Gunfighter's Return

By LESLIE ERNENWEIN

(AP Newsfeatures)

CHAPTER 16

Maiben poured himself a second cup of coffee. He said, "This is the first time I ever had to dodge the law. By God, I hope it's the last."

Afterwards, as he shaved at the sink, he asked, "Do you know Eve Odegarde?" When Rimbaud nodded, Maiben said, "We planned to get married next month. Had our plans all set. Eve moved some of her furniture in here. I think I'll go to town and have a talk with her, after dark. Maybe I'll give myself up and stand trial, if she thinks that's the thing to do."

"Any way of proving you got framed?" Rimbaud inquired.

Maiben shook his head. "The deal will be rigged against me right from the start. The circuit judge is a friend of Stromberg's and so is Sheriff Robillarde."

"Do you figure Stromberg planted that Roman Four yearling on your range himself?" Rimbaud asked.

"No. Hugh Jubal probably did the dirty work. Della says she heard her father tell Jubal a week ago that he had to get the goods on me or find a new job. Lew has hated my guts ever since Eve and I started keeping company. He wanted her for himself."

"I can understand that," Rimbaud reflected.

Maiben eyed him sharply, asking, "You friendly with Eve?"

Rimbaud smiled and said, "Friendly enough to know she's an attractive woman."

Maiben thought about that in frowning silence for a moment. He glanced at the bottom shelf, where the jug was hidden, and said, "I wouldn't want her to know about me having whisky in the house. She's dead set against booze. Her old man turned into a terrible drunkard, and Eve won't have anything to do with a man who drinks."

The bald hypocrisy of it shocked Jim Rimbaud. Maiben not only admitted winning Eve's favor by false pretense, but seemed to think it was reasonable and right to do so. It occurred to Rimbaud now that a man who'd cheat a woman he was going to marry might also steal cattle. He asked, "Are you telling it straight, about that altered brand?"

"What do you mean—straight?"

"I mean did you do it yourself?" Rimbaud said bluntly.

Maiben grinned. He said, "You're the first of my friends to doubt me."

"I'm not your friend," Rimbaud said, wanting this understood. "I'm just a galoot who owes you a debt, and I'm paying it."

"Well, I didn't have anything to do with that particular calf," Maiben announced. "I've hair-branded a few that might've strayed away from Roman Four cows, and caught myself a maverick now and then, like everyone else. But I didn't change that brand." Then he asked, "What difference would it make to you, one way or the other?"

"Not much," Rimbaud admitted, knowing that this talk wouldn't alter his obligation to pay the debt he owed Maiben. "But if a man is innocent of the crime he's charged with, there's always a bare chance it can be proved."

Maiben shrugged and said wearily, "I don't see how, Jim. I just don't see how."

Neither did Rimbaud. But he asked, "Do you think Lew Stromberg knows that Jubal framed you?"

"Not for sure," Maiben said thoughtfully. "Lew is slick when it comes to keeping out of trouble with the law."

He walked to the doorway and said again, "I don't see how it could be proved. Nobody saw Jubal do it, and he'd never tell on himself. So how could you convince a court of law that it's a dirty frame-up?"

Jim Rambaud was thinking about that as he watched Maiben ride off a few moments later. Truth might not count for much in court, but sometimes it could be used as a club against a guilty man. If Jubal had altered that brand, there might be a way to force a confession out of him.

And presently, as he saddled the roan, Rimbaud thought: If Jubal was caught he could be made to talk, one way or another.

Lew Stromberg couldn't understand it. His crew had ridden half the night and watched every homestead on the Spanish Strip without catching Sam Maiben. Booger Bill, supposed to be the best tracker in Quadrille Basin, had not only failed to find the Boxed M rustler, but had come home half drunk with a bandaged hand and garbled account of being pistol-whipped by Jim Rimbaud.

Everything, it seemed to Stromberg, had gone haywire these past few days: Francisco Durango's death, the crew's failure to catch Maiben, and Jim Rimbaud's loco decision to guard Boxed M. Even Della, who'd always been a trifle on the rebellious side, was brazenly refusing to obey him.

