

GOOD ROADS,
GOOD HOMES,
BEST CHEESE

CLOVERDALE COURIER.

The Nestucca Valley First,
Last and all the
Time.

VOL. 13.

CLOVERDALE, TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON, AUGUST 9, 1917

NO. 2

PEARL of the ARMY

Guy W. McConnell

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. 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 Adams, 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 belt which contains the defense plans. They escape and Adams steals the belt from her. 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 counterfeit 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. Adams finds a note which calls the Silent Army to arms at the Chemical building. Colonel Dare, with a regiment, appears at the spot. They find the building wrecked and rifled. Pearl is carried away by the Silent Flyer. She descends in a parachute and meets Adams who has destroyed the Flyer. She finds a black muffer.

ELEVENTH EPISODE

A Million Volunteers!

Adams looked at her apprehensively. "No'm, to t-them three questions. It's the solemn t-truth, girl. Did that Silent Menace get the w-wafers?" he added in a voice so full of anxiety that Pearl's doubts of him vanished. "He's got them and he imitated you to perfection!" she cried. Here was a new suggestion. Was it possible that all along the Silent Menace masqueraded as Adams to throw them off the scent? She made a mental note to mention this illuminating thought to her father.

In spite of her protests, Adams haz-

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

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arded a close examination of the burning machine, and perceiving the remains of the aviator, drew her away. Whereupon they spent the better part of an hour scouring the neighborhood for the masked man and finally gave up the futile hunt in disgust without having found a single trace.

By this time farmers whose homes were in the vicinity and curious and morbid city folk began to arrive in automobiles, on foot, in buggies and on horseback. Mounted Washington police and a troop of cavalry rode up presently and took charge of the situation, assembling order and affording much-needed privacy to Pearl and Adams.

When Colonel Dare, with Major Brent and Bertha Bonn, in the automobile with Toko at the wheel dashed into sight, Pearl could hardly restrain her impatience. She fell into the colonel's arms, weeping hysterically.

"Take me home!" she sobbed, her nerves giving way. "Adams will explain everything to you." And they carried her to the car.

During the ride back to Washington, on the outskirts of which these scenes were enacted, Adams briefly related his side of the thrilling adventure. He had on his own responsibility forsaken the party at the Chemical building after the lost race with the Silent Flyer, hurried to the adjacent hangars of the Aero club of America, borrowed a one-man machine, and had down back, arriving at the moment that the Silent Flyer, with Pearl hanging around the driver's neck, began to ascend from the roof. He observed the parachute attached to the Silent Flyer and swept by just as Pearl detached it and started to descend. The Silent Flyer's driver whipped out his revolver to shoot Pearl. Adams' bullet knocked the revolver out of his hand. Adams now soared above the Silent Flyer, which he bombarded with explosives. Both machines had veered in a westerly direction, some distance out of the straight line of Pearl's downward flight.

"She couldn't do it a-gain, not once in a t-thousand times," averred Adams, in conclusion with an admiring glance at the half-fainting girl in her father's arms. Which was probably the truth. Only twice before in the history of aeronautics—in the Somme and in eastern Poland during the great European

conflict then raging—had transference in air flight been accomplished by human beings.

When the Washington morning papers came out, the front pages in bold type were devoted to this hair-raising experience of Miss Dare and her father's orderly, now celebrities the world over. Reporters vied with each other in trying to outwrite the "feature," which was too rare to miss. By no means satisfied with the main theme of their tale they spun it from every possible angle. A group of scribes practically camped on the Dare premises seeking interviews and pleading for photographs of everybody in the household or associated with it. The fact that the Dares were constantly in the public eye nowadays lent a special interest to this adventure which overshadowed all others and kept the newspaper men in expectation of more to come.

The activity of these news gatherers was turned to good account by the government officials.

"A newspaper man lets nothing get by, whether he understands it or not," judiciously remarked the president when Colonel Dare came to him complaining of the nuisance and pleading against this intrusion into his privacy. "These fellows may become the right arm of the nation in smoking the Silent Menace out. Give them free reign, colonel, keeping your counsel, of course."

