

# A RACE FOR LIFE

OR A YOUNG DOCTOR TAKES A CHANCE

By ARCHIE PARKER

(Continued from last week)  
The following morning found George Allison lying in bed wondering how he was going to break the news to June Daily of the death of her saddle horse Ginger, and the answering of the many questions that she was sure to ask. The answering of the questions was going to be difficult he knew. "Just have to take the bull by the horns and go thru with it I guess," he said to himself as he rolled out of bed and began to dress.

"Good morning Doctor," greeted Mrs. Daily from the kitchen as the young doctor entered. "June has been asking for you all morning."

"She has?" answered Allison. "And how is she? Anything wrong?"

"Oh no, nothing wrong. She is feeling fine. But she wants to sit up today."

"She can—in bed. How is her appetite?"

"She says she is hungry, but I wouldn't let her have anything until I saw you."

"Fine! I will dress her arm in a few minutes and you can give her the same diet, eggs, toast and milk."

"I will Doctor, but I have your breakfast already so you might as well set right down and eat."

"Hot-cakes!" he exclaimed as he slid into a chair by the table. "You know my weakness." But Mrs. Daily merely smiled as she slid the golden-brown cakes into the plate.

After the doctor had finished his breakfast he went directly to the bedside of his patient.

"Good morning Miss Daily, and did you notice I said Miss Daily this time?" greeted the Doctor, with a wisp of humor in his voice.

"Good morning Sir, and I would like very much to know to whom I have the pleasure and great honor of bidding good morning to."

"Is that a question?"

"It is. So what might the name be?"

"It might be George Washington who never told a lie, but it isn't. You aunt told me you wanted to see me—do you?"

"Maybe I do, and maybe I don't. But if I did how could I in this dark old dingy bedroom?"

"Miss Daily, in all seriousness, you have been a good girl and patient thru this ordeal, but in all fairness to you I must tell you there is something you must know. You will have to know what it is sooner or later so it might just as well be now as any other time. It is going to be hard for you to face I know, but I believe you will understand. While I am dressing your arm I will tell you the story."

George Allison told her of how he had been in town on the main street when Fred Pennington came after Doctor Green—of the death of Ginger, her riding horse—how he had promised Fred he would come out to the ranch and do what he could to help—how he had found her nearly dead from the loss of blood. The only thing he omitted from the story was how he had managed to make the trip so quickly. He did not tell her of his wild ride in the stolen locomotive. Before he had finished telling her the story June's face was buried in her pillow and she was sobbing as only a broken heart can sob.

The professional heart of Doctor Allison was touched with sadness as he sat by the side of the weeping girl as she kept sobbing out the words, "Oh Ginger—Ginger—my old Ginger boy—he's gone—I can't believe it—it isn't so."

"Don't take it so hard. Remember Ginger has lived and died for his little girl. That will be something worth remembering. I will leave you now, and you will feel better about it after on. I know you will."

"Do—don't g—go D—Doctor—"

not just yet—I can't bear to stay in here alone right now—please doctor," and June held out her hand as if to stay his departure.

The doctor's hand closed over the slim white hand of June Daily, but he did not attempt to leave the room or talk to the grief-stricken girl. A broken heart must find its own consolation. This the doctor had learned from his years of medical study. For an hour he waited in silence by the bed and listened to a heart pour out the bitter tears of sorrow at the passing of a dear and faithful friend. But as the time slowly passed, the fountain of sorrow and tears was just as slowly being drained of its sparkling liquid of love.

Chapter 7  
The Doctor Goes Away

The following morning Mrs. Daily entered the sick-room. But it could hardly be called a sick-room any more, for June was to be allowed to go into the livingroom and sit in a chair until she felt like going back to bed. The first thing Mrs. Daily did on entering was to go directly to the windows and roll the curtains as high as they would go. That was the first time they were up since June was injured.

"Good-morning June dear. There, don't you think that is better?" she asked as the full flood of the morning light entered the windows, and she continued, "I don't know what that cool doctor wanted the blinds down all the time for anyway."

"Thank you Aunt Sharlott—yes that is certainly better. I nearly forgot what sunlight looks like, but he is not a fool doctor and you know it, and if he wanted the blinds down he had a perfectly good reason. And she said to herself, "And I think I know what that reason was—wish I knew for sure."

"I am going to dress your arm for you now June dear, then you can have your breakfast. And after a while you may come out to the livingroom and set up for awhile."

"Are you going to dress my arm Auntie? Where is the doctor this morning?" asked June with a look of surprise in her big brown eyes.

"Fred took him to town this morning. He left real early. He left some instructions for me to follow and said you were all out of danger. "But Aunt Sharlott, he never came to the room and said good by!" June exclaimed, and her eyelids seemed to flutter as she looked down at the bed covers. It may have been the bright sunlight streaming in thru the windows that effected her eyes that way, but it is doubtful.

"The doctor said you were probably asleep when he left, and that he would not disturb you. He said you needed the rest."

"Auntie Sharlott, did you find out who the doctor was?"

"Land sakes no child. I couldn't get it out of him in no way, shape or form."

"How much did he charge for what he did?"

"That's another thing that seems strange to me June. He would not tell me what the bill was. He said he would send the statement, that he would have to figure it out first."

"I want my breakfast now Auntie I'm awfully hungry. Can I have it?"

"Certainly you can, child. And you can get up for a while and sit in the other room."

(To Be Continued)

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