

BLOND GODDESS ♦ A New Serial by HERBERT JENSEN

CHAPTER ONE VULTURINE FACE

WITH an odd alertness Grahame arose from the deeply cushioned chair. Some jungle-bred instinct stirred within him. His unease was curiously at variance with the formal surroundings of this studio ante-room.

The ornamental stenographer-secretary paused with her typing and looked up with polite inquiry.

"I am sure Mr. Myberg will see you in just a few minutes, Mr. Grahame," she murmured as if placating his impatience.

Grahame shook his head slightly and looked slowly about the huge low-ceilinged room. It was paneled at both ends in silvered ebony. The sides were solid with French windows done in frosted, angular, leaded glass. Shadows of palm fronds from the adjoining patio made queer modern patterns upon the glass. His gaze

examined each object within the room with a studied care. There were but three other chairs like the one in which he had been seated. Except for the girl at the desk, he was alone.

His sense of unease percolated but not so strongly now. The typist's inquiring gaze still held his own. He smiled slightly at his thought that it was like Myberg, Hollywood's greatest executive, to have this platinum blond seated behind an ebony desk in his celebrated ebony and silver offices. He wondered if she were as efficient as she was undoubtedly decorative, and concluded that she was. He recalled something of Myberg's requirements.

The door to the inner office swung open. A haze of tobacco smoke eddied outward. Voices blended in a mild confusion of sound; then one voice predominated.

"—no better man for the jungle. He's outside now. Shall we have him in? Our picture—"

Another voice rumbled an interruption; whereupon a third voice said, "But Ortega, you can't do everything, understand." The rumbling voice made some reply. Whereupon, as clear and deeply rich as a cello, a feminine voice said:

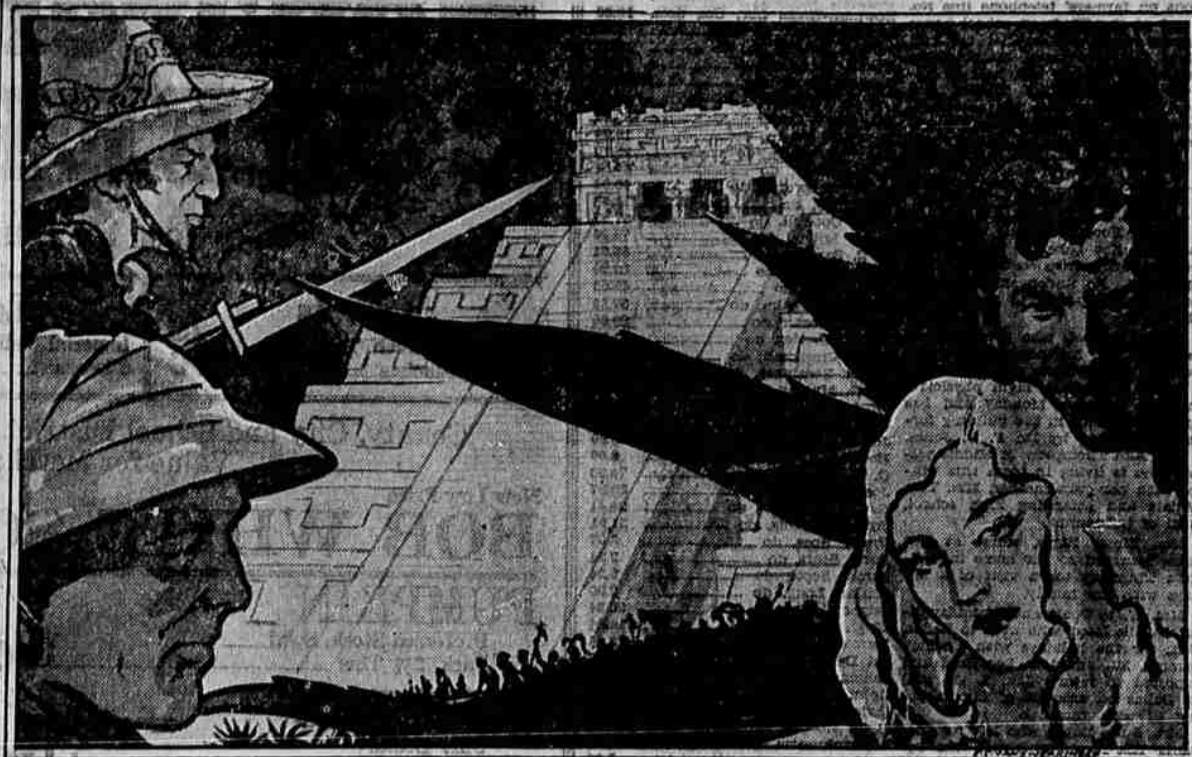
"Goodness, but it's getting dark. I must be going. Gentlemen, can't we discuss this tomorrow? ... Thank you, Mr. Ortega. I'm so awkward ... forever losing gloves ..."