For the first time in his life Lew Stromberg felt the tight grip of enormous frustration, of being thwarted by circumstances that he could neither control nor avoid. Every move he made was blocked, somehow. Even Sol Robillarde, who'd been his good friend ever since becoming sheriff, was warning him to watch his step.

Something was wrong. But think as he might, there seemed to no logical answer. Every move he'd made, except for allowing Ernie Link to try a shoot-out with Rimbaud, had been deliberately weighed and cloaked with legality. Every single, solitary move, including his revenge against Sam Maiben. No court of law would question his right to hunt down a cow thief, or fail to convict on such evidence of guilt. But he had to be caught first.

That was the thing that astonished Lew Stromberg, the thing that wholly confused him. Even though it had been necessary to send half his crew to Sonora, there should have been enough men to capture Maiben. Yet he hadn't been caught.

(To Be Continued)

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Toastmasters Hold Woodburn Session

Woodburn — The regular breakfast meeting of the Toastmasters' club at Woodburn was held Saturday, March 28, at the Coney Island restaurant at 6:30 a.m. with Jack Bush presiding.

Toastmaster for the meeting was Melvin Bilyeu; table topic chairman, Ernest Livesay; master evaluator, Philip Branson; timekeeper, Ralph Pickering. Main speakers are Jack Bush, Joe Golik and Rev. Arthur Goble, evaluators were Lynn Simon, Kilian Smith and Lyman Seely.

Guests were Fire Chief Floyd Maricle of Woodburn and Francis Manning of Mt. Angel. Next meeting will be Apr. 11.

Portland Pastor Speaks to Rotary

Woodburn — Speaker at the Woodburn Rotary club Thursday noon was Dr. Titus Rrazee, Portland minister. His topic was "Event in Eternity." Ernest Livesay was program chairman.

Guests were Miss Barbara Paulson, spelling champion, and her instructor, Keith Llewellyn.

Next week, Dr. Gerald B. Smith will show colored pictures he took recently in Hawaii.

Music for imperial balls in the time of Napoleon III sometimes was supplied by mechanical pianos.

ROOM & BOARD — By Ahren

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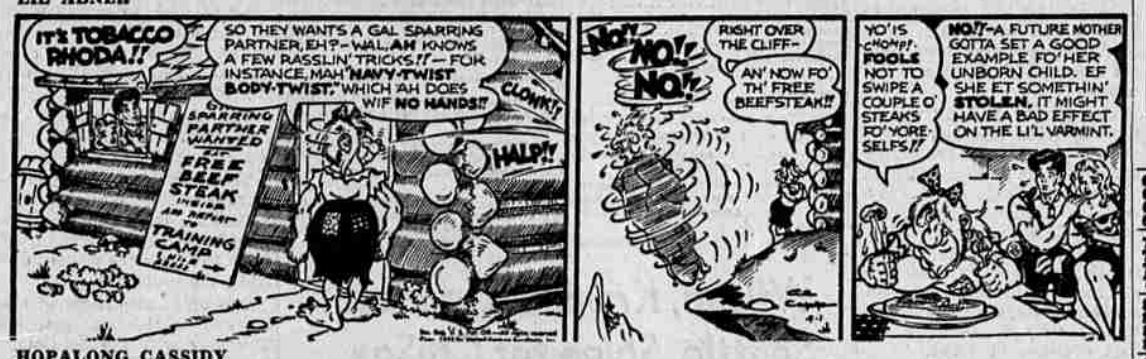

