

Fellow I'll Never Know

drink to a fellow I'll never know—going to take its place when it's time for me to go. Kind of a duo he'll be and I've wished I could take

wish you well. I mean in a way that he'd understand, the cheering word that I've longed at times to hear: the warm hand-hold when never a friend seems near, powdered by their hard work, and I wish I could pass it

come to take my place some day when I am gone, sad instances I've made and note all the battles lost of the men they carried or the headaches which they

the failures and fruitless toll of the underlying strain of the real life and the heart of the vanquished man; may pause some day as he tells as I have wrought much for his weary task from the battles which I have

task itself to leave with the cares for him to face, my word may mean to the fellow who'll take my place,

health, old days I think as a bridegroom to his bride, task for you, but God knows how I tried, came as all men do, but never a one came true,

day is that all the dreams may be realized by you, today in the great unknown—out in the realms of space as I take my hand and gaze to your tired face, eyes will be seen in the light of the new found dawn, or health old days, who'll take my place when I am gone.

—Kansas City Star.

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BLACK HAND SECRETS REVEALED BY CHIEF OF SECRET SERVICE

The Black Hand's Covenant with Death

By WILLIAM J. FLYNN, Chief of the United States Secret Service

TERROR is the weapon of the Black Hand. Through terror the society wrings gold from its victims. Through terror it holds its members to the horrible purposes for which it is organized and squeezes from them the last ounce of energy in its service. Men like Comito the Sheep and De Salvatore Romano have sought to break the fetters, to rise above the life of crime they must lead as members of the Black Hand, but terror, inspired by the vengeance they themselves have helped to wreak on others, chills their hearts and kills the good purpose in them. They are like birds struggling with their feet in the lime.

To so hopelessly baffle men with fear the society must have an intricate and harmonious organization, and this it has. Many persons will be convinced of the grim purposes of the Black Hand when they know that the society has its own physicians.

This is to maintain secrecy. Naturally enough, many disputes arise. There are fights, and Sicilians do not fight with their fists. Knife wounds or bullet wounds result from these quarrels. Should an ambulance be called, or even a physician who is not a member of the Black Hand, a report would of necessity be made to the police. This is the last thing desired.

It is for this reason that the Black Hand society has a corps of physicians. It is not only to attend those injured in petty quarrels that the physicians are needed. The code of the Black Hand prescribes certain offenses for which a man must fight to preserve his honor. These affairs of honor call merely for the drawing of blood by one of the principals.

Then there are fights between members of the Black Hand and other criminals, between Black Handers and the police, and sometimes even the victim of a vendetta has an opportunity to put up a fight and those who carry out the decrees of the society need medical attention.

Dr. Salvatore Romano was one of the physicians of the Black Hand society. How he was drawn into the net and what he was forced to do, though not actually a member of the society, is a remarkable story and throws a great deal of light on the methods and organization of the system of which Lupu and Morello were the heads.

Dr. Romano lived in New York with his mother, who was from Corleone, Sicily, where she and her mother had been very friendly with the family of Morello.

While young Romano was a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a branch of Columbia University in the city of New York, his mother received a letter demanding a certain amount of money under penalty of Salvatore's death. The young man's mother and grandmother were very much frightened. Because they feared to excite him and cause him to fall in his examinations they told the boy nothing of the letter, but the grandmother went to Morello and showed it to him. She knew that he had dealings with men of questionable character, and thought that possibly he might be able to use his acquaintance to help them.

"Don't worry," said Morello to the aged woman, who had been a friend of his mother. "These men will not act too outsize. They want rather get the money than take the life of the boy. I will above all do not let this matter get to the ears of the police. That would mean his certain death—death in its worst form.

"Do not send the money either. Wait for a second offer, which will certainly come, and we can decide upon the best course of action."

Two more letters were received by the Romanos and each time the grandmother went to Morello, who took the letters from her because she said he wished to study them. Morello never gave the letters back. When the fourth letter was received Morello took it as he had the others and after a few days in which he said he was studying the handwriting, announced that he had discovered the origin of the letter.

This he never divulged to the Romanos, merely telling them that he found the blackmailers were willing to settle for \$1,000, but that he would offer them \$100. The family would have been glad to pay the money in order to safeguard Salvatore, but Morello would not hear of this.

"I will pay the \$100," he told Mrs. Romano, "and later I will recover it. Circumstances will not permit of my refusing to try at all, but be assured that when I have had time to reach the blackmailers through certain channels, the money will be returned to me."

The mother and grandmother of the young physician were deeply touched by what they considered Morello's unselfish friendship for them. The whole affair seemed settled to the satisfaction of all, and young Romano was told about it. His mother and grandmother impressed upon him the gratitude that he should entertain toward Morello for possibly saving his life, and certainly saving the family from great suffering.

Shortly after Salvatore Romano graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons he was called to attend Morello. Glad of an opportunity to repay in a measure the kindness which the Sicilian had shown his family, when Morello did not offer to pay for Dr. Romano's professional services the young



"Don't Worry," Said Morello to the Aged Woman.

physician felt that he was only discharging a debt.

