



TWELFTH INSTALMENT
SYNOPSIS: Ruth Warren, who lived in the East is willed three-fourth interest in the "Dead Lantern" ranch in Arizona by her only brother who is reported to have met his death while on business in Mexico. Arriving in Arizona with her husband who has ailing lungs and their small child, they learn that the ranch is located 85 miles from the nearest railroad. Old Charley Thane, rancher and rural mail carrier agrees to take them to the "Dead Lantern" gate, 5 miles from the ranch house. As they trudge wearily through a gulch approaching the ranch house, a voice whispers "Go back! . . . Go back!" At the ranch house they are greeted suspiciously by the gaunt rancher partner, Snavely, and Indian Ann, a herculean woman of mixed negro and indian blood. Snavely is difficult to understand but regardless, Ruth takes up the task of trying to adjust their three lives to the ranch and its development. Kenneth, Ruth's husband, caught in chilling rain contracts pneumonia and passes away before a doctor arrives. Ruth tries to carry on. She is not encouraged by Snavely in plans to try and stock the ranch or improve it. She writes to her father in the East asking a loan with which to buy cattle. She receives no reply. Will Thane comes home to visit his father and Ruth meets him.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

After the noon meal Ruth had returned to the remains of the old adobe and was mourning over a mess of mud and clothes, when she was startled by the sound of an automobile. She could hardly believe her eyes when she saw a fine-looking machine climb out of the gulch. Visitors were not common on the Dead Lantern.

There were two men in the car which approached the ranch house. Before it stopped and just as Ruth had started to walk in that direction, Snavely rode out of the brush along the southern bank of the gulch, his horse on a dead run. Ruth paused and watched him bring his mount to a sliding stop by the machine.

"What d'you want?" his voice shrilled at the men in the car.

One of the men replied, talking for some time, but his voice was low and Ruth could not understand.

"Hell, no! We don't want nothin' to do with that—" Snavely swung his arm back and pointed along the road—"There's th' way out of this

place, stranger!"

"How do you do?" smiled Ruth, as she came up to the other side of the car. The two men turned their heads in quick surprise, then smiled with pleasure.

"Are you Mrs. Warren?" asked the older man, lifting his hat.

"Yes—won't you gentlemen come up to the house?"

"Why—er—thank you"—he half turned his head in Snavely's direction—"my name's Parker of the Triangle T, and this is Mr. Harvey, our attorney. Your neighbor, Mr. Thane, thought perhaps you people might be interested in a cattle proposition—"

"Oh, I'm sure we should!"

The three went to the ranch house porch where Snavely joined them after trying his horse to a mesquite. The girl introduced him. He grunted, did not offer to shake hands and seated himself at one side.

"You see, Mrs. Warren," began Parker, "the Triangle T is changing hands—do you know of the ranch?"

"I'm afraid not," smiled the girl.

"Don't make any difference," observed Parker. "We're on the Mexican line about twenty-five miles east. Well, as I said, the ranch is changing hands. The man who bought it is going to do differently than I've always done. He intends to make a feeder ranch out of it, using Mexican stock—ah—do you see what I mean?"

"Well, no—I'm rather new to this business," said Ruth.

"Don't make any difference—he's going to buy cheap Mexican cattle and feed them to sell. The point is, he isn't going to breed Herefords and he won't pay me for the cattle already on the place—I mean he don't want them for breeding—he'll take all my steers and beef stuff, but you can see that good young cows and registered bulls are worth more than so much a pound—they're producers. Now, the man I'm selling to, Jesus Travina, don't care about that sort of stock. I was telling Charley Thane about it and he wants ten of my bulls and he said you people—" Parker glanced from the girl to Snavely and then back at the girl. "He thought you people might be interested in doing something. So as I was taking Mr. Harvey, here, back to town, I just thought I'd drop in and see you."

"But," said Ruth, "just now we haven't much cash. We'd have to ask for time in which to pay—we'd have to pay out of the earnings the cattle bring us."

Parker nodded. "That often happens in the cattle business," he smiled. "But if I can make eight per cent on my money, I shan't be in too great a hurry to get the principal. If you like, we can draw the note to come due next November—after the fall selling. But if you're at all pressed I'll extend it to the spring selling. Even if I had to wait until a year from this next November, it would be better for me than to sell the stock for what I can get now. The ranch here would be my security, of course."

"I'm opposed to that!" Snavely leaned forward. "I don't go putting up my interest on no such proposition as that."

