

FORBIDDEN VALLEY

by William Byron Mowery

Chapter Seven
FAINT TRAIL

At the first of their talk Curt tried to find out what lay behind Baldwin's attempt to shield Helen that afternoon. He discovered that Baldwin took her out frequently to dinner or a show, in fact kept rather steady company with her. That was all he learned, but he was satisfied there was something more, something which he could uncover easily enough when he wanted to.

Definitely leading the topic from Baldwin to Baldwin's work, he casually mentioned the Karakhan case and got her started talking about it. Almost immediately he discovered that she had loved the Russian passionately and still loved him. She knew about the huge swindle he had worked, but with a woman's

loyalty she forgave it. She knew he had cautiously thrown her aside—he had done so even before he fled, and had taken up with another girl in Victoria; but she forgave that too. If she had had the slightest knowledge of where he was, she would have flown to him in an instant.

For such loyalty to be wasted on a vicious wolf seemed to Curt a real tragedy. To judge by similar affairs in the Russian's career, the man had some undentable and strong power with women.



As gently as an inquisitor could, Curt went on.

"What was he doing on the sixteenth and seventeenth of last September, Holden?"

"On the sixteenth his ship was housed at the airport. On the seventeenth he cleared for Nanaimo. It was a stormy foggy day. No other planes cleared and none came in."

"Did he take a passenger?"

"No. I'm sure of that because the airport manager checks on ships. We're so close to the border that they have to be strict with inspections. He cleared by himself."

Baldwin looked relieved. The fact that Curt had dug up about young Gunnar had made him uneasy, but now his confidence flowed back.

"Did you check on him arriving at Nanaimo, Holden?" Curt persisted.

"I phoned 'em, but they don't keep records there, and they have too many planes in and out to remember any particular one."

"How much gas did he take on here?"

Holden glanced at a paper. "Eighty-five gallons."

Curt toyed with a letter knife. Baldwin felt sympathetic. Tennyson was falling. At least this trail, to which he had evidently pinned a lot of hope, was proving a complete dud.

"About this matter of Gunnar clearing by himself," Curt said presently, and his measured reasoning joined Baldwin out of his complacency, "he could easily enough have picked Karakhan up, somewhere out in the Strait. As for his going to Nanaimo, he never went there at all and never intended to. He lied."

"That plane of his, on boats, could just barely get off with eighty-five gallons of gas. Nanaimo is only sixty miles from here. Would a pilot ever tank up to capacity for a forty-five minute hop? You can bank on it, he was planning a flight of seven or eight hours."

Curt learns, tomorrow, something of great importance.

turned to Helen Mathieson again, taking her out that evening; on a long motor-canoë trip in the Strait. It was she who innocently gave him the little broken bits of information and the stray trivial details that he pieced together into the story of Karakhan's escape.

The following morning he walked in on Baldwin and Sergeant Holden. "Here in Vancouver," he informed them, "there is, or was, a young flyer called Jim Gunnar. He had an ambition of his own, and he kept it at the airport. He and Karakhan went up together two or three times a week, and Karakhan used his ship exclusively. While I'm working on another lead, I wish you'd investigate him, Holden, and get all the information you can."

Holden left on the assignment. Late that afternoon he returned, bringing dismal news. Young Gunnar, he reported, had bought a new airplane last October and started freelancing up the Alaskan coast.

Just a month ago he had smacked up in a pea-soup fog at Baranof Island. A whaling boat had taken him to a hospital at Novoniski, a little town dating from the Russian occupation of the Pacific Northwest; but he had died without regaining consciousness.



THE report was a blow to Curt. If Karakhan really had escaped by plane, young Gunnar was the logical person to have taken him. Now Gunnar was dead, and the information he might have given was forever lost.

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SNOW STAKES ORDERED FOR CRATER HIGHWAY

According to word received from State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldwin, the state highway commission has instructed Maintenance Engineer J. N. Bishop to erect snow stakes on the Crater Lake highway above Union Creek. It was reported by chamber of commerce officials today.

Owing to the difficulty experienced last year in opening the road, the local chamber of commerce requested the highway commission to erect snow stakes this year and the desired results were obtained.

Attempts will be made in west Texas to eradicate the prickly pear with injections of poison into the roots.

A pontoon bridge at Calcutta, India, the largest in the world, is to be replaced by a cantilever bridge costing \$8,300,000.

S. P. DETECTIVE TRAIN LOCATES BAD RAILS

The "anomaly" looking red engine running down the Southern Pacific tracks yesterday, attracting the attention of many people, was a "detector car," so say the railroad officials. And it was here on a very important mission, that of insuring safety to railway passengers. The cars, by means of magnetic current, detect defects in rails.

When a defect, interior or exterior, is struck, the car instantly stops and investigation is followed by repair. J. A. Goetz was in charge of operation and was accompanied by B. C. Harris, road master.

