

DAGGER

by Mary Dahlberg

SYNOPSIS: Blaine Howard, American adventurer, is rescued from some Mexican desperado by Dagger, a Texas rancher. Dagger falls in love with him, but Howard, who has a wife, does not love, goes to join the Alford army in France, and is reported missing and probably dead. Dagger is heartbroken. Meanwhile, Howard has entered the war, and Dagger visits an aunt in San Antonio, where she meets a young man, Captain John Vance, who is a former lover of her late husband. With his help she goes to France to find the new soldier who has been reported missing. He is a heavy drinker, which worries her at times, but almost without knowing it she is falling in love with him.

Chapter 13

WAR FORCES THE ISSUE

DAGGER was waiting on the veranda one evening for Vance to come to escort her to a dinner given by one of the officers at Fort Sam Houston. When he drove up, something in his bearing as he stepped from the car attracted her.

"What's the matter, Jack?" she asked quickly.

"I've got my orders," he said dully.

"For France?"

He nodded. Her own heart missed a beat. She stood, away-

and listened to the solemn babbling to a set formula.

"No ring?" the old chap inquired fretfully, marking his place with a forefinger. "My, yew snore were in a hurry, folks."

Dagger stared helplessly at Vance, whose answering gaze was more vacuous.

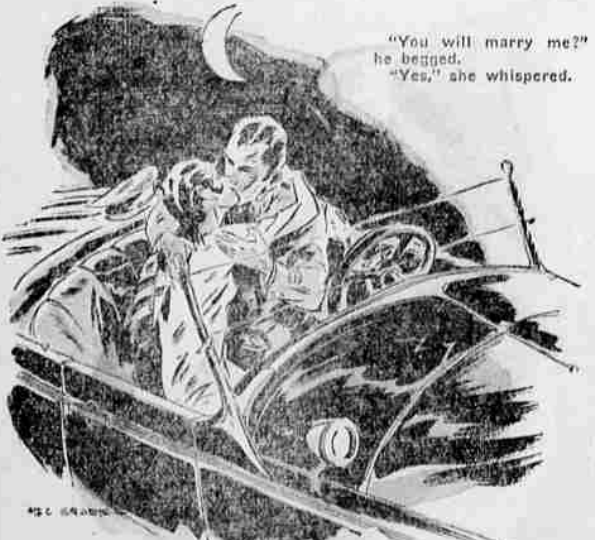
"Can't we—got married?" she asked.

The woman put her shoulder. "Don't yew worry, honey. I got a ring left by a feller got plucked afore Mister Shoreman could spell the bonds onto 'em. That'll do."

It did, but Dagger couldn't keep her eyes off the cheap gold circlet that presently adorned her left hand. A criminal's ring? Was that suspicious for her and Jack? Nonsense! What did the previous ownership of a wedding ring matter? If they loved—and at the thought her eyes shone dewily and her fingers trembled under Vance's arm that must be enough.

At any rate, she was married. And when Jack stooped to kiss her, her lips conveyed a silent message that made him tremble against her.

"That was a time of ecstasy, sharp and heady. And Dagger loved it all; the drowsy clerk at the St. Anthony, who was so discreetly interested; the grinning bell-boy; the belated couple from the roof,



"You will marry me?" he begged.

"Yes," she whispered.

"That's fine," she heard herself say strangely.

He offered his hand, without reply, and assisted her into the front seat, got in, slammed the door, and threw off the brakes, grinding out of the driveway at thirty miles an hour.

"When do you go?" she asked, then.

"Next week."

"It's not very long, is it?" she answered.

He muttered an oath, suddenly pulled over to the curb and stopped.

"Let's get married," he cried.

"Married!" Her breath quickened.

"Why, Jack?"

"I love you," he hurried on. "I think you love me—don't you?"

"I—I don't know."

"Yes, you do, Dagger. You love me. I've felt it ever since we first met that night at the St. Anthony. You've felt, too. Why, we couldn't have been together much more if we had been married. And I need you, little girl, I need you more than you know."

"But I've only known you a few weeks."

"What does that matter? We know each other better than most people who've lived together for years. And you do love me—don't you?"

