

STORIES of New Jersey

It is said that it helped defeat the two candidates. It also cost Townley his job.

"Maggie" was still haunting her creator. In November, Crane borrowed \$1,000 from his brother William and had the book printed in a cheap paper back edition, to be sold at 50 cents. But even this undignified approach failed to reach the American public. "Maggie," in bright yellow stacks, gathered dust in the corner of his room. Some of the copies were used for fuel. Today the few remaining copies of this once despised first edition bring prices from collectors that would have astonished the author.

Meanwhile he was working on the book that was to bring him lasting fame. In February 1894 he sold the serial rights of The Red Badge of Courage for \$100 to a newspaper syndicate conducted by Irving Bacheller. This story of the Civil War called forth a shower of favorable letters. The story was printed in book form the following year. But it was not until the review of the English edition reached this country that the general public awoke. Almost overnight Crane became a person of public importance. His stories at once had a ready market; even "Maggie" was rescued from obscurity.

In 1896 Crane was shipwrecked off the Florida coast while on a filibustering expedition headed for Cuba from Jacksonville, Fla. Crane, the ship's captain, the cook and an oiler rowed in a dinghy for 50 hours until within swimming distance of shore. This adventure was the basis for The Open Boat, published in New York and London in 1898. The exposure endured in this experience was too much for Crane's delicate constitution. He was never entirely well afterward.

His next assignment was as war correspondent for the New York Journal and Westminster Gazette in the Greco-Turkish War. In the freedom allowed a war correspondent to recount vividly the stirring episodes of war Crane found the type of journalism he could and liked to do. In addition to his regular work he wrote a series of letters entitled With Greek and Turk.

Cora Taylor, a woman several years older than himself whom he had met in Jacksonville, Fla., followed him to Greece and nursed him through a serious attack of illness. In 1898 they were married and returned to England. They went to live in Surrey, where Crane was able to indulge his love of dogs and horses. There were never less than three dogs which had the run of the place, and Crane spent many hours in the saddle riding through the fresh English country. This house was a rendezvous for novelists, critics, and others of the literary world. Guests came in swarms and stayed for long periods, invited or not. At one time Crane had to take refuge in a London hotel in order to get some work done while his wife cleared the house of guests.

At the outbreak of the Spanish American War Crane left England intending to enlist in the United States Navy. He left so suddenly that many of his friends journeying down for a visit to his Surrey home were surprised to find him gone. After he had sailed The World cabled to secure his services as war correspondent, but it was not until after he had been turned down at the Navy recruiting office that he reported for duty at the New York office of the newspaper.