

BLOND GODDESS A New Serial By Herbert Jensen

SYNOPSIS: Frank Grahame in the Yucatan jungle on a hunt for Bill Langton, his missing sister and traces of the elusive Zen the movie star, and Greene, her true agent. They were held prisoner by the subordinates, at the top of an ancient Mayan pyramid. But almost immediately, the natives recapture the party, and secretly wound Frank into the bargain. He awakes a prisoner, with Greene by his side. They explore their cell.

Chapter 30 THE MESSAGE

HIGH above them were two windows, one on each adjacent wall. Frank guessed that this was either a corner room, or that the cell abutted upon a courtyard. The window-openings were barred, as was the square orifice in the studded door.

He approached the door and studied it. He lifted his fist and struck it.

"What are you trying to do?" asked Greene.

"Get somebody here, and tell 'em we want water."

"No good. I tried that while you were 'bye bye'."

Grahame unlaced a boot. "If at first you don't succeed," he said tugging at the heel, "make some more noise."

He pounded the door with his boot-heel. After a period he heard a voice outside the door ask him in Spanish what he wanted.

"Water!"

The voice spat some reply, and they heard the man's soft footsteps retreating.

Grahame redoubled his pounding. Soon the voice spoke again and Grahame replied in voluble Spanish.

"What are you telling him?" Greene asked curiously.

"Telling 'im we'll die without food and water, and that he'll catch the devil if he lets us."

The man without seemed to hesitate before replying, then, muttering, shuffled away. Grahame smiled.

"Bet you a dime we get the water."

The minutes sped away. An hour passed. The heat within the closed room was stifling. While the pain in his head diminished, Grahame doubted if he were capable of any great effort. His right arm and shoulder were worse than useless, he knew.

There seemed scant chance of making a break for freedom from this situation. It would take a miracle to alter their circumstances for the better. He wondered how long they would keep them here, and for what ultimate purpose.

They seemed, those savage people, utterly ruthless about the lives of their male vic'ims. His thoughts instinctively refused to dwell on Janice's fate. He knew too well what might happen to her.

Many of the warriors had white skins, sun-bronzed to be sure, but undoubtedly white. The eyes of some of them were blue, and their hair yellow.

He thought, too, of Hollywood, which by now had assumed the status almost of a heavenly abode to him.

HE WONDERED just why he had walked out of Janice's house that night after she had so curtly refused him. He even wondered whether she had refused him, or whether the slap she had dealt him was rather the result of overstrung nerves.

In any case, it was obvious that his action had been responsible for most of what had come since. For evidently if he had talked it out with Janice that night they might at least have come to some agreement that would have made it possible for him to continue with Myberg.

And had he continued with Myberg he would have been a member of the company that had been sent to Mexico, and thus would have been able to protect Janice at every step. Or at least to try to protect her.

He would certainly never have permitted the company to advance blind into the most dangerous part of Mexico. He might very well have brought it into the wilds, it is true, but certainly not under the "protection" of Ortega.

"Hindsight is better than foresight," he quoted grimly to himself as he looked about his cell.

The whole debacle had been the result of a girl's slap—and a man's stunted pride. The rancor of the one had gone, but the consequences of the other remained.

He wondered again at the fidelity of Juan, the chance that had brought the boy to him, and whether the youth was by now safely out of the territory of the bloodthirsty sublevados.

ILLINOIS FINDING SALES TAX NEAR PAINLESS METHOD

More favorable news for the sales tax was received today from a state which has tried it—Illinois this time.

Paul B. Chance, county superintendent of schools in Marion county, in a letter to Miss Annette Gray of this city, has given an interesting review of the situation in his state.

"The reaction to the sales tax at this time is a very little," he writes. "When the bill was first passed there was a great deal of opposition. At this time we hear very little about it and no one really notices the amount paid."

Regarding the effect of the sales tax on the property tax, Mr. Chance explained. "The state has levied a property tax of 80 cents (five mills) for state expenses for a number of years. This year, owing to the sales tax receipts, this 80-cent state tax has been eliminated. Several farmers that I know will have their taxes reduced at least one-third this year as a result of this sales tax."

As to the school situation, the Illinois educator states: "This past year only 58 per cent of the state distributive fund was paid, but the governor promised during the state teachers' meeting in December that next year the money received from the sales tax would permit the state distributive fund to be paid in full. No schools in Marion county were closed on account of finances."

"Every district in our county pays its teachers with warrants and only three districts of the 128 have any trouble in cashing their warrants."

Miss Gray, who received the letter, lived in Marion county, Illinois, before coming to Medford to teach.

WHITE HOUSE PLEADS FOR RAIL EMPLOYEES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—(AP)—A White House plea that railroad wages be continued without further reduction will receive consideration by rail chiefs.

Railway executives gathered in Chicago let it be known today that Mr. Roosevelt's proposal would be placed for discussion alongside one of their own—a 15 per cent cut in the basic pay rate effective July 1.

LUMBER BUSINESS TOPS LAST WEEK

SEATTLE, Feb. 17.—(AP)—An increase in production of about 5,000,000 feet over the preceding week was shown for the week ending February 10, in the report of the West Coast Lumbermen's association today.

