

Only the Brave

By PAUL EVAN LEHMAN

Chapter 25

Jeff opened his eyes and blinked. He pushed himself up on his elbow only to fall back with a groan of pain. His head was splitting. Then memory returned and he groaned again; and the agony this time was mental rather than physical.

Glenn! Glenn, the boy he had sworn by the memory of his dead mother to guard and cherish and help, had stolen the gold. Glenn, it was Glenn who had followed them, knowing approximately where they would camp and in what condition he would find them.

Jeff rolled over, getting his hands beneath him. He started to push himself erect only to be arrested by the fact that his hands were not his own. They were the hands of one who had stolen the gold and ridden the horse with the broken calk. And the man who rode that horse had killed John Stover!

Shakily he got to his feet and went over to where Glenn's horse had stood. He struck a match and by its light examined the prints in the soft earth. They were quite distinct and perfect in every detail. There was no broken calk.

He felt an instant great relief. Glenn was not a murderer; no matter what else he had done, he had not killed. A new theory began to form in his mind. Glenn and Slug had worked together in the gold. Glenn had planned it and had left its execution to the bolder and more experienced Slug. Glenn had doped the coffee, but Slug had doped the coffee, too, while they slept. He had dumped the box in the creek, ditched the wagon, then gone on to the rocky flat where Glenn had met him, assured by Slug that the gold was safe, Glenn had circled the Cougar trail and himself had awakened Jeff and called his attention to the gold. That had all been completely.

This was the only logical explanation that Jeff could find, and although it absolved Glenn of the greater crime of murder, the bitter fact remained that the boy he had helped rear and support and for whom he had made so many uncomplaining sacrifices had repaid his trust and confidences by this stab in the back.

Jeff walked over to the box and picked up the hacksaw blade Glenn had dropped. He turned it over in his hands. Glenn had driven Glenn to this, greed and, indirectly, love. He wanted to believe he was proud and did not want to go to Connie empty handed.

Connie! How would this hit her? If she loved Glenn as the boy had given Jeff reason to believe, it would break her heart. "Get 'em up, you!"

Jeff stiffened. The voice came from behind him. He turned and at once he knew he hadn't a chance. His gun was lying somewhere on the ground. He dropped the blade and slowly raised his hands. He heard the tramp of approaching feet, then a hand felt his empty holster, and ran lightly over the rest of him in search of weapons. He felt steel on his wrists. The handcuffs snapped shut with a click. "Now turn around and let's have a look at you."

Jeff turned and looked into his face.

Bill was so startled that he took a backward step.

"So you're the bird that swiped the gold? I said it was an inside job. Hey, Ed! Hurry down here and see what I got!"

Ed Wadler returned leading Jeff's horse. "Holy cow!" he cried. "The boss, Jeff Tyler."

"And now," said Jeff coldly, "since you've had your little joke, you might unlock these cuffs and give me back my gun."

It didn't work.

"I might," answered Bill grimly, "after you've explained the meaning of all this."

"It's plain enough, isn't it? I had a hunch the box had been cached in the creek and—"

He broke off abruptly, recognizing the trap into which he had almost walked.

Bill picked him up. "And so you waded into the creek and fished it out, and you did it with out gettin' wet. Or did you use a fishin' pole?"

Jeff didn't answer, and Bill went on. "And after you fished it out, you just couldn't believe it was the same box, and even if it was still locked you couldn't be sure the gold was still in it. So you got a

UH—STRANGER IN LINCOLN CITY, MAYBE.../

DON'T BE TOUCHY! I REKANNIZED THAT "GRADUATION DAY" SUIT, ON ACCOUNT OF I'VE PATRONIZED THE SAME TAILOR—SO I FIGGERED YOU MIGHT BE LOOKIN' FOR A CONNECTION...

MY BOSS COULD USE A GOOD MAN—COLLECTIN' FROM DEALERS THAT SELL NUMBERS—#40-A-WEEK GUARANTEED!

HEY! WHAT TH'?

NOW GET THIS, BUD—IF YOU DON'T WANTA GO AROUND WEARING A FACE FULL OF KNUCKLE PRINTS, DON'T OFFER A CRUMMY JOB LIKE THAT TO THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHER WHO EVER BLEW INTO THIS BURG!

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BUT THEY'VE CALLED OUT TH' ARMY—THEY'VE JUST MOVED IN AND GRABBED TH' WHOLE WORKS...

