"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.

CHAPTER XX

Posse Opens Fire

The bulk of the posse split and circled. "Last chance," came Starbuck's voice. "Come outa there or we start shootin'."

There was no answer. Starbuck cursed in sudden fury and rolled a gun, the others of the posse following suit. The night shook with the rumbling reports and was splashed with gouts of crimson flame from searching gun muzzles.

Without any more hesitation, Steve and Charley went to work. They laced the night with lead, their rifles sounding flatly. The posse was torn with confusion. "Spread out!" yelled Starbuck. "Git around the whole damned place, an' grab cover."

The posse needed no second command. Like startled quail they all scattered, seizing upon anything, to get away from that surprising crossfire. One individual of the crowd, who had had his horse shot from under him, had the bad judgment to duck behind a corner of the big ranch house. Here he halted beneath an open window, peering back into the darkness.

Oscar, the big Swede cook, startled by this outburst of sudden gunfire, stuck his head out of the window. The posseman did not see him, but Oscar saw the crouching figure. By the snarling curses echoing upward, he knew it was neither Steve or Charley. Therefore Oscar leaned well out, one huge fist clubbed. It fell like a post maul, and the posseman subsided in a silent heap.

Oscar chuckled and heaved his big bulk out of the window. He found the fellow's guns and hefted them. "I guess this bane good time to start fightin'," rumbled Oscar to himself. So with a queer, Swedish war cry, he waded in.

Slim and his two companions were about a quarter of a mile from home when that first burst of gunfire echoed. Instantly Slim spurred his mount to a scudding run.

"Our fight, Tisdale," he flung over his shoulder. "No call for yuh to take chances. Yuh can drop out." "Like hell I will!" snapped Tisdale, spurring up even with Slim and Dakota Blue. "Yuh shot square with me. I'm returnin' the favor."

Just as they reached the ranch they heard Oscar's war cry and saw, by the gun flames that answered it, the approximate position of the attackers. Slim left his saddle while his horse was still in movement, and ran, crouching, down one corner of the central corral.

Answering Lead

Tisdale followed Slim, but Dakota cut around the other way. By the steady spanging of the Winchesters, Slim got Steve and Charley located. So he turned his own guns loose on the hostile positions.

Almost opposite him from the other side of the corral came answering lead. Slim, a wild ferocity upon him, stalked straight towards that place, shooting steadily. His hat left his head and swirled to one side, torn and dragged. Invisible fingers plucked at one flaring wing of his chaps. He heard Tisdale curse in sudden pain, but he kept on, shooting low and centre.

The hostile guns went quiet and a choking curse echoed. A man tottered out of the blackness towards him. "Reach high," snapped Slim, "Reach high, quick!"

"Loyale!" gasped the other. "Yuh had all the luck. Yuh got me—yuh got me, yuh damned jailbird!"

The voice broke off and the figure slumped forward silently. Slim knew, by the voice, that he had killed Leo Brockwell.

As Dakota Blue cut in from the opposite side, he found himself barging right through the scattered and disorganized forces of Starbuck's dishonored law. Starbuck, wildly furious at the way things were going against him, was trying by word and action to rally his men. By the renegade sheriff's cursing and shooting, Dakota was able to locate him, and with grim purposefulness he made his way towards him.

Damning Evidence

Momentarily, no one questioned Dakota's presence. He was right among the remaining numbers of the posse, and in the dark they had no way to distinguish him from any other of their crowd, Dakota wisely held his fire, working always towards his objective. He knew that he was taking a long chance of intercepting a slug from the gun of some ranch defender, but he was willing to take the gamble, providing he could get at Starbuck.

Long since, the last atom of doubt had been wiped from Dakota's mind regarding just how and where Jigger Starbuck stood in relation to the decent interests of the country. Too much damning evidence had been uncovered in the past week or two for him to be mistaken.

