

FORBIDDEN VALLEY

By William Byron Mowery

SYNOPSIS: By clever means Curt Tessie and Paul St. Clair have discovered the "contact man" of the Russian crook Igor Karakhan, whom they are trailing into the Canadian Northwest. Curt has met at Russian Lake Sonya Nichols, who with her brother Ralph plans to enter the territory of the Klosshees. Curt also has rescued Sonya from a drunken half-breed, and now Old John, a trapper, declares her expedition is highly dangerous. John tells Curt of the Klosshees.

Chapter 16
TEESIE LENOIR

THE KLOSSHEES. John went on, warring hunters, living entirely by the chase. They had split into two bands, a northern one, under the leadership of Siam-Kiale or the Black Grizzly, and a southern band that lived around the forks of the Lilluar. Some-times in summer they made little lean-tos of pine boughs, but most of the time they were cave-dwellers; the warm dry caves of that region were much better abodes than any tepee.

There used to be about two hundred of them, he said, but five years ago a wandering trapper from Fort Nelson had brought influenza in, and it had riddled both bands, and now they numbered only a hundred. They had found the man wandering along a river, starved and desperately ill; had taken him in, cared

for him till he recovered, and the sickness had spread like a blight among them. They had set fire to a whole mountain range to drive the white disease-devils out of their territory.



Curt and Paxton paddled to the post.

As he handed back the weapon of those mountain nomads, he made up his mind that he was going to do something about Ralph and Sonya's trip. They didn't know how to take care of themselves in the wilderness, especially in so appalling a country; and they knew nothing at all about handling Indians. They had to be shielded somehow, and the job was up to him.

Outside, the rain was falling off; the first gray light was reaching up into the eastern sky.

"How about running your net, John?" Curt suggested. "I'll go along."

Old Paxton pulled on his shoes and jacket. They went outside, launched a canoe, and paddled off to the islands.

Locating the anchored chunk that marked the net, they skinned over, lifted one end of the seine, and began working down along it, extricating the fish as they went and dropping the net back into the water.

"SONYA mentioned to me 'bout you 'shavin' that run-in with the 'breed last evenin'." Old John remarked, tossing a flopping trout into the canoe. "I know you c'n take care of yourself, but jist the same you be leery of that feller while you're here at Russian Lake."

"Why so?"

"He's a bad 'un, 'Teeste is." Curt started a little. "'Teeste—'Teeste who?"

"His name's Teeste LeNoir."

Out of long experience with crashing surprises, Curt never batted an eye. But inwardly he was dumfounded. Heaven above, he'd whipped Karakhan's contact man! Had made a bitter enemy of the one person at Russian Lake with whom he wanted to be friends!

"Yes, he's a bad 'un," Paxton repeated, all unaware of the bomb he had exploded with Curt. "He ain't above stickin' a knife inter a man,

pecially when he's been hantin' this bush whisky."

Curt seized his chance to get a line on LeNoir. "Who is he, John? Just a general loafer?"

"No, he's a trapper. Guides some, too, when any big-game hunter happens to git in this fer. He come from the God's Lake country in Manitoba 'bout eight year ago. I heard rumor that he done somethin' over there—slipped a man some pizen, I heard—an' had to put his foot in front of his nose an' git."

Curt wondered how Igor Karakhan, the metropolitan criminal, had ever got in touch with this fugitive of the Strong-Woods. Probably the country had once hunted in this country and LeNoir had been his guide. The 'breed could be watched, shadowed; and through him they could nail Karakhan.

"Where does LeNoir trap, John? Around here close, I suppose."

"No, 'way up the Lilluar. Up high the forks."

"In Klosshees territory? How does it happen they allow him in there?"

"They ain't so touchy ag'inst 'breeds as ag'inst whites. 'Sides, he's got some stand-in with Siam-Kiale, the sub-chief. I never heard jist what."

Curt grimaced. More bad news. Karakhan must be living up north in those forbidden mountains, toler-

ated there because of the 'breed's influence over the Klosshees. Not so good.