Then the president's countenance changed. "Colonel Dare!" His voice was vibrant with deeply stirred emotions. "Without attaching any blame on you or your associates, we must admit that the Foreign Alliance has succeeded in its initial attempts. Whatever may be behind it all, the secret Canal defense plans and the chemicals necessary to interpret these plans are in their possession. Some hostile foreign agency now knows something we ourselves do not know—the one weak spot in our fortification of the canal. If the canal is wrenched from our control the position of America as the arbiter in world affairs will alter—from an aggressive nation, which we now are, we will be forced to a humiliating defensive. Our military forces on the isthmus have been brought to the highest standard of efficiency; as many of our battleships as can be spared from the northern coasts will sail today under full steam in both oceans to guard each entrance to the canal. From this day on we can do nothing more than await developments there and—prepare for any emergency here. It is my wish that you co-operate unreservedly with the secretary of war and the chief of the army staff in mobilizing a million volunteers for army service. My call of which you have been informed will be issued today."

Colonel Dare, overwhelmed by the unabated confidence of the chief magistrate of the country, solemnly pledged his word.

After dinner that night, Colonel Dare called all the visiting newspaper men into his study and informed them that at any moment he expected the secretary of war, the chief of the army staff and one or two of his junior officers, including Major Brent, to arrive; that the purpose of their visit was to discuss informally the question of raising a million volunteers; how to handle the movement of troops; how to dispose of them strategically and equip and train the recruits properly and quickly; that eventually a written statement would be forthcoming. He asked them to favor him personally by quitting the premises so that the members of his family would not be subjected to the constant annoyance of answering door bells and telephone calls and the conference proceed undisturbed.

The reporters smilingly obliged the colonel by quartering themselves in the summer house in the Dare gardens. When he was told of this arrangement he laughed, in spite of the seriousness of everything, at the subtle and determined methods of the American professional collector and purveyor of news.

"They've got a n-notion, colonel," Adams informed him, "that you're goin' over a hot of National Guard figures tonight what'll show u-up jest how the country's fixed to dig up a million rookies. They w-want to get at them figures which they t-think you ain't goin' to give o-out."

"Huh!" exclaimed the colonel guardedly.

"Then there's that t-there Silent Menace," insinuated Adams. "These writer-chaps g-got a bet up that he's goin' to be on the job and beat t-them to it on this fixer business."

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"The Silent Menace!" echoed the colonel, sharply. "Report that, sir, to Major Brent at once. He's—"

"I heard it, colonel!" called a voice from an adjoining room; and the major now joined them, laughing lightly. "No outsider will enter this house tonight. It is guarded inside and out by picked men from the garrison."

In view of the distinguished character of the night's visitors, both the major and the orderly dressed with more care than usual. Particularly Adams, who was notoriously indifferent to his apparel. Some of the men in the mess called him most unmercifully at times, dubbing him the "mess bun." He was cleanly enough in his habits and was even known to shave several times a day, especially when assigned to some duty where he would meet the colonel's daughter. But he would not, or could not shake off certain tramplike mannerisms in clothing his really splendid figure.

