# Stairs of Sand

By Anna M. Regan.

(Continued from Last Week)

CHAPTER 4 The summer that followed was a difficult one. Carol's coming had complicated everything. She brought all sorts of disturbing things to Cherry Lane Farm besides a French maid. Jazz music from a loud victrola set Father wild. Queer characters from the city often carrying on in the living room until the wee, small hours. The elders of the family had decided that the poor girl must be allowed a reasonable amount of pleasure, but that was not enough for her. She soon arranged with Nat that he should introduce her into his

festivities of the younger set. When she was not dancing or riding or motoring she lay in bed recuperating. "You're wearing yourself out Sara," protested Hedda. "I'll be glad when you go off on your holiday to Aunt Anne's."

set. arol flung herself feverishly into all the turbulent

"I may not be able to scare up the railroad fare,"

"Grandmother would help. She's so anxious to hear from her only sister and her old home.

She turns over every penny to Nat," said Sara. "If you only had time to go on with your drawings, you'd soon make money enough to go."

"Of course I could, and I'd have enough to buy Lois summer clothes instead of making them." 'If I could only sew and help you," Hedda said plain-

"I know I should insist on Lois helping because it will be handy for her later!"

But in spite of her occasional protests against things in general, Sara managed to extract a great deal of satisfaction out of life. She concentrated on her family and took the livelest possible interest in all that hap-pened to it. Carol and her matrimonial tangle, Hedda and Lois and their love affairs often made her think of spinning the threads into a movel.

It was seldom, however, that she had a chance to draw. Whenever she shut herself up in the "den" with the hope of a couple of hours work, one or all of the family found their way in. Sometimes it was Grandmother Delight who was always matching yarns or measuring something, that wanted her advice. Sometimes it was Lois who wanted her hat retrimmed. Often it was a message from her father to ask if she had telephoned his latest instructions to his managers. She had tried locking the door but the knocking on the door went on continually.

Of late a new and not unpleasant duty had developed upon her. Hedda insisted on her seeing Mr. Cramer whenever he called.

"You see he likes us all," Hedda explained. "So I mustn't monopolize him.

The only feminine member of the household who did not succumb to his charms was Mrs. Reg. Dempsey. She decided that he was not for her. Whom is he really coming to see?" she asked Sara.

"All of us," said Sara evasively. "He even pays his respects to Aunt Emmy in the kitchen."
"Sometimes I think it's you," said Carol, "I've seen

him watching you out of a corner of his eye."
"You're wrong there." Sara denied vigorously. "Mr.

Cramer is not interested in me, at all. But Carol's suggestion disturbed her. He did treat her differently, some way. He was always aware of her presence. The personal interest was one of his characteristics. "Carol's a goose," she told herself and tried to

dismiss the matter from her maind. "You don't believe in love," Heada accused her one day. "You think Lois and Lare serramentan." Of course you are! And I wish I were," she an-

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swered. Both Lois and you rub people the right way,

and I rub them the wrong way."

"People generally like you best," said Hedda in a puzzled tone, "even Mr. Gramer likes you best."

For a second time Sara scoffed at the suggestion and assured herself that Mr. Cramer was interested solely in Hedda. The affair, too, to be sure, was a mild one, going alors smoothly enough, with no sign of reaching the boiling point. Moderation in all things seemed to be Mr. Cramer's motto.

The record of a good life did not appeal to Mrs. Reg. Dempsey. In fact Nat Leavitt was the only one in the Dempsey. In fact Nat Leavitt was the only one in the crowd who spoke her language and enjoyed her pace. They both traveled life lightly and rapidly, with no concern for those on the side lines. Their escapades at various country clubs had already set tongues wagging, and Sara had not been spared the details.

"I'm afraid, I'll have to write Carol's father and ask him to come here for a visit. I feel positive she and Nat are not good for each other."

"We pought say though." possisted Hodge "that Not

"We must say, though," persisted Hedda, "that Nat has been home every week-end since she came." "I heard them come in last night!"

"Sara, you don't mean—?"
"I certainly do. She's as bad as he is."
"Have her father down," Hedda urged, "as soon as possible. If he won't come we must tell her we can't have her here any longer."

"She no worse than Nat," Sara reminded her firmly. "They are two of a kind. With her here I can't visit Aunt Anne this summer. I've given up going to her for three years now so maybe I won't mind. Some one's got to be here to put the fear of God into Nat."

"Someone must tell Grandmother the truth about him. If she would only close her purse strings to him it would help a lot."