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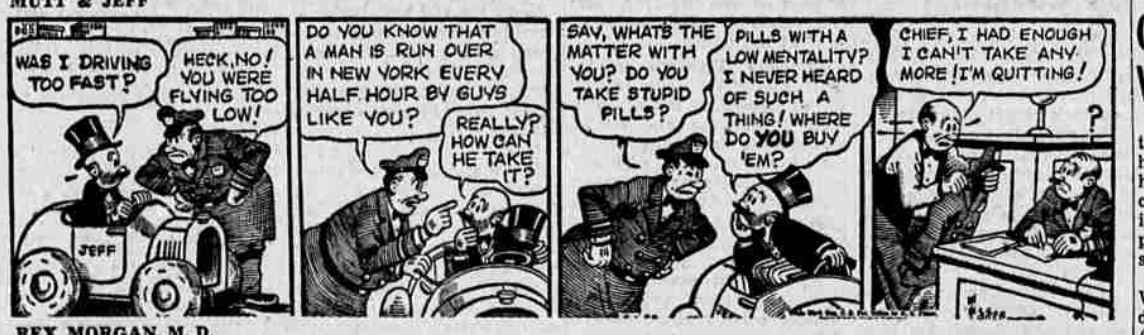

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RADIO PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY—P. M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1290 MBC	KGAE 1430 Ke.	KOCO 1490 Lbs
12:00	Noon News	News	Paul Harvey	Top Trades	Spider	News
12:15	Road Life	Come Get It	Noon Edition	News	Spider	Do Yol
12:30	Pep. Young	House Party	Jack Owens	Gay 90's	Spider	Do Yol
12:45	Happiness	House Party	Jack Owens	Garden Gds	Spider	Kitchie
1:00	Ekstrje Wife	Hilltop Hse	Kay West	Kirkwood	Spider	Mag Melody
1:15	Stella Dallas	Aunt Jemima	Kay West	Kirkwood	Spider	Mag Melody
1:30	Wld. Brown	Newspaper	Kay West	Lucky U	Spider	Mag Melody
1:45	Woman in Hs	Newspaper	Kay West	Ranch	Spider	Mag Melody
2:00	Plain Bill	Sparkles	Cal Tinney	Music	Records	Mag Melody
2:15	Fr Fgo Frrll	Godfrey	Cal Tinney	Music	Records	Mag Melody
2:30	L. Jones	Godfrey	Live Like	Music	Records	Mag Melody
2:45	Doc's Wife	Godfrey	Millionaire	Shopper	Records	Mag Melody
3:00	Welcome	Godfrey	Music Revue	Our Town	Jim Dandy	Magic Mel.
3:15	Travelers	Godfrey	Ring Show	Silverlon	Show	Magic Mel.
3:30	Dr. Paul	Godfrey	For the Girls	Music	Jim Dandy	Magic Mel.
3:45	Dave Grrwy	Curt Massey	For the Girls	Mac McGuire	Show	Magic Mel.
4:00	Life Beautiful	Kirkham	Tiny Tunes	Fulton Lewis	Brun. Train	World News
4:15	Music Box	Ruth Ashton	Squirrel Cag	Hemingway	Music Mart	Star Time
4:30	Music Box	Jim Wakely	Squirrel Cgs	Music	Music Mart	Second Look
4:45	Music Box	Tunefully	Happy Time	Sam Hayes	Music Mart	Woman's Pg.
5:00	News	Murrow News	Uncle Bob	Songs of	Music Mart	Showcase
5:15	News	Salem News	Stars	Bar B	Music Mart	Showcase
5:30	L. McCall	World Today	Chet Huntley	Wild Bill	Music Mart	Val'y Report
5:45	E. Peterson	News	Bob Garred	Hickok	Music Mart	Remember
6:00	Relax with	PM	Weatherman	GabrielHeater	Music Mart	Candlelight
6:15	Music	Playhouse	Home Ed.	NW News	Sign Off	UO Coaches
6:30	My Son Jeep	What's My	Good List.	Symphony		News
6:45	My Son Jeep	Line	Good List.	Sam Hayes		Ed. Keys
7:00	Bob Hope	On Stage	Lone Ranger	Music		Rosary
7:15	Bob Hope	On Stage	Lone Ranger	Music		Stars Sing
7:30	Walk a Mil	World Affair	Mystery	Dr. Kildare		Music
7:45	Walk a Mi	Forum	Theater	Dr. Kildare		Sports
8:00	Man's Fam	News	Symphonette	Spelling		Track 1490
8:15	News	On Spot	Symphonette	Contest		Track 1490
8:30	Great	Dr.Christian	Mr. President	Spelling		Track 1490
8:45	Gildersleeve	Dr. Christian	Mr. President	Contest		Track 1490
9:00	Groucho	F. B. I.	Tales Tomor	Glen Hardy		Track 1490
9:15	Marx	Peace & War		Fulton Lewis		Track 1490
9:30	Name That	Jo Stafford	Music Is	Music		Track 1490
9:45	Tune	Junior Miss	My Business	Music		News
10:00	Reporter	5 Star Final	Final Edition	Behind Story		Night Song
10:15	Sports Final	Interviews	Dance Time	Newscast		Night Song
10:30	Magic Hour	Music	Dance Time	News		Music You
10:45	Magic Hour	Music	Dance Time	Dear Marry		Want
11:00	Magic Hour	Organ Mel.	Dance Time	Its Murder		Nocturne
11:15	Magic Hour	Org.Melodies	Dance Time	Melodies		Nocturne
11:30	City Council	Treasury	Dance Time	Melodies		Nocturne
11:45	City Council	Bandstand	Dance Time	Melodies		Nocturne
12:00	Sign Off	Silent		Music		Dance Party