The door swung slowly about, cutting off the sounds of the braking-up of the meeting. Grahame plucked up his light camel's hair coat and put it over his arm. He took up his hat and stood with a slight uncertainty. The door to Myberg's office clicked. Abruptly that former sense of disquiet took hold of him. He faced the glassed side-wall. The shadows—palm fronds against the frosted surfaces as if they had been stained in the glass. Whereupon his glance focused upon the one incongruous shadow.

He felt a faint tingling at the base of his scalp. There was a shadow of a face between the leaves. It was an odd face—a vulturine outline with a predatory nose that seemed but a prolongation of an excessively slanting forehead. It was as if a man stood behind a palm trunk, waiting.

GRAHAME walked toward the outer door. A buzzer hummed softly.

The girl at the desk said, in a slightly startled voice, "Mr. My-



berg will see you now. The others are leaving."

Half turning, Grahame replied, "Tomorrow. It's late now." The closing door blanketed the girl's confused protest.

Outside the lulling he strode along the cement walk toward the palms which threw shadowy patterns about his feet. Beams from street lamps sprouted. A thin, diaphanous drizzle began to fall and glisten upon the surrounding shrubbery.

One swift glance assured him that there was no human figure among the palms. He stepped upon the lawn, and moved toward a central

tree that might have betrayed the shadowed face he'd seen from within the office. He glanced at the grass at his feet. Behind the smooth trunk it seemed compressed as if a man had recently been standing upon it.

Grahame paused, frowning. The fact that someone had stood in this place was not especially significant. It was important, however, that he had experienced that sense of unease within the office and had localized it as a strange shadow upon a frosted window.

His years in remote places had taught him not to disregard his faint and atavistic sensibilities however

useless they seemed. He pushed the tips of his fingers upward over his forehead and glanced with a semi-wariness above. It was as if he stood in some jungly spot and had tilted back his helmet the better to survey the upper branches.

Hearing voices from the far side of the wing that jutted into the patio, he walked over the cushiony lawn toward the sidewalk. While it was not yet dark enough to obscure a view of the street, nevertheless details were hazed. As he stepped upon the cement, a black limousine of expensive make drew up to the curb a few yards beyond him.

A man made a remark in a deep voice. A woman replied and laughed. They were the voices he had heard through the open door into Myberg's offices. Two figures—the owners of the voices, he guessed—moved toward the curb from a doorway. The man helped the woman into the car. A door clicked and the vehicle moved forward.

For an instant the man remained bareheaded, facing the vanishing automobile; then crushing his hat upon his head he moved swiftly across the street.

Grahame watched, and began to feel a slight discomfort. He put on his light overcoat. At which point

he became conscious of the tan car at the other curb. His mind noted and registered several facts in one instant.

The tan car faced in the wrong direction. Moreover, it was parked in a street in which he remembered that parking was prohibited by police regulation—Mr. Myberg's influence. Although it was raining, the tonneau was open.

The man who had crossed the street reached the car. He opened a rear door and climbed within. Grahame had a brief glimpse of his outlined figure before he seated himself. He was a huge man with heavy shoulders and short, thick neck.

Two men approached the car from opposite ends of the street. One got into the car and behind the wheel. The other—a small man—seated himself beside the large man in the tonneau. Their combined actions were all very regular and conventional—but very precise. Grahame had a peculiar sense that this little scene had been rehearsed.

There was no lost motion. The starter growled, and the car moved down the street without perceptible hesitation—almost as if timed with the sounding of the door shutting after the small man in the rear seat.

Grahame stepped onto the pavement. Several blocks ahead he saw the tall light of the first car held stationary by the red signal of the next arterial crossing. The rear light of the second car diminished toward it. He heard the sound of a motor behind him, and turned toward the curb. A taxicab hesitated, slowed, and stopped.

