

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

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 Adams 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 Grandians 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 Grandians. 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 for 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 Menace and arms at the Chemical building. Colonel Dare, with a regiment, appears at the spot. They find the building wrecked and riddled. Pearl is carried away by the Silent Flyer. She descends in a parachute and meets Adams who has destroyed the Flyer. During the progress of the defense board meeting at Dare's house Brent receives the locket from Bertha Bonn. The Silent Menace traps Adams and Toko and gets the war secretary's portfolio. Adams appears in Brent's room and demands the locket. Adams forces Brent to marry Bertha Bonn. He takes Pearl aboard ship to show her the Silent Menace and the "Alliance." The "Alliance" is destroyed and Adams and Pearl are carried on the way to Panama.

### THIRTEENTH EPISODE

#### Modern Buccaneers.

The first person in the Dare household to note the prolonged absence of its mistress was Miss Bertha Bonn. She had seen Pearl leave the house alone and wondered a little as to what mission would entice her forth at that late hour. She had also seen Orderly Adams leave the garage and walk

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

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away in an opposite direction at precisely the same time.

After a while Bertha telephoned to the war department and informed Colonel Dare that neither his daughter nor his orderly had returned and hinted that she thought this to be very strange. The colonel seemed to find nothing unusual in Pearl's absence, and he suggested that she might have sent Adams on some errand on which he was delayed. He told Miss Bonn to allay her fears.

But Bertha did not heed this suggestion. She telephoned to Major Thornton Brent at the barracks and asked for Adams. Brent told her that Adams was not at the barracks and inquired if anything was amiss at the Dares.

Bertha hesitated a little. "Nothing, probably. Suppose you come here. I am alone and wish to talk with you."

Brent immediately suspected that Bertha had a personal motive in making this suggestion. "Will tomorrow not do as well? It is very late."

"You will come at once," responded Bertha with finality, hanging up the receiver before he could again evade or refuse.

Brent replaced his receiver on its hook and departed for the Dares very much annoyed. He found Bertha nervously pacing the lawn.

"Where is Adams, Major Brent?" asked Bertha, eyeing Brent steadily as he drew near.

"I don't know," Brent responded with truth. "Don't you really know?"

"I do not," replied Bertha, testily. Toko flashed into their thoughts. Adjourning to the house they telephoned to the hospital and inquired whether either Miss Dare or Adams was with the sick chauffeur. They were told that both had left the hospital about eight o'clock and that neither had returned. Toko's condition, they were informed, had not changed for better or worse.

Miss Bonn and the major left the telephone and sat down on the front porch to await the return of Colonel Dare.

The neighborhood, always a quiet one, was hushed in repose.

Brent pinched the ends of his moustache nervously and stifled yawn after yawn.

"I think it is going to rain," Brent remarked after a long interval.

"I'm not thinking about the weather," Bertha hazarded, a bit crisply.

"Neither am I," he admitted, presently. Then he moved nearer. "I'm really thinking about you and myself."

"I'm thinking the same thing," she returned in low tones.

She ceased her rocking movement and leaning forward closely scrutinized Brent. At that moment there was a knock at the door. He looked about as he felt: worn, weary.

"What do you see in my face?" he asked, bluntly.

"The reflection of a bitter conscience," she responded, slowly. "What do you see in mine?"

Brent turned his gaze elsewhere. "Shadows," he confessed in a mumble. He fumbled in a pocket and produced her locket.

"This little thing has caused a lot of trouble to a number of people," he mused aloud.

"It should be destroyed," was her startling suggestion.

"Perhaps it can be turned to good account and some of the wrong be undone," he continued, without looking up.

Bertha said nothing in response to that.

"What would you do with this locket if I were to return it to you?" Brent suddenly asked. "Would you show it to Miss Dare as you originally intended and thus interrupt forever the hope of marrying her which I have entertained?"

"I would hand it back to you, Thornton," whispered Bertha with feeling.

Brent laughed resignedly. "Knowing that all my chances in that direction are gone?"

"Knowing that if Miss Dare loves anyone except Capt. Ralph Payne in memory, that one is not you and that you really never had a chance?"

"That one being—Adams?"

Bertha nodded. "Adams."

"The Silent Menace," she nodded again. "The Silent Menace."

"And you would let her marry him, superintendent that he is, the country's enemy and ours, responsible for Payne's trouble and her unhappiness? You would do that to revenge yourself on me?" He looked at her strangely and waited for her reply.

It was Bertha's chance to admit a change of heart and motive and she did not hesitate. "I no longer seek to harm you, Thornton, and I would gladly give my life to Miss Dare. The Silent Menace shall never marry her. Yet to prevent that tragedy and at the same time shield you by any confession of my own will not be easy. For this reason I have held my tongue."

"Shield me? From what?"

"From irregular conduct in an army officer—the sort that sends men to the penitentiary for life." Brent shuddered. He knew that she spoke truly. He had erred grievously in the performance of duty. And the time was fast approaching when consequences would have to be faced. All of a sudden he experienced a reckless impulse to hurry that time and he thought of the marriage license.

"Bertha!" He grasped her hand and continued in a tense whisper: "What do you know about a marriage license for you and for me?"

