ALL of the WEST

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CHAPTER XXII

ot the big roan take his own . She was suddenly aware reason she did not want to alley Winters was because not love him. The rush of feelings that had almost de her control when she ley Black had been a rev- her. One thing made it r her to think of marrying That was the fact that eriously did not share her He could not possibly have cool and controlled if he her.

en, left to his own devices, short cut that led straight amp. Dona was not aware until they entered a little at the lower edge of which est log cabin. Trees shaded and made it an inviting Suddenly the girl realized was hot and thirsty. She roan to a halt at the open the cabin. Here was a get a drink.

tap of her quirt on the ding, a woman's voice an- A second later a dark-eyed girl appeared at the door. I beg a drink of water?" Miss. Will you come inside The little Spanish girl attractive and her voice ingly soft.

stepped inside and sank into offered her. The cabin had , one a kitchen and living the other a bedroom with Everything was clean and arranged. A bright shawl the image of a dancing ring a little shelf in one Dona could feel the romantic of the place and she k with a sigh.

ride far?" the Spanish girl Her wide, dark eyes were on Dona's riding boots and

so far, but I'm thirsty just ." Dona met the dark eyes that the little senorita attractive as any maid from for water. Excuse please!" bowed and vanished out of door.

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at looking curiously about. caught her eye and held a buckskin glove such as boys wear. The right glove. eyes narrowed and a queer t might have been jealousy through her heart. She re- that Stanley Black had glove on his right hand. ught herself up short. She right to criticize. He had the slightest word pledged

hostess returned with a and a glass. Dona drank and gratefully. "Thank you," ured.

Spanish girl sat down and her hands.

live here with your parents?" asked.

my father. He works for ber company." A wide smile over the features of the girl. many boys at the camp."

t is your name?" Dona asked . The glove on the floor the cot held her attention in f herself.

Trujillo." The Spanish girl Dona's eyes on the glove. blush she picked it up and on a little stand. "The hand- cowboy forgot his glove," she ly.

handsome cowboy from Blind Dona prompted.

nded. "From Blind River. The cowboys come from Blind over the hill trail."

"Do many of them come this way?"

"Not many now. Only one. Trouble come with the timber company." Rosa explained.

Dona rose. "I am very thankful for the drink and for the rest," she said smilingly.

Rosa stepped to the door with her. "You come back sometime?" she invited.

"Thanks. I don't think I'll be up in the hills much longer." Dona walked to her horse and swung into the saddle slowly.

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Dona laughed a tight little laugh as she thought back over the events of the afternoon. Some guiding hand must have held her when she was face to face with Stanley Black. He was just another cowboy who took his fun where he found it.

The roan increased his pace and broke out into the clearing above the camp. Dona resolved thet she would play the game and go through with her bargain. She would drive down to Sam Dean's and marry Dudley.

He was at the corral when she rode up. Dudley tried to look as though he had been waiting a long time for her but Malloy spoiled this by calling to him. "I just pulled the saddle off your buckskin. If you want to ride again this evening let me know and I'll run in another horse. Horses that come in after four are turned out to graze."

Dudley did not reply to this but faced Dona. "Looks as though we both overstayed a little."

Dona smiled sweetly. "You'll have to improve, Dud, or I'll take up golf."

He grinned in relief. "I have a real excuse but I was afraid it would sound phoney. I made a lot of headway today."

"I'm glad you did, but I'm afraid you'll have to give up your prowling in the hills and play domestic for a while."

They mounted the steps to the main building and Dona crossed to her father's room. Asper was sitting up and greeted her with a smile that held much of his old vigor.

"Just as I expected! You two would desert an old man."

"We'll make up for it by pestering you all day tomorrow," Dona promised.

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Dona delayed as long as possible in her room and when she came out Dudley greeted her with a flourish. He struck a grim pose. "Young lady, it is almost five o'clock. Just for that you will have to have dinner here with me!"

Dona agreed readily enough. She had suddenly discovered that she was hungry. They walked over to the dining cabin and entered. A crowd of timber men were eating noisily.

"I wonder if Dad will be able to travel tomorrow?" Dona spoke almost to herself.

What's your hurry?" Dudley countered. 'I'm getting on fine with my sleuthing and it would be a shame to keep me from showing up this bunch of roughnecks."

"I'm afraid something will happen to upset him, Dud. He's an old man and we have to think of him first."

"Well, in that light, I guess you win," Dudley grinned and began a healthy attack upon the steak.