"Cab, sir?"

GRAHAME entered. The driver asked him where he wanted to be driven. Grahame's lips parted to give the man his address; whereupon with sudden decision he said, "Follow that tan car you see two blocks ahead."

As the gears meshed, Grahame chuckled to himself. He had acted entirely upon impulse since he stood up from his chair in Myberg's ante-room. There was nothing reasonable or excusable about his performance

except that instinctive uneasiness that had been the mainspring of his almost automatic actions thereafter.

He lay back in his seat, and considered. He had broken an appointment with a man he hoped would employ him. He had noted a spot in the grass where someone had stood. A woman had entered a car and he had watched her be driven off. Another car which contained three men had gone in the same direction as the other. Certainly they were not a very significant combination of unrelated facts.

Yet, he told himself, he was now engaged in the somewhat idiotic business of following an automobile containing three men who were engaged on an errand of their own doubtless no more serious than that of getting to a place where they could enjoy their cocktails and dinners, which he should be doing. Almost he rapped upon the window before him, to redirect the driver.

They entered the stream of traffic that flows out Sunset. Recalling that they were going in the general direction of his apartment house, Grahame decided to wait a little before telling his driver his destination. He became mildly interested to see if his chauffeur could keep his cab within the same traffic group as the tan car. It was dark now. It seemed a difficult job to avoid being blocked at one of the many intersections.

A few blocks west of Gower, the driver lost the tan car. He slowed to the curb, and turned a chagrined face toward his passenger. Grahame smiled.

"It's all right ... really, it isn't important. Just drive me—"

"I think I know where they went. You see, there's a job at—"

"I tell you, it doesn't—"

"The party's on me, boss," the driver interrupted him. He pushed up the flag on his meter. The gears growled. Over his shoulder he called, "It takes up Laurel Canyon way and down into the Boulevard, it cuts out a lot of traffic ..."

(Copyright, 1934, by Herbert Jensen)

Tomorrow, Grahame finds himself knocking out an antagonist.

HUSKIES CHALK UP 6TH STRAIGHT WIN ON TUESDAY

COAST CONFERENCE (Northern Division)		
	W. L.	Pct.
Washington	6 0	1.000
Oregon	4 1	.692
Oregon State	1 2	.333
Wash. State	2 4	.333
Idaho	0 4	.000

SEATTLE, Jan. 17 (AP)—A noisy greeting was ready here today on the return of the University of Washington basketball team from its Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho invasion, winners last night at Pullman of the sixth straight northern division, Pacific coast conference, basketball game.

The Huskies won from Washington State college, 35 to 30, to sweep the two-game series, after also winning both games from the University of Idaho on Friday and Saturday nights. They lead the league, with six wins and no losses.

Bob Galer, high-scoring forward, was again the leader of the team's attack last night, accounting for 10 points. In six games, he has accounted for 60 points. The Huskies led at the half, 17 to 14.

The next league game is on Saturday night. Oregon, in second place with two wins and one defeat, meets Oregon State at Corvallis, and Idaho meets Washington State at Pullman.

Yakima Scrapper Decision Winner

SEATTLE, Jan. 17 (AP)—Pointing to a scheduled match here in March with Barney Ross, world's lightweight and junior welterweight champion, Henry Woods, clever Yakima, negro battler, today had chalked up another victory. Ross plans to risk his junior crown against the Washington youngster.

Woods last night won an eight-round decision over "Kit" Moro, hard-punching Filipino battler, but took a wild punch on the chin in the seventh which had him groggy for a moment.

Cavelli Wins Nod Over John Higgins

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—The six-round main event on last night's fight program here went to Ernie Cavelli, 145, Walla Walla, over Johnny Higgins, 141, Salem, in a bloody slugfest.