"Now, Hedda," remonstrated Sara, "she'll never do that, for she adores the ground he walks, on." 'Maybe we're too hard on him. We mustn't forget how sickly he was for years. Besides he's our only.

As usual, Sara's resolve to handle her brother went down before this appeal. The habit of protecting Nat had been instilled into her at a tender age. She could remember times in his childhood when he had been put to bed for punishment, how she often sat by his bed and read to him until he was allowed to leave his room.

Now, instead of telling her Father or Grandmother, she decided to cope with the bad situation as best she could, single-handed.

By August the country about Glenville was suffering Reenly from drought and heat. The crops were injured, bushes and trees drooped and shriveled. The wind coming up at twilight was like a blast from a furnace; and when it died down, the heat seemed more oppressive than before.

At Cherry Lane Farm, the days dragged along with monotonous regularity. Carol left to join her father and mother at a fashionable surnmer resort. Lois had been sent to a girl's camp on the Jersey coast to get her away from Billy Miller. Nat spent little time at the farm, preferring to seek diversion afar. Sara and Hedda, left to bear the burdens, agreed on a division of labor, one taking charge of Father and the other Grandmother.
The long hard summer following other hard seasons,
was proving more than unusually difficult, and as Grandmother Delight told Sara more than once, "She was getting so hard to live with."

The only bright spots in the girl's lives were the visits of Neil Cramer. When he came he brought candy or flowers or an interesting book. He brought too, the latest news from the outside-world, which served later as a basis for discussion.

Sara never before realized how hungry she was for someone to talk to. Cramer was so reassuring. The annoyances of life never seemed to touch him.

As to the state of his feelings toward Hedda, she was still in doubt. Fortunately, Grandmother was ignorant of what was going on, and the rest of the family being away, Sara was sole witness of the unfolding romance.

In the last few weeks, however, it was more and more evident that she was becoming complicated in the plot. One Saturday afternoon, toward the end of August. Sara was in the kitchen, singing gaily, as she packed a small basket with a picnic lunch. A storm the day before had cleared the air, and a fresh wind was stirring the drooping leaves. It was such a respite from the heat, that life now assumed a new and cheerful aspect. Neil Cramer was to have taken dinner at the house that night but shortly before noon Grandmother had developed a bad case of bronchitis, and Sara called

"Do Hed da and you both have to nurse your Grandmother?" He had asked wistfully over the telephone. "N-no." said Sara, "I have begged Grandmother to let me nurse her, but she won't have me near her today, because she's just made up her mind I'm not a good sister to Nat.

"Well, if that's the case, why can't you play with me?" he begged. "Let's go on a picnic this afternoon." Sara's heart jumped at the prospect. She loved to prowl around where she had played as a child and it would be such fun to show Neil the Glen and the Robber's Den. The day was perfect for a picnic.

"Hadn't we better wait until some day Hedda can go?" she asked. "Never mind, we'll plan something special for her

next week. I shall be out on the 3:30 trolley. Hedda seemed pleased with the plan. chance for you to get acquainted with each other," she said. "He's always liked you but I've never felt you really appreciated him."

"Oh, yes, I do," Sara insisted. "He's too good. I'd

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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### Avon School Has Graduation Sunday Evening

Ayon, June 26—Graduation ever-class of Saint Agnes School were conducted in Saint Agnes Church-Sunday evening. The Rev. Charles E. Muckle addressed the class and awarded diplomas to the following graduates: graduates:

Salvatore N. Angello, Anna M. Biondolillo, Holan C. Brannan, Willlam Edward Browne, Mary Elizabeth Collins, Catherine Margaret

medal was drawn by Geneviewe Light.

The prise for perfect attendance went to Charles Federicg; deportment, Mary E. Collins; general excellence, Carlton J. Kiefer, Catharlase M. Coyne had the distinction of obtaining 100 per cent. in a spelling contoit conducted with al laureunding schools af Aven High School She was awarded a prize in gold by the was awarded a prize in gold by the Parents-Teachers' Association,

## Lima School Has Graduation

work of the Home, School and Church in the education of the child and in conclusion paid and in conclusion paid a filling tribute to the former beloved pallor of St. Rose's Church, Rev. J. F. Far- Orrin W. Feller, rell, whose work in the school has Orrin W. of St. Rose's Church, Rev. J. F. Farbeen gratefully recognized. A telegram to pupils and teachers of St. Rose's School from Father

Farrell was also read. The exercises concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Samment followed by the hymn, "Sweet Saviour, Bless Us as We Go."

