Gunfighter's Return

By LESLIE ERNENWEIN

(AP Newsfeatures)

CHAPTER 17

Now, as Lew Stromberg rode northward with six men at noon, he muttered sourly, "One shiftless homesteader making suckers of my whole headquarters crew. It's enough to turn a man's stomach. By God, I should fire the bunch of you and hire some real hands."

Hugh Jubal, still smarting from his inglorious defeat of Saturday night, said, "Maybe Maiben sneaked into Junction and hid out at Eve Odegarde's."

Stromberg rejected that by announcing, "Sol Robillarde and Ernie are keeping a day-and-night watch between them in town."

"Sam has just been downright lucky," Jubal complained. "Chances are he'd of got caught last night if Rimbaud hadn't run Bill off the ridge at Boxed M. I'd bet a month's pay that Maiben ate supper with Rimbaud at his own table while the rest of us was watchin' them other places. It stands to reason Sam must of ate somewheres."

Booger Bill glared at him. "Rimbaud busted my thumb," he said sullenly, and stuck out his bandaged left hand in evidence. "I had to git it fixed, didn't I?"

"But you could of let us know," Hugh Jubal complained, "instead of spendin' a whole evenin' at the Shiloh bar lappin' up beer. If you'd of just tipped us off, we'd of took a look at Maiben's place last night."

Lew Stromberg made a derisive, choping motion at Jubal. "Don't pass the blame to him. It was your fault for not sending another man down there to see how things were going. I told you to keep the crew moving and cover all that country, hour in and hour out. I thought you could understand plain English. Instead of me going to West Camp, I should've sent you, and done my own ramroding. I'll know better next time, by God!"

Hugh Jubal hung his head. Getting dressed down in front of the men was nothing new. But it wasn't a nice thing to take, and there were times, like now, when he wondered if those few extra dollars he got for being foreman were worth it. He'd always wanted to be ramrod of a big outfit. All his life he'd itch to be the boss of a rough crew, to give orders and have the fine feeling that he was a cut above the common bunch. Now he wasn't so sure.

Presently, as they rode into a dry wash some three miles west of Maiben's place, Stromberg called a halt. In the fashion of a roundup boss sending out circle riders, he split the crew, telling Jubal, Red Shafter, and Booger Bill to watch Boxed M. "Now don't go making targets of yourselves," he warned. "I'm short one man already. Just be sure that Maiben doesn't get his supper there tonight."

"You still want him took alive?" Jubal asked.

Stromberg nodded. "That's how I prefer it," he said. "Of course, it may not be possible, and I want him grabbed even if you have to fill him full of lead to do it. But I'll pay a hundred-dollars bonus if he's taken alive."

Lew Stromberg's word was law. This dark saturnine man was king here, and his commands weren't to be questioned. He seldom bothered to explain his decisions, having an aristocrat's contempt for hired hands. But now, sensing the crew's curiosity, Stromberg said, "It would be worth a hundred dollars to see Maiben behind bars. A dead homesteader might look like a hero to some folks. Especially to women. But a jailbird is no hero to anyone. He's just a fool who got himself caught."

"I figger that was it," Jubal said, a self-satisfied smile rutting his sorrel-stubbed cheeks. "By grab, I knowed it."

Stromberg eyed him arrogantly and demanded, "Anything odd about my opinion?"

"No," Hugh said meekly. "Not a thing, Boss. It was just that I had it figgered out in advance."

"First time I ever heard of a doorknob figuring," Stromberg said sourly.

Red Shafter laughed, poking a finger at Jubal and saying, "A doorknob with ears." Then he asked, "How about Rimbaud, Boss?"

Stromberg thought about it for a moment before saying, "We'll run him off, when the sign is right. But if Rimbaud got shot at Maiben's place now, it would put Sol Robillarde in a bad spot, with the territorial elections coming up."

"What difference does that make?" Shafter asked.

"The difference between having the law with Roman Four or against it," Stromberg explained.

Stromberg peered at his foreman and demanded, "Do you understand your instructions?"

"Well, you want Maiben ketched, alive or otherwise, and no shooting with Rimbaud until later on."