ER—THEY SAY IT'S BECAUSE OF THE QUESTION OF TAXES...

TAXES? HOW MUCH TAXES? IF WE OWE TAXES ON DOUGH WE EARN, WELL, WELL, WE'LL PAY TH' TAXES—HOW MUCH?

THEY DON'T KNOW—THE LAWS ARE VERY VAGUE ON ANYTHING OF THIS KIND...

SO THEY JUST GRAB TH' WHOLE THING, EH?

WELL, NOT EXACTLY—IT SEEMS A TAX LIEN IS INVOLVED...

LOOKIT ALL THE PEOPLE! WHAT D'YA POSSE THAT GRAY WIFE DOING?

WELL, AMBY WILBUR TOLD YOU HE'D DOUBLE THE VALUE OF HIS PROPERTY AND HE'S KEEPING HIS WORD.

HE RENTED THE EXCAVATOR AND IS GOING TO BUILD A HOUSE ALL BY HIMSELF!

YOUR HAPPINESS AT NOT TURNING TO STONE, SHOWS WHAT A SELFISH CUR YOU ARE!—THINK OF ME! IF THERE'S NO STATUE ATOP THE BUILDING TOMORROW MORNING—I'LL BE RUINED!

—AND THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING—THE KINDEST BILLIONAIRE YOU EVER MET—HE'LL BE HEART-BROKEN!

—AND MILLIONS OF SIMPLE INNOCENT NEW YORKERS WHO'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THAT STATUE ATOP THE BUILDING—THEY'LL BE HURT—DEEPLY HURT!

—ARE YOU WILLING TO DISAPPOINT ALL THOSE PEOPLE—SINCE YOU WANT TO LIVE?—

YASSUH!—

—AH—IS WILLIN' (S08.7) GOO'BYE!

SO YOU'RE MINDING BABIES, EHP? WHAT'RE THEIR NAMES? I DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY SAY!

CUTE! I LOVE BABIES! YEH, I DO TOO! ESPECIALLY THOSE BORN ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO!

YOU SAY THIS WOMAN HAD TRIPLETS ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO? YEH! AND NOW SHE'S GOT TWINS!

THREE WEEKS LATER—TWINS? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO IT AIN'T!

I LOST ONE OF THE TRIPLETS!

HOW 'BOUT IT, MARKLE? DID HE AGREE TO SELL? IS IT SETTLED?

SH-H-H! WATCH WHAT YOU SAY! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW ME!

RELAX! BLAND'S TALKING TO THE BLAKE GIRL, AND THE OTHERS HAVE GONE. NOW TELL ME, WHAT GOES?

I FOUND THOSE HORSES TIED AT THE CAVE ENTRANCE AND TURNED THEM LOOSE. DOGGONED IF THEY DON'T COME BACK, JUST AS PALMER WAS ABOUT TO SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE!

DO YOU THINK THOSE KIDS SAW ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS IN THE CAVE? I DON'T THINK THEY WERE EVEN IN THE CAVE. DON'T WORRY, I'LL STICK AROUND AND FINISH THE DEAL WHEN PALMER GETS BACK.

Decorate With Dogwood—It's fun, easy and inexpensive to make your own! Decorate your paper flowers give your home year-round color and beauty and last a long time. The beautiful dogwood blossoms illustrated were made of pale pink and white paper, each separate petal twisted to a natural bare branch.

Pattern Envelope No. R2844 contains step-by-step instructions for making flowers, leaves and stems, material requirements and illustrations.

To obtain the pattern send 20c in coins giving pattern number, your name, address and some number to Peggy Roberts, Capital Journal, 828 Mission Street, San Francisco 3, Calif.