The remnants of the posse were beginning to break and give back, despite Starbuck's infuriated orders and cursing wrath. They had come with him in the first place, believing that there would be little resistance to their plans. But here, deadly lead was lashing them from several angles at once. They were being outfought by men they could hardly locate, men who held the advantage of concealment and protection.

Even Starbuck himself began to realize the futility of things. He also began to retreat slowly, throwing lead steadily at those mocking, fiery flashes. Dakota, singling him out, closed in. At ten paces, he shouted, "Starbuck, yuh crooked rat, this way. It's Blue who's callin' yuh."

Starbuck twisted in his saddle, snarling, and flung two lightning shots. One drew a crimson brand across the side of Dakota's neck. The other socked heavily into one of the bucking rolls of Dakota's saddle.

Dakota let loose one careful shot. Starbuck gasped, his snarling curses cut short abruptly. His guns thudded to the dusty earth. He loaded both hands about the horn of his saddle, his shoulders hunched, his bitter face draining white.

He drove home the spurs, trying to ride past Dakota. But the first frenzied leap of his mount sent him swaying. Quite suddenly, he slithered head foremost from his saddle.

Instantly Dakota also swung to the ground, leaping apart from his bronco, crouching low. He knew that a hail of lead would be searching for him. In that he was right. The animal he had just left collapsed in its tracks, shot through the head. Dakota went flat on the ground, alert and waiting.

(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

Of INTEREST to WOMEN READERS

SCALLOPED CANADA COD

Hits the Spot on Cold Days

Take one breeze, to put it mildly, from the cold north, add a flurry of snow and a sudden drop in the temperature and you have all the makings for a grand appetite. So along comes this Scalloped Canada Cod to make your menu making easy, and to keep the family happy and well fed.

SCALLOPED CANADA COD

3 cups cooked Canada Cod
½ cup grated cheese
½ cup buttered bread crumbs
2 cups hot milk
3 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
Seasonings

Melt the butter, blend in the flour and add the milk, stirring gradually until well blended. Add the grated cheese. Place half the cod in a buttered glass baking dish, cover with half the cheese sauce, then a second layer of fish and the rest of the sauce. Cover with the buttered bread crumbs and bake in a moderate oven 350 to 400 deg. F., for 20 minutes or until golden brown on top, and bubbling hot.

Try varying this recip by using Chicken Haddie, that inexpensive canned fish, packed in Canada. Or Salmon, that adds a touch of colour as well as an individual flavour.

Instead of making a white sauce, on days you're rushed, use a tin of thick prepared tomato soup. Other flavours can be introduced by using cream of celery, pea, or any other cream style soup.

Send for "100 Tempting Fish Recipes." The Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, will send you a copy for your own use free of charge. All you have to do is write and ask, and state whether you would like the booklet in French or English.

Do This If You're

NERVOUS

Don't take chances on harmful opiates and products which you know nothing about. Use common sense. Get more fresh air, more sleep and take a reliable, time-proven medicine like famous Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—made *especially for women* from wholesome herbs and roots—let it help Nature tone up your system and thus calm jangly nerves, lessen distress from female functional disorders and make life worth living.

For over 60 years one woman has told another how to go "smiling thru" with Pinkham's Compound—let it help YOU.

Cereals Essential To Body-Building

They Contain Valuable Vitamins and Minerals

No child can eat too much cereal food. Cereals contain vitamins and minerals that are absolutely essential to body-building.

In the good old days oatmeal was the principal cereal, and many a sturdy Scotch family was reared on a diet consisting mainly of oatcakes and oatmeal. Not only are cereals our cheapest food, but they come in endless variety, and there is no reason why any particular cereal should be forced on any child to the extent of making it unpopular.

Oats, Rice, Barley

Contrary to popular fancy, oats should be started in cold water, salted, brought to a boil, and then the cooking continued in the double boiler. This prevents lumps and gives that nutty flavor so much appreciated.

Rice is the best cereal we have, but it should be baked for 3 hours in a slow oven instead of being boiled. It is a pudding cereal rather than a breakfast one, as are also sago, tapioca and semolina.