Beef cattle will be "swapped" with the Amarillo, Tex., community kitchen for grazing privileges on water department land.

Heating costs can be reduced. For complete heating service call Art Schmidt, 419-1622.

S'MATTER POP—



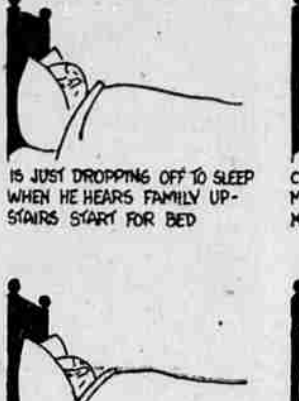
THE MAN UPSTAIRS



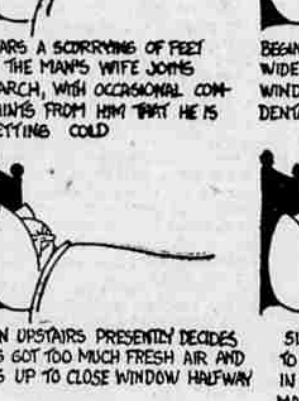
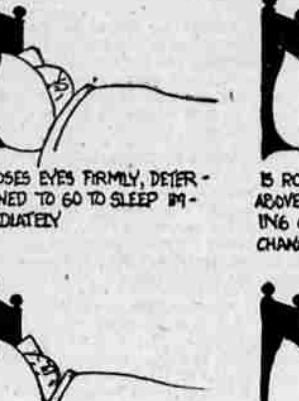
By C. M. PAYNE



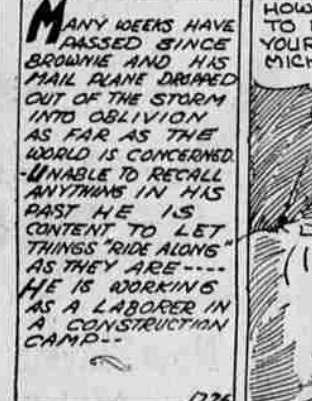
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By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



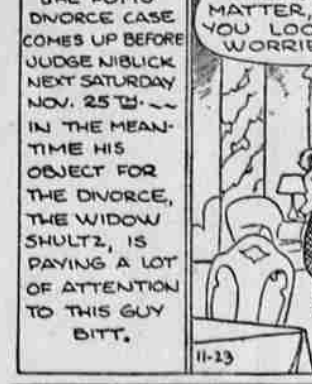
TAILSPIN TOMMY—Guessing About Brownie's Past!



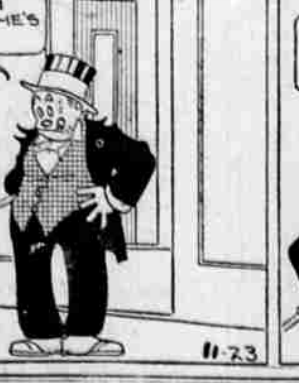
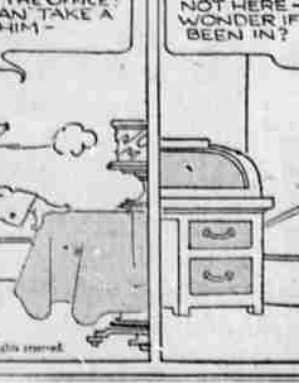
BOUND TO WIN—An Interruption



THE NEBBS—The Cat's Out Of The Bag



BRINGING UP FATHER



Phoenix Endeavor Needs Rooms For Conclave Visitors

PHOENIX, Nov. 23.—(Sp.)—Presbyterian church here will be host to the Crater Lake Christian Endeavor convention December 1, 2 and 3.

Delegates will be here from all towns of the union, from Ashland to Grants Pass, and entertainment to be on the Harvard plan, the furnishing of bed and breakfast to the delegates.

Anyone in the community having an extra room and caring to take a delegate is asked to get in touch with either C. G. Hartley, or Mrs. Ralph Peterson. If any one has room which they are willing to donate and do not wish to furnish breakfast, breakfast will be taken care of in other ways, their help will be appreciated, 100.

Leslie Aid Society will have charge of serving the other meals, the officers supper on Friday night, the lunch and banquet on Saturday.

MILL CODE RESTRAINER HEARING SET DEC. 18

PORTLAND, Nov. 23.—(AP)—The demand of the Willamette Valley Lumber company of Dallas for a permanent injunction restraining the NRA lumber code authority from imposing production restrictions, will be heard in federal court here Monday, Dec. 18.

EAGLES INVITED TO VAN ZANDT MEETING

It was announced today by the Veterans of Foreign Wars that all members of F. O. E. No. 2028, are invited to attend the meeting at the armory at 8 o'clock tonight to welcome Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There's No Guesswork in Tribune A. B. C. Circulation