Later Salvatore was called upon to attend Morello's brothers-in-law—Lima, Salina and Lupu. It was then but a short step to having him treat members of their families, and before long Dr. Romano was the regular physician for a number of men, all of whom were members of the Black Hand Society. Never a penny did he receive for his services, and at last he arrived in Buffalo, where he established a practice, because he could not make money in New York.

The feeling of gratitude which Dr. Romano felt wore off after a time, but he forbore to break entirely with Morello, for he feared vengeance. Shortly after he went to Buffalo, Lupu, Morello and other counterfeiter were arrested and put on trial in New York city. Knowing that Morello's only hope lay in establishing an alibi, the counterfeiter's mother and wife went to Mrs. Romano and urged her to beg her son to testify to clear Morello.

Mrs. Romano was still grateful for what she considered an act of friendship on the part of Morello and though she feared her son would get into trouble if he testified, she wrote to him advising him to go to New York and for the last time do a favor for Morello.

Dr. Romano knew that to save Morello he must commit perjury. He did not wish to do so, and he felt that he had more than settled accounts with the Black Hand and his friends. Yet he knew the type of men with whom he was dealing. There was no longer any doubt in his mind that Morello was one of the Black Hand members. If the society had been ready to take his life for \$1,000, would they hesitate to kill his mother if he refused to testify for them?

There was no sleep for the physician. In his dreams he saw his mother leaving her home on her daily missions while black-browed Sicilians trailed her, ready to strike at the word of the chief. This mother, whom he loved above all other women, was in danger of death, perhaps worse than death, every minute that he delayed.

It was a telegram sent by "Nick," Dr. Brancato that shook him. There was no threat in the telegram. It was simply worded: "Be in New York to-morrow to appear in court."

As he read the message he seemed to hear the voice of his mother, crying out in fear and anguish.

THE BLACK HAND HAD TORTURED WOMEN BEFORE THIS.

The telegram slipped from Dr. Romano's nervous fingers.

The next train from Buffalo bore him to New York.

According to his testimony when brought to trial for perjury, he went first to his mother's, where he met Nick Terranova, who explained that it was desired that he testify that Morello was not out of the house from the last of December to the first of March.

"How often are you going to say you saw him?" asked Terranova.

"Once a week," replied the physician.

"I want to go as lightly as possible, so that I will not get into trouble."

"You cannot get into trouble—not by sticking to us," Terranova told him very pointedly. "But once a week is not enough to say you saw him. You must say, 'Twice a week.' There will be no trouble. He was so pale and so well disguised that no one seeing him would have known him during the time regarding him to go to New York and for the last time do a favor for Morello."

had my opinion as to that, but at any rate he was not convicted of perjury, though he was brought to trial.

Although Dr. Romano was never initiated into the Black Hand Society, other physicians were, and they were utilized for the purposes I have described. I said that the rules of the society called for a certain line of conduct under certain circumstances and that as a result the offices of a physician were frequently in demand.

The rules of the Black Hand were actually codified. The society is not governed merely by unwritten law. In the possession of Rudolph Palermo, one of the men arrested for counterfeiting, I found a note book in which were inscribed in Sicilian the laws of the society. As nearly as possible they are translated word for word as they were written in the note book.

FIRST.—Whoever confides to a person not belonging to the society the operations of his companions, or by word or deed, seriously or in fooling, offends a companion, or who is not dignified or does not respect the recruits (who must be commanded in nothing save the affairs of the society) or who refuses to mount guard on his day, gets drunk or quarrels with a companion, or when called by a companion on business of the society refuses to comply, or who leaves town for more than one day without letting it be known, shall be punished by a fine of \$20 and can not come to his place.

But the companions who judge him must be all of one accord, pro or con. When any companion draws another of the same dimension, also, with the point uncovered, if it is a knife, or who fights a duel with a companion on business of the society, shall be understood (summarily deprived of his rights).

THIRD.—The companion who knows the fault of another and does not inform the society at large is liable to the same penalty.

FOURTH.—He that does not attend at the society without the permission of the society, shall be understood to be a blackmailer of the day.

do his duty without any orders, shall be punished. If he explains his lateness in a manner satisfactory to the society he will be pardoned and may take his place. Otherwise he may not appear at the next division.

SIXTH.—A recruit who produces gain to the society is entitled to one-fifth of it as his own share.

SEVENTH.—No companion who becomes a member of the society may in any way alter its rules.

EIGHTH.—Every meeting of the society must be announced to those on duty on the day of the meeting at least twenty-four hours before it takes place, except in cases of emergency.

NINTH.—The date and place of meetings is absolutely in the hands of the head of the society, and none may oppose him.

These are the rules which bind the men who thrive on blackmail, murder, counterfeiting and the kidnaping of children.

I know men who worked their way into the very inner councils of the Black Hand. Men who advise with the leaders, who know what is afoot before the rank and file of the society so much as guess at it. To mention the name of one of these men would be to pronounce his death sentence. To tell how they worked their way into the society would be to disclose their identity to those who hate them. When it became known that certain members of the society were furnishing the secret service of the workings of the gang, there occurred a series of murders which astounded New York and baffled the police.

