

Only the Brave

By PAUL EYAN LEHMAN

(Chapter 25)

It was Connie who spoke, and she sounded very tired. "Jeff, I have to go to the store. I must know how you're getting on. I'll be back before you know it. I'll be back before you know it. I'll be back before you know it."

"Who—was it?" He dragged out the words by sheer strength of will.

"Glenn."

He stood rigid, stunned.

"Yes, right?" came Pacheco's shrill voice. "These men Gleason and Pacheco are good for nothing. You'll have to take care of them. You'll have to take care of them. You'll have to take care of them."

"So I find means for to do these things, but the Senator Gale he's refuse to buy the cows. Den you come on in the house and make you find the cows, and these men try to drive you over the cliff. Den they put the cows back on the range and when Gleason don't like the cows he's put them on the range and when Gleason don't like the cows he's put them on the range. He do these things for no other would get for them. He's the much bad horse. I'm betcha my boots."

"Glenn!"

Jeff said it through stiff lips. He took a step backwards and felt with one hand for the wall. His face was haggard. The glow of the floor, and if Slugg had got up and walked from the room he would have made no move to restrain him. But Slugg sat where he was, his steady gaze on Jeff's agonized face as though to read what was passing in Tyler's mind. He glanced over at Connie, and then back at Jeff; then he cleared his throat, got up slowly and, walked to Jeff, put an unexpectedly friendly hand on his shoulder.

"Look here, Slugg, don't take it so hard. There's no reason why you should. The man's a louse."

Jeff looked at him dully. "Why shouldn't I take it hard? I helped back that boy's father, and him an innocent man. Right there I wrecked Glenn Gleason's life. And, like a fool, I thought I could make it up to him. I thought I could make it up to him. I thought I could make it up to him."

"You wrecked nobody's life. The boy had it in him. Dress a stunk in silk and sprinkle him with perfume and you've still got a stunk. I'm going to tell you something. Take a good look at me. You knew me once, fourteen years ago, at Dutchman's Gulch. But under nothing Gleason's name. Jeff jerked his head up and stared at him, and suddenly recognition came.

"You—you're Ben Short! Ben Short, the main! You're the man who told us Doug Gleason was innocent!"

"Yeah. Know why? Because Doug was hittin' gold from car mines and handin' me a cut out of each haul. When your father got up his vigilantes it made me sore. It promised to hurt my business. I rode after the gang that was chasin' Doug, and him and him told me Doug tried to explain where he was and you wouldn't listen to him. I saw my chance to bust that vigilante bunch right there. So I nabbed Doug, and he was with me when that miner was knifed and that you'd hanged an innocent man. Well, I had Doug Gleason as guilty as hell. He got what was comin' to him. Your oath was given under false pretenses; it ain't bindin' on you and never was. And Glenn Gleason's a natural born killer. Just like his father was before him."

Slugg clapped him awkwardly on the shoulder and went back to his chair.

"You hear, Jeff? You understand? You owe nothing to Glenn Gleason—nothing at all! It's he who owes you; owes you for all these years of heartbreak and worry and sacrifice. He's a murderer, Jeff, twice over. And he stole the gold, didn't he?"

Jeff nodded dully.

"Yes, I caught him when he sawed the haap through. He knocked me out and—"

"And Dad? Glenn drove him to his grave. Drove him there with his axe and remorse. He killed

Dad just as sure as he killed Sam Tolson and John Stover. I might forgive him what he did to me, but never for what he did to Dad."

He turned swiftly to the door, thinking of Slugg only when he reached for the bar. He wheeled to face them.

"Face them? You are a thief and a killer of your own confession; but maybe you did shoot Grubb in what you thought was self-defense and maybe you only intended to choke Pete into unconsciousness. I'm leaving the law to deal with you for that, if they ever catch you. But one thing I owe you, I bragged you with the murders of Tolson and Stover and I'm going to clear you."

He went out then, and Connie ran after him. Slugg and Mike exchanged long glances, then the latter raised his shoulders in the inevitable shrug.

