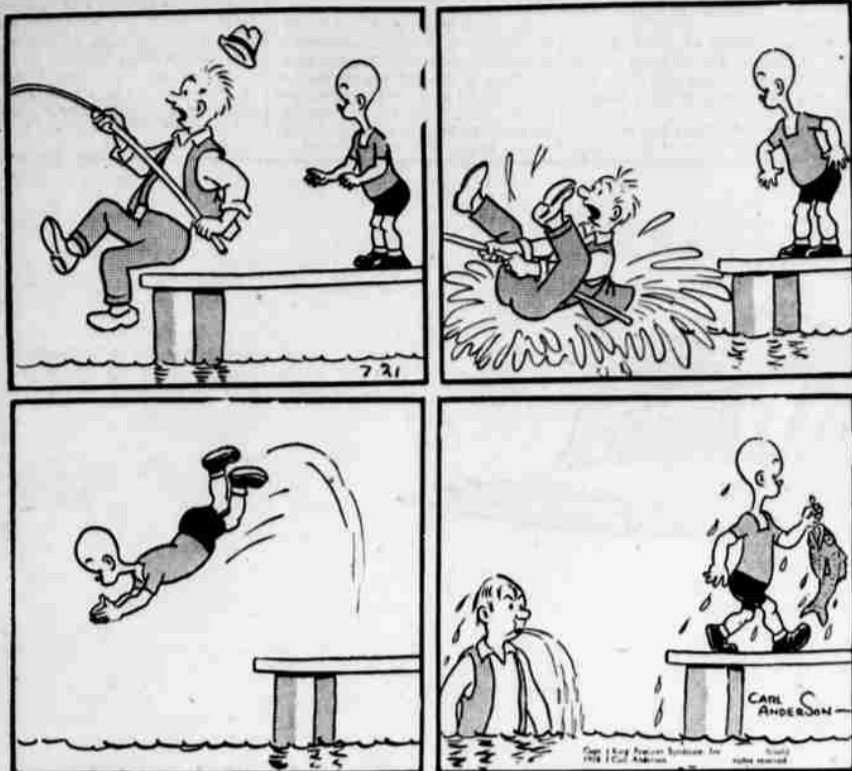


Henry By Carl Anderson



Room and Board By Gene Ahern



LOVE ON THE RANGE

Under the name of Abe Struethers, quick-fire Ankrum takes a job on the troubled Rafter F ranch to help lovely Lee Trone. Colonel Struethers and his daughter, Betty, come to visit, and Ankrum recognizes Struethers as an impostor. Kelson Dreas Dreas is shot and Betty slips Ankrum her gun, saying she did it. Rafterford, the burly sheriff, holds them all for questioning, including Claydell, a neighboring rancher. Accidentally Ankrum drops Betty's gun on the floor.

Chapter 14

Questions

In plain sight, blue and cold and grimy lay. The surprise had frozen them all to a rigid tenseness. Ankrum thought the pounding of his heart must surely shake him.

"Well!" the sheriff drawled at last. "Well! What parlor trick is this, Streeter?"

Ankrum grinned with a mirthlessness that showed the whiteness of his teeth. "Shucks," he said, "I feel downright ashamed to call that weaklin' mine."

"I shouldn't wonder." With heavy irony Rafterford stooped to pick the weapon up. Yet even as his fingers spread to grip it, Ankrum covered the pistol with his foot.

Grimly Rafterford straightened. The head on his thick neck came forward until his heavy features were within ten inches of Ankrum's. Unblinking, the smoking eyes stared balefully.

His words were low, spaced wide apart: "Where did you get that gun?"

Across Ankrum's mind came the vision of the girl from Pesto Pinto rising from the crumpled form of Kelson Dreas with one hand holding papers, a pistol in the other. This pistol!

He eyed it warily. Had the apurrious Struethers' life been snuffed with this?

He let his glance rest upon the sheriff's. "By your tone," he told him, "a man would figure it was a crime to own more'n one gun in Texas?"

"Never mind air'n your opinions. I want to know where you got this gun."

"I don't know that it's any of your business, Rafterford."

"I'm making it my business."

"Boot Hill is filled with fellas that had that habit—"

"Damn you!" Rafterford swore. "You answer my question an' answer it quick or I'll slap the bracelets on you an' take you in for this killin'!"

"What evidence you got that I downed Struethers? Law says you got to have evidence before you can arrest a man for a thing like this."

"Yeah? Well, that law don't cover you. The laws ain't made for driftrin' saddle tramps that go round stirrin' up trouble. Talk, fella—talk, or I'll take you in!"

Ankrum stood there, his eyes like tempered steel, the lean cheeks drawn taut. Trouble, he told himself, was like his shadow. He could not escape it—wherever he turned his eyes, there lay trouble waiting. To move amid scenes of turmoil seemed to be his portion. There was no escape . . . save death.

Very well, then; he was through trying. He would serve these trouble-bringers what they asked for. He would give them all they wanted from here on out; he would hurt them in their teeth.

As the sheriff's voice stopped Ankrum's right hand shrank into a hard fist. He took a forward stride as the sheriff stepped back a pace and stood. His eyes held Rafterford like a grip; they were palely blue like ice, they were baffling, mocking, hateful. "What was it you wanted, Rafterford?"

"Who hired you?"

Caution clouded the sheriff's glance. "I want to know where that gun came from."