Production for 866 down and operating mills for the week was 52,231,143 feet, compared with the average production for 1934 of 73,287,763 feet a week, an increase of about 20,000,000 feet a week over the average weekly production during 1933.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 17.—(AP)—New business amounting to 34,573,000 feet, 12 per cent more than for the previous week, but about 3 per cent under the three-year weekly average for February, was reported by the Western Pine association today for the week ending February 10.

SALEM, Feb. 17.—(AP)—Officers arrived here today from California to seek return to that state of Alvin Lee Roseme, wanted in Los Angeles on a charge of forgery. He was arrested in Portland.

SEATTLE, Feb. 17.—(AP)—George Ranford McGee, 85, a veteran of company I of the Sixth Minnesota volunteers in the Civil war, died here yesterday.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

Liquor, six brands. Prices reduced. Gardner Drugs.

UNLEAVENED BREAD TO JEWISH BOYS IN CCC

Jewish Welfare Board of San Francisco is arranging for the distribution of matzoth (unleavened bread) to the Jewish men enrolled in the CCC, according to word received by Medford district headquarters.

A pound of matzoth per man is being sent for distribution, according to word received from corps area headquarters. Leaves will be granted the men from March 30 to April 1, through arrangements with headquarters.

In keeping with the times—Drugs and Toilettries at Cut Prices at JARMIN'S DRUG STORE.

ARGUMENT

ASKS MOTHER CAN HE GO TO THE MOVIES THIS AFTERNOON?

ASKS WHY NOT? IT'S A SWELL PICTURE. WELL WHAT REASON IS THERE HE CAN'T GO?

SAYS THERE ABSOLUTELY ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE TO DO, BECAUSE ALL THE REST OF THE BOYS ARE PROBABLY GOING.

FOLLOWS MOTHER AROUND POINTING OUT HE'S GOT THE MONEY FOR IT OUT OF HIS ALLOWANCE.

ARGUMENT

SAYS OTHER MOTHERS LET THEIR BOYS GO, HE DOESN'T SEE WHY SHE CAN'T ONCE IN A WHILE

ARGUES THAT SHE AS GOOD AS PROMISED HE COULD, WHEN HE ASKED YESTERDAY, AT LEAST SHE SAID SHE'D SEE

AND SO AT LAST MOTHER WHO WANTS TO LIE DOWN FOR A REST GIVES IN AND SAYS HE CAN GO

GOES DOWNSTAIRS, PUFFS HIS THINGS ON, AND CALLS HE GUESSES HE'LL GO SKATING AFTER ALL

ARGUMENT

YEH, UNNERWEAR!

B MATTER POP

POP, I'M SO TIRED I CAN'T WALK AN' I CAN'T GET RESTED UNLESS I HAVVA SODA OR SUMTHIN'

MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! YOU NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING WITH LEGS THAT COULDN'T WALK, DID YOU?

"You should have been a dentist," he grinned, and placed himself against the wall.

The smaller man put his foot in Grahame's belt and struggled, so that he had both feet upon Grahame's left shoulder. To Grahame, the pain in his torn back muscles was exquisite.

"It's open country," Greene spoke swiftly. "We could get through this window if we could cut up much longer."

"Just a minute more," pleaded Greene. "It's dated only a few months ago, December 15th. It's signed . . . it's signed . . . by all that's holy, its signed by Langton, who fell in the ocean last year! Grahame . . ."

The blood left Grahame's head. He felt new strength flowing into him. The pain even, seemed to abate as he heard the little man's voice cry out that there was a message scratched on the stone sill of the barred opening, by Langton.

"What does it say?"

"December 15. Log covering trip until mid-day December 15 will be found in map case on ship. Storm passed and visibility became good about four P. M. Gas almost exhausted, when sighted ruins. Ship undamaged in landing. Taken here by armed natives three days ago. My guard tells me I am to be sacrificed by the ahkin—the high-priest—on the central pyramid and thrown into the cenote."

"December 19. Ahkin here today. Was taken to ship. Am to teach them to fly. They are sending runners for gasoline. For good-behavior they let me take some food from the ship—chocolate bars, chewing gum and pop back here."

"December 20. No use. Guard says tomorrow some festival begins and I am to die. It would not be so bad if these people were ignorant Indians, but some are as white as I am. I will copy a message, and put it in a bottle. Perhaps goodbye!"

"That's all," said Mr. Greene. He slid down to the floor. "I found this up there." He extended his hand. Within it was a fragment of glass.

"Probably Langton scratched his message with this. Busted a bottle and used the pieces. They said his message was written in blood, and he used another glass splinter for that I guess," Grahame frowned.

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Grahame meets an old enemy, tomorrow.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Adventure Pictures Incorporated Arrives

IT'S BILL SHEAR, DIRECTOR OF ADVENTURE PICTURES. MEET HARRY SWEARIN, OUR BUSINESS MANAGER AND LOUIE B. BLOOMSBILT, OUR PRESIDENT.

GLAD TO KNOW YOU, GENTLEMEN—

HOW ARE THE PLANES COMING ALONG?