Bertha smiled faintly. "Adams gave it to me."

"And about a wedding gift?" She smiled again. "He told me about that, too."

They gazed fixedly in each other's eyes.

"Will you marry me, Bertha? I will resign before it is too late!"

Bertha freed herself and slowly shook her head. "I will marry you, Thornton, but only after you have redeemed yourself—before it is too late."

He clenched his fists and growled aloud. "Tell me how! Help me!"

In common accord they rose and stood face to face. "Unmask Adams! I will stand by you! Do it at once, tonight, in the presence of Miss Dare and the colonel!"

Brent's eyes flashed with determination. "I'll do it!" he cried, sharply, forgetful for the moment of time and place, clasping her hands once more. "Do what, major?" loomed the voice of Colonel Dare out of the darkness; and at the same moment he appeared on the walk accompanied by a telegraph messenger boy.

Bertha, motioning the major to be silent, ran toward the colonel and replied in his stead. "Major Brent just concluded to look you up. Miss Dare and Adams have not yet come home."

A look of concern flittered over the features of the colonel. "Here's a boy with a telegram, major. I'm glad you're here for I have something of

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importance to say," he stated, gravely.

Brent took the telegram and hastily scrawling his receipt, dismissed the boy who hurried away. With a sidelong glance at Bertha, he broke the seal, the colonel looking on impatiently.

Pearl Dare and Orderly Adams are my prisoners. They will remain so until I have accomplished my purpose. If you follow Colonel Dare's instructions you also will become my victim. I forewarn you.

It was signed by the Silent Menace under his silhouette.

Brent straightened up, pressed his lips firmly together and handed the telegram without a word to Colonel Dare.

"What do you get out of this, Brent?" he ejaculated.

"May I inquire what the instructions referred to are?"

"You may, but how they reached his ears is unfathomable!" thundered the colonel, pacing up and down the porch. "Here are your orders, sealed!" He stopped before Brent and handed him an official document. Then he switched off the porch light and they all went indoors.

In the hall Colonel Dare turned to Bertha. "This telegram of Brent's may necessitate a change in my own plans," he stated in a troubled voice. "It was the intention of the war office to have Brent leave on a solitary mission. I shall probably now be obliged to accompany him. Will you remain and look after things here—and Toko?"

"I will do anything you ask, Colonel Dare," replied Bertha, earnestly.

He took her by the hand. "God bless you!" he murmured, fervently. Then he followed Brent into the library and she returned to the porch.

"Those instructions, Major Brent," said the colonel to his subordinate who was inspecting the seals on the document he held in his hand, "were not to be opened until you arrive at your destination. They were to remain a secret until then. You were to leave in the morning and, as you will note on the envelope, sail from New York direct to the canal. This warning completely upsets this schedule. I shall ask the war office for permission to go with you, changing our route."

And he hurried to the telephone and called the residence of the chief of the army staff.

When he left the telephone five min-

canal. Your document contains an elaborate plan whereby mines can be sunk at certain locations to destroy any hostile ship or fleet of ships by subterranean cable connection on land. After a most careful survey of our charts of the canal we have concluded that these locations are identical with those in the stolen Canal Defense plans in possession of the Silent Menace. We will go to the canal and lay these mines before the Silent Menace can possibly intercept us. Then, let him arrive! How soon can you be ready to go?"

"Tonight!"

The colonel nodded approval. "At once! Our swiftest submarine lies at anchor in the Atlantic widewaters. We shall motor there and sail before daybreak!"

"I'll be ready in half an hour, colonel!" cried Brent, saluting and making a hasty exit.

Thus began the beginning of the unravelling of the mystery of the Silent Menace. Unknown to Pearl Dare and T. O. Adams confined in a tramp steamer somewhere on the sea, eleventh hour succor lurked beneath the waters and advanced to meet them at their destination upon arrival.

It was a curious race against time, and horrible uncertainties. Hardly had the B-16 submerged off the Virginia capes than by undersea wireless the colonel and the major were advised of the sinking of the submarine of the Foreign Alliance in the Chesapeake flats, with the destruction of all on board; by torpedoes from the revenue cutter to which Pearl's bottled message was delivered in time to act.

The colonel grew frantic in the fear that Pearl was among the lost. But Brent held a different view. It was his opinion that the Silent Menace would not expose himself to danger now that the crisis hour was at hand; that he was really traveling to the canal on a tramp steamer which by his master conniving had safely and without question "cleared" from some one of the unsuspected bay ports and gotten by the look-outs into open water; that he would not take the chance of harm befalling Pearl, if only for sentimental reasons, or of Pearl finding out too much.

"Sentimental reasons?" echoed Colo-

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Adams a Prisoner of the Silent Menace's Henchmen.

utes later he turned to the now excited major: "You heard the conversation. We will outfit the Silent Menace, Major Brent. If my daughter is in his power, we will save her. The instructions need no longer remain unsealed. We think we have found the weakness in our military defense of the

nel Dare in the midst of Brent's argument. Brent repeated the phrase. "Adams, sir, is in love with your daughter."

"But Adams is not the Silent Menace, Major Brent!"

Meanwhile, and for solitary days and

Continued on last page.