Barley is also a perfect cereal food, but best added to broths and stews to give them substance. Many mothers have often reared fine sturdy children on a diet consisting of thickened stock and barley.

Goitre is a kind of banjo, only harder to play.

How You May Reduce Varicose or Swollen Veins—Heal Ulcers

A Simple Home Treatment

The world progresses. Today many minor ailments that took weeks to overcome can be helped much more quickly. If you have varicose veins or bunches, start today to bring them back to normal size and if you are wise you will do so.

Just get an original bottle of Moone's Emerald Oil at any dispensing pharmacist and apply it night and morning to the enlarged veins. In a short time the veins should begin to grow smaller and by regular use soon approach normal.

People who want to reduce varicose veins or swellings, should not hesitate to try a bottle at once. It is so penetrating and economical that a small bottle lasts a long time.

Mahogany's Good Furniture Choice

If you are selecting furniture that you want to last and last, genuine mahogany is a good choice. And it combines beauty with strength. Besides, with good care, it becomes more beautiful, more mellow, as well as more valuable with age.

Unless your room is decidedly formal, use for upholstery a printed flat mohair. This harmonizes well with mahogany, is durable and washable and not likely to fade. In a living room featuring dark mahogany, a color scheme of tobacco brown, shades of yellow and ivory is warm and friendly.

New Accessories Give Spring-Like Touch To Winter Wardrobe

By LOUISE LENNOX

Pair off these new accessories with your winter dresses to give them a Spring-like touch. Crisp snowy white lace is irresistibly dainty and feminine for the cascading jabot and shirt collar. Little girl collar and cuff sets of pique or linen are flattering as they are practical. Again, you can change a collarless dress completely by giving it a contrasting collar. You'll find these important accessories lend endless changes to your costumes. They take the minimum of material and effort to sew. Style No. 3175 is designed in one size only. For material requirements see pattern envelope.

Send Fifteen Cents (15c) (coin is preferred) for Pattern to Peerless Patterns, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Write plainly Your Name, Address and Style Number. Be sure to state size you wish.

YOUR BABY at Teething Time?

Cross, fretful, feverish—unless the little system is working just right. Steedman's Powders—the standby of mothers the world over for more than 100 years—gently cleanse the system of impurities which are often the cause of feverishness, upset stomach and other troubles at teething time. At your druggist's.

For FREE *sample and booklet*

"Hints to Mothers" write John Steedman & Co., Dept. 19, 442 St. Gabriel St., Montreal. 68N

Give STEEDMAN'S POWDERS from Teething to Teens

Look for the double EE symbol on each package.

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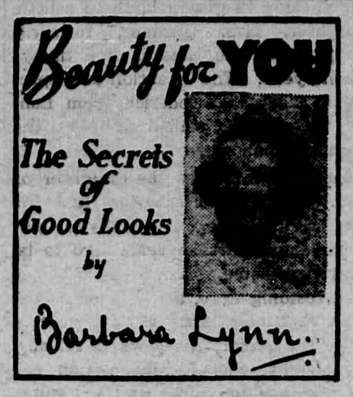


TO AVOID SKIN BLEMISHES

Skin blemishes are a tragedy to women. In addition to spoiling our beauty, they create a feeling of inferiority. Yet, in most cases, they can be avoided, or at least quickly eradicated.

Cleanliness is the basic remedy—both internal and external. Internal cleanliness is essential to a clear skin. If the system is disorganized, it quickly makes its mark on the skin, so don't neglect the simple precautions that ensure internal cleanliness. Make it a habit to take a dash of fruit salt in a glass of water every morning.

External cleanliness calls for frequent washing. Sounds simple, yet so many women misconstrue it. Cream cleansing is not a substitute for washing. It is necessary to cleanse the skin with cream quite often, but soap and water should be used frequently, too.

Washing the face tends to remove some of the oils that are inherent in the skin, so I advise the use of a palmolive soap, because it contains lubricating oils and thus actually helps the skin.

