

GOOD ROADS,
GOOD HOMES,
BEST CHEESE

CLOVERDALE COURIER.

The Nestucca Valley First,
Last and all the
Time.

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PEARL of the ARMY

By GUY W. McCONNELL



A Story of "America First," Unmasking America's Secret Foes

Novelized From the Motion Picture Serial of the Same Name Released by Pathe

SYNOPSIS.

Capt. Ralph Payne, U. S. A., is given secret plans of defense to deliver to Panama. He attends a ball at the Granada embassy with Colonel Dare's daughter, Pearl. As a climax to a series of mysterious incidents he is arrested for treason. The ambassador of Granada is found dead and the plans missing from Payne's coat. Major Brent, Payne's rival, enters into suspicious negotiations with Bertha Bonn. Pearl Dare follows a burglar from her home, is drugged and left in a field and later overhears plotters, who almost capture her. Payne is sentenced to life imprisonment. A train carrying Pearl, Bertha Bonn and Payne on his way to prison is wrecked and Pearl sees Payne's lifeless body at her feet. She meets a mysterious stranger who offers her his services to trace the traitors. She learns that he has the plans. Pearl finds Adams in Washington and learns of his peculiar actions. Adams warns Senator Warfield that he is in danger from a ring of spies. While they talk the senator's office is attacked by conspirators. Bertha Bonn asks Pearl to hand Adams a package which proves to be the plans. Adams is made Colonel Dare's orderly. They are ordered South. The Granadians capture Pearl and Adams to get the plans. Pearl begs Adams to let her take his bait which contains the defense plans. They escape and Adams steals the belt from her. Brent confronts Adams, communicating with the enemy. Bertha Bonn warns Pearl against her professed friends. Pearl is captured again by the Granadians. She is rescued by Adams. Disguised as his brother she accompanies him into the camp of the conspirators, and poses as a chemist. They are recognized; in the fight Adams saves Pearl from harm. Colonel Dare arrives with American troops. The black scarf appears. Pearl and Toko follow Adams on his way to an appointment at the chemical building. All three fall into the hands of the "alliance." Adams is arrested by counterfeited soldiers who also take Pearl with them. They carry her aboard ship and she is again saved by Adams from the "foreign alliance." The ship is blown up. They escape. Adams surprises Brent in Dare's home stealing the plans. They in turn are confronted by Toko.

TENTH EPISODE

The Silent Army.

"Who opened my safe?"
It was the voice of Colonel Dare. He stood in the doorway and looked from one to the other.
Toko, whose revolver was aimed at Adams, dropped his arm. He was a bit confused. Adams put his own revolver in his hip pocket with a significant motion toward Major Brent. Then he exhibited the Canal defense plans to the colonel. Brent, pointing to the open safe door, started to manufacture an explanation.
"When I entered this room a moment ago a strange man was kneeling at the safe. It was wide open. He was in the act of stealing the Canal

defense plans. I leaped on him. He dropped the plans and jumped out of the window." All looked at the open library window.
"I was about to replace the document in the safe," he concluded the bold and deliberate falsehood, "when Adams arrived and demanded the plans under threat of his gun. Toko came and held us both up." He forced a sickly smile.
Adams sneered in his face, leaned out of the window, and looked carefully in every direction. Then a scurry of footsteps was heard on the walk and a grotesque shadow flashed across the room. He drew back instantly, holding up both empty hands.
"Quick! The plans! They were snatched from me!" he cried to the startled group, bolting past them and out of the house.
But though the premises were thoroughly searched, whoever the thief was, he made a successful escape.
The only person in sight was a lamp-lighter busily engaged in replacing a broken shade on a post in front of the Dare residence. He paused in his work and from the top of his ladder



Pearl's Parachute Landed Her Safely.

"Have you seen any person pass by within the last minute or two?"
The workman shook his head and came half way down the ladder. "Your name's Brent, ain't it?"
"What if it is?" gruffly demanded the major, looking around and noting that they were not observed.
The lamp-lighter stepped to the ground and slipped a note into Brent's hand. Then he slung the ladder over his shoulder and coolly departed.
Brent found a place where he could read the surreptitious missive unseen by anyone. The signature confirmed his suspicions that a clever trick had been perpetrated.

"Bertha Bonn's locket is not in Colonel Dare's safe, after all. Pardon my error. Thanks for the canal defense plans."
It was, of course, from the Silent Menace, under his usual silhouette.
Brent crushed the note in his fist and compared it with one he had received by an unknown messenger at the barracks earlier in the day.
"Major Brent," the first note read. "You will find the locket in Colonel Dare's safe. No one but Adams who hid it there knows this."
But the signature was not that of the Silent Menace, nor was the writing the same. It purported to come from Bertha Bonn.

He destroyed the two missives and joined the colonel who with Adams and Toko had returned to the library. They were greatly agitated and at a loss to know what to do. Wondering what the trouble was about, Pearl came down the stairs and joined the group.

Naturally Adams was embarrassed in the extreme.
"It was s-so sudden like, I didn't know what happened t-till it was all over," stammered the miserable fellow. "I shoulda know'd better than to g-go near the blamed window with them plans in m-my hands!"
Suspicion was now removed from Brent as his explanation of the affair at the safe had all the marks and verifications of the truth. It was his chance to be insinuating and sarcastic about Adams and he did not let it slip.

"It seems to me that every time anything happens to the Canal defense plans you are in or around it—or some-where about," he could not refrain from saying to Adams in a most caustic manner.

