

FORBIDDEN VALLEY

by William Byron Mowery

SYNOPSIS: Leaving for a time the trail of Igor Karakhan, international crook whom he is trailing into the land of the fierce Kookoo Indians in Northwestern Canada, Curt Teasdale flies back to Vancouver for information about a couple he has met in the wilderness. They are Sonya and Helen Nichols, bound on a mission they will not discuss. Curt finds that Sonya, in whom he is much interested, is really the daughter of Prince Stepan Volkov, Russian emperor. A Russian friend of her family is describing the escape of the Volkovs from the Red Terror.

Chapter 23 NEW LEADS

"I MET the Volkovs again in Mongolia Urga half a year later," Feodor Plekhanov went on. "They had won through. As my son and I had, Prince Stepan welded us into a band for self-defense and got us through to Peking, and there we scattered to the four winds."

No wonder, Curt mused, that Sonya had turned on him with such violence when he mildly praised the Leninists that evening in the prison house. And no wonder she seldom smiled.

Gradually swinging Plekhanov away from the emigre story, he led the old Russian to talk about the Volkovs in Victoria. But with that phase of their life Plekhanov was not so well acquainted. They had



Curt and Baldwin met at the pier.

gone a different road from his, and he saw them rarely. But he did know the lumber company that the men were connected with, the name of the school where Sonya taught, the family where she had been governess, and the address of the Volkov home.

Curt decided that with those good leads it would be easy to run across to Victoria and get the information he wanted. Thanking their host, he and Baldwin went down to the car.

"Well, did you get what you were after, Curt?"

"It was worth while, I've got a good grasp of her background; but nothing that she said gives me any idea of what she's doing in the Lilluars."

Baldwin turned on the switch key, snapped it off again, toyed with the strap of his swag bag.

"Curt, I've been thinking of Sonya Volkov a lot this evening and I've got a theory about this situation. Maybe it's occurred to you. Did you ever wonder whether Karakhan mightn't be at the bottom of this trip of hers?"

"Karakhan—how's that?"

"See here, it's a pretty safe bet that those two were acquainted. Karakhan must've known her; he made it his business to know all the emigrés in these two cities, for he didn't want somebody who knew him in Russia to hob up unexpectedly and give him away. It's another safe bet that Karakhan would have pushed his acquaintance with her. Those snaps you took, especially that one of her on the rock—Curt, she's a beautiful girl. The point is, she might have fallen for him—"

"No!" The denial was jolting from Curt. "That's ridiculous."

"I don't see how. Others have. You know the old saying that women love a dash of wickedness."

"Yes, I've heard it. But I also know Sonya Volkov. You don't, Arn."

"Right, but that's all the more reason why my judgment on this may be better than yours. I'm not biased. To put my theory in a nutshell, I believe she's going in there to join Karakhan."

Curt laughed. "Don't be crazy, Arn."

"What's crazy about it?"

"The whole idea! To leave her out of it and argue from Karakhan's viewpoint, he'd never let anybody know where he's hiding. He didn't even allow Jim Gunnar to take him into those mountains."

"Yes, I know; but Curt, think of this: he's been there in that God-forsaken country for nine months; he's gone almost a year without sight of a white woman's face. And another thing, Curt—we know he threw over Helen Mathieson and took up with another girl just a few weeks before he pitched off. We've never found out who that girl was. I'll bet my governor's title against a shirt-button that it was Sonya Volkov!"

Curt stepped on the starter. "Your theory is a waste of time. Let's be getting somewhere, if you're going to drive."

They drove back to the Marlin home, mapped out their program for the following day, and separated.

EARLY the next morning they met at the pier and flew across to Victoria. Baldwin started out to cover the private school where Sonya taught and the family where she had been governess. Curt took the other leads as his part.

AUTO ACCIDENTS MORE SERIOUS

SALEM, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Fewer automobile accidents but more result-

ing fatalities occurred the first eleven months this year than in the corresponding period of 1932, the secretary of state reported today.