I may safely say that some of these murders were committed in the light of forts to still the tongues of the newspaper and the affairs of the society, were never slain.

had met, he was carried in a huge basket or hamper, so that none passing through the street might see a man, blindfolded, being led into the house.

Not until he was in the midst of the assembled companions was the bandage removed from his eyes, and then he found himself surrounded by a group of masked men. Forty or more pairs of sparkling black eyes glared fiercely at him, as if they would seek to frighten him from carrying out his purpose of joining the society. Throughout the ceremony of initiation the eight eyes glared straight into the face of the recruit. Not a word was spoken save by the leader; only the eyes glared and glared through the slits in the black masks.

"Where have you acquired the S?" asked the leader, who sat upon a sort of raised dais.

The "S" refers to the bylaws, which the recruit is required to learn by heart before he may be admitted to the society.

To this question the recruit answered: "Under the Cedar Plains, and passing from the hole of the benchalk I saw three lamps lighted and the one in the center hardly stood up."

A man at a table with a large book checked off the question and answer, recording that the candidate had replied correctly.

"Who has formed the plan of S?" was the next question.

"Fernando Misprizzi."

In his favor. This is almost always done in order to impress the recruit with the doubtful honor that is being bestowed upon him.

The leader restored order.

"With what is the hole covered?" he asked.

"With a very fine carpet, where the blackmailers play," replied the recruit.

"What is enclosed in this hole?"

"The penny of crime denied, fought about and reacquired."

The next question was, "How do you demonstrate a crime?"

"Give me a sheet of paper and you will see," replied the recruit.

This is merely a formal question and answer and so far as I know the recruit is never required to draw anything on the paper. There seems to be much in the question and its answers which mean nothing in reality. Some of the expressions may have an arbitrary meaning, but there is much which is merely rigmorale.

"What does the head of crime wear?" asked the leader after the recruit had answered properly the question of how to demonstrate a crime.

A tall, blackberchief with five knots and penny denied, fought for and reacquired."

You will remember that when Morello was in New Orleans on the affairs of the Ignazio Florio Association he wore a handman's handkerchief with five knots tied in it in defiance of those who threatened to expose his counterfeiting schemes in connection with the real estate propaganda. All afternoon Morello stalked the streets of "The City of Caro Forgo" wearing this badge of defiance described in the Black Hand ritual as worn by the head of crime. His enemies there knew what it meant and feared him. Their fear was justified, for that night the man who had threatened to expose Morello was stabbed to death.

To return to the initiation.

"How many weapons are there?" asked the leader.

"Thirteen. Five knives, two pairs and one separate; five packs of cards, three of which are for the ordinary blackmailing of the experienced; one stiletto, one small tapper and a razor."

"Where have you drawn blood?"

Again the members of the society hung breathlessly on the words of the recruit. The black eyes glared and not a sound came from behind the grim masks.

"From the thumb of the right hand," came the answer, and the leader asked quickly:—

"What does an experienced blackmailer bear?"

"A star in front of him, on his forehead, and a vermillion flower on the big toe of the left foot."

This may sound ludicrous as you settle comfortably back in your easy chair and read it, but I have it on the word of men who know that there is nothing of humor in the initiation ritual of the Black Hand Society when you are face to face with a score of masked men, each of whom you know to be a criminal of the lowest order, reckless of life, remarkably secure from punishment for the commission of crime. Low burning candles light the room, grossly and twenty pairs of fierce Sicilian eyes glare through narrow slits in black masks.

"How many kinds of blackmail are there?" was the next question asked.

"Three. Ordinary blackmail that becomes all blackmailers by turn; bold blackmail, which is that denied, fought for and acquired; and high blackmail, that belongs to the high initiated blackmailers."

This answer was correct. The leader spoke again.

"What does a highly initiated blackmailer especially bear?"

"A small scissors, a silver needle, pin, cotton and taffeta."

Twenty masks were ripped from twenty dark-skinned faces, and the new member of the Black Hand knew for the first time who were to be a score of his most important associates in crime. He did not, however, know who the leaders of the society were. They were not present. He may never have found out who they were, for the leaders keep ever in the background, and the rank and file do not know them.

Next Week "How the Black Hand Strikes"

Tit-Bits of Information.

HIGH temperature and the rapid passage of a current of air through it is a feature of a California inventor's evaporating device with which he claims to preserve food perfectly for long periods.

One of several types of lighthouses being tried in Germany for guiding aviators through dense numbers of flashes into the air, each combination signifying a special town.

Competitors using American machines won first, second and third prizes from a field of sixty-nine contestants in a typewriting contest recently held in Denmark.

A patent has been granted for an elevator propelled up and down a shaft by an electric motor, which drives a shaft with pulleys on each end to engage racks.

It has been estimated that 4,738,000,000 wood screws are used in the United States each year.

That excessive talking is a dangerous disease is a theory advanced by a Russian scientist.