

# GOLD BULLETS

by Charles G. Booth

**SYNOPSIS:** Leaving the Oden mine after Hammond had departed without seeing them, Peebles and Deacon return to San Felipe. Peebles is seriously alarmed when he learns that Lucy and Jerry have not returned. He decides to wait until the next day before organizing a searching party. Emptying the pockets of his trousers, he finds, to his utter amazement, a playing card—the ace of spades—a card from the table at which sat the two silent figures in the room of Lundy's bar. His nightmare of horror had not been a dream.

**Chapter 25**  
**MARKED CARDS**  
The possibility that my experience behind the bolted door might be reality of a grim and terrible kind hadn't occurred to me since a few minutes after my return to consciousness this morning and I had put completely out of my mind the thought that it was anything else but a nightmare. And yet here I was with proof of its reality in my hand!

Every detail of the experience stood out in my memory as sharp as a beacon on a dark night. The fearful quietness after the storm... the shapes at the table... the striking of the faulty match... the two men playing poker in the dark at the card table... I had suddenly stuffed into my pocket and forgotten about. And then...



Marked cards—Furie's lens—"poker game that cracked the town!" my hand going over that cold face. "But they couldn't have been dead!" I groaned. "And they couldn't have been alive! It must have been a nightmare! And then I looked at the ace of spades again and knew that it wasn't."

I tried another tack. Why had Furie lied to me? Were he and Dillon in the thing together? For he certainly hadn't found me in that room in which I had come to my senses. As I had supposed at first, the room into which I had fallen was in the north wall of the building. Furie, then, had gone to the trouble of climbing through the window of the north room, unlatching the door, and carrying me into the room off the west side of the gallery. If he weren't Dillon's accomplice he must have guessed something of the conditions under which I had fallen into the north room, and in either case he had smashed in the door of the west room to create in my mind the impression that it was this room into which I had fallen.

Evidently there was something in the north room he wanted to conceal. What? The poker players? Probably. And why, or what, were the poker players?

There was another thing, too. The recurrence of this "poker" motif. Andrew had detected the game, yet we had found the implements of it in his safe; the phrase the "poker game that cracked the town," and some nonsense about playing poker for a human life were a part of the Peterson legend and then I had come upon that ghastly game in the north room. What did these recurrences mean? I decided to let the matter rest until after supper when I would see Henry or MacNair and give one of the other a chance to express an opinion about my experiences.

When I had disposed of sizable helpings of Mrs. Martin's beefsteak pie and caramel pudding I went into my den, took out my little red notebook, and began to pencil in it. I was still writing when Mrs. Martin ushered in Luther MacNair. "Hello, there," I greeted him. "When did you get back?"

"This morning," he said briefly, no we shook hands. "When did I see you last?" I went on. "Only yesterday morning, was it? Seems like a month. I've been through a good deal, MacNair."

Whenever I told every detail of my experiences, when I had done, I laid my exhibits before him; the "Torchy" Preserved, Furie's eyeglass, the ace of spades. "What do you think of my poker players?" I demanded.

MacNair laughed grimly. "Your poker players? I should say they were part of the pattern. Everything you have told me about is a part of the pattern. The most of the parts are missing and we are nothing but confusion. When the pattern is complete we shall probably have an intricate and a bit of mosaic work as you or I might say."

"But what about my two men?" I persisted. "Were they dead or what? You might hazard a guess?" I might hazard a dozen guesses. "What do you think, yourself?" "They couldn't have been alive," I said.

"Hardly," MacNair grunted. "The point is: were they dead?" "We don't know that, either."