He caught her to him, and she experienced no distaste for the clasp of his arms. His face hovered over hers in the dusk, her lips met his. Mechanically she drew closer to him, yielding herself with an abandon she had never known before.

"Darling, darling, darling!" His voice was low in her ears. She raised her lips again, and he crushed them as if he'd drink the life from her throat. "You will marry me?" he begged hoarsely.

"Yes," she whispered.

"Now? Tonight?"

"Oh, yes, Jack! I—I want to."

He kissed her a third time, then threw in his clutch and pushed the car for all it was worth.

On, and on, in the night, stopping more than once to inquire the way to a Justice of the Peace. The dinner party was forgotten. Aunt Epsy was forgotten. Uncle Jim, Howard, everyone. Each was wrapped in the other.

An hour later they stood up before a howled old man, and his agitated wife and a farmhand,

who recognized them with a: "You've gone and done it!"

The one worry she had—how Aunt Epsy would take the news—turned out to be a false alarm. She had done what her aunt expected, which was more satisfactory than not having done it.

Probably, too, the old lady was influenced to a certain extent by the attention the newspapers paid to the marriage, both as a romance of the Air Service and because of its social reactions. There were long dispatches from New York surveying the tumultuous history of the Vance family, which had been prominent for several generations. San Antonio, like Aunt Epsy, was impressed, but Dagger, herself, was inclined to be reproachful, especially after Jack received a telegram from his mother complaining of the suddenness of his act.

"You should have told me, Jack! And it was inconsiderate of us to forget everyone but ourselves."

"Why? It's our marriage, isn't it?"

"Yes, but it affects other people. Your family have never met me. Perhaps they won't like me. Perhaps they'll think I'm a fortune-hunter."

He caught her to him fiercely. "They'll love you! You'll see."

"But tell me about them," she commanded. "They're just names to me."

Jack set her down on a couch, and reached for a cigarette.

"Well!" He hesitated, stoking a match. "Kitty—my sister—is a good soul, says what she thinks, does about what she pleases. You ought to get along fine with her. Father's a corker—kind and sort of gentle. Everybody loves him. Mother—Humph! She's a spoiled baby. We've all spoiled her. She used to say she wanted me to marry a princess—meant it, too. He snatched Dagger to him again. "But then I have got a princess—a Texas flying princess!"

Dagger cuddled closer to him. He was very satisfying, this ace of hers. But that didn't remove her forebodings. An instinct beyond control warned of her mother-in-law's hostility, and she made up her mind to act of hers should furnish that hostility any excuse.

Stories clouds already are again threatening Dagger's happiness. With they mar her life with Jack?

News Notes of Pomona and Subordinate Grange Chapters Given by Official Reporters

(Edited by Gertrude Haak.)

- Grange Calendar. (For this month.)
- Earle Point, Tuesday, August 5, 7:30 p. m.
- Talent, Thursday, August 7, 8 p. m.
- Jacksonville, Friday, August 8, 8:30 p. m.
- Enterprise, Saturday, August 9, 8:15 a. m.
- Lake Creek, Thursday, August 14, 8:30 p. m.
- Central Point, Friday, August 15, 8 p. m.
- Sunny Valley, Saturday, August 16, 8 p. m.
- Live Oaks, Monday, August 18, 8 p. m.
- Earle Point, Tuesday, August 19, 8 p. m.
- Talent, Thursday, August 21, 8 p. m.
- Enterprise, Thursday, August 21, 8 p. m.
- Jacksonville, Friday, August 22, 8:30 p. m.
- Pomona Marketing Committee, Monday, August 25, 8 p. m.
- G. Fowler's office, 8 p. m.
- Earle Point, H. E. C., Wednesday, August 27, 2 p. m.
- Lake Creek, Thursday, August 28, 8:30 p. m.

Grange Motto.

In essentials, unity; In non-essentials, liberty; In all things, charity.

"We had the common desire for fraternal harmony, equitable compensation, and earnest co-operation as an omni of our future success."