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THURSDAY—6 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M.

6:00	Music Time	News	Ore. Farm	News	Breakfast	W. Melodies
6:15	Music Time	R.F.D., Ore.	Ore. Farm	Farm News	Nook	W. Melodies
6:30	Music Time	KOIN Klock	Ore. Farm	News	Breakfast	Farm News
6:45	Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Ore. Farm	March Time	Nook	News
7:00	Country Ed.	KOIN Klock	First Edition	Hemingway	Breakfast	Meditations
7:15	Johnny Wills	News	M. Agronsky	Breakfast	Nook	KOCO Klock
7:30	News	News	Bob Garred	Breakfast	Breakfast	KOCO Klock
7:45	K. Manning	H. Babbitt	Bob Hazen	Sam Hayes	Nook	KOCO Klock
8:00	Old Songs	Carols	Breakfast	Cecil Brown	Jim Dandy	News
8:15	Old Songs	News	Breakfast	Fam. Altar	Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock
8:30	Music Box	Grand Slam	Breakfast	Haven of R	Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock
8:45	Music Box	Rosemary	Breakfast	Haven of R	Jim Dandy	News
9:00	News	W. Warren	9 am Edition	News	Back fence	Happiness
9:15	Music Box	Aunt Jenny	Todays Stars	Melody Mem	Matinee	Tunetime
9:30	Music Box	Helen Trent	Friend in	Pastor's Call	Back fence	Piano Pat.
9:45	V. Lindlahr	Our Gal Sun	Need	Bar. Counte:	Matinee	Dinah Shore
10:00	B. Reynolds	Road of Life	D. Gardner	Glen Hardy	Back fence	Rays
10:15	B. Reynolds	Ma Perkins	C. Huntley	Tele Test	Matinee	Records
10:30	Strike it rich	Dr. Malone	True Story	Answer Man	Back fence	Rays
10:45	Strike it rich	Guid. Light	True Story	Music	Matinee	Records
11:00	Dbl or Noth.	Mr. Burton	Whispering	Ladies Fair	Back fence	Rays
11:15	Dbl or Noth.	P. Mason	Girl Marries	Ladies Fair	Matinee	Records
11:30	Bob & Ray	Nora Drake	V. Lindlahr	Qu. for Day	Back fence	Rays
11:45	Bob Hope	Brighter Day	Barney Keep	Q. for Day	Matinee	Records

FM Mer.: KOIN 10 1.1, 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. KEX 92.5, 3 to 9 p.m.