WE'VE COMPLETED THIRTY—TEN SPADS, EIGHT FORKERS AND THREE NEUPORTS. WE'LL HAVE THE GOTHAS READY IN TWO WEEKS.

PAUL YOU'RE A MARVEL! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH SHIPS TO START "SHOOTING" THE FIRST "BETS" NOW. IF YOU TURN THOSE GOTHAS OUT IN TWO WEEKS WE'LL GIVE YOU A BONUS.

A BONUS! I ASK YOU, HARRY, ARE YOU WORKING FOR ADVENTURE PICTURES INCORPORATED OR FOR MR. PAUL SMITH?

HAL FORREST

By Edwin Alger

BOUND TO WIN—Ben Learns All!

GO! GO! IF YOU'RE CAUGHT WE'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE! I'VE BEEN HELPLESS AS THEIR PRISONER!

I'LL GO, BUT I WANT YOU TO TELL ME SOMETHING FIRST—WHY ARE YOU IN THE GANG BESIDE "SPIDER" WEBB?

GUY DRONG IS ANOTHER LEADER, AND A THIRD IS ASA MOORE, BUT HE IS BELONG HERE? THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR OTHERS, BUT THEY DON'T COUNT—THEY'VE USED ME AS A PAWN, LAD, AGAINST MY WILL, I'VE BEEN MADE TO FIGHTEN FOLKS AWAY FROM MY OLD HOME AND—

—THUS KEEP THE COAST CLEAR FOR THEM—THEY'VE RAIDED THE WAREHOUSES OF THE TROPICAL LINE FOR MONTHS! THEY'VE STOLEN AND THEY'VE KILLED! THEY'RE DESPERATE MEN, WITHOUT CONSCIENCE, WITHOUT MERCY AND WITHOUT FEAR! GO, LAD!

ALL RIGHT!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THOUGH, AND NOT THREE HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE LITTLE CABIN ANOTHER SCENE WAS TAKING PLACE!

OLD GIMME MOORE WAS ON THE JOB AS USUAL, GUY—WONDER WHO WE PICKED OFF?

FOR ALL WE KNOW IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE KID, THERE WERE THREE SHOTS FIRED, BUT I'M BANKIN' ON GIMME'S AIM!

THE NEBBS—Twas Ever Thus

HEL-LO, QUEEN OF THE CULINARY, TO WHAT ARE YOU LENDING YOUR TALENTS TODAY

DON'T COME IN HERE WITH YOUR FANCY LANGUAGE CAUSE ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'RE GOING TO BE A KING CROWNED WITH A FRIVIN' PAN.

AND BESIDES, A PERSON DRESSED UP LIKE YOU OUGHTA BE IN A SHOW WINDOW. YOU AIN'T GOT NO BUSINESS HANGIN' AROUND NO KITCHEN!

OH, I NEVER FORGET MY FRIENDS—I SEEK 'EM OUT AND WHEREVER THEY ARE OR HOW LOWLY THEY BE I ENJOY COMMUNION WITH THEM.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BOTHER THAT PINHEAD TRYIN' TO THINK ABOUT ME AND BESIDES, WE NEVER WAS FRIENDS—YOU USED TO COME AROUND HERE TRADING A FEW HONEY WORDS FOR SOMETHING TO EAT—YOU NEVER FOOLED ME—YOU LIKE A FISH BOWL, YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHIN' IN IT!

W.A. GARDNER

BRINGING UP FATHER

BY GOLLY, I WISH I WUZ UP AT NORTH POLE WHERE THE NIGHTS ARE SIX MONTHS LONG. THEN I COULD GET ENOUGH SLEEP. MAGGIE'LL BE HOME THIS MORNING, SO I'D BETTER GIT UP BEFORE SHE GITS HERE.

MR. JIGGS, I HAVE A WIRE FOR YOU.

IT'S FROM MAGGIE. SHE SAYS SHE WILLN'T BE HOME UNTIL TO-MORROW.

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW.

By George McManus

NEW TAX MONEY NOW ROLLING IN

The new tax money rolled into the sheriff's office last week. It was announced by the tax department Saturday. The new payments have already totaled over \$14,000.

The majority of the payments have been made in full, the officials stated this afternoon. In order that the taxpayers might take advantage of the three per cent rebate. The latter will be in force for all complete payments until March 15.

The back taxes are also coming in, the sheriff's office reported, but no recent figures on the extent were released today.

Liquor, six brands. Prices reduced. Gardner Drugs.

STREAM OF GOLD FOR UNITED STATES BANKS

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—(AP)—A stream of gold from Paris poured into New York today with unloading of \$45,000,000 in bullion from the steamship Paris, consigned to a dozen banks. Other ships were expected soon with additional cargoes of the precious metal.

The Europa was scheduled to dock late today with approximately \$45,000,000 in gold.

Arrivals over the week-end will swell the total metal received in the four-day period from Friday to Monday to more than \$130,000,000.

Announcing NU-MODE Tint Finger Waves. They give the hair life and lustre. Medford Beauty Shop, North Central, Tel. 191.