Stromberg nodded and rode off, followed by Aubrey, Flanagan and Slade.

Booger Bill fell in behind Shafter and Jubal, who headed eastward along the wash. "If I could git my hands on Rimbaud I'd stomp his guts into the ground," he muttered.

"Lew would like that," Jubal said, and so would I. But how you goin' to ketch a gun-slinger like Rimbaud without shootin' him first?"

"It might be done," Red Shafter suggested, "if we go at it right, and have a little luck."

At about the same time Jim Rimbaud completed half of a wide circle that had given him glimpses of two homesteads and the little settlement called Isabelle's Camp. He rode slowly, keeing off the trails and reading their sign of recent travel when he crossed them. There had been a considerable amount of riding through this country last night. He smiled, thinking that those patrols had been seeking a fugitive who'd been furnished his supper by Lew Stromberg's daughter. What a joke it was!

As Rimbaud crossed a rock-ribbed strip of benchland just north of Boxed M, a cow's steady bawling attracted his attention. Rimbaud turned his horse and presently glimpsed a brindle calf lying beside a brush-fringed rock outcrop. Newborn, he guessed, and now saw that there was a motley-faced brindle cow standing behind it in the brush.

The scrawny calf got part way up, then collapsed.

"Coyote bait, unless he's corralled," Rimbaud reflected.

Dismounting and using his coiled rope as a weapon against the wild-eyed cow, he picked up the calf, hoisted it to his saddle, and balanced it there while he mounted. Then, with the calf cradled in his arm and the cow bawling motherly protests, he rode toward Boxed M.

It was sundown when Rimbaud entered the yard followed by the bellowing brindle. The thought had occurred to him that his noisy approach might be dangerous if Roman Four were on the prowl today. He even considered abandoning the calf, but instead he bowed to the strict code of cattleland, which prompted a man to take care of stock regardless of risk to himself. It was a basic ingredient, this habit of caring for the cattle; a deep-rooted characteristic bred into generations of cow-country Texans.

(To Be Continued)

Bethel Park

Bethel Park — Rev. Ray Cather is home again after a business trip to Springfield, Mo.

Rev. and Mrs. Clayton Beish are holding reviva' meetings in Independence, Ore.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Swope and son, Bobby, motored to Bates, Ore., over the week-end. The Swopes held Sunday services in Rev. Stanley Aitken's pastorate in Bates.

Larry Aitken is recovering slowly from the severe injuries suffered in a fall from the family automobile in January.

Many park residents attended the Hayesville district Sunday school convention at Clear Lake community church.

A devotional service followed the potluck dinner.

Among those attending from the park were Rev. and Mrs. Edward Edmond, Donna and Duane, Mr. and Mrs. R. Nelson, Fred Reik, Rev. and Mrs. Ray Cather, Bert and Dorothy Cather, Mrs. Harold Fite and daughter, April.

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THURSDAY—P. M.

