"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 lifelong friend of Slim Loyale.

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

CHAPTER XVI

That same morning, Mona Hall had just finished her breakfast when Abe Fornachon clanked into her room. "Mornin', Miss Mona," he drawled, his deep eyes flitting over her wistfully. "I hear there was trouble along the trail last night."

Mona started up, her face white, her hands going to her throat. "Slim!" she gasped. "Slim isn't—"

"Slim's all right," broke in Abe gently. "Brockwells crowd was layin' for him, but between him an' Roy O'Brien they foxed 'em. There was one casualty. Rango Deale got rocked off by Roy. Shore, there's bad trouble brewin'."

Mona nodded, her eyes tragic. "I've sensed it piling up on this range, Abe, for a long time. Ever since they sent Slim to prison I've felt that sinister cloud hanging above us all. I'm afraid. Abe — afraid."

Abe stared somberly out of the window. "Don't go to losin' yore courage, Miss Mona. I admit there's a lot of polecats on this range, but there's quite a count of white men also. No, I wouldn't worry too much, was I yuh."

Still later that morning, almost noon, in fact, a buckboard rattled up to the Dot H Dot. George Arthur, dressed in a voluminous linen duster and a narrow-brimmed Stetson got out of it. There was a sharp, nervous impatience in his eyes, his thin lips were set. Mona met him on the porch, murmuring a perfunctory greeting. Arthur wasted no time in getting to the purpose of his visit.

"Miss Hall," he rasped, "are you prepared to settle the note I hold against your ranch?"

Mona's heart sank. She shook her head. "No, I'm not, Mr. Arthur—at least, not immediately. But with a little more time—"

No More Time

Arthur halted her with uplifted hand. "Impossible," he snapped. "I regret this, of course, but conditions are such that I can extend you no further time, I shall have to foreclose immediately."

"B-but you said—" Mona was fencing rather frantically, but Arthur cut her short again, with almost brutal directness.

"What I may have said in the past has absolutely no bearing on the present, Miss Hall. Again I am sorry, but business exigencies force this step upon me. I am giving you ten days' notice. On the twentieth of this month I will take possession. Good day."

He was gone before Mona could collect her wits, leaving her feeling more desolately beaten than ever before in her life. It wasn't that the blow was entirely unexpected. Mona had known that the axe would fall sometime, just as she had intimated to Slim Loyale. But she was human enough to have hung on to one last thread of hope that something might turn up to avert the foreclosure.

She turned wearily back to the house, her eyes dimming with tears, her throat convulsed with sobs. Two hours later she hunted up Abe Fornachon. "Abe," she choked, "we're all done. The old Dot H Dot Ranch is about to change proprietors. Arthur is foreclosing on the twentieth."

"You'll have to tell the boys; I haven't the heart. Of course, if they want to gamble on Arthur retaining them after he takes over the place, they can. But I can't afford to keep them another day. I've just got about enough to pay them all off, including you. Oh, Abe, it hurts me so!"

She began to sob again, little choked sobs that set lines of grim, white suffering about Abe Fornachon's lips. He laid a big hand on her bowed shoulder. "Don't yuh worry none about us, Miss Mona," he told her gently. "We'll make out.

Ten Days to Make It

"Me, I've seen this comin', an' I ain't a mite surprised. For that matter, neither will the boys be. O' course, it ain't exactly my business, but why don't yuh make a deal with Slim Loyale? He's got plenty of ready cash. I know Slim would be tickled to death to help yuh out."

Mona shook her head. "I couldn't Abe. I've got a little pride left. I know Slim would help me; he already offered to. But he has had so much trouble himself. I can't add mine to the load. Besides, there are other reasons that make it—well, I just can't; that's all."

"I see," nodded Fornachon, even though he didn't. "Well, keep a stiff upper lip. Ten days' time is ten days' time. Mebbe somethin' will turn up."

"No, Abe; nothing will. That's the trouble. I've been waiting too long now for some good break to come along. They just don't; that's all. If I had stepped out with ruthless hands and forced my own breaks, things would be different now."

