, and at a famous scene with him in which he was a porter at Grand Central Station carrying Errol's baggage. This never failed to create an uproar in Bert's audience.



The inimitable W. C. Fields was also associated with him for four years and they became close friends.



In 1929 his name blazed over the door of Winter Gardens in hold electric lights. He had become the drawing card of the greatest American Revue.

### Do you know how to relieve rheumatic pain

Doctors will tell you that to relieve rheumatic pains you must remove the cause. That is what St. Joseph's Prescription C-2223 is intended to do. It attacks rheumatism at its source by cleansing the system of acid poisons which cause inflammation and pain. C-2223 is the original pre- scription of a reputable physician who used it in the treatment of sub-acute and chronic rheumatic aches and pains, gout and neuralgia. Ask your dealer today for the 60c trial size—or the regular \$1.00 bottle which is sold on a money-back guarantee.



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Two powerful hot men  
tantalizin' two terrib' tunes!

Record No. 14452-D, 10-inch, 75c  
GET YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER  
CAN YOU DO THAT TO ME

Record No. 14451-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Take It Right Back 'Cause I Don't Want It Here  
Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out

Record No. 14447-D, 10-inch, 75c  
I'm Not Worried  
Whoop It Up

Record No. 14427-D, 10-inch, 75c  
I'm Wild About That Thing  
You've Got To Give Me Some

Record No. 14435-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Kitchen Man  
I Got What It Takes (But It Breaks My Heart to Give It Away)

Record No. 1891-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Moanin' Low (from "The Little Show")  
Hang on to Me

Record No. 1907-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Hang on to Me

Record No. 1907-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Hang on to Me

Record No. 1907-D, 10-inch, 75c  
Hang on to Me

Record No. 1907-D, 10-inch, 75c  
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