DIAL LISTING KOAC, 550

KOAC Wednesday p. m. — 3:00, Oregon Reporter; 3:15, Music of the Masters; 4:00, Serenade in Blue; 5:00, Children's Theater; 5:30, Chicago Roundtable; 6:00, News and Weather; 6:45, Oregon Legislature; 7:15, Evening Farm Hour; 8:00, Radio Shorthand; 8:45, News, Weather; 9:45, Meditation; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Thursday a.m. — 10:00, News; 10:15, Especially for Women; 11:00, School of Air; 11:15, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 2:00, For Women; 2:30, Inquiring Musician; 2:45, Ore. School of Air; 3:00, Oregon Reporter; 4:00, University Hour.

Cast Chosen for Woodburn Jr. Play

Woodburn — As a result of tryouts, the cast for Woodburn high school's junior class play has been chosen. The three-act comedy, "The Inner Willy," is scheduled for April 10 at 8 p.m. at the Woodburn high school auditorium.

The story centers around Willoughby Adams' graduation dance. Sixteen-year-old Willy (as played by Bill Kersten) has been smothered all his life by his three maiden aunts (as played by Dixie Bean, Mary Yuranek and Dorothy Baxter.) Inner Willy, a supposedly ghost-like, cucumber-eating creature played by Dick Alexander, is visible only to Willy and encourages him to assert himself.

Other members of the cast include: Carol Martin, played by Jane McGrath; Marybelle Turner by Jean Samson; Trudy Marshall, by Sharon Guthrie, and Janet Marshall, by Joanne Schmid. Richard Lee will appear as Stanley Clark and Mike will be played by Marshall Dick.

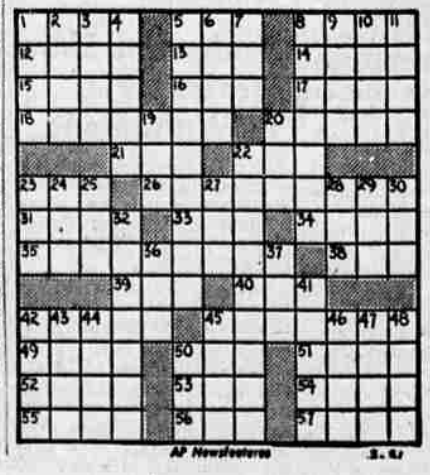
LOCUSTS SWARM IN JORDAN

Amman, Jordan (AP)—Swarms of locusts once again are threatening Jordan's cultivated areas. Experts from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Kenya met Monday in Maan with Jordan officials to discuss coordinated action against the crop menace.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Cupid
5. Owned
8. Log float
12. Talk wildly
13. Yale
14. Bacchanalian cry
15. Arabian seaport
16. Free
17. Part played
18. Profit
20. Cleaves
21. Moist
22. Father
23. Say further
26. Place for keeping goods
31. Rain hard
33. Vapor
34. Cabbage salad
35. Cheap dwellings
36. Dutch commune
39. Footlike part
40. Floor covering
42. Protective garment
45. Love story
49. Coffin
50. Plaything
51. Fail to hold water
52. Gain the victory
53. Imitate
54. Sea bird
55. Serpents
56. Color
57. Drunkards

DOWN
1. Spirited horse
2. Constructed
3. Roasting chamber
4. Resume
5. Birthrights
6. Dismounted
7. Performed
8. Altar screen
9. English river
10. Crease
11. Golf pegs
19. Not many
20. College cheer
22. Ruined
23. Likely
24. Female deer
25. Press for payment
27. Went quickly
28. Rubber tree
29. Pathetic
30. Female sheep
32. Rumors
36. Adult boys
37. Total
41. Strong winds
42. Father
43. Crusted dishes
44. Harvest
45. Hawser
46. Roman emperor
47. Tip to one side
48. Pieces out
50. Black liquid



AP Newsfeatures

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TALON CALCITE
IDLE EASES
TALC ANY MERE
ARIAN TAW
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TESS PUG ABET
ARIES ROWS
PARTNER ATONE
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SON PLY DRAPE

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle