

Harmony Island A Love Story

By Dick Posey

(Deferred from last issue.)

The same evening the Queen Consort rapped at my door. "You are summoned immediately to the presence of the Queen," he announced. I followed him.

She was seated on her throne and Tango sat beside her. She had never bestowed that honor upon mortal man before. I dropped into my usual position and gazed at her with adoring, reproachful eyes.

Rossalee soon appeared with the expression of a hurt child that has been robbed of its favorite toy.

The Queen beamed upon us. "My daughter, my son" (my heart leaped with a fierce joy, but I simulated despair, "I have pondered deeply the affairs of state, I have studied this adorable little creature at my side, I have viewed all matters with an unselfish and far-seeing eye, and have decided that it is best for the good of the realm that I make Bwano Tango Queen Consort.")

Rossalee assumed a look of fury. "There is such a thing as a subject's patience becoming exhausted with her sovereign. I fall to see how Tango will insure to the good of the realm more than Jackie Jones, whom you so recently considered most eligible. He is already civilized. Take him and give me back my Tango!"

"Daughter, let harmony prevail. I have spoken; it is for you to obey. One day you will reign on this throne, then there is nothing to hinder your divorcing Jacob and taking on Tango."

"Never," cried Rossalee, "could I gain the consent of my self-respect to wed one of my step-fathers."

"As you will," replied the Queen resignedly.

Then turning to me she said, not unkindly: "Jacob, it is for the good of the realm. Tear my image from your heart and try and content yourself with Rossalee."

I bowed my head in mock despair and murmured brokenly, "Thy will, O Queen, be done."

"Daughter, I will espouse Tango in marriage at four o'clock tomorrow afternoon. You will wed Jacob immediately following. And now you may leave us."

Notice of the approaching double royal function was immediately flashed throughout the length and breadth of the island. Rossalee and I sat together on the upper balcony. We had nothing to fear now as our marriage had been announced and the Queen dare not alter her decree. Love had once more smoothed our pathway and thrilled our souls with its radiant joy.

The effect of the announcement was soon manifest. Bands played, a procession of children, bearing beautiful floral offerings and singing "Long Live Our Queen and Harmony," entered the palace and marched to the throne room, where they were greeted by the Queen. Soon, as far as the eye could reach, the lights of hundreds of motor cars could be seen, all moving toward one common center, the city and the royal palace.

The streets became lined with richly gowned women, accompanied by their diminutive husbands.

Soon the palace and the grounds were crowded with the Queen's subjects. We moved to the edge of the

balcony and were greeted with a cheer. "Long live the Princess Rossalee, our future queen, and her charming little chosen one."

They emerged from the throne room, many convulsed with laughter, some bowed with shame. "She's crazy," fell from hundreds of lips. "He's an untutored savage."

"He's a monkey. I saw him scratching."

"She is no longer fit to be queen."

"She has a mania for marriage."

"Yes, she was so sour and ugly no man would look at her in the states, so she has been getting married ever since she reached the island. She's got the habit."

"She nearly got me," quavered one little old man, squinting up into his wife's face. "Don't talk," she commanded, and he subsided.

"What would the Queen think if she heard all this?" I asked.

"She cares not so long as it does not reach her ears. She and her co-originators of our rules and customs recognize woman's keen delight in gossip, and also her inability to refrain from it, so it is permitted for the sake of harmony, but it must not be practiced in the hearing of the ones ridiculed or criticized. It really harms no one and seems to give great comfort to those who indulge in it. It is one of our most cherished customs."

Many paused to exchange greetings with Rossalee. She was human, vivacious and sympathetic, and as she stood there in all the dignity that rank bestows, yet with a heart, clasping glad hands with those beneath her, my heart beat in adoration of my large, handsome, virile bride.

The clock in the tower of the great public amusement hall struck one as the last guest departed.

"Good night, my love. A few brief hours and wedded kisses will blossom on our lips. You will be my husband till death parts us and I pray God, through all eternity."

A tear smote my brow and she was gone.

A marriage on Harmony Island is a most elaborate occasion. One needs no invitation, so none is given. Everybody is there.

The ceremony took place on the great balcony. The Queen loved pomp and display and she was dressed in the most elegant taste and splendor. She had the little Hottentot rigged out in a royal robe with a train that required two servants to carry, and for the first time in the history of the island she had placed a crown upon her bridegroom's head. She doubtless wanted to hide him as much as possible.

They dressed me up in some sort of royal garb, of which I was utterly ashamed, but it made no difference, no one paid a particle of attention to me. However, I had never seen a bridegroom who did attract any attention, so I didn't feel hurt. But it was different with Tango. Every eye was focused on his little black face. They expected to see him commit some atrocious act of barbarity, but the Queen had filled him up with goat milk and clams and he was sleepy.

The divorce proceedings occupied but a moment and the divorcee, with a happy smile, stepped down and mingled with the crowd.

The ceremony was elaborate, yet no questions were asked, no promises given. The female bishop who officiated dwelt long upon harmony in all things, and solemnly dedicating them to the great cause of universal suffrage, pronounced them Queen and Consort.