Readers constantly write for advice about removing blackheads, so I am repeating the treatment. First wash the affected parts thoroughly with palmolive soap and water, then cover the area with a towel wrung out in hot water, or steam the face over a basin of hot water, to open the pores.

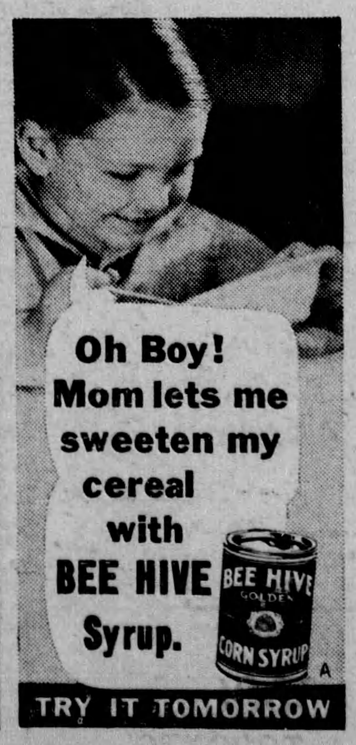
Soften your finger-tips with little pads of cotton-wool and gently squeeze out the blackheads. Change the wool pads often, because they become infected. Sterilize the parts with a lotion of peroxide and hot water.

Write for confidential advice in your personal beauty problems. You can get any of the following interesting leaflets by sending a 3c stamp for each one required: Facial Care; Bust Development; Superfluous Hair; Hand Beauty; Underweight; Feet Care; Reducing In Spots; Slimming; Fascinating Eyes; Glamorous Hair.

Please address your letters to: Barbara Lynn, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont.

Guidance En Route

A chapel is to be included in the new central railway station in Rome. "Travellers," said an official, "are in need of spiritual guidance, and stations must provide all such needs."



Hat Silhouettes Display Variety

NEW YORK—New hat silhouettes are forward-brim flowered turbans. The brimmed-berets, forward tilted, are made usually in soft fabrics and are adaptable to many different types of daytime costume.

Wide brimmed hats, usually of milano or yellow straws, have their brims lifted on one side, and sweep way down on the other. Ribbons are the favorite trim, although you will find feathers and flowers, too.

Get Up at Night?

IF your sleep is disturbed by getting up several times at night, if you experience burning and soreness, if your back is lame and sore, you may get relief by taking Dr. Pierce's A-nuric. Mrs. T. Higham, 532 Hill St., London, Ont., says: "Dr. Pierce's A-nuric Tablets gave me quick relief from backache and kidney irregularity. My kidneys caused me so much annoyance; the secretions passed too frequently and often irritated and burned. My back would be so lame and sore at times I could hardly get up or down. After using 'A-nuric' I was entirely relieved of all the discomfort." Ask your druggist for Dr. Pierce's A-nuric today.

"At last I can breathe freely again . . . relieved from the clutches of CATARRH"

This is quoted from just one of thousands of earnest testimonials praising Mentholatum. All over the world millions of men and women are grateful to this time-proved family remedy. Mentholatum is a simple, direct way of treating nasal catarrh. This healing balm is no sooner inserted in the nostrils than the antiseptic vapours begin to penetrate to the farthest nasal passages . . . relieve congestion . . . fight germs . . . retard gathering of mucus . . . clear your nose and help keep it clear. Get a 30 cent tube or jar today. Apply it regularly. Mentholatum should bring you relief . . . as it has relieved millions . . . or your money will be refunded. A4

RAW THROAT

If Your Sore, Scratchy Throat Comes from a Cold—You Can Usually Get Fast Relief by this Simple Method

1. To ease pain and discomfort and reduce fever take 2 "Aspirin" Tablets—drink a glass of water. Repeat in 2 hours.

2. If throat is raw from cold, crush and dissolve 3 "Aspirin" Tablets in ⅓ glass of water . . . gargle.

Often Eases Pain and Discomfort in a Few Minutes When "Aspirin" is Used

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.