Linfield College Defeats Albany

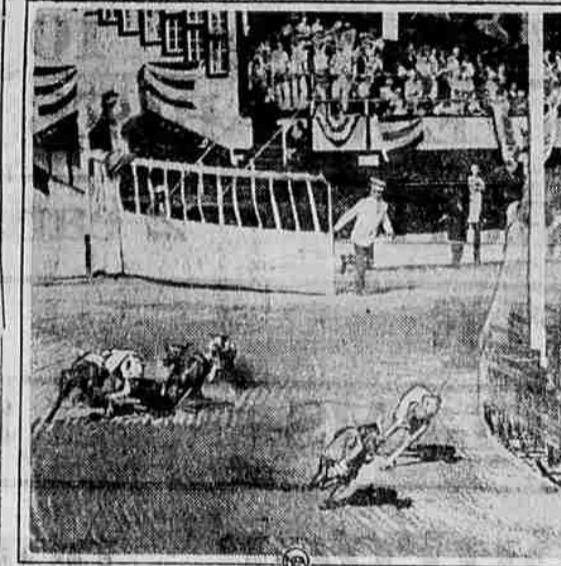
McMINNVILLE, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—In a rough, foul-filled northwest conference game the Linfield college Wildcats defeated the Albany college basketball team 56 to 26 here last night.

The Wildcats were forced to finish the game with only four players.

UNION OIL TEAM WINS

FOREST GROVE, Ore., Jan. 17 (AP)—Dolph and Levoff led the Union Oil basketball team of Portland in a close 34 to 29 victory over Pacific university here last night. Mason and Corrigan were the scoring mainstays of the Badgers.

Git Along, Little Doggie



Likely split after that plummy rabbit, the speedsters in the above photo opened the winter dog racing season in Miami. The track the West Flagler Kennel Club, is one of three operating in the Florida city.

MUSELER FIGHTS BAKERSCRAPPER IN SEMI-WINDUP

In addition to the main event, which pits Elmer "Buz" Brown, Oregon featherweight champion, against Jackie Brighton, of Seattle, several other good bouts are scheduled for Friday night's card at the Sacajawea arena.

K. O. "Jim" Museler, 145, will meet Dynamite Murphy, 145, of Baker, in the six-round semi-final match. Museler, who started fighting only a few months ago, has won most of his fights via the knockout route.

Four round preliminaries will see Billy Young facing Don McHugh, Young Fitz vs. Kid Bowers, and Joe Palooka meeting Kid Murran.

In the main event, Brighton, who weighs around 127 pounds, will have a weight advantage over Brown of about two pounds. He also has more fights to his credit due to a longer campaign in the ring, but he hasn't the unbeaten record to boast of that the Portland boy has.

CARLOADINGS GAIN

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 16 (AP)—Southern Pacific lines report gains in carloadings over both the preceding week and the like week of last year. Last week's loadings totaled 17,742 compared with 16,099 in the 1933 week, an increase of 1,643. The preceding 1934 week, which contained New Year's day, recorded 15,734, giving a rise of 2,008 for the second week of the year.

Roy Bishop, taxi driver, took his cab all the way from Joplin, Mo., to Kansas City at the insistence of a passenger who held a knife at his back.

The Colima county, Cal., rice crop for 1933 was valued at \$1,141,000, which was an increase of \$569,000 over 1932.

Avery Returns From Meet Held At Corvallis

The agricultural adjustment act and farm problems in general were discussed by county agents from all parts of Oregon when they were called to Corvallis for a recent meeting. H. G. Avery has returned with reports of the decisions and discussions.

The agricultural adjustment administration plans to offer the few grain growers who did not sign this year an opportunity to do so next year, he reported. Only five counties had received money by Jan. 13 for their wheat reductions, all of which were small. Eight or 10 more had been approved and expect to receive their money soon.

Dairy and beef control programs will be announced soon, he said. The county agents also attended a half day session devoted to the new farm credit organization, which is being financed through the farm credit bank at Spokane. The loans include livestock and production loan, loans to co-operatives, federal loans and commissioner's loans to supplement other forms of credit. Representatives of each of the divisions from the bank outlined how the loans will be secured and handled.

In Oregon there are two production credit associations with headquarters at Klamath Falls and Medford that secure funds through the farm credit bank at Spokane. It was proposed at the meeting that other districts be organized. A state livestock loan association also is being organized, it was announced.

La Grande And Union Fighters In The Finals

Six La Grande and Union amateur fighters went their way to the finals in the interstate boxing tournament at Boise Monday and Tuesday, according to a telegram received here today by Louis Evans.

Vic Tarter and Lowell Hutchinson, both of Union, went their way to the finals by knocking out their opponents, and Dave Tripp, Union; Leslie Sullivan, Dave Larson and Bill Zivkovich, all of La Grande, went their way to the finals by scoring decisions.