At the close of the ceremony the royal pair retired into the privacy of the palace. Then all eyes, including my own, were turned upon Rossalee. Despite her hideous markings of assumed age, she was beautiful. Her finely rounded figure was draped in modest richness and the hungry eyes of every little man present devoured with envy the beauty and grace of the only attractive woman on the island.

I really felt sorry for them.

At the close of the ceremony she drew a gasp from that great gaping throng by stooping and pressing her trembling lips to my brow. Such a public show of condescension on the part of woman was unheard of.

"By the holy horn spoon, that's the first love marriage on Harmony Island!" shouted Charlie Ross, and the throng of ex-consorts joined in an applause.

They had no wives to restrain them.

"Jake, my boy," wheezed my newly acquired father-in-law in my ear, "you have a jewel in that daughter of mine. I tell you, she's human, and you escaped Samantha by a narrow squeak. She's as crazy as a loon. She'll have her hands full with that greedy little Hottentot. Well, she has lost her grip upon this people. It would be the easiest thing in the world for Rossalee to usurp the throne."

I turned reluctantly from the garrulous old man, to receive my scant share of the congratulations that

NEAREST TO EVERYTHING

Hotel Manx
San Francisco
Powell St. at O'Farrell

Oregonians Headquarters while in San Francisco

Meet me at the Manx!

moderate rates

Running distilled ice water in every room. Special attention given to ladies traveling unaccompanied. A la carte dining room.

Management of Chester W. Kelley

were heartily showered upon Rossalee.

They wished her joy untold and congratulated me that I should bask in the splendor of her glory. They admonished me to be loving and obedient, gentle and modest, and to put forth every effort for the promotion of the great cause of woman's worldwide advancement.

The men said but little, of course, but they all seemed to have taken on a look of hope. Perhaps the princess' kiss on my brow, thereby proclaiming her love and affection for me, had given them encouragement for more pleasant and lenient domestic relations, for weak humanity apes royalty.

The late consort approached me with a wry smile. "May Heaven forgive me, but I did want you to be my successor. Just for a little while, you know; it wouldn't have lasted long. I'm from Seattle and I did want to break even with Portland."

My father-in-law seemed to take a great pride and pleasure in presenting the Queen's ex-consorts to me. All eighty of them were still living and they were all there. They said nothing short of death or some dire and awful calamity should rob them of the joy of receiving a new ex-convict into their goat pasture and behold a new consort caught in the toils.

They were the only happy ones I saw. They were garnered from the four quarters of the earth, but all seemed congenial and gay. The women glared at them for their brazenness, but no one present had the authority to subdue them. Of course, I said but little. I realized that I was a married man and did not wish to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of my bride, but I resolved that, at some future time, I would take a little fling on the sly with those gay old sports.

The women saw to it that Rossalee should devote but little of her time to me in the presence of her husbands. She would reach back and press my hand occasionally and I would catch a gay twinkle from the corner of her eye once in a while.

I felt that she was really thankful for the ex-consorts on my account.

The guests tarried long and I knew that Rossalee wearied of them, but it was my first dash into Harmony society and I was interested.

(To be continued.)

Kindergarten and Private School.
Why not put your children in a first-class kindergarten this spring? If your child will be ready for school next fall, why not give him the advantage of personal attention? Prepare him for the first grade. Call at 153 Second street. Terms reasonable. 75-1mo.

NATIONAL SLOGAN SUGGESTED BY PROMINENT MEMPHIS DRUGGIST

Would Remind the Public to Prevent Sickness by Removing the Cause



T. D. BALLARD
A prominent druggist of Memphis says: "Much sickness could and would be prevented if the people would only remember that constipation is one of the first causes. As a reminder, I would suggest the slogan, 'Rexall Orderlies, the laxative tablet with the pleasant taste.' 'I suggest Rexall Orderlies as I know their formula and believe they are the best remedy for relieving constipation. They can be used by men, women or children.'"

We have the exclusive selling rights for this great laxative.
McNair Bros.
THE REXALL STORE

Election Precincts Numbers 5, 6 and 7

Election precincts Nos. 5, 6 and 7 are outlined herein for the benefit of the voters, with official registrars. Register early. To date the registration has been slow, and voters are urged to register as soon as possible.

The precincts up to No. 5 were outlined in previous issues of the Tidings.

Ashland Oak Precinct—No. 5.
Beginning at the center where the Southern Pacific railroad crosses the middle line of Water street; thence easterly along the middle line of the Southern Pacific railroad main track to the intersection of the middle line of Fourth street, extended directly northerly from the middle line of Fourth street; thence southerly along the middle line of Fourth street to its intersection of the middle line of Main street; thence west and northwesterly along the middle line of Main street to its intersection of the middle line of Water street; thence northerly along the middle line of Water street to the place of beginning.

Register at Billings' real estate office.

North Ashland Precinct—No. 6.
Beginning at the intersection of Bear creek and the west line of section 30, township 38 south, range 1 east, W. M.; thence meandering southeasterly along Bear creek to its junction with Ashland creek; thence meandering southerly along Ashland creek to its intersection with the middle line of O. & C. railroad main line; thence northwesterly along middle line of O. & C. railroad main line to its intersection with the middle line of Water street; thence southwesterly along the middle line of Water street to its intersection with the middle line of Main street; thence northwesterly along the middle line of Main street to its junction with the Pacific Highway; thence along the middle line of the Pacific Highway to its intersection with the middle line of the O. & C. railroad main line track; thence northwesterly along the middle line of said O. & C. main line track to its intersection with the W. M.; thence north along W. M. to the place of beginning.

Register at Billings' real estate office.

East Ashland Precinct, No. 7.
Beginning where Bear creek intersects the W. M. at a point near the

southwest corner of section 30, township 38 S., range 1 east, W. M.; thence north to the northwest corner of section 30, township 38 south, range 1 east, W. M.; thence east one-half mile; thence north two miles; thence west one-half mile; thence north two miles to the northwest corner, township 38 south, range 1 east, W. M.; thence east three miles; thence south three miles; thence east four miles to the northeast corner of section 19, township 38 south, range 2 east, W. M.; thence south five miles to the southeast corner of section 7, township 39 south, range 2 east, W. M.; thence directly west along the section line to the intersection with the middle line of O. & C. stage road; thence northwesterly along the middle line of said stage road until the East Main street of the city of Ashland is reached; thence following the middle line of Main street to the intersection of O. & C. railroad; thence northwesterly along the middle line of O. & C. railroad main line to the intersection of the middle line of Mountain avenue; thence south along the middle line of Mountain avenue to the intersection of B street; thence westerly along the middle line of B street to its intersection with the middle line of Eighth street; thence southerly along the middle line of Eighth street to its intersection with the middle line of C street; thence westerly along the middle line of C street to its intersection with the middle line of Fourth street; thence northerly along the middle line of Fourth street to its intersection with the middle line of the O. & C. railroad main line track; thence northwesterly along the middle line of O. & C. railroad main line track to its intersection with the middle line of Water street; thence southwesterly along the middle line of Water street to its intersection with the middle line of Main street; thence northwesterly along the middle line of Main street to its junction with the Pacific Highway; thence along the middle line of the Pacific Highway to its intersection with the middle line of the O. & C. railroad main line track; thence northwesterly along the middle line of said O. & C. main line track to its intersection with the W. M.; thence north along W. M. to the place of beginning.

& C. main line track to its intersection with the middle line of Ashland creek; thence northerly along the center of Ashland creek to the junction thereof with Bear creek; thence down Bear creek in a northwesterly direction to the place of beginning.

Register at J. A. Lemery's office, corner Main and Second streets.

Programs at the various schools Friday afternoon were held in observance of the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday.

ARE YOU USING THE GLASS OF WATER ENVELOPES in your correspondence?

These envelopes are a splendid advertisement for Ashland and they cost you no more than the plain envelope.

Do you not feel it a duty to do what you can to advertise Ashland when it costs you nothing but a little thought and effort?

TEN CENTS FOR 25 AT THE TIDINGS OFFICE.

\$2.50 IN LOTS OF 500 WITH YOUR BUSINESS CARD PRINTED ON THEM.

The Commercial Club has the Glass of Water booklets and a booklet of analyses which you can get for the asking and put one of them in each letter you write. YOU CAN HELP IF YOU WILL.

"WOOD-LARK"
TRADE MARK
SQUIRREL AND GOPHER POISON
QUICK, CERTAIN, DEADLY.

ALWAYS READY, NEVER FAILS.

Destroys squirrels, gophers, prairie dogs, sage rats. Apply early in Spring when the hungry pests awake from Winter's sleep. Money back if it ever fails. "Wood-Lark" for 25 years has stood every test. It's crop insurance against rodent pests. Manufactured by Clarke-Woodward Drug Co., Portland, Oregon. Buy from your dealer.

McNair Bros. Ashland, Oregon

SUBSCRIPTION BARGAIN

CONTINUED FOR THIS MONTH

Weekly Oregonian, regular price \$1.50
Ashland Tidings, regular price . 2.00
Regular for both . . . \$3.50

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY ONLY, BOTH ONE FULL YEAR FOR . . . \$2.50

THIS APPLIES TO OLD AND NEW SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR BOTH THE OREGONIAN AND THE TIDINGS

GET IN QUICK!

THE NECESSITY

Look at the FIRE INSURANCE question from any angle and its absolute necessity is apparent. Every argument that you can bring to bear on it only further clinches the fact that it is a

REAL NECESSITY.

Our fire insurance is the strictly safe, reliable kind, the character of insurance demanded by shrewd business men, corporation managers et al. Insurance that insures.

Reasonable rates—unquestionable security—prompt service. It is better to play safe than to take chances on the necessities of life.

BILLINGS AGENCY
Real Estate and Insurance