

# DOUBLE TROUBLE

By WILLIAM HOBSON

(Chapter 7)

Jay Allison stepped across the dirt floor and pushed aside the dirty blanket that covered the opening. It took almost a second look to recognize the bandaged figure as Joe. Jay felt sick at the sight of his brother.

"Joe?" Jay Allison said softly and shook the arm gently. "Joe, wake up. It's me."

Joe Allison opened his eyes and a groan came from him.

"Good to see you, old-timer," he whispered. "So you got here?" Jay nodded. "I got in this evening. I ran into—uh—Mike Randall in the Ford Hotel."

"Did you see Ellen?" asked Joe.

Jay nodded. "They're in town to pick up some eastern family coming in on the train tomorrow."

A new light came into the pain-stricken eyes.

"Ain't she a dream, Jay? What did she do when she saw you? There wasn't any use in lying about it. Jay told him. "Well," he said, grinning ruefully, "she sort of grabbed me and kissed me and then figured I'd certainly changed a lot during the month while I was down home."

"That's Ellen, and she's my baby," came in a half-laugh from the bandaged man. "Jay, there's nobody in all this world like her. I just lost my head and got sore at Mike because he didn't like the way I do things."

"I know. He laid down the law. I made a whole of a stupid mistake, Jay. But everything is all right now. You take over for me until I get well. When I'm able to ride again I'm stepping right back in my own boots and taking over where you left off. And I'll fill 'em, too; you wait and see."

"You'd better," Joe's brother said. "She's too fine a girl to be let down."

He didn't tell his twin brother the rest of it: that Joe was a prisoner, held hostage on pain of death unless Jay obeyed the orders of Morden and Swinerton.

"This place's like a pig pen. You haven't had much care."

He heated water on the stove, a big pan of it, and went to work. He shaved, put on his coat, and he stripped the blankets from the bed and took them out to air. By the time Joe was back in the aired-out blankets and asleep again, the riders were moving out. One man was to remain behind to look after Joe Allison.

Swinerton yawned and stretched. "I'm turning in, Jay. You'd better do the same. Lot of riding to do tomorrow."

The man who was to look after Joe was already sound asleep in a corner bunk. Jay removed chaps and spurs and pulled off his boots.

He rolled out early from force of habit and built a fire in the stove. By the time Swinerton and the member of Brad Morden's horse thief crew came alive Jay had breakfast ready. He fed Joe first and then ate and went out and saddled up his horse.

"You leaving so soon?" Joe asked. Jay nodded. "I've got a long ride ahead of me. I want you to tell me how to get to the ranch, what it looks like, everything about your job. Tell me everything you think I ought to know. Just remember, Joe: one slip-up on my part and your whole house of corn-cobs is going to come tumbling down around your ears. Hell, I hate you for the rest of your life."

"Boy, them's the best words I ever heard," Joe Allison grinned. He talked at length, and after a time Jay bid him good-bye and went out to his horse. He swung up and looked down at Swinerton in his eyes cold. "I'm playing the game you way on account of my brother Swinerton but what I told Brad Morden holds good for you, too. If anything happens to Joe while I'm gone, heaven help you!"

He was in no particular hurry. Just the opposite in fact. Just ahead was the ordeal of coming to the ranch and getting another horse to ride on to the line camp. He hoped fervently that the Band would not yet have arrived from town with their eastern visitors.

But about two-thirty he saw his hopes doomed to disappointment. He had come out on top of a ridge where a wide swale some four miles across ran due north, and down

in the middle of it he saw the rig in his role of Joe Allison it wouldn't look good to be ducking away.

He jogged in alongside the rig. Randall was driving the surrey, with a handsome young man and an older man up front with him. In the rear seat were Mrs. Randall, a strange woman, a young girl, and Ellen, who waved gaily as "Joe" jogged in alongside. Mike Randall pulled the rig to a stop. Jay lounged in the saddle.

"So you made it all right," the rancher observed, and rolled a smoke.

Mike Randall shifted the lines and said, "Well, we'd better be getting on to the ranch. Want to get these folks installed before their baggage comes out this evening. You going on to the line camp tonight or making an early start in the morning?"

"Tonight, I expect, I—" "You will not!" Ellen cut in indignantly. "I haven't seen you in a month, and when I do I get a chance to talk five minutes. You can get up early in the morning just as well."

Jay grinned and said, "We'll see."

They drove on and he jogged up and presently left them behind. He put his horse into a lope and went on. He rode up to a big horse corral. Jay swung down and led the horse inside.

He carried his rifle over to the bunkhouse. It was deserted, and he was glad of that. He prowled each bunk until he came to one with some letters stuffed under a pillow. They were from his mother to Joe. He laid the rifle on it, removed his chaps, and lay down to smoke.

