"The Leashed Guns of Circle L"

by Perry Westbrook

Synopsis

Slim Loyale is paroled from prison after serving 18 months for a crime he did not commit. He returns to his Circle L ranch to find his father dead and sinister forces at work, trying to make him violate his parole so that he can again be railroaded to prison.

The Brockwells and their gang are plotting to gain possession of Circle L ranch and the property of Mona Hall, a neighbor and life-long friend of Slim Loyale.

Slim discovers that Sheriff Starbuck has joined the plot against him. With the help of Dakota Blue and his cowboys, Slim Loyale defies the land-grabbers to do their worst.

"Think yuh can pull that stuff an' get away with it, do yuh, knowin' I got a parole hanging' over my haid that I don't dare break? Well, yuh've made a mistake tonight. If yuh notice, I ain't packin' no guns. But I got my fists an' yore sure gonna know the feel of 'em. Get on yore feet!"

Leo Brockwell stood up, his right hand dropping toward his belt. "Keep yore fists to yoreself, Loyale," he snarled. "Yo're nothin' but a damn convict out on parole, an' yuh ain't got any rights of decent folks. Try usin' yore hands on me an' I'll short shoot yuh like a dawg. An' nobody'll hold me to account for it."

Slim grew very still and white and deadly. The hate he felt for this smart, sneering fellow nearly choked him. His breath rattled in his throat. Then he swung.

That momentary pause that had fallen on the heels of young Brockwell's words had evidently lowered Brockwell's guard. For a moment he thought that Slim was going to take his scatching remarks without retaliation. In this he erred considerably. He saw Slim's sudden hunching of one shoulder and knew, too late, that a punch was coming. He tried to duck, at the same time dragging at his gun. Slim's fist swung with all the pent-up rage and sense of unfairness which choked him, landed a little high on Brockwell's jaw. But it had plenty of impetus and power behind it. For the second time that day, Brockwell knew how it felt to be beaten to the floor by the impact of a human fist.

Knocked Unconscious

He was not knocked out, but he fell on his right side, with the hand that grabbed for his gun momentarily smothered between his body and the floor. Before he could free it, Slim, literally diving over the upset chair, landed on him.

Slim wasted no time. All the bitterness, all the galling shame and indignation he had known through those long months of incarceration in the Jarillo Penitentiary now found outlet. He smashed at Brockwell again and again.

Brockwell, trying frantically to do two things at once, namely free his gun and protect himself from Slim's barrage of punches, rolled his head in the wrong direction. The point of his jaw connected squarely with Slim's fist, and he went limp.

Slim was past all realization of the fact that Brockwell was unconscious.

He only knew that he had this hated fellow where he wanted him, and that a keen, savage joy flooded him every time his flailing fists found their mark.

He was insensible to the fact that Mona was tugging and crying at him. And even when Abe Fornachon, at the frantic behest of Mona, grabbed Slim by the shoulders and dragged him from his prey, Slim still fought.

But the foreman was powerful. Between him and Mona, they finally got Slim into a chair, where Mona retained him by the simple method of sitting on his lap and wrapping both arms about his neck, at the same time pleading with tearful words.

"Slim!" she cried. "Slim, you don't know what you are doing. They'll take you back — back to Jarillo."

"They'll Take You Back"

Abe Fornachon, who had been leaning over Leo Brockwell, securing his guns, now looked up. There was a queer pain in Abe's eyes as he watched Mona.

"Not this time they won't Miss Mona," he said quietly. "Remember; if anybody goes to askin' questions, it was me who hit Brockwell—not Slim."

These words, more than anything else, served to quiet Slim. Suddenly the hard-strung tautness went out of him and he sagged wearily. "I—I'm sorry Mona," he panted. "I reckon I shouldn't have paid no attention to him. But I'm all raw inside, an' that dawg drives me loco! Abe, I'm shore findin' out who my friends are. However, I can't let yuh take the blame on yore shoulders."

"Yuh shut up an' be good," growled Abe gruffly. "Brockwell had it comin' to him. Was I in yore place, I'd a been just as red-eyed."