For some time no one spoke. "Well," said Ruth at last, "I have no objection to risking my three-quarter interest in the ranch for as many cows and bulls as you'll give me for it."

Mr. Harvey, the lawyer, lifted his brows at this statement—as a general thing partners agreed.

Parker turned to the attorney. "It would be legal for Mrs. Warren to

offer her interest even though Mr. Snavely does not wish to offer his, wouldn't it?"

"Why, yes, it would be legal; it can be done. "However"—he studied Snavely—"it will be a rather unique state of affairs. Should the cattle come on the ranch they will increase the value of the ranch and likewise the value of the partnership interests. In other words, Mrs. Warren would be increasing Mr. Snavely's property for him, while Mr. Snavely, in refusing to offer his share as security, would be contributing nothing to the welfare of the partnership. However," he turned to Parker as though he had seen enough of Snavely, "I think Mrs. Warren's note will be sufficient."

An hour later the machine was disappearing into the gulch and Ruth Warren had mortgaged her entire interest in the Dead Lantern ranch.

Snavely came up behind her. "What you jest done was ag'in' my advice, Mrs. Warren. Don't expect me to do nothin' if things don't turn out like you figger."

Ruth smiled. "Certainly, I understand. But you were there when Mr. Parker and I went over the situation—I know and you know the water is a little scanty, but if things don't go too badly I may even be able to pay off the note next November. I hope I shall, but if not, he agreed to give me a year."

"Seems like you're talkin' a lot about yourself," he replied tensely. "You talk like this was your ranch."

"I didn't mean it that way," answered Ruth lightly.

The look on Snavely's face brought Ruth back to earth with a jerk. For a moment she thought he was going to leave her without speaking, but her relief was short-lived. Do you know somethin'? I come by the deep tank in the south pasture on my way home this mornin'. Well, it washed out last night—that's what it did. The water in that depressa's gone to hell this minute. Them other shallow ones won't last two weeks!" For a moment, his glinting eyes played over her sardonically. With a short laugh he walked to his horse and mounting, rode away.

On the day after the cattle deal had taken place, Ann was not in the kitchen when Ruth arose. Neither was she in her room. Nothing in the kitchen appeared to have been touched since the evening before, nor was the fire lighted. She built the fire. Soon Snavely came to the door.

"Where's Ann?"

"I'm sure I don't know; I thought perhaps she had to do something outside before breakfast and hadn't come in yet."

"Did you look in her room?"

"I didn't look—I opened the door and called."

"Huh!" Snavely went to Ann's room and returned shortly. "Her bed ain't been slept in—she's gone ag'in."

"Why, what do you mean?"

"Bout every two months or so Ann goes away for a spell—don't know where. Well, you can get me somethin' to eat, I reckon."

For five days Ruth was cook on the Dead Lantern, and of fifteen meals, twelve of them consisted of Mexican beans and boiled sun-dried beef.

On the morning of the sixth day Ann was in the kitchen when Ruth entered.

"Why, hello, Ann! When did you get back?"

"Last evenin'."

"I didn't hear you come in."

"No, Mrs. Warren."

"Where have you been, Ann?"

"I've been away," answered the huge woman quietly.

Ruth said nothing more.

The cattle had come—a long, winding river of brown and white flowed into the north pasture. There, the six Triangle T cowboys allowed them to spread out of their own choosing. A great hunting of cow for calf began. Each cow appeared to have lost her calf and each calf bawled as though it had lost two mothers. The calves, temporarily orphaned, made little effort toward reunion; they stood uncertainly on their limber legs and bawled to the world at large, while their mothers sniffing, lowing, trotting nervously here and there, sorted them out. As soon as a family was united there were mutual sniffings and lickings; the bawling ceased and the cow led her offspring quietly away to graze.

When it seemed certain that every cow had found her calf, Snavely, with the Mexican cowboys, rounded up the new bulls and drove them towards the home ranch corrals. Ruth and David followed behind. The girl was

deathly afraid of those twenty-two monsters. A cow seemed more of a pleasant creature—at least, it loved its calf, and looked over the meadows with a rather satisfied, friendly expression. But those great lumbering bulls—a rolling avalanche of unfriendly power, as they plodded forward, singing their individual battle challenges deep in their throats. But the girl took a tremendous pride in them; it didn't seem possible that such a weak, insignificant thing as herself could own those huge animals. Of course, Snavely owned a quarter of them, legally; nevertheless, they were her bulls. And they were very valuable—to lose one or two might mean the difference between meeting her note and not meeting it.