"Mebbe," nodded Fornachon. "Mebbe yo're right. Well, I'll tell the boys. An' some day I'm gonna cook up a reason to punch that lawyer jasper to a tall, thin, peak."

Mona went back to the house. As soon as she disappeared, Abe saddled a bronco and rode off, apparently in search of the Dot H Dot punchers, to give them the bad news. But as soon as he was out of sight of the ranch buildings, he headed straight for the Circle L.

He rode rapidly, and about half-way between the two places overtook another rider, a tall, keen-eyed man of middle age, dressed in dusty, worn range habiliments. The stranger's hair was bleached to a straw yellow, as was the long drooping mustache that bracketed his thin, strong mouth.

The Stranger

At sound of Abe's approach, the stranger turned in his saddle and stopped. When Abe came up he nodded. "Amigo," he drawled, his voice deep and slow, "mebbe yuh can tell me where I can locate a feller named Arthur—George Arthur."

Abe looked the stranger over keenly before answering. "Yeah, I can. Yuh'll find him at his office in town."

"Town called Pinnacle?"

"Yeah. Over thataway, a good two hours' ride."

"Shore, I'm off the trail. But I understood he owned a ranch hereabout — the Dot H Dot Ranch."

Abe stiffened. "There must be a mistake somewhere. Arthur don't own the Dot H Dot, yet. How long since was it yuh got that word?"

"Nigh onto a month. Yuh see, my name's Tisdale. I own a purty good-sized spread down in the Big Bend country, but I'm pullin' out with a lot of other Big Bend ranchers. Too much sheep down there. We're haidin' up into this new Kicapoo country that's to be opened."

(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

COUGHS DUE TO COLDS

Distressing cold in chest or throat, never safe to neglect, quickly eases up when soothing, warming Musterole is applied.

Better than a mustard plaster, Musterole gets action because it's NOT just a salve. It's a *"counter-irritant"*—stimulating, penetrating, and helpful in overcoming local congestion and pain.

Used by millions for 30 years. Recommended by many doctors and nurses. *Made in Canada*, in three strengths: Regular Strength, Children's (mild), and Extra Strong. Approved by Good Housekeeping Bureau. All druggists, 40¢ each.

MUSTEROLE
BETTER THAN A MUSTARD PLASTER

Issue No. 2 — '39

A Good Curry

Few cooks grasp the essentials of a good curry.

Too often is curry powder moistened and stirred in much the same way as an indifferent cook thickens sauce or hash with flour, whereas thorough cooking is absolutely necessary to develop its full flavor.

Onion, delicately browned, will contribute a flavor which few things equal. Some fruit and lemon juice supply the acidity without which no curry is complete.

In a good curry sauce, fish, bird meat, or vegetable of any kind may be re-heated. Curry paste and chutney may be added at discretion, but boiled rice is considered indispensable.

The World's Only Woman Dictator

She Rules on Sark, A Feudal Isle Close to the French Coast — No Unemployment There, Movies or Cars

The world's only women dictator, acknowledged chief of a tiny feudal state which is part of the British Empire and remains immersed in the atmosphere of the 16th century, is a visitor to this Continent this month.

Gray-haired and very gentle-looking for an autocrat, the Dame de Serk, interviewed on her arrival here, said there never has been a murder or a divorce among hr people, who number 600. Nor is there any sign of poverty or unemployment. What is more, on the Island of Sark there are no movies, politics, paved roads, billboards, motor cars, local newspapers, or labor unions.

Queen Elizabeth Gave It Away

The island is 22 miles from France and 75 miles from England. William the Conqueror filched it from Normandy for the British. For a collection of pirate's heads in 1565 Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Helier de Carteret as an independent feudal state with its lordship invested in Sir Helier and the first-born among his descendants for all time.

Deserted House

This solitary house of wood and stone
Must still remember brighter days than these
That pass the portal where it sits alone
Oblivious of all but memories.

A house can live with loneliness too long
While stubborn silence clings to roof and rafter—
Come swiftly, morning, with the voice of song
And bid its halls resound with joyous laughter!

—Sydney King Russell in the New York Sun.