Floyd Sullivan, Tom Zupan and Oliver Hammond, all of La Grande, were eliminated.

The tournament at Boise is being managed by Les Showers and Dick Russell, who staged a tourney here some weeks ago.

UNION MAN IN JAIL PENDING HEARING HERE

Del Snowde, formerly of Baker but now living at Union, appeared in justice of peace court here yesterday, but hearing was postponed. Bond for Snowde was fixed at \$500 by Judge L. Dentman and, unable to raise the sum, the prisoner was remanded to the custody of the sheriff.

State police, who arrested Snowde on a warrant sworn to by Oliver Turner, marshal at Union, accuse Snowde of attempting to prevent the arrest of another man by Marshal Turner.

Pemberton Made Sales Supervisor For Union Oil Co.

F. W. Pemberton, for the past two years manager southern division and Los Angeles district sales, Union Oil Company, has been transferred to Seattle as divisional supervisor over all sales in Washington, Oregon and Western Idaho, according to announcement by V. H. Kelly, director of sales.

Pemberton replaces M. W. McAfee, for the past three years manager of the northern division, who goes to Los Angeles to take over the post left vacant by Pemberton's transfer to the northwest.

Testifies He Burned Postal Records



"So I took them down to the furnace and destroyed them." A disclosure that may have widespread political consequences was thus made by James Maher, a Postoffice Department clerk, when, as shown here, he testified that he was ordered to burn the official and personal files of Walter F. Brown while he was Postmaster General in the Hoover cabinet. Maher appeared at the hearing before the Senate committee which is investigating air mail contracts.

SHEEP AND WOOL OUTLOOK BRIGHT SECRETARY SAYS

Reports from Clear Lake, Cal., say thousands of fish are dying from suffocation caused by gases escaping from the bottom of the lake.

A pumpkin weighing 144 pounds was raised on the Kimble ranch near Tulare, Cal.

FIND IT HERE

Remodeling costs, suits and dresses. Children's work and fur coats a specialty. Special prices during January and February. Mrs. Pearl Maser, 1612 Sixth St., Phone 297 W. 1-17-1 m.

A new line of the latest in Ladies' Costume Rings is now being shown at Richardson's Art and Gift Shop. Also new zipper purses on special sale at 65 cents each. These in all colors. 1-16-t f.

Have you seen the New 1934 Plymouth? Price delivered from \$677.00 to \$880.00. Smith's Garage. 1-17-3 t

CONVEX PORTRAIT FRAMES A new line of Fine Frames for Convex Portraits of all sizes has just been received by Richardson's Art and Gift Shop. You can now have your pictures framed for half price with these attractive frames, at Richardson's. 1-16-t f.

PIMPLES HEALED

Skin made clearer, smoother, finer, the easy Resinol way. For free sample of Ointment and Soap write to Resinol, Dept. 62, Baltimore, Md.

Resinol

DID YOU KNOW THAT—our cleaning method removes ALL the oils and greases from felt hats? Perspiration oils do not show up again within a short time when your hat is cleaned at the Standard Laundry. 1-17-4 t.

When you need fuel Call Main 528 GAITHER ICE & FUEL CO. 1-2-1 m.

Ladies' mercerized Cotton Hose 17c pair. Children's mercerized cotton or rayon plated hose 17c and 20c. C. J. Brewer Co. 1-17-1 t.

SCHOOL CHILDREN You can get scratch paper for school at the Observer. Now 2 pads 5c. 9-14-t f.

Regular meeting La Grande Lodge No. 41 A. F. & A. M. Wed. eve., Jan. 17, 7 o'clock in M. M. degree. Refreshments. Visiting brothers welcome. By order of the Worshipful Master, VERNON R. HALE, Sec'y. 1-16-2 t.

Have you seen the New 1934 Dodge? Price delivered from \$825.00 to \$905. Smith's Garage. 1-17-3 t.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE WARRANTS CALLED School District No. 1, Union County Warrants numbers 3517 to 3656 inclusive are hereby called and will be paid when presented at the office of the District Clerk in the High School building, La Grande, Oregon. Interest ceases on and after January 17, 1934. R. O. WILLIAMS, District Clerk. 1-17-1 t.

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