After the bulls had been driven into the smallest of the interconnecting corrals on the home ranch, they were forced, one at a time, to enter a narrow runway which opened out into the pasture. Just before a bull reached the open end of this runway and just as he was congratulating himself on his escape, a bare shot across in front of his nose, another was placed immediately behind him and he was a prisoner. The walls of the runway were already pressing his sides, and now three men took hold of a long lever with the result that one of the walls swung inward, holding the entire bull as though a great rand had closed upon him. A large animal can thus be doctored or branded with least danger to all concerned, particularly to himself.

Before the first of the bulls had been released, Ruth Warren appeared among the surprised cowboys at the

Mr. Ed. Irish of Willowdale is offering a fine lot of good dairy cattle by public auction at his farm, Willowdale next Tuesday, Nov. 28th. These cows are all T. B. tested.

If you have livestock or articles about the farm for sale, try a classified ad in The Liberal.

Winter air Dates
 Royal Winter Fair, Toronto—Nov. 22 to 30.
 Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph—December 5 to 7.

The further expansion of our bacon trade with Great Britain depends to a large extent upon quality improvement. Recent advices from the British market criticize our supplies on the score of underfinish in a large percentage of bacon sides, as indicated by softness and flabbiness. This soft flabby bacon is most likely the product of underfinished hogs, of which there are considerable numbers being marketed at yards and plants in Canada at the present time. The remedy lies with the producer in holding back unfinished hogs. In most cases, another week or so on feed would put on the finish so necessary for the making of firm bacon. All hogs of bacon and select weights should be properly finished at their weights. Underfinish is as detrimental as overfinish, and in this case is a very serious obstacle to efforts being made to popularize Canadian bacon with the British consumer. Every hog raiser is asked to cooperate to the best of his ability.—Live Stock Market Report.

Dairy cattle grazed on fertilized pasture yielded 823 pounds of milk per acre more than on unfertilized fields, according to results of standard pasture improvement demonstrations carried out on 26 illustration Stations established by the Dominion Experimental Farms. As typical examples of these methods of increasing the value of pasture, two adjoining fields of three acres each on representative pasture land were selected and fenced separately. One field was unfertilized, and the other received early in spring 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, 350 pounds of superphosphate, and 100 pounds of potash per acre. In June 50 pounds of nitrate of soda were added. On these fields the cattle were grazed alternately.

Straw when used as bedding for live stock will absorb from two to three times its weight of liquid, and if finely cut will soak up about three times as much liquid as when uncut, says the Dominion Chemist. Further the absorptive capacity of dry sawdust and fine shavings is from two to four times that of ordinary straw.

Continued Next Week

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 Richmond Hill

Tuesday, Nov. 28th
 From 2 p. m. to 8 p. m.

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

"All the ballyhoo in the world cannot convince the people that times are better or getting better" said a caller at our office this week. He said "times will be better for everyone when times are better for the farmer." This is undoubtedly true. Until the basic industries of this country return to a state of prosperity there is little hope for better times in any industry or walk of life.

The Agriculturist is undoubtedly having a very difficult time. With a large investment in land, buildings and livestock the average farmer is not by a wide margin making operating expenses not to mention a decent return for his big investment.

The farmer needs better prices for his products and a major reduction in the tax burden. At present the farmer is getting a pitiable return for his products but is paying through the nose for what he has to buy.

The farming industry is of first importance in this province and dominion. As such it should have first place in the consideration of those who sit in our seats of government. Has agriculture that place to-day?

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International Horsemen At The Royal

Military horsemen of international repute in the great classic shows of Europe and United States are taking part in the Royal Winter Fair Horse Show at Toronto during the eight days, Nov. 22nd-30th. Swedish, Czechoslovak, Irish and American army officers' teams, as well as Canadian, will vie for the International Cup now recognized as one of the most coveted of inter-army trophies. All of the overseas officers have competed in a dozen European countries and the equestrian skill of the five teams has just been triumphantly proved at the New York Show.

The heavy expenditure involved in bringing the foreign officers' teams to the Royal Winter Fair Horse Show could not be undertaken were it not for a generous contribution this year by Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Limited. Their exhibitions enable Canadians to see military horsemanship of the highest type and for that reason the many well-wishers of the Winter Fair throughout Canada will doubtless share its warm acknowledgement of this public-spirited action.

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The look on Snavely's face brought Ruth back to earth with a jerk.