## OUT OUR WAY

## By Williams Thomas Edison Appears Before Group in Talkie



## Farm Pointers

To make whitewash according to government formula, slake one-half bushel of stone lime with warm water and strain it through a fine sieve or strainer, dissolve in warm water and boil into a thin paste a quart of ground rice. Then dissolve one pound of glue in boiling water. Pour one peck of salt in solution into the lime, add the rice paste, mix therein one-half pound of plaster of paris, and add

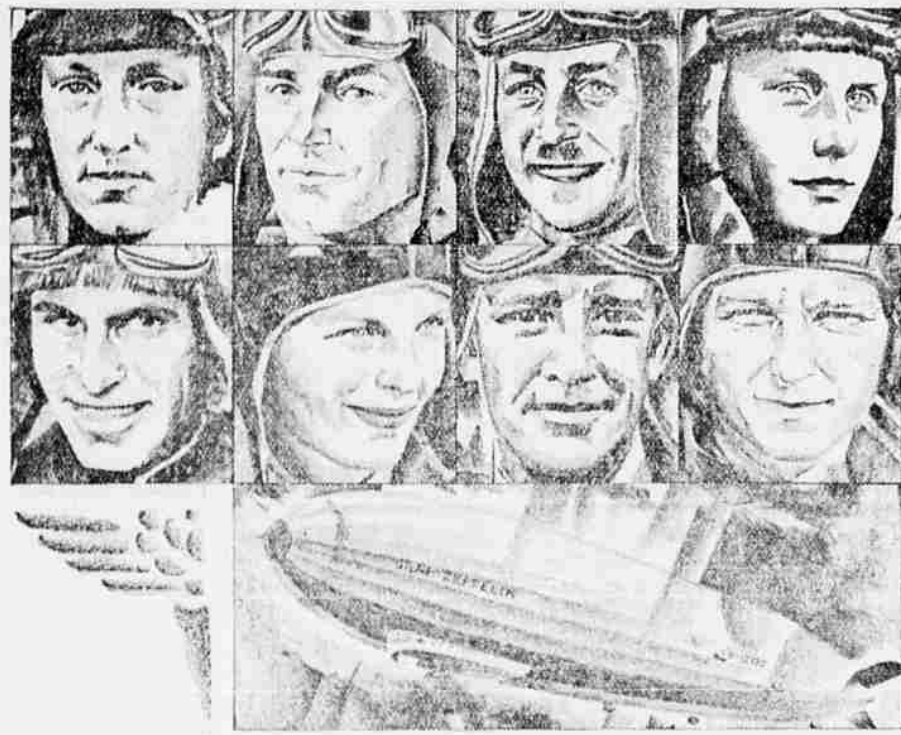
the glue. Finally add five gallons of hot water, stir thoroughly and let it stand for a few days. Then apply hot with a brush. This is considered the most satisfactory whitewash, says the Oregon experiment station.

Providing ample brood rearing room surrounding and above the brood nest reduces swarming of bees to a maximum of 5 per cent, and in many cases eliminates it for the season, says the Oregon experiment station. The frames of solid honey may be moved to the outside of both stories. It is advisable to place a standard full depth hive body of worker comb on top of the colony. At least two frames of brood are placed in the

middle of the second story and the remainder is crowded together in the center of the lower one. Some empty drawn combs are also necessary at the sides of each brood nest.

Sweet cherries are self-sterile, and the common varieties, the Royal Ann, Lambert and Bing are also inter-sterile, says the Oregon experiment station. Any one of these varieties standing alone or a combination of all of them will fail to produce fruit. It is necessary, therefore, to interplant a third variety that will pollinate these commercial varieties. As a rule, some kinds of Black Republicans are satisfactory for this.

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is it can be made still better and I have a feeling that in your hands it will be."

Every colony of bees has a distinctive odor that is recognized by the bees of that particular colony and in uniting two colonies the odors must be blended gradually so the bees of the two colonies may unite peacefully. It is best to place a sheet of newspaper between the stories containing the two colonies to be united. Some time will elapse before the bees can gnaw away the paper and in the meantime the two odors will have lost their identity and the united colonies have the odor of a single colony.

Success starts at the breakfast table

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