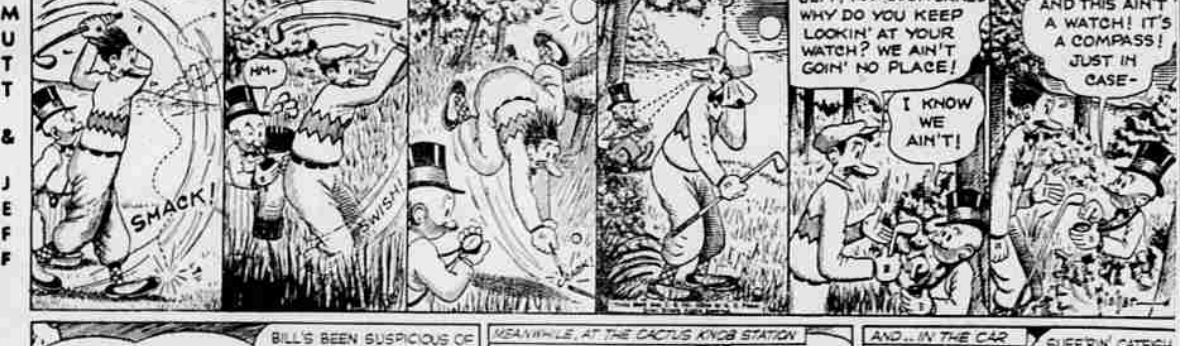
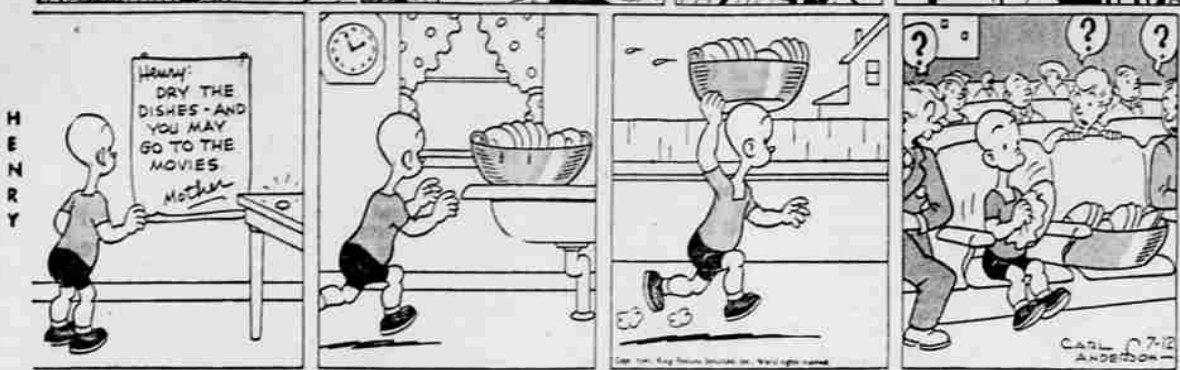
"I'm thinkin' we'd better go, no?" Slugg went over to the bar and got his gun. He examined it briefly, slipped it into his holster.

"Go? Not just yet, Mike. Me. I come to Connor to do a little chore and I ain't done it yet."

Mike nodded. "Soon they find Senator Tyler see some; there there see what you call all to pay?"

"Slugg me clear down to the house," said Slugg, and went out into the dark alley.

(To Be Continued)



RADIO PROGRAMS

TUESDAY—P.M.