HE and Paxton paddled across to the post with their catch. The three-o'clock sun, just inching above the northeast ranges, glistened against the many windows of the mission, and its life-giving warmth felt good after the chilly night. After they tossed fish to the dogs, Curt selected half a dozen of the smaller trout, cleaned them at the water edge, and set about getting breakfast.

"Did you ever do any prospecting up the Lilluar, John?" he asked, as he put the trout into the steaming pan.

"Not to speak of. You ain't figurin' on prospecting up that way?"

"Well, up as far as the pass. You say there's no danger that far. Could you make me a map of the territory? There aren't any government charts."

"I might mebbe. I ain't no hand at pencil work, but I know the country from A to Z."

While Curt finished breakfast, Paxton went to work with a paper sack and pencil stub and produced a chart. It was a rough thing but accurate and dependable.

"Here's the pass," he explained to Curt. "Here's the Lilluar Forks on above. This mountain lake over here, that's where I trap."

"Where does LeNoir live?"

"On this main fork, 'bout a mile up from the prong."

Curt folded the paper and buttoned it carefully in his shirt pocket. Good work, for half an hour's talk!

That one little dot, showing him LeNoir's cabin, would save weeks of searching. He would make copies of that chart; one for himself and Paul; one for Smash, who was standing by at Tellacret with the plane, and one to send to A-K, to let Marlin know what had happened to them if they never came out of the Lilluars.

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Tomorrow, Sonya has a very welcome surprise.

MORTGAGEE MUST ALSO TAKE CHANCE

SALEM, Dec. 5.—(AP)—In times like these the mortgagee must take

Judge L. G. Lewelling today in a foreclosure case of E. F. Whelan against Florence Kelly.

The judge stated while a decree of foreclosure would issue he would not permit execution unless the mortgagee accepted government home loan bonds. The mortgagee refused to accept the home loan bonds.

The court stated that these bonds are worth from 83 to 84 cents on the

chances with the mortgagor, held dollar, as much as anyone can expect to realize on a city property investment at this time. Eventually, as times get good, he stated, the bonds will be worth par and interest.

Mrs. Charlie Kyeer, 36-year-old Texan woman, has four grandchildren, the first born when she was 30.

MILE LONG CRACK IN RIM OF CRATER

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.—(AP)—A crack a mile long has appeared off

the south rim of the Mokuawewe crater of Mauna Loa volcano, on the island of Hawaii, the Matson Navigation company office here was advised today.

The message stated there was still no lava flow from the steaming crater, but those familiar with Hawaiian volcanic activities, said appearance of such a crack commonly presaged a flow. Steam was issuing to-

day from the crevice, the communication added.

Other advices to the Matson office said airplanes available for charter to view the volcano from the air were in demand, since Mokuawewe, otherwise is accessible only after a daylong hike up the 12,675 high mountain.

S'MATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



TAILSPIN TOMMY—So Near—And Yet So Far!

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



BOUND TO WIN—Ben's Determination

By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—I'm Sorry

By SOL HESS



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



NATIONAL B. P. W. CLUB WILL DO PART TOWARD HELPING EMPLOYMENT

That 1300 clubs of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs will do their part in keeping idle business women employable was announced yesterday by Mrs. Geline MacDonalld Bowman, national president of the federation, returning from the White House conference, at which 40 women leaders considered the problem of America's unemployed women.

Decided emphasis was placed upon the necessity of helping unemployed women in overcrowded fields to develop new techniques. In answer to this need Mrs. Bowman pledged business and professional women throughout the country to co-operate with local relief agencies by giving information regarding their own fields to

BUILD BUSINESS NOW FOR FUTURE—SHOUP

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 5.—(AP)—American business has its greatest opportunity to rebuild permanently for a profitable future, Paul Shoup told the western division of the United Chamber of Commerce meeting here today. Shoup is vice president of the chamber and presided.

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