

DOUBLE TROUBLE

By WILLIAM HOBSON

DOUBLE TROUBLE Chapter 30

Darkness had set in two nights later when five people—four men and a girl—approached the lower gate of Mike Randall's horse pasture. Joe looked ahead and swung down to open it, then sat by as the Morgans, led by the proud-headed Hoyer, trod through into familiar feeding grounds. Hoyer raised his head and whistled shrilly into the night as Joe closed the gate back of them. He looked over to where Harry sat beside Lucia. Something had happened to those two in a very short time. Some kind of sweet lighting had struck. Hoyer Boy whistled again. The men of the outfit had returned to the roundup wagon to take up their duties. One rider had been dispatched ahead to tell Mike Randall what had happened. Jim Swinnerton was in jail in Ashbury.

And in the settlement, back of easy heaps that once had been cabins and corrals, several more unmarked graves surrounded the ones where unfortunate Turk Fenwick slept the long sleep. Five of these men, who had surrendered, slept with their necks at an odd angle.

There were big cottonwoods along Antelope Creek, cottonwoods with big spreading branches.

"Come on," Joe Allison chuckled to the others. "Mike'll hear that stallion's whistle and come faunchin' down here like a bear with a bug on its tail. Let's fog it up to the ranch."

They set out at a lope and the lane of poplars loomed up, and it became a race as the five horses pounded down the lane on the hard-packed earth, iron-shod hoofs ringing out. Doors flew open at the ranch house and the five swung down. Harry Seltzer was the first to step forward, shaggy-haired, unshaven, dusty.

"You wild man!" cried out his mother. "You—you Texas cowboy!"

"Ho, you men, come on inside," boomed out Randall's voice. "We've got a lot to talk over."

They left the horses and went through the door into the big dining room, now freshly scrubbed. Jay saw Mike's gaze going from one of them to the other, a frown of angry puzzlement and frustration beginning to form on his bushy brows. He went over to Ellen.

"You're looking well," was all he said.

She said, "I'm glad you got back all right, Jay."

"I'm glad to get back. I want you to know and like Lucia. She's had a hard time of it."

"She's welcome in this home," Ellen said softly.

"Which one of you," came Mike Randall's bull voice above the hubbub of talk. "Is Joe?"

"That's Joe," he said. "That's Joe."

Joe wheeled to face him. "Me!" he said belligerently. "That's Jay over there. Why?"

Randall's face began to turn red. The red increased and then he let out a full-lunged roar. "You young whipper-snapper!" he bawled, and moved in toward him. "Double-crooked me, did you? I ought to—"

"Now look here, you old—"

"Mike!"

"Joe!"

The first voice had been that of Mrs. Randall. The second was that of Mary Seltzer.

"Joe," she said again in that quiet voice.

He turned slowly and a sheepish grin slid across his young face. "What is it, honey?"

"There will be no more of that."

"All right," he said, and grabbed her. He gave her a resounding kiss and was pushed back firmly.

"There will be no more of that either," she said. "That is, not in front of other people," she added, and blushed.

Somehow Jay found himself walking with Ellen in the night, leading the horses down to the corral gate. He saw the white of her dress, and it reminded him of the night he had seen it once before, at this same gate, when he was leaving for the line camp to begin his part in a horse thief masquerade.

He reached out and took her into his arms and held her close, and the little murmuring endearments he uttered were no imitation of Joe.

Not this time.

(THE END)