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Oregon Grange Bulletin prints 1,350 copies of the Bulletin twice a month, which means that nearly 300,000 copies of the official organ are being printed and placed in Grange homes every year, carrying to the membership valuable information from the state master, the secretary, the worthy lecturer, the home economics department, to say nothing of the special departments such as the Juvenile Grange, the agricultural committee, the Pomona and other activities. Without the Bulletin the State Grange could hardly function.—C. H. Bailey.

We feel that the subordinate H. E. C. committees and clubs have a definite work in their own Grange, such as social activities, arranging the kitchen as conveniently as possible, simplifying the home economics, raising money to help the Grange meet its financial obligations, raising the standard of community life, and keeping harmony in the Grange. All these things and more we feel that the subordinate committees and clubs can do, but we also feel that the home economics committees and clubs of our Granges can unite in county and community work and be happy people, happy people make happy homes and happy homes are foundation of the nation, the state and the community.—From State H. E. C. Report.

Agricultural Committee Projects.

Below are a few of the projects successfully completed by agricultural committees of Granges in the state of Oregon.

Myrtle Creek Grange in Douglas county organized the Lamb Shipments Association of Douglas county. The organization of the Livestock Shipping Association of Wallowa county by Granges of that county. A demonstration of Lakah alfalfa, in comparison with other varieties grown in that section by Granges of Baker county.

A campaign for the production of hardy red clover seed by Polk county Grange committee in Polk county.

A campaign for the increased use of better by the Granges of Coos and Marion counties, and many others.

The control of contagious abortion on a county wide area basis by Hood River, Yamhill and Jackson county Pomona.

The organization of the Central Cow Testing Association by committees of Deschutes and Crook counties.

Boys and Girls' club work is being sponsored by nearly all subordinate Grange agricultural committees.

The above items will serve to illustrate the type of work being done by the subordinate and county agricultural committees.

EARLE POINT GRANGE

Earle Point Grange members were grieved and shocked by the sudden death of one of their members last Friday afternoon when Rudolph A. Weidman passed away at the Community hospital in Medford.

It was known that Mr. Weidman was a sufferer from an incurable complaint for the last few years, but being of an indomitable spirit he operated his farm and large dairy until about two weeks before his death, when he was compelled to take to his bed.

Neighbors and friends did all possible for his comfort until Monday, July 28, when he was taken to the community hospital in Medford, where friends and Grangers continued to visit him in an effort to cheer his last hours.

Mr. Weidman was a charter member of this Grange and has always been actively interested in a constructive program, having served on marketing, agricultural, membership and community project committees. He was also one of the first Grangers in Jackson county, where he acted for a local cheese factory. He was a native of Switzerland, the great dairy country, and dairying and cheese making were subjects that he well understood.

Wood of the Methodist church, south, officiating.

Boyle Point Grange conducted the services at the cemetery, with the Grange ceremony. A. C. Mittelsteadt, master, and Mrs. Violet Spencer, chaplain, officiating.

The Grange extends its sympathy to the bereaved family.

The next regular meeting of the Earle Point Grange is to pass to the great beyond since our organization five years ago, and we are forcibly reminded that life is at best an uncertain entity.

Shoner or later, this life, with all of its joys and its sorrows, its failures and successes, its mistakes and its charities comes to an end. Then we will be judged by One filled with compassion for the erring, filled with understanding for our mistakes.

Let us, then, while we are still in the vigor of our manhood and womanhood, exercise those virtues outlined in the principles of our beloved order, to be compassionate, kindly and charitable.

The next regular meeting of this Grange will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 8 p. m.

SAMS VALLEY GRANGE

With one of the largest crowds of the season present and plenty of interest, the Grange met for regular session Saturday night.

Earle Point, Live Oak, Central Point and Paissonville Granges were well represented.

Lecture hour was held at the opening of the meeting and due to the absence of the Grants' Pass chamber of commerce, which was to have furnished much of the program, the lecturer was forced to fill in with emergency numbers.

The main number of the program was the talk by Senator Ed Miller of Josephine county, who thoroughly explained the cabinet form of government, getting the matter to his listeners so that all felt capable of voting intelligently on the bill this fall. The officials of the Grange were pleased with the attendance and gratified that so many do really want instruction on voting and came a long way to get their information.