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RADIO PROGRAMS

Time	KLSM 1280 AM	THURSDAY	KOCO 1450 KC	KOIN 870 CBS
5:00	Fulton Lewis, Jr. News	Woman's Secret News	Rhythm Ranch News	Curt Massey Little Show
5:30	Frank Hemlingway News	Sunny Side News	Rhine Ranch News	Columbia Feature
6:00	B-Bar-B Ranch News	String Serenade	String Serenade	Knox Manning Columbia Feature
6:30	Adv. of Champ. News	Musical Cocktails	Musical Cocktails	Chris Huntley Crime Photo.
7:00	Gabriel Heatter News	Nelson Eddy	Pat O'Brien	Suspense
7:30	Northwest News	Nelson Eddy	Time Time	Suspense
8:00	West Coast News	Dorothy Lamour	Top Band	Crime Photos
8:30	Medicine Drama	Fred Waring	Here's to Vets	First Nighter
9:00	Music House	Fred Waring	Time Was	First Nighter
9:30	Morgan Manner	TBA	Guest Star	Tell It Again
10:00	Hop Along Casidy	Supper Club	Guest Star	Tell It Again
10:30	Hop Along Casidy	News of World	Guest Star	Tell It Again
11:00	Coast Survey	T B A	Guest Star	Tell It Again
11:30	Coast Survey	T B A	Guest Star	Tell It Again
12:00	Select Local News	News	Guest Star	Tell It Again
12:30	News	News	Guest Star	Tell It Again
1:00	Fulton Lewis, Jr. News	Sam Hayes	Guest Star	Tell It Again
1:30	Bob Fosse Show	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
2:00	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
2:30	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
3:00	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
3:30	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
4:00	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again
4:30	Music	Wax Museum	Guest Star	Tell It Again

FRIDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

Time	KLSM 1280 AM	KOCO 1450 KC	KOIN 870 CBS
6:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
6:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
7:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
7:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
8:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
8:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
9:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
9:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
10:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
10:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
11:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
11:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
12:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
12:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
1:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
1:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
2:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
2:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
3:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
3:30	News	Hodge Podge	News
4:00	News	Hodge Podge	News
4:30	News	Hodge Podge	News

DIAL LISTINGS: KEX 1190; KOAC, 850

KEX Thursday P.M.—8:00, Squirt (10:00); 8:30, 500 Sports Club; 9:00, News; 9:15, Dinner; 9:30, Round the Campfire; 10:00, Evening News; 10:30, Artistry in Classics; 11:00, News; 11:30, Lorena; 11:45, Forecast; 12:00, Music That Endures; 12:15, Lift Up Thy Voice; 12:30, Excursion in Science; 12:45, Serenade; 1:00, News; 1:15, Sign Off.

KOAC Friday A.M. to 4:45 P.M.—10:00, The News; 10:15, K-petally for Women; 11:00, The Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Ride 'em Cowboys; 1:15, Variety; 1:30, Melody Lane; 2:00, Cavalcade in Drama; 2:15, Memory Book of Music; 2:30, News; 3:00, Surprise Package; 3:15, Bride and Groom; 4:00, Welcome Travelers; 4:30, Art Linkletter.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS: 1. Store in a silo; 2. Gruffy; 3. Reticule; 4. Toward; 5. The initiative; 6. Machine for something; 7. Cut; 8. Duck; 9. Midwestern; 10. Meadow; 11. Little pieces; 12. Command; 13. Fish; 14. Country road; 15. Rage; 16. Cook; 17. Despot.

DOWN: 1. Kind of tree; 2. Use of new words; 3. Cut with a hooked tool; 4. Notion; 5. Was first; 6. Syllable of hesitation; 7. Petty malice; 8. Liquors; 9. Black liquid; 10. At home; 11. Forgive; 12. Went away; 13. Small horse; 14. Go swiftly; 15. Gnome of the boat; 16. Movable bed; 17. Crescent-shaped figure; 18. Emblem; 19. Agricultural establishment; 20. Supplication; 21. Highway; 22. Sister; 23. Age; 24. Ran away; 25. Veranda; 26. Color; 27. Sumptuous; 28. Repeat; 29. Device for stopping motion; 30. Swiss herdsman; 31. Seasons; 32. Bird eggs; 33. Roman bronze; 34. Color; 35. Biblical character; 36. Mother.

ROOM AND BOARD

By Gene Ahern

TH' JUDGE HIT OIL SAND TO SELL HIS CORING GADGETS, WHEN HE GOT TH' IDEA OF CORING THRU A POTATO, THEN PACKING A WIENER IN IT TO PRODUCE TH' BAKED "WEEBEE-PO'". HE TELLS TH' RECIPE TO EACH HOUSEWIFE AND HAS ALREADY SOLD HALF HIS STOCK OF TH' THOUSAND CORING GIANNICKS!

THE "WEEBEE-PO" IS GOOD-TASTING, TOO!—OF COURSE, WHOSE HOUSEWIFE ON BUYING A CORER ISN'T PREPARED A SIMPLE QUICKIE MEAL!

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Wrigley's Spearmint Chewing Gum

HEALTHFUL—REFRESHING—DELICIOUS

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