With none too gentle power, Abe dragged Leo Brockwell erect and slammed him into a chair, Leo's eyes were glassy and his head rolling, but consciousness was returning. Slowly the light of complete comprehension showed in his eyes, and his bruised, swollen face twisted into a mask of hate and rage.

"When Starbuck hears of this —of this," he gasped, "yo're all through, Loyale, yuh damned ex—"

Abe Fornachon shook him roughly. "Best thing yuh can do is close yore mouth an' keep it so, Brockwell. If Starbuck comes snoopin' around here I'll tell him it was me who whaled yuh, not Slim. Now yuh take yore rotten poison off this ranch an' stay off. I told yuh somethin'; get goin'."

"Get Going"

Leo Brockwell went, with Abe Fornachon in close attendance. As the door closed behind them, Mona awoke suddenly to the somewhat embarrassing position she had taken, and slipped away from Slim, faint color whipping through her cheeks.

Slim did not appear to notice her confusion. His head was bent and his eyes staring at the floor. "Mebbe it'd been best if he had plugged me," he said heavily. "Seems like all I'm good for now is to be a liability to my friends. Shore, they cain't pack my load forever. Butter I reckon that Starbuck should take me back to Jarillo."

(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

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By Anne Adams

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Here's a recipe you will use frequently. It's a stick-to-the-ribs dinner for cold days, appetizing, flavourful, and most delicious.

BROWNED CHICKEN HADDIE LYONNAISE

1 can Canadian Chicken Haddie
2 cups cooked, diced potatoes
2 tablespoons minced onions
1 teaspoon prepared mustard or Worcestershire sauce
Dusting of paprika
2 tablespoons butter
1 hard-cooked egg, chopped
1 cup milk
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons butter

Heat the potatoes in the butter. Add the hard-cooked egg, and onions. Combine the milk and seasonings. Add to the potatoes. Flake the fish and add. Push to one side of the frying pan, melt the rest of the butter, cover the pan and cook until well browned. Fold over and serve very hot.

Serve with a relish of pickled beets or stewed tomatoes.

Smokers of Portugal are changing from cigarettes to pipes.

National « Fitness »

(Sponsored by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation)

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES — THEIR RESULTS AND PREVENTION

By

T. GORDON MILLER, C.S.I. (C)
Chief Quarantine Officer. Windsor, Board of Health

In discussing the results of Communicable Diseases, naturally the first thing that enters the mind of the school authorities is the amount of school time lost. This is really a major point because the lost time applies not only to the patient, but it affects also, in the case of certain quarantined diseases, other members of the family.

While this question also worries the parents to some extent, they are more interested in the physical effects upon their children. In the case of the milder diseases there is no bad after effect. However in the case of the more serious diseases, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and smallpox, there is a decided risk of some serious weakness resulting.

After-effects of Diseases

So much for the results of communicable diseases. Now let us consider what the health authorities of your community have to offer in the way of preventive measures. You are all more or less informed on the question of quarantine and let me say this right here, that in many cases quarantine amounts to the same thing as locking the stable after the horse has been stolen.

The health authorities of every community now devote much time and effort to protecting the school child against certain specific diseases. That their efforts are being crowned with a measure of success is very evident. Take the City of Windsor, Popn. 102,000 as an example. Up to 1924 the diphtheria case rate per 100,000 of population was over 600. In 1925 the first Toxoid Campaign was conducted, and each year since then the work has gone on. Result—the case rate for the last eight years is less than 10.

Prevent Spread of Infection

The same is true of the conquest of smallpox. Of diphtheria and smallpox it can be said definitely there is no excuse for any child contracting these diseases. There is also a method of having your child protected against scarlet fever but the percentage of children gaining immunity by this means is not quite so high, only about 60 per cent. Still it is worth while trying.

In all cases however, the surest way to prevent the spread of infection in the community amounts to simply this. Be a good neighbour. If your child is ill, isolate him at once and call your family physician early. Early recognition of a disease not only gives your child a much better chance of making a complete recovery but also gives his playmates a much better chance of avoiding the disease.

Scientific Escape

When sentenced to a year in jail for grand theft, Dr. Jaime de Angulo, 54-year-old retired physician of Salinas, Calif., complained that he suffers from claustrophobia—a marked dread of being in closed rooms. The court granted him probation.

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