(To Be Continued)



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**R 2867**

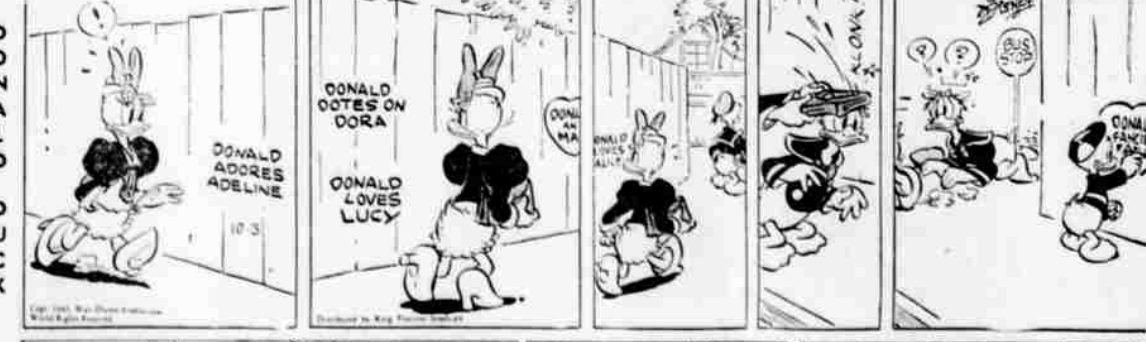
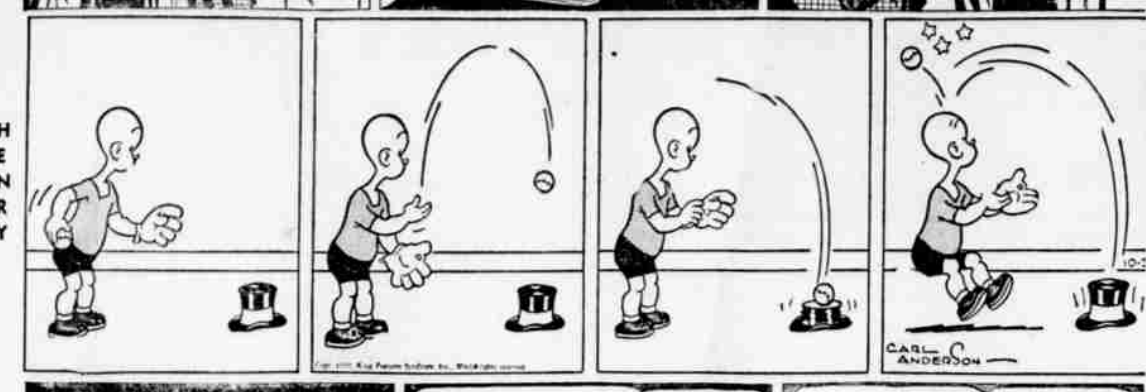
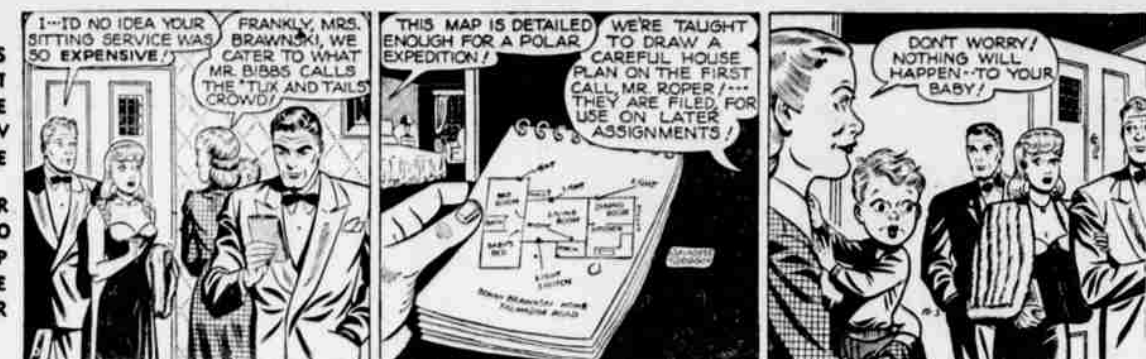
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5:00 On Menagerie 5:15 News 5:30 Voice of Fiction 6:00 Musical Salutes 6:15 Musical Salutes 6:30 T. B. A.	5:00 Knox Manning Little Show 5:15 Musical Theatre 5:30 Radio Theatre 6:00 Radio Theatre 6:15 Radio Theatre 6:30 Radio Theatre	5:00 Challenge of Yakkon 5:15 Star King 5:30 Star King 6:00 Headlines Edition 6:15 Home Edition 6:30 Kate Smith	5:00 R-Bar-B Rock 5:15 R-Bar-B Rock 5:30 Tom Mix 6:00 Gabrielle Reister 6:15 Music 6:30 Music	5:00 Rhythmic Rhythmic 5:15 Rhythmic Rhythmic 5:30 Rhythmic Rhythmic 6:00 Rhythmic Rhythmic 6:15 Rhythmic Rhythmic 6:30 Rhythmic Rhythmic

TUESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

KGW 630 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1300 MDC	KOCO 1400 KX
6:00 Hodges Pedes 6:15 News 6:30 Farm Time 6:45 Farm Time 7:00 Old Songs 7:15 Old Songs 7:30 News 7:45 Sam Harris	6:00 KOIN Klock 6:15 KOIN Klock 6:30 KOIN Klock 6:45 KOIN Klock 7:00 KOIN Klock 7:15 KOIN Klock 7:30 KOIN Klock 7:45 KOIN Klock	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News	6:00 KOCO Klock 6:15 KOCO Klock 6:30 KOCO Klock 6:45 KOCO Klock 7:00 KOCO Klock 7:15 KOCO Klock 7:30 KOCO Klock 7:45 KOCO Klock

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Monday P.M.—5:00. On the News 12:15. News 12:30. News 1:15. News 2:00. News 2:15. News 3:00. News 3:15. News 4:00. News 4:15. News 5:00.	KOAC Tuesday A.M.—5:00. The News 12:15. News 12:30. News 1:15. News 2:00. News 2:15. News 3:00. News 3:15. News 4:00. News 4:15. News 5:00.
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**Willamina Union Men Named to Committees**

Willamina—Bert Keck, business agent of Willamina Local Union 5-92, I.W.A.-C.I.O., and Lester Haenny, president of Willamina Local Union 9-213, I.W.A.-C.I.O., have been named to important committees at the Thirtieth annual convention of the International Woodworkers of America, C.I.O., in session now at Vancouver, B.C. Keck is serving on the constitution committee and Haenny is serving on the organization committee.

**Reduction Is Reported For Willamina Millage**

Willamina—The millage rate for the city is 32.8 mills this year, as compared to 41.2 mills last year, or a 20.4 per cent reduction, which is primarily due to reappraisal of the real property of the city.

The Willamina school district millage rate this year is 31.1 mills as compared to 30.4 mills last year. The millage rate for the high school is 2.9 mills, compared to 1.7 mills last year.

**Crossword Puzzle**

**ACROSS**

1. Road
2. Elevator
3. God of love
4. Enormous
5. Turkish
6. Commander
7. Affection
8. Leisurely
9. Steal
10. Dismounted
11. Flight
12. Two-footed animal
13. Stays
14. Goddess of love
15. Room in a harem

**DOWN**

1. Excess
2. Wonder and
3. Oriental inn
4. Restaurant show
5. Live in
6. Not denas
7. Different ones
8. Damage
9. Courty
10. Ireland
11. Ipecac plant
12. Little vach
13. One of Columbus's ships
14. Cheering
15. Obsolete
16. Excited with curiosity
17. Want
18. Burst sugar
19. Gone by
20. Jewish mis inter
21. Pass
22. Part played
23. Roman poet
24. Places
25. Keeps
26. C. S. Lewis
27. Seaport in Chile
28. Dutch commune
29. Kind of ape
30. Tennis appearance
31. Oriental slipper
32. Aviator
33. Greek capital
34. Chopper
35. Outbuilding
36. Street
37. Region
38. Party jake
39. Russian hemp
40. Lrackle
41. Mouth

**Solution of Saturday's Puzzle**

1. Ruler of Persia  
2. Excited with curiosity  
3. Want  
4. Burst sugar  
5. Gone by  
6. Jewish mis inter  
7. Pass  
8. Part played  
9. Roman poet  
10. Places  
11. Keeps  
12. C. S. Lewis  
13. Seaport in Chile  
14. Dutch commune  
15. Kind of ape  
16. Tennis appearance  
17. Oriental slipper  
18. Aviator  
19. Greek capital  
20. Chopper  
21. Outbuilding  
22. Street  
23. Region  
24. Party jake  
25. Russian hemp  
26. Lrackle  
27. Mouth

**ROOM AND BOARD** By Gene Ahern

AWK—UP—FF— I DIDN'T KNOW 7 POUNDS OF PEANUT BUTTER WOULD DO THAT!

THEY AGREED TO EAT AT HOME TONIGHT, AFTER I CONVINCED THEM HOW WE COULD PREPARE A DELICIOUS DINNER OF SPANISH RICE AND PORK CHOPS!