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12:00	Noon News Road Life Pep. Young Happiness	News Get It House Party House Party	Paul Harvey Noon Edit. Jack Owens Jack Owens	Top Trades News Gay 90's Music	Record Room Record Room Record Room Record Room	Showcase News Frank Duval Frank Duval
1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45	B.S. Wife Stella Dallas W. Brown Wmn in Bsc	Bill Top Hse. Geo. Fisher Kirkham Kirkham	Kay West Kay West Kay West Kay West	Jack Kirkwood Lucky U Ranch	Record Room Record Room Record Room Record Room	Frank Duval Magic Mel. Magic Mel. Melody
2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45	Plain Bill Farrell L. Jones Doc's Wife	Music Godfrey Godfrey Godfrey	Cal Tinney Cal Tinney Like Millionaire	News Gard. Fence Music Bet'r Shopper	Record Room Record Room Record Room Record Room	Melody Melody Melody Melody
3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45	Welcome Traveler Dr. Paul D. Garroway	Godfrey Godfrey Godfrey Curt Massey	Music Revue Bill Ring For the Girls For the Girls	Our Town Stanton News Paula Stone	Jim Dandy Show Jim Dandy Show	Magic Mel. Magic Mel. Magic Mel. Magic Meled
4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45	Life Beautif. Music Box Music Box Hits of Day	Kirkham Ruth Ashton Jim Wakely Tunefully	Tiny Tunes Sarl Cage Sarl Cage Happy Time	Full. Lewis Hemingway Curt Massey Sam Hayes	Kids Korner Music Mart Music Mart Music Mart	World News Guest Star Second Look Woman's Pr.
5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45	News News L. McCall E. Peterson	Ed Murrow News World Today Frank Goss	Merrie Circle Virg. Pinkley C. Hunter Bob Garred	Sgt. Preston Sgt. Preston Sky King Sky King	Music Mart Music Mart Music Mart Music Mart	Show Case Show Case Valler rep. Songs
6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45	Relax with Music Red Skelton Red Skelton	Time for Love Bing Crosby Bing Crosby	Weatherman Home Edition Good Listening	G. Hunter N. W. News Answer Man Sam Hayes	Music Mart Sign Off	Candle Light and Silver News 88 Keys
7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45	Big Story Big Story Ralph Edwards	American Way Visiting Time	Silver Eagle Silver Eagle Dreamland Playhouse	Cisco Kid Music Communist for FBI		Rosary Stars Sing Music Sports Rep'rt
8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45	Man's Family World News Roy Rogers Roy Rogers	L. Thomas On Spot Dec. Bride Dec. Bride	Longines Symphonette Tales of Tomorrow	Crime Fls Crime Fiters Music Music		Track 1490 Track 1490 Track 1490 Track 1490
9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45	Father Knows Communist for FBI	Meet Millie Meet Millie Jo Stafford Jr. Miss	News Tomor. Ambsdor Or. Search for Stars	Glen Hardy Full. Lewis What Cooks Music		Track 1490 Track 1490 Track 1490 News
10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45	Reporter Sports Final Golden Fleece	5-Star Final Interviews Desert Inn Orchestra	Final Edition Dance Time Dance Time Dance Time	Behind strr Newsreel News Crime Files		Warrick Warrick Music You Want
11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45	News Lwsn McCall City Council City Council	Organ Organ Treasury Bandstand	Dance Time Dance Time Dance Time Dance Time	Crime Files Music Music Music		Nocturne Nocturne Nocturne Nocturne
12:00	Sign Off	SDent	Dance Time	Sign Off		Sign Off

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7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45	Cntry Editor Johnny Wills News K. Manning	News News News H. Babbitt	News M. Agronsky Bob Garred Bob Hazen	Hemingway Breakfast Breakfast Sam Hayes	Breakfast Nook Breakfast Nook	KOCO Klock KOCO Klock KOCO Klock KOCO Klock
8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45	Old Songs Old Songs Music Box Music Box	News News Grand Slam Rosemary	Breakfast Club Breakfast Club	Cecil Brown Family Altar Bible Hour Bible Hour	Jim Dandy Jim Dandy Jim Dandy Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock KOCO Klock KOCO Klock News
9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45	Music Box Music Box Music Box Lindlahr	W. Warren Aunt Jenny Helen Trent Gal Sunday	News Today's Star Break Bank Break Bank	Dr. Sword Commentary Pastor Call Bar. Counier	Matinee Matinee Matinee Matinee	String Serenade Happiness Piano Pat.
10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45	Hostess Hse Party Strike Rich Strike Rich	Road Life Ma Perkins Dr. Malone Guld. Light	Don Gardner Chet Huntley True Story True Story	Glen Hardy Tello Test Answer Man Music	Matinee Matinee Matinee Matinee	Rays Records Rays Records
11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45	Double or Nothing Bob and Ray Bob Hope	Mrs. Burton F. Mason Norah Drake Brighter Day	Whispering Girl Marries V. Lindlhar Barney Keep	Ladies Fair Ladies Fair Qn. for Day Qn. for Day	Matinee Matinee Matinee Matinee	Rays Records Rays Records

FM Mgr.: KOIN 10 1.1, 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. KEX 92.1, 3 to 9 p.m.