Chic As Only a Dirndl Can Be

PATTERN 4982

By Anne Adams

Here's the type of dirndl dress that every fashionable woman craves! Youth and grace in every line! Good practical comfort in every fold! And so few pattern pieces to assemble, that even those who know nothing about sewing can make a grand success of Pattern 4982! Moreover, the Instructor Sheet included with this very new Anne Adams design ensures an easy time with the cutting and fitting! Don" you like the chic "bow tie" neck? And can't you picture yourself with those easy-to-do shirrings giving your waist the smart "doll" size look? Why not stitch up a silk frock with cute short sleeves for winter gaieties.

Pattern 4982 is available in misses' and women's sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40. Size 16 takes 3½ yards 39 inch fabric.

Send twenty cents (20c), in coins (stamps cannot be accepted) for this Anne Adams pattern. Write plainly size, name, address and style number. Send your order to Anne Adams, Room 425, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Of Interest to Women Readers

START THE MEAL RIGHT

Soups Are Popular at Lunch or Dinner Time

By Katharine Baker

Heart-warming and body-warming are soups, especially on cold winter days. They can get any meal off to a good start—be the substantial part of a slim meal; heat for a cold or salad meal, or just a flavoursome beginning for any meal. For invalids or convalescents who haven't any appetite, try one of the following soups — an amazing new interest in food will be noted.

OYSTER SOUP

4 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
1 teaspoon salt
Dash of Cayenne
Dash of paprika
4 cups milk
1 cup oysters, cut in pieces
4 tablespoons butter

Combine quick-cooking tapioca, seasonings, and milk in top of double boiler. Place over rapidly boiling water, bring to scalding point (allow 5 to 7 minutes) cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add oysters and butter; reheat. Serves 4 to 6.

BLACK BEAN SOUP

2 cups black beans
1 small onion, sliced
3 tablespoons butter
2 quarts cold water
2 stalks celery, diced
1½ tablespoons flour
¾ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon mustard
Dash of Cayenne
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 hard boiled eggs, finely diced
1 lemon, thinly sliced

Wash beans and soak overnight. Saute onion in 1½ tablespoons butter 5 minutes. Drain beans. Add cold water, onion and celery. Simmer 3 to 4 hours, or until beans are tender, adding water as needed. Remove from fire and force through fine sieve. Melt remaining 1½ tablspoons butter, add flour, and stir until smooth. Add a small amount soup mixture, stirring well. Combine with remaining soup mixture. Reheat to boiling, stirring frequently, and add seasonings. Add lemon juice to eggs and let stand a few minutes to season. Serve soup, garnishing each portion with a small amount of egg and a slice of lemon. Serves 8.

BEEF BROTH WITH TAPIOCA

1 pound beef, diced
7 cups cold water
1 cup carrots, diced
¼ cup celery, diced
1 slice small onion
Small piece bay leaf
1¼ teaspoons salt
2½ tablespoons quick cooking tapioca

Cover meat with cold water and bring slowly to boiling point. Simmer gently 3 hours. Add vegetables and seasonings and cook 30 minutes. Strain. Chill; remove fat. Bring to a boil; add quick cooking tapioca gradually and boil briskly about 1 minute, stirring constantly. Serve hot. Serves 4 to 6.

A hearty soup for the whole family is this:

Bathing Suits Go Very Fancy

NEW YORK. — Bathing suits (not, of course, swim suits) are very fancy this season, trimmed with smocking, ruffles, bows. They are all elasticized and in mentioning materials this fact is taken for granted. Consequently, they are form-fitting above, but the newest are swing-skirted, like a skating dress. Dirndl skirts are also numerous but not so novel. Satin, lustred silk, moire, sharkskin and rayon jersey are favorite materials. Colors never before used on the beach have supplanted the staples, and one sees lime, chartreuse, canary, light porcelain-blue, American Beauty red, shocking pink, fuchsia, coral, not only in dressmaker suits for beach parade, but also in swim suits.

Are you Weak? Thin?