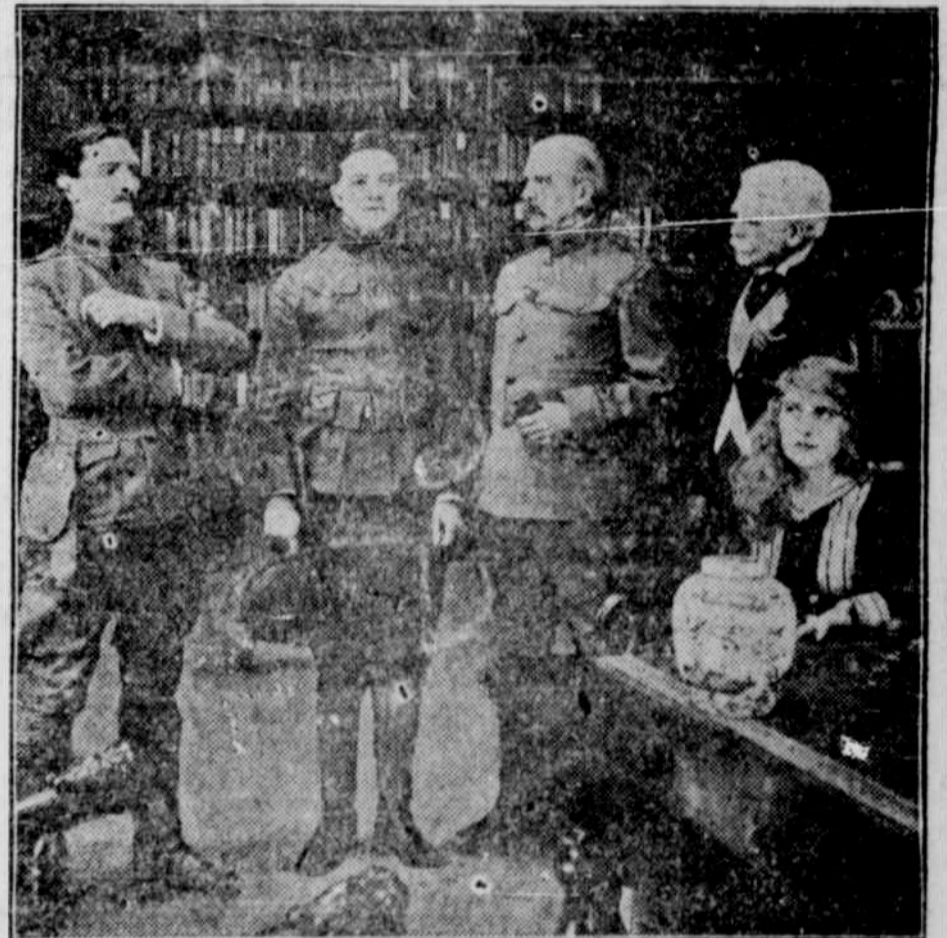
When the visitors arrived the colo-

feur, was known to be at a local repair shop overhauling one of the cars.

The whereabouts of Brent's secret guard inside the house was, of course, told to Pearl and Bertha during the early part of the evening. The object of this extra precaution was obvious; not even the house inmates, themselves, could speak without being overheard by someone in duty bound to report to the major; and any person without a license to be about would be instantly discovered and ejected. To make the place all the more inaccessible to stealth or intrigue, while the window blinds were tightly drawn downstairs the casements in the upper stories were wide open and through the screens the reporters in the summer house could see that every room was brilliantly alight.

Thus was the lure laid for the Silent Menace in perfect detail.

"If he g-gits in, we ketch him, and if he's in now, he'll never git o-out," was how Adams summed up the ar-



"No Outsider Will Enter This House Tonight!"

nel escorted them into the study, closing and bolting the door.

"We can talk undisturbed and unheard, gentlemen," he assured as they swept the room with cautious eyes after hearing the prophesy of the newspaper men.

They sat down presently with pencil and paper and the data brought to the meeting by the secretary of war. This data was of a private and official character and it was not intended that it should ever reach the press in its present form. It was for this reason more than any other that soldiers, whose integrity was established beyond a doubt, were stationed outside near the study windows—which were shaded and locked—and that Major Brent personally guarded the only other entrance to the study—the door leading into the library proper; and when he was not on guard Adams or Pearl was. With the exception of Miss Dare and her guest, Bertha Bonn, no one else was permitted in the library.

The household servants went to their quarters soon after their evening duties were performed; the butler had purposely been granted a night off; there were no servants whatsoever on the first floor and the two upstairs girls were always in sight or sound of their mistress; and Toko, the chauff-

rangements to the members of the press to whom the quaint fellow was a genuine treat and a new "news" topic every time he mingled with them. The fact that Adams was under surveillance they did not know; nor did he, apparently—Brent saw to that and made it his own affair.

Nor did Brent know that Adams was shadowing him and also Bertha Bonn. Bertha, however, knew this. She knew, too, that she could trap Adams with a word to Pearl. And no better opportunity was ever offered. Bertha's eyes and ears were open.

Adams was cognizant of a great inner change in Bertha Bonn. Revenge in Bertha's heart was being supplanted by her former lover in a finer and deeper form for the wayward sweetheart of her girlhood. On this night she was more completely under the spell of the captivating major than even that astute observer into the heart of a woman perceived. If Brent had only known it he could have sealed Bertha's lips forever on the question of their former relations by a simple application of the artifice of love-making in which he was so skillful, or one show of kindness and sincerity.

But this sentimental attitude of

Continued on last page.

Don't Tempt the Thief!



WHEN your money is in the bank it is safe from pick-pockets and burglars. A man who is known to carry a large sum of money on his person soon is marked as prey by the thief. None of the big men of the country carry large sums of money about. Don't tempt the thief. It may cost you not only your money, but your life. Bank your money with us.

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