DIAL LISTING KOAC, 550

KOAC Thursday P.M. 5:00, Children's Theater; 5:30, Report from Europe; 6:00, News & Weather; 6:45, Oregon Legislature; 7:15, Farm Hour; 8:00, BBC Theater; 9:00, Music That Endures; 9:45, Meditation; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Friday A.M.: 10:00 News; 10:15, Especially for Women; 11:15, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15 Farm Hours, Marion county extension agents.

Newspaper Postage to Go up Another 10 Pct.

Washington (AP) — Second class mailing rates go up another 10 percent Wednesday in another of the series of staggered rate increases authorized by Congress in 1951.

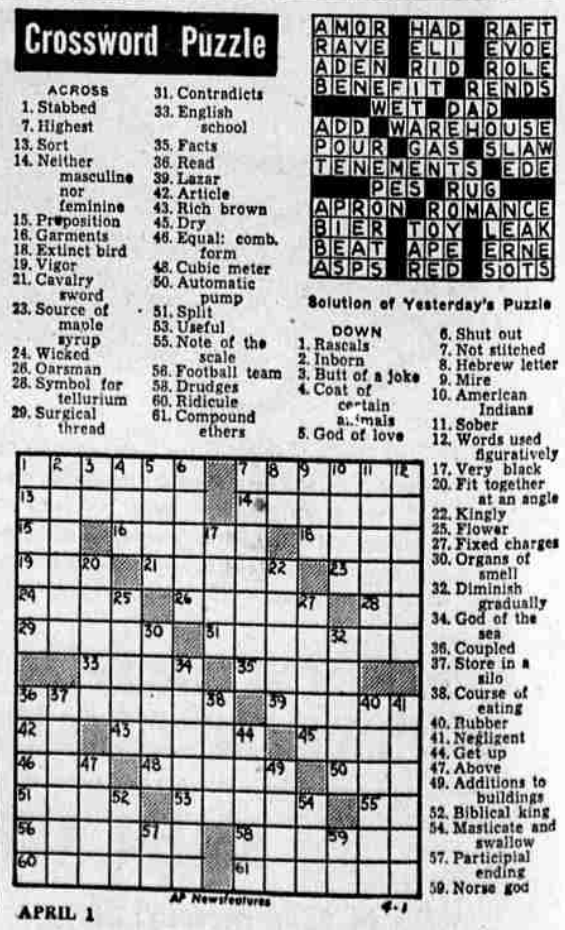
The second class postal service handles newspapers, magazines and similar periodicals.

The basic charge for such matter went up 10 percent on April 1, 1952, adding—according to Post Office officials — between four and 4½ million dollars a year to department revenues.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Stabbed
7. Highest
13. Sort
14. Neither masculine nor feminine
15. Preposition
16. Garments
18. Extinct bird
19. Vigor
21. Cavalry sword
23. Source of maple syrup
24. Wicked
26. Oarsman
28. Symbol for tellurium
29. Surgical thread
31. Contradicts
33. English school
35. Facts
36. Read
39. Lazar
42. Article
43. Rich brown
45. Dry
46. Equal: comb. form
48. Cubic meter
50. Automatic pump
51. Split
53. Useful
55. Note of the scale
56. Football team
58. Drudges
60. Ridicule
61. Compound ethers

DOWN
1. Rascals
2. Inborn
3. Butt of a joke
4. Coat of certain animals
5. God of love
6. Shut out
7. Not stitched
8. Hebrew letter
9. Mire
10. American Indians
11. Sober
12. Words used figuratively
17. Very black
20. Fit together at an angle
22. Kingly
25. Flower
27. Fixed charges
30. Organs of smell
32. Diminish gradually
34. God of the sea
36. Coupled
37. Store in a silo
38. Course of eating
40. Rubber
41. Negligent
44. Get up
47. Above
49. Additions to buildings
52. Biblical king
54. Masticate and swallow
57. Participial ending
59. Norse god



Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

AMOR HAD RAFT
RAVE ELI EVOE
ADEN RID ROLE
BENEFIT RENDS
WET DAD
ADD WAREHOUSE
POUR GAS SLAW
TENEMENTS EDE
PES RUG
APRON ROMANCE
BIER TOY LEAK
BEAT APE ERNE
ASPS RED SOTS

AP Newsfeatures

APRIL 1