The man who had charge of the company garage was leaving after having finished his meal. Dona beckoned him to the table. "Have my roadster at the main building in half an hour," she said. She accompanied the words with a smile.

(To Be Continued)

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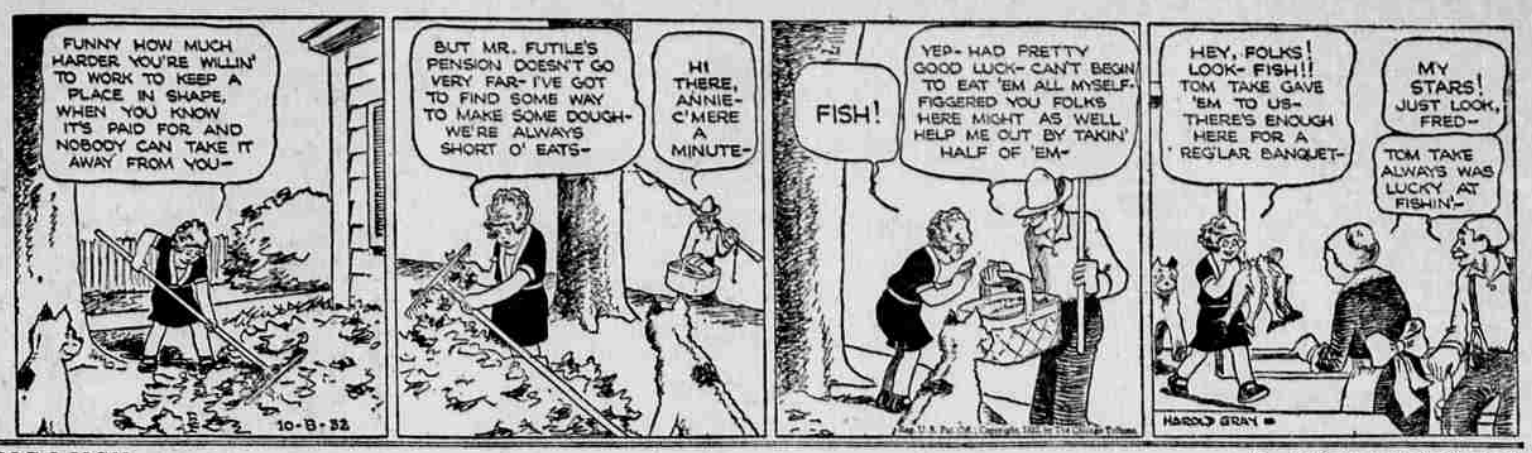

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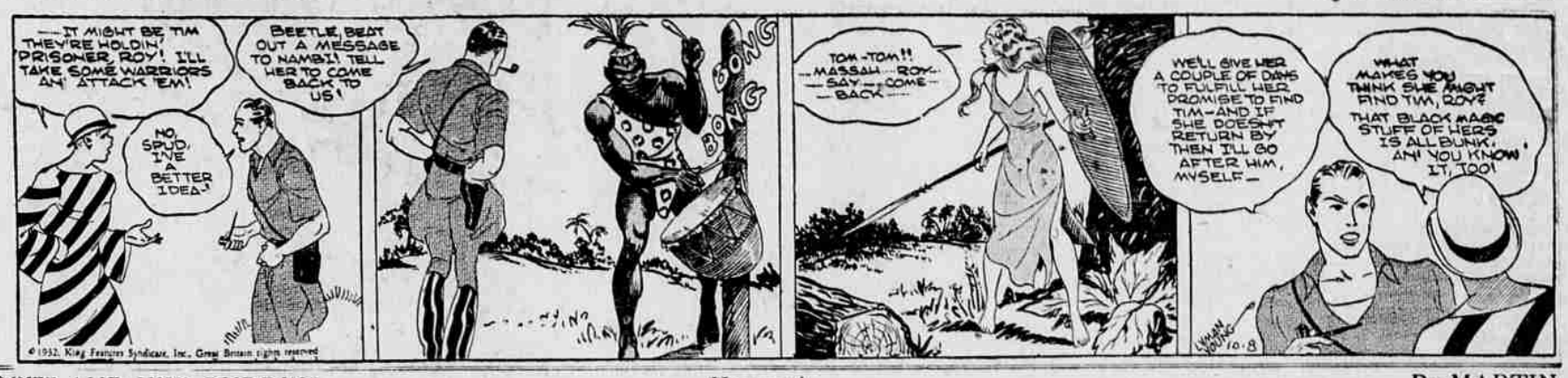