"From the waistband of my trousers."

"Where'd you get it?"

As Ankrum was about to make answer, from the tail of his eye he caught a warning gesture. Just a tiny movement of a hand it was; a girl's hand—Lee's! Then she was not completely indifferent to him; The thought crossed his mind like light-

Little Orphan Annie

grief for her father's death might have caused.

"I—let me see," a white hand went to her forehead, rumping the golden curls; a tiny pucker grew between her thoughtful eyes. "I had just stepped out the door there. Father had asked me to meet him out beneath that pepper tree; he said he had something private which he wished to talk to me about . . . She bit her lip; her thoughts seemed far away. "I'm trying to recollect—it seems to me I had just stepped out the door and crossed the veranda. I was leaning against one of those funny posts—"

"Come, come Miss Struthers," the sheriff exclaimed impatiently. "I asked you where you were when you heard the shots. I'm not interested in the history of your movements from the time you finished supper."

Upon the big sheriff the girl from Pesto Pinto turned wide blue eyes in which there shone the hurt expression of a child who has been unjustly reproved. "But Mr. Rafterford, that is what I am trying to tell you. I had stepped out the veranda when I heard two sharp reports—"

"Then you did not see the gun-flash?" the sheriff growled. "You couldn't say from which direction the reports came?"

The girl shook her head. "I'm afraid not. I was looking—"

"Yeah," Rafterford cut her off. He swung round upon Lee Trone. "Lee," his eyes were on hers probingly, "what were you doing under the pepper tree when Colonel Struthers got shot?"

More bad news for the Rafter T. Monday.

Pupils Given Picnic

Turner—Miss Betty Peetz, regarding the accomplishments of her first year music students, held a picnic at Paradise Island. Those enjoying the picnic were Jennie Glasse, Coleen Boyer, Carol Standley, Shirley Baker and Marjorie Showers. Doreen Boyer could not attend on account of illness.

Lodge Has Picnic

Turner—Members of the Odd Fellows lodge joined the Rebekahs in a social meeting. Bert Kay secretary acted as master of ceremonies. The Odd Fellows has recently joined the Rebekahs.



Reg'lar Fellers



Good Work



The Gumps



Just a Matrimonial Misfit



Tailspin Tommy



Tommy Breaks the Bad News!



Mutt and Jeff



You Couldn't Have Blamed Jeff If He'd Been Pickled But He Hadn't Had a Thing



Radio Programs

- 4:00—Desire for Dancing, NRC.
4:15—Sports by Bill Mork.
4:30—Aviation News, NRC.
4:35—Musical Interlude.
5:00—Songs of the Lone Star, NRC.
5:15—Hollywood Extravaganza.
7:30—On Wings of Melody, NRC.
8:00—Oregonian News.
8:15—Biltmore Orchestra, NRC.
8:30—Ball Tabaris Orchestra, NRC.
8:35—Oregonian News.
11:15—Charles Runyan, NRC.
11:25—Lonesome Club Orchestra.
12:15—Complete Weather and Police Reports.
KEX—1198 Kilowatts
Saturday A. M.
4:30—Musical Clock.
7:00—Yauchon De Leah, NRC.
7:15—Radio City Four, NRC.
7:30—Our Barn, NRC.
7:35—Market Quotations.
8:00—Dr. Brock.
8:15—National Farm and Home, NRC.
8:30—Mrs. M. Lamond, Betty Talk.
9:45—Hotel Lexington Orchestra, NRC.
10:05—Hax Maspin Orchestra, NRC.
10:25—Oregonian News.
10:45—Oregonian Band Orchestra.
11:05—Jean Ellington, NRC.
11:15—Kidoodlers, NRC.
11:30—Your Radio Review.
11:45—Retrospect with Ricardo, NRC.
12:00—Club Matinee.
12:30—Oregonian News.
12:45—Market Reports.
12:50—Dance Hour.
1:00—Trio Time, NRC.
1:30—Syracuse Orchestra, NRC.
2:00—Leon and Eddie's Orch., NRC.
2:30—Press Radio News.
2:35—Edison Orchestra, NRC.
2:45—Baseball.
KOK—846 Kilowatts
Friday P. M.
3:00—Ray Heatherton, Sonora, CBS.
3:10—Dancing Talk.
4:00—Backgrounding the News.
4:15—Don F. Drews, Organist.
4:30—Hospitality House.
4:45—Hokey Carter, CBS.
5:00—Hollywood Showcast, CBS.
5:15—Soloman Band Concert, CBS.
6:30—Orchestra, CBS.
6:45—American Viewpoints, CBS.
7:00—Russe, Orchestra, CBS.
7:30—Jack Crawford, Orchestra, CBS.
8:00—Tommy Dorsey, Orchestra, CBS.
8:20—Fishing Bulletin.
8:45—The Little Show.
9:00—Jimmy Walsh, Orchestra.
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2:30—Press Radio News.
2:35—Edison Orchestra, NRC.
2:45—Baseball.
KEX—1198 Kilowatts
Friday P. M.
3:00—Down History Lane.
3:15—Music to My Hobby, NRC.
3:30—Doin' Places, NRC.
3:45—Three Felas, NRC.
4:00—University Town Meeting, NRC.
4:30—Eddie Swarthout's Music, NRC.
4:50—Armand Girard, NRC.
4:55—Government at Your Service, NRC.