For the first eleven months of this year the report shows 218 dead and 3771 injured in 17,566 accidents. Last year the same period showed 206 dead and 3961 injured in 18,722 accidents.

In November of this year 19 were killed and 428 injured in 1919 accidents, all three figures exceeding those of November, 1932.

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WINTER TERM OPENS AT OREGON JAN. 2ND

EUGENE, Ore.—The second or winter term of the University of Oregon

will open Tuesday, January 2, it was announced here by Dr. Earl M. Pallett, registrar. All classes will begin on Wednesday, January 3, and all students are expected to be on the campus.

Classes for the term will end Saturday, March 10, and examinations will be held from March 12 to 16. The term will not be broken up by any holidays. Spring vacation will

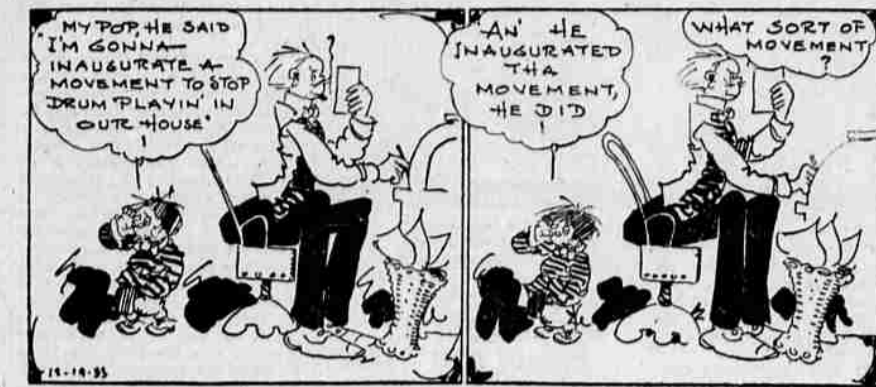
start March 16 and the spring term begin March 26.

WOODBURN, Ore., Dec. 19.—(AP)—Pleading guilty to theft of seed onions, Earl Roy Allphin was sentenced to served six months in jail, in justice court late yesterday.

Broken windows glazed by Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

S'MATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



DIFFICULT DECISIONS

GLUYAS WILLIAMS (Copyright, 1933, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



WONDERING WHETHER TO LET YOUR HUSBAND GO ON TRYING TO REMEMBER WHERE HE HID YOUR PRESENT, OR WHETHER TO REVEAL THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS GIVING YOU BY SHOWING HIM WHERE IT IS HIDDEN

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Death Canyon—A Consistent Menace

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



BOUND TO WIN—Ben's Determination

By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—Remorse

By SOL HESS



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TROLLEY TRAVEL INCREASE PROVES NRA IS WORKING

PORTLAND, Dec. 19.—Concrete evidence that the NRA movement is doing the job for which it was created—putting the unemployed laborer back to work—was contained in the report of the American Transit association, which showed definite increases in business done by trolley and bus lines in 75 per cent of all American cities.

This increase is solely attributable to an increase in employment in metropolitan centers, NRA officials held. Street car riders are of the class which suffered most from unemployment and depression, and the increase in street car and bus business is an ac-

curate index of improved employment conditions.

"The NRA movement is returning benefits where they will do the most good," said Will Simons, vice-chairman of the Oregon-Idaho district recovery board. "Unemployment distress was greatest in the metropolitan centers. The report of the American Transit association shows that this distress is being relieved and that men are going back to work and are spending their money for carfare. This is a splendid example of the value of the NRA program, which is the first plan to relieve unemployment and return benefits to business at the same time."

The October report shows that street cars and buses showed an increase during the month for the first time since 1929.

Ship East On Rocks

LARNACA, Cyprus, Dec. 19.—(AP)—

The crew of the American steamer Esarch, whose captain, A. T. Hickey of Rochester, N. Y., willed himself, made plans to discharge the steamer's cargo today after failing in efforts to tow her off the rocks.

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