Other numbers of the program were: Reading, Mrs. Barnes, "The Fur Coat"; Piano selection, Mr. Kirk; readings, Mrs. L. T. Galliar, "Trees" and "Charlotte and Angela"; song, Miss Doris Richardson, "Little Brown Bird" with an encore, "Cat Tails" talk by County Judge Sparrow on legislative matters.

The lecturer wishes every one to accept her sincere thanks for their willingness to aid in the program.

A short business session was held during which a committee consisting of R. E. Nealon, Albert Straus and J. M. Sweet was appointed to investigate water rights in Table Rock and Sams Valley. Next Thursday was named as the evening to give to the waiting candidates the first and second degrees.

The master advised the fair committee to also come Thursday night with reports on their work.

After closing, cake, sandwiches, ice cream and coffee were served by the H. E. C. who deserves much credit for a capability of handling so large a crowd.

Central Point Grange

The Grange had as guest speaker A. H. Banwell, secretary of the Northern California Southern Oregon Development Association. Mr. Banwell's very interesting talk was a brief, clear explanation of the purposes of the organization which he represented. He very definitely stated some of the possibilities of Jackson and Josephine counties, but due to the lack of outlets to the outside world these resources must be unused. The present city harbor would supply, if developed, an adequate means of transportation for this section of the country.

His closing words were an appeal to everyone present to back up and all efforts being made toward the development of southern Oregon and northern California.

It is truly a fact, unless we work cooperatively and unitedly, town and rural, those efforts toward development will not be attained.

We hope in the near future to have the pleasure of again hearing Mr. Banwell.

The Grange was opened in due form by Master Anderson, the necessary business was transacted.

During the lecture hour the Grange was entertained by a three piece orchestra, violin, Miss Lola Blackford and Mr. Purkeypile; piano, Mrs. Lulu Strohmeier, Alberta Bomes sang, "Shepherd Serenade," accompanied by the orchestra. Following these numbers the orchestra played an old Virginia reel and many present enjoyed some more real exercises.

Master Fields of Williams Creek Grange, extended an invitation to all Jackson county Grangers to attend the dedication of their Grange hall, Saturday, Aug. 30.

After Grange was closed, refreshments were served. The attendance has been smaller during the warm weather.

GOLD HILL

GOLD HILL, Ore., Aug. 1.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Reed had as their guests a few

LAME BACK

ACHES, PAINS OR STIFFNESS RELIEF OVERNIGHT MIKE MARTIN'S LINIMENT DIRECTIONS WITH BOTTLE A FEW CENTS ALL DRUG STORES

days last week Mr. Reed's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Reed of Los Angeles.

Charles Hargreaves of Santa Monica, Cal., was in this city last week visiting an old schoolmate, Mrs. Lulu Davis.

Mrs. A. A. Walker entertained the Sewing club at her home Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Olive Clark of Portland and a former resident of this city is here visiting old friends.

Jim Hedgepath had the misfortune to seriously cut his hand on some glass last week.

Mrs. Abbie Wise had as her house guests last week her granddaughter, Mrs. Carrie Siederburg and Mrs. Jack Russel of Oakland.

Mrs. Olive Barnes of Weed, Cal., is in this city as the house guest of Mrs. Moorelock. Mrs. Barnes is a former resident and will be remembered by the older residents.

Clyde Warner is reported as ill at his home west of town.

Mildred Orr of Eugene, Ore., was a week-end guest at the Regue Nook Inn. Miss Orr is English teacher in the Gold Hill high school.

Mrs. Lulu Wing and mother, Mrs. Walker, were Medford visitors Friday.

Among the Medford visitors from this city Thursday were Mrs. Roy Centers, Mrs. Bill Force, Miss Olive Turner and Mrs. C. J. Shorb.

Mrs. W. E. Ross left Thursday for several weeks visit with her son and wife in Brooklyn, New York.

Mrs. Della Shaver, Mrs. Ogden Snyder and Claude Shaver were business visitors in Medford Friday.