Colonel Dare raised a protesting voice. "The fact of the matter is that there has been entirely too much misunderstanding among us all," he declared, testily. He looked at Major Brent severely. "You, and Toko, too—" he gave his chauffeur a sharp glance, "—and possibly my daughter and myself have been over suspicious of this young man." He laid a kindly hand on Adams' shoulder. "The time has come when we must trust one another more fully or else we will get nowhere in our efforts to unmask the Silent Menace and the secret foreign alliance with which he is co-operating. I must confess that I am at my wits' ends."
Toko looked sheepish. Adams stared out of the window. Brent shifted his eyes uneasily. His features twitched perceptibly.

Pearl asked a question or two. "I trust Adams—when he acts in the open. But will he explain how he came to preside as the Silent Menace at that meeting of the Foreign Alliance?"
"I wasn't presiding. I w-was pretending," put in Adams quickly.
"Did the Foreign Alliance think you were pretending?"

"Sure! If you hadn't thrown t-that bomb at them they'd have been caught, too. W-wouldn't they colonel?"
The colonel turned to his daughter with a faint smile. "Adams can explain all that, Pearl."

"Has he explained how he located the meeting place of the Foreign Alliance in the uninhabited tenement house where the note from the Silent Menace was found not two minutes after he entered and disappeared?"
"No'm, but I w-will. I got the address left by the Silent Menace at the newspaper office when he answered t-the government's ad!"

Even Toko was obliged to admit how simple and clever a thing to do this was.
"I don't know yet, colonel, who n-named Miss Dare in the box with the b-bomb," Adams went on, seeing the doubts about him dissolving somewhat. "It m-might have been that there Silent Menace, but I d-don't think it was." For a brief second his eyes enveloped the nervous major.

"It mighta been the c-cabin boy, just to g-get even. He's dead anyhow and so are them there munition m-manufacturers. They were killed in the

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explosion."
"What were their names?" interjected the colonel.
"I don't know. And I d-don't know the names of the Foreign Alliance, nuther. Except Karnavi, which is f-fake. If they're alive after that explosion, t-they've got the Canal defense plans, that's dead sure. But they haven't got the chemicals so they can't use the p-plans."
Then for the first time Adams was told how the box of wafers from Pearl reached Colonel Dare through Bertha Bonn and were subsequently stolen from Major Brent. The major did the talking.
Adams made Brent repeat the story several times before he could believe it to be true. He watched Brent narrowly while the latter told how he had been drugged and questioned him politely but insistently as to the place and time. Brent's answers were terse, clear and convincing, a little too much so, perhaps to Adams.

for permitting this intrusion. Both Major Brent and Adams had followed her into the room.
She took a little round box from out of her mesh bag. "I was told to bring this to you, Colonel Dare," she stated, handing it to him.
"By whom?" quickly asked Pearl, for she recognized the box.
"A telephone call not ten minutes ago. No name was given."
"The wafers!" ejaculated the colonel staring at the contents of the box.
"Where did you get them, Miss Bonn?" It was the wavering voice of Major Brent.
"Yes! Where did you get them?" the others echoed in unison, except T. O. Adams. Before Bertha could frame a reply, he took the wafers from Colonel Dare and inspected them critically.
"By gum! Them's the w-wafers all right!" He returned them to the stupefied colonel. "I give them to Miss



"What Were Their Names?" Demanded the Colonel.

Toko regarded this conversation with more than usual interest because of the personal antagonism existing between these two men toward whom he cherished no kindly feelings. Pearl only partly listened, and the colonel not at all, until at the end of the grilling Brent, for the purpose of shifting the subject for obvious reasons, turned suddenly to Miss Dare.
"You never explained where you got the box of wafers, Pearl!"
"I gave them t-to her," put in Adams quickly, with a faint laugh. "In the chemical building basement d-during the fight!"
"So it was you!" exclaimed Pearl, looking quickly at her father. "And not the Silent Menace?"
"I got 'em f-from him," Adams grimly stated; but he did not explain how or when or where, leaving them to infer their own conclusions.
That put Adams straight in the minds of both the Dares. The conference now adjourned, the colonel telephoned his loss to the war office and made an appointment to call on the secretary later in the day.
Someone in the outer room knocked on the door. Pearl opened it slightly and peered through the crack.
"Miss Bertha Bonn," announced Toko with gravity, letting the woman enter.
"This is my fault, not Toko's," Bertha excitedly explained, noticing Colonel Dare's angry look at his chauffeur

Bonn, sir. I knew t-they'd be safe with her."
"You!" exploded Major Brent, amazed to hear Adams tell this truth, when he was the guilty person; and Bertha Bonn, likewise was puzzled.
"Yans, I s-sent them to her this morning," coolly continued Adams with a smile at Pearl. "I f-found them in the trouser pockets of that there cabin boy when I brought his c-clothes to you. I w-wanted to see if the Silent Menace would get on t-to it if I sent them to Miss Bonn. He got on to it all right, but he g-gets on to everything. By golly!"
Brent squirmed and acted as if he were going to choke, and for that matter so did Bertha Bonn. Toko looked at Adams dubiously.
The countenances of both Colonel Dare and his daughter cleared.
"The Canal defense plans are worthless without these wafers to interpret them. Thank heavens for that!" burst from the lips of Colonel Dare. He thanked Bertha and excused himself. Major Brent followed him out. "War office, Toko!" called the colonel, slapping Brent on the shoulder in an excess of relief. Brent showed that he, too, was relieved.
"All is not lost, yet," Brent remarked hopefully.
"Miss Bonn!" Pearl impulsively ex-

Continued on last page.

Hold Fast to the Dollar.



THERE is an old saying that "any fool can make a dollar, but it takes a wise man to hold it." There is one sure way of holding the dollar, and that is to bank it. When a man deposits his surplus cash he is loath to draw it out. On the contrary, if he carries the money on his person there always is the temptation to spend. Bank your money with us.

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