WOMEN who are weak, thin, nervous, have no appetite, need Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. This tonic stimulates the appetite, improves nutrition, calms the nerves, tones the female organs. Mrs. C. Parkins, 292 Queen St., Stratford, Ont., says: "I ate very little, always was 'on edge' and was so weak and upset. I was just about skin and bones. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription helped to build me up, seemed to quiet my nerves and made me feel better in every way. My appetite increased, I gradually gained weight, my normal strength returned, and I felt like a new woman." Buy it in liquid or tablets at your drug store today.

Orange Pekoe Blend

"SALADA" TEA

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7 Simple Rules Of Good Health In Winter Time

Bell Telephone Company Has Come Forward With These Following Studies That Were Made Among Employees

During the last 21 years the Bell Telephone Company of Canada has paid out over $3,600,000 in the form of sickness benefits to its employees. A study of the more than 40,000 cases of illness involved has revealed that ailments of the respiratory system — such as colds, laryngitis, influenza, bronchitis and tonsilitis — were responsible for, by far, the greater part of this expenditure.

If the experience of this company is to be taken as a criterion, the 7 simple rules for good health during wintertime — about which Bell employees were reminded recently—should be of general interest. They follow:

1. Keep room temperature around 72 degrees.
2. Keep air moist — fill radiator pans with water regularly.
3. Sleep with windows open, but keep out of drafts.
4. Keep fresh fruits and vegetables on your daily menu.
5. Wear enough clothing when outdoors — not too much when inside.
6. Avoid going out into the cold when you are perspiring.
7. If you have a coal fire, be sure gases are burned off before closing dampers for the night.

Women Voters' Apathy Scored

Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt Says Women Waste Their Energies on Other Things Than Politics

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt blames general apathy of women for the numerical decrease in women legislators and congress-women, in the U. S. The same holds true of the Canadian political picture.

There are plenty of capable women to hold legislative positions, Mrs. Roosevelt told her press conference one day last week. The big trouble is, she said, women as a whole do not back feminine candidates.

As soon as women generally demand representation of their point of view, Mrs. Roosevelt said, they will find plenty of women to run for office.

Spider Spins Web Inside Light Bulb

Edmund Sollows, manager of the Western Nova Scotia Electric Company, at Yarmouth, N.S., came out last week with an electric light bulb with a spider—now dead—and part of his web inside.

The bulb is in perfect condition and still lights. The filament is unbroken. Sollows said he would send it on to the manufacturers with a view to solving the mystery.

"If our Christian heritage still moves us, we shall restore the prestige of democracy and civilization by coming to the aid of a bitterly oppressed people."—Will Durant.

NO FUSS

RELIEVING COLD DISCOMFORT THIS WAY!

Just Follow Simple Directions Below—and Use Fast-Acting "Aspirin" Tablets

It's the Way Thousands Know to Ease Pain and Discomfort of Colds and Sore Throat Accompanying Colds — Easy to Do

The simple way pictured above often brings amazingly fast relief from discomfort and sore throat accompanying colds.

Try it. Then — *see your doctor*. He probably will tell you to continue with "Aspirin" because it acts so fast to relieve discomforts of a cold. And to reduce fever.

This simple way, backed by scientific authority, has largely supplanted the use of strong medicines in easing cold symptoms. Perhaps the easiest, most effective way yet discovered.

Demand and Get "ASPIRIN"

TRADE-MARK REG.

RELIEVE COLDS AND NASAL CATARRH

Clear those blocked Nasal Passages before they become the breeding place for millions of dangerous germs.

Catarrh is stealing your enjoyment of life. Mucus keeps dropping into your throat. You can't taste, smell or breathe properly. Your clogged nasal passages provide a breeding place where millions of germs thrive and multiply

Don't wait a day longer. Act NOW . . . before your condition develops into a more serious ailment. Start using Mentholatum . . . the healing balm used by millions of people the world over. The antiseptic vapours of Mentholatum quickly penetrate air passages . . . fight the lurking germs . . . retard the gathering of mucus . . . clear the clogged nostrils and promote healthy breathing again. Get a 30 cent tube or jar of Mentholatum today. Insert a little up the nostrils every night and morning. That simple routine has relieved even chronic catarrh in thousands of grateful men and women. *It will bring you relief or your money will be unconditionally refunded.*

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