G. L. Geifer and wife of California have rented the M. E. Parsonage for the fruit season. Mr. Geifer has charge of the Van Hovenberg packing house for the Letz company of California.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Stanwood spent the week-end at Crescent City as guests of Mr. Stanwood's parents.

Mrs. Loheta Steinmetz and two

sons of Tulsa, Okla., are in this city as guests of Mrs. Steinmetz's aunt, Mrs. John Cook and renew friendships with girlhood friends.

The Gold Hill hotel is now under the management of Mrs. Jessie Hayes who with her family recently came here from Gold Beach.

Mrs. and Mrs. Vaughn Quackenbush and family have moved into the Lulu Davis home for a few days prior to moving to California.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hedgepath of Medford spent Thursday in this city visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hedgepath.

Mrs. Ella and daughter, Mrs. Christmann took the remains of Mrs. Ellis' mother, Mrs. Esther McReynolds, to Cottage Grove for burial.

Mrs. Lucy Mee, Mrs. Della Shaver and son, Woodrow, were Crescent City visitors Sunday.

Mrs. W. G. Davis had as her home guest for the week-end, Miss Suzanne Koske of Ashland, Oregon.

Mrs. Millie Walker and daughter, Sybil, left Sunday afternoon for several days' visit with the Ralph Darling family at Fort Klamath.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ham had as their dinner guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. McPherson and family of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. McPherson is a sister of Mr. Ham.

Mrs. Mary Chisholm had as her houseguest last week Mrs. J. M. Blackington of Couville, Oregon. Mrs. Blackington was a former resident of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Millsbaugh have moved into the Bob Cook house north of the M. E. church.

Mrs. George Lyman spent Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Earl Ham. Mrs. Lyman has been very ill all spring and her many friends will be glad to know she is slowly improving and able to be out.

At the last meeting of the school board Clinton Walker was awarded the contract for the Pootis Creek bus.

WISCONSIN MAN DISCOVERS AN EASY WAY TO GET RID OF PILES

Got Disgusted with Nasty Salves. Suffered Terribly

EVERYONE WITH PILES CAN DO SAME THING

"I hope nobody else in the world suffers six long years with piles and wastes all the time I did on salves and such stuff," declares Mr. John Lande, well known Wag-on-Maker, 213 South Center Street, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

"I had to keep trying something to keep from suffering. My case was bad, but nothing helped me until I read the testimonial of a man suffering with piles who Colac Pile Pills. I sent away for a couple

bottles and began using them; you swallow a couple three times a day—and strange as it seems, they helped me from the start and today my piles are gone and I feel more like a human being. Life is worth living again. Thousands of men and women who suffer with piles are discovering that such troubles can be quickly, easily, banished in this simple, inexpensive, harmless, internal way. No bother or fuss, so why should anybody suffer another day? Doctors prescribe these pills, which you may now obtain, 45 pills in a bottle, sufficient for a full week's treatment, for 75c at drug store, or send 75c in cash or stamps to Colac Chemical Co., Brentwood, Md. No risk. Money back without quibble or question if Colac Pile Pills fail to banish your troubles. You are sole judge.

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HER HAIR WAS FALLING OUT QUITE BAD AND TURNING GRAY

Began Using Lea's Hair Tonic and Delighted with It. Hair Back Again to Former Color

FEW WEEKS USE DID WONDERS, SHE SAYS

"It is amazing and wonderful the way Lea's Hair Tonic will stop falling hair and give it back its exact former shade before turning gray," writes Minnie Hersch, who like hundreds of women here, praise it to the sky.

"Nothing I ever heard of equals Lea's and I used a great many different preparations because my hair was falling out bad and turning gray too. After massaging a few drops into my scalp each night or several weeks I looked years younger and my hair was all as full and even colored youthful appearing even colored and nice as when I was a girl. I certainly recommend it," continues the girl whose photo is shown above and who lives at 1516 Ninth Avenue, Scottsbluff, Neb.

Druggists here are authorized to sell Lea's Hair Tonic on a positive guarantee of complete satisfaction in six weeks or less or money back without quibble or question. If preferred send dollar bill, check or money order to Lea Tonic Co., Brentwood, Md., for bottling years younger and better (the return mail.



Minnie Hersch

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