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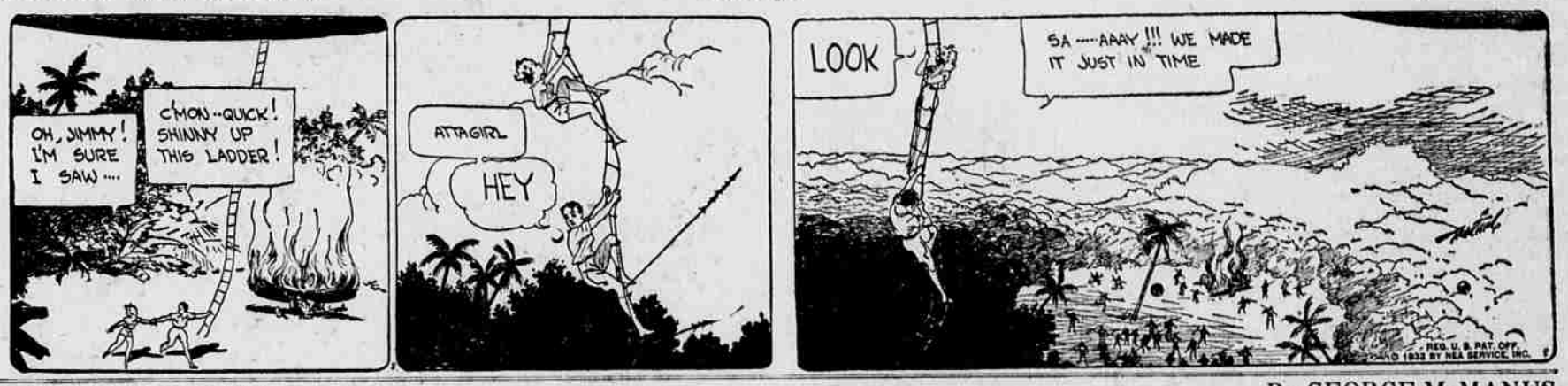

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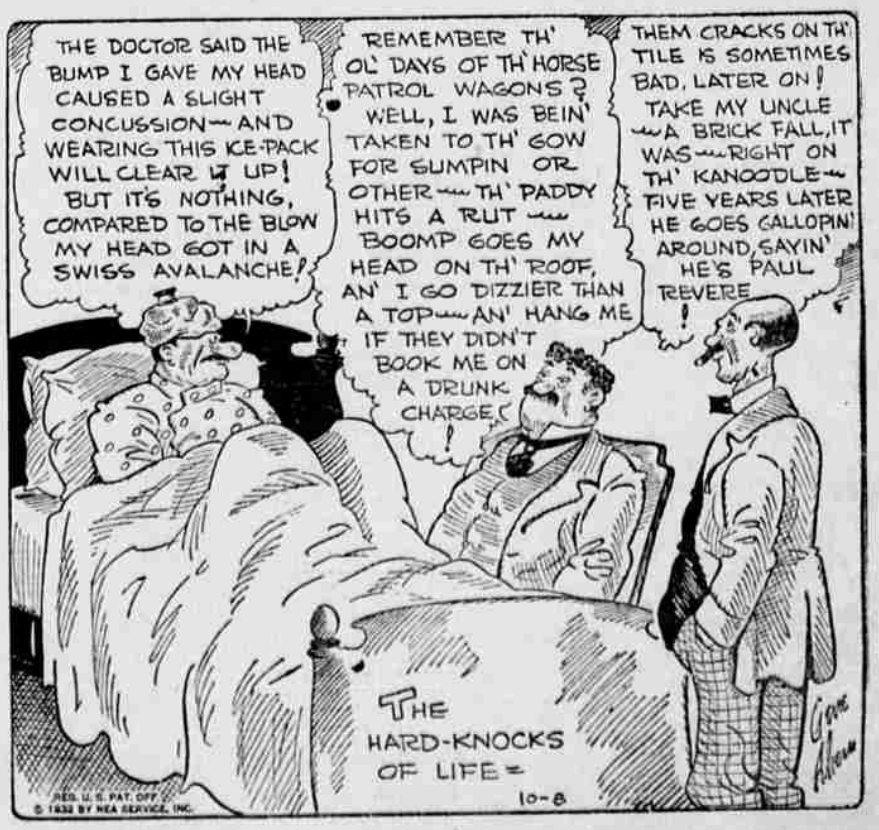
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