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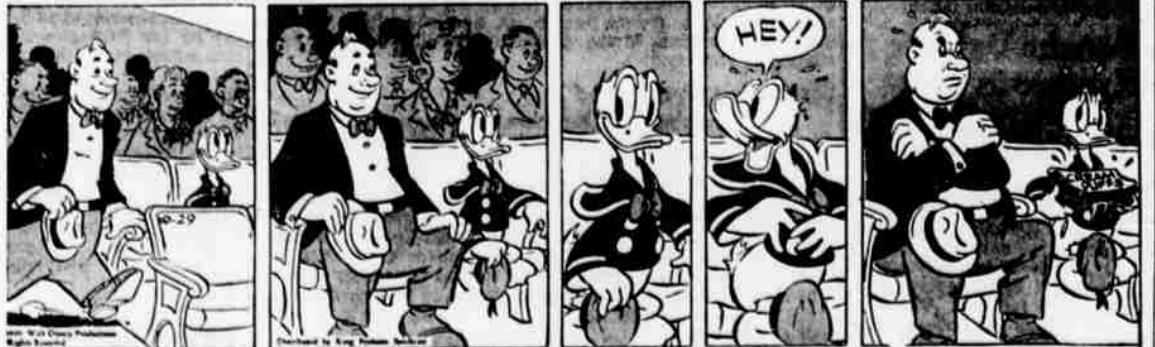
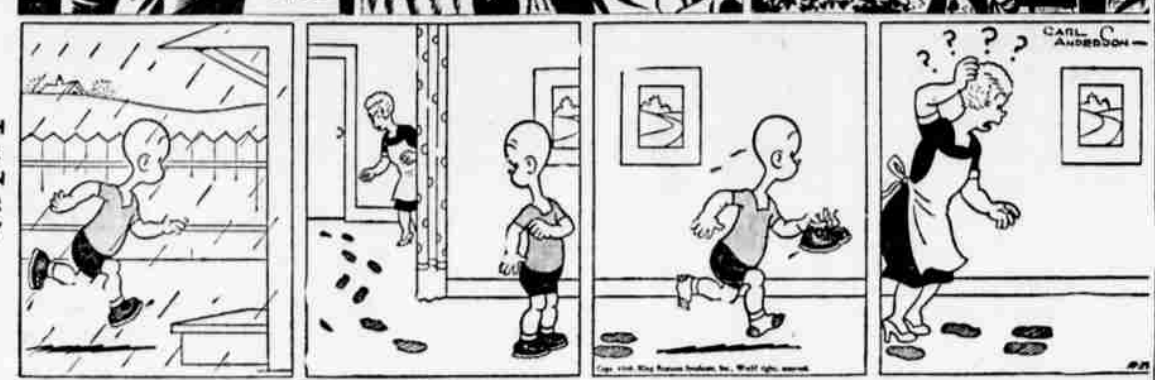
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ROOM AND BOARD By Gene Ahern



RADIO PROGRAMS

SATURDAY—P. M.

Time	Station	Program
5:00	KGW	National
5:15	KGW	News
5:30	KGW	Bill Sings
5:45	KGW	Elmer Peterson
6:00	KGW	Dick Powell
6:15	KGW	Denise Day
6:30	KGW	Denise Day
6:45	KGW	Denise Day
7:00	KGW	Judy Canova
7:15	KGW	Judy Canova
7:30	KGW	Grand Ol' Opr
7:45	KGW	Grand Ol' Opr
8:00	KGW	Franklin
8:15	KGW	Franklin
8:30	KGW	Life of Riley
8:45	KGW	Life of Riley
9:00	KGW	Bill Parson
9:15	KGW	Bill Parson
9:30	KGW	Star Theatre
9:45	KGW	Star Theatre
10:00	KGW	Star Theatre
10:15	KGW	Star Theatre
10:30	KGW	Star Theatre
10:45	KGW	Star Theatre
11:00	KGW	Star Theatre
11:15	KGW	Star Theatre
11:30	KGW	Star Theatre
11:45	KGW	Star Theatre
12:00	KGW	Star Theatre

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Saturday P.M. — 8:00, Chit-dies; 7, Grand Opera Tonight; 8:45, News; 9:00, Sports; 9:30, News; 9:50, Dance Parade; 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00.

SUNDAY

Time	Station	Program
7:00	KGW	Radio Palps
7:15	KGW	Radio Palps
7:30	KGW	Radio Palps
7:45	KGW	Radio Palps
8:00	KGW	Radio Palps
8:15	KGW	Radio Palps
8:30	KGW	Radio Palps
8:45	KGW	Radio Palps
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11:00	KGW	Radio Palps
11:15	KGW	Radio Palps
11:30	KGW	Radio Palps
11:45	KGW	Radio Palps
12:00	KGW	Radio Palps

MONDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

Time	Station	Program
6:00	KGW	Radio Palps
6:15	KGW	Radio Palps
6:30	KGW	Radio Palps
6:45	KGW	Radio Palps
7:00	KGW	Radio Palps
7:15	KGW	Radio Palps
7:30	KGW	Radio Palps
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11:30	KGW	Radio Palps
11:45	KGW	Radio Palps
12:00	KGW	Radio Palps

Crossword Puzzle

ANSWER IRRA
CAT SMASHED
BARN GOAD AVA
ELI SLATE NIL
LOP HOPE OGLE
LETTERS SAN
ELY AERATE
COMPLIANT IRE
ALAIN LAR
MEND GLEE SPY

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

1. Competent	11. Small dog	21. Elixir
2. French	12. Colloquial	22. Large river
3. Set out	13. Assumed	23. Christian era
4. Assumed	14. Christian era	24. Elixir
5. Elixir	15. Large river	25. Large river
6. Large river	16. Assumed	26. Large river
7. Large river	17. Assumed	27. Large river
8. Large river	18. Assumed	28. Large river
9. Large river	19. Assumed	29. Large river
10. Large river	20. Assumed	30. Large river