KSLM	KGW	KOCO	KOIN
5:00 Patsy Lewis Jr. Frank Sinatra News	5:00 Women's Secret News Richard Markness	5:00 Rhythm Ranch Rhythm Ranch Sports Page	5:00 Curt Kasey Little Show Sooz of Prairie Larry Leber
6:00 B-Bar Brand Musical Cocktail	6:00 Musical Cocktail Me and Janie	6:00 Candorith and Silver Isaac Walton	6:00 Knox Manning Bands on Parade Chet Hunter News
7:00 Gahrif Heater Variety News	7:00 Martin & Lewis King's Men	7:00 Handstand Duvolet Depp Baseball	7:00 Lynn Cole Bob Young Show It Pays to be Ignorant
8:00 Medicine Drama Riders in the Sky	8:00 Riders in the Sky	8:00 Baseball Hill the Jackpot Hill the Jackpot Orchestra Dress Parade	8:00 World Tonight Orchestra Mr. & Mrs. North Mr. & Mrs. North
9:00 Monte Croce Monte Croce	9:00 Monte Croce	9:00 Baseball Five Star Final Mystery Theatre	9:00 Five Star Final Mystery Theatre
10:00 News Local News	10:00 News Local News	10:00 News Local News	10:00 News Local News
11:00 Patsy Lewis Jr. Bob Fosse Show	11:00 Patsy Lewis Jr. Bob Fosse Show	11:00 Patsy Lewis Jr. Bob Fosse Show	11:00 Patsy Lewis Jr. Bob Fosse Show

WEDNESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

6:00 News Patrol	6:00 News Patrol	6:00 News Patrol	6:00 News Patrol
7:00 Dawn Patrol	7:00 Dawn Patrol	7:00 Dawn Patrol	7:00 Dawn Patrol
8:00 News Patrol	8:00 News Patrol	8:00 News Patrol	8:00 News Patrol
9:00 News Patrol	9:00 News Patrol	9:00 News Patrol	9:00 News Patrol
10:00 News Patrol	10:00 News Patrol	10:00 News Patrol	10:00 News Patrol
11:00 News Patrol	11:00 News Patrol	11:00 News Patrol	11:00 News Patrol
12:00 News Patrol	12:00 News Patrol	12:00 News Patrol	12:00 News Patrol

DIAL LISTINGS: KEX, 1190; KOAC, 550

KEX Tuesday, 7:30, Johnny Lujack; 8:00, Keep in; 8:30, John Sports; 9:15, Home Edition; 9:30, Modern Romance; 1:00, Edwin C. Hill; 1:15, Robert Davy; 1:30, The People; 7:45, Music by Berra; 8:00, Counters; 8:30, Town Meeting; 9:30, Monitor News; 9:45, Back Advertiser; 10:00, Richfield Reporter; 10:15, Intermex; 10:30, Concert Hour; 11:30, Sports Tomorrow; 11:50, Xtra Hour; 1:00, Sign

KOAC Tuesday, 7:30, On the Street; 8:00, News; 8:15, Dinner Melodrama; 8:30, Round the Campfire; 9:15, Evening Farm Hour; 9:30, Artistry in Classics; 9:30, Great Stars; 9:45, Loewers' Fire Weather Forecast; 9:50, Music That Endures; 9:45, Lift Up Thy Voice; 10:30, Excursions in Science; 10:45, Serenade; 10:45, News; 11:00, Sign Off.



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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS: 1. Diver; 2. Ship channel; 3. Short for a; 4. Ready to counteract; 5. Top cards; 6. Tranquility; 7. Demon; 8. At no time; 9. Higher; 10. American Indian; 11. Beverage.

DOWN: 1. Spring; 2. Wine; 3. Student; 4. Make believe; 5. Before; 6. Riddles; 7. A common situation; 8. Egg-shaped; 9. Story; 10. Appointment; 11. Chum; 12. Kind of love; 13. Intact; 14. Watch secretly; 15. Let.

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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ROOM AND BOARD

By Gene Aherr

TH' EARL SAYS YOU SOLD 600 COBBLERS AT 75¢ EACH! AM—YOU'VE MADE AN— 600 TIMES 75¢ IS—SM—M— SA—M— AND FIVE— \$ 450! —SA—Y— YOU'RE UP TO YOUR SECOND CHIN IN CLOVER! —YES, SIR, THAT'S A BUMPER CROP!

UM—I KNOW WHAT'S COMING— HE'S GETTING HIS STACHE TO THROW THE LOAN HARPOON AT ME— BUT I'LL DEFLECT IT RIGHT NOW!