#### Seminary Gets Select Library

St. Hernard's Seminary has been willed the splendid library of the Rev. Edward R. Prendergast, paster of St. Patrick's Church, Utics, N. Y., who died 10 days ago at the home of his sister in Syracuse. Father Prendergast was a life-long lover of good books, and his library is one of the finest ever collected by any priest in the State. According to the terms of the will, it is to be kept intact, and is to be known as "The Prendergast Library."

Father Prendergast willed a beau tiful gold chalice to the Catholic Church at Boonville, N. Y., where he was once pastor. All the rest of his estate goes to his sister. Mary F. Prendergaat of Syracuse, and she is named executor of the will.

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Salvatore N. Angelio, Anna M. Biondolillo, Helen C. Brennan, Wilshiam Edward Browne, Mary Elizabeth Collins, Catherine Margaret Coyne, Cecelia Teresa Craig, Amette Margaret Dusel, Rose Marie Emmi, Robert, James Fallon, harles S. Format ones westing correspond on to perfect on Mary Lorene Finangam, Isabel Agnes Fusco, Les John Fusco, Bridget Agnes Grasis, Gartrude Mary Hogan, Carlton John Klefer, Rose J. La George, Genevieve Marie Light, Joseph James Rumtola, Margaret Marie Rumfola, Karl Lyman Stevens.

Prizes were awarded as follows: This their average, Carlton Klefer, Catherine Coyne; Christian Doctrine medal, donated in memory of Rev. Owen Farron, merited by the following: Anna Biondolillo, Helen Hrenman, Mary Collins, Catherine Coyne, Genevieve Light, Annatte Dusel, The medal was drawn by Genevieve Light, The prize for perfect attendance.

# To Have Nurse For The Season

A regulatored numer and an additional countellor have been added to Rev. W. P. Ryang aradalgua Lake by the Catholic Women's this this session, being Mary Agnes Drieght of New York City has volunteered her mary des es

Has Graduation

Sunday Night

Lima, June 26.—The graduating oxercises of St. Rosea's School took place Sunday ovening, June 11s, in the school halt. The following pupiles completed the work of the first year high and wilf continue their curse in Lima High School in September; Raymond Bowdon, Louis Boshme, Martin Collins, Catherine Coslejic, Gordon Dalton, Willomay Moderry, Charles Mix, Lawrence Natalini and Harland Sheehan.

Pupils completing the work of the cightli grade who will commence their High School work in St. Rosea School in Soptember are: Deptity Brisbane, Marforle Chatterton, Minabeth Balton, Raymond Dillis, Rosea School in Soptember are: Deptity Brisbane, Marforle Chatterton, Minabeth Balton, Raymond Dillis, Rosea Di Nardo, Donnell Donngan, Bliest Farley, Flora Mac Gibbs, Rits, Hogan, Rhoebs Hogan, Elliesh Modern, Amita O'Connell, Williard Peters, Heta Tollis and Alice Marto Whaleh.

Two five-dollar gold pleces, presented by Rev. J. F. Farroll, former pastor, for highest averages in clighth grade and first year light sahelou were won by Phoebs Hogan in the cighth grade and first year light.

A \$24 gold plece, presented by living Moses, was awarded to Williard Peters, the by Javing the highest average in the cighth grade and first year light.

A \$24 gold plece, presented by Rev. P. A. Neville, present pailor, was won by Martin Collins, the bow now by Martin Collins, the low now by Woney are silest woney of the work are shall adopted by the Camp Committee the camp and marks suggistion are available for the camp of the camp and marks suggistion are available for the camp of the camp and marks suggistion are available for the camp of the camp and suggistion are available for the camp of the work are when the same and the present paints of the camp and suggistion are available for the camp and suggistion are available for the camp of the work are when the camp and suggistion are available for the camp and suggistion are available for the camp and suggistion are available for the camp and suggistion are

est average in the eighth grade.

Another \$2½ gold ploce, presented by Rey. P. A. Neville, present pastor, was won by Martin Coltins, the boy having the highest average in first year high.

The address to the graduates was delivered by Rey. P. J. Gaffney of industry. He elequently portrayed the work of the Home, School and Church in the education of the child

# Is Given Degree By Fordham Univ.

Ozrin W. Feller, som of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Feller of 221 Woodbles Avenue, was given the de-gree of Backelor of Arts by Ford-ham University at the recent com-mencement exercise of that great orrin took a special course at

Forcham to prepare him for propartion work, and he completed that course with honor to him school and credit to himself. He will return home for the summer him a few days, and his many friends will have an opportunity of expressing in person the pleasure they fell over the good record he made at fordhess. United the state.

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