

Judith Lane

by JEANNE BOWMAN



SYNOPSIS: Judith Lane, Big Tom Bevins' "perfect stenographer," has agreed to marry Norman Dale, partner of the Houston law firm that handles legal business for the Bevin's engineering and construction concern. Now Judith finds that her employer's daughter, Melba, is trying to take Norman from her, and that Norman's partner, Morton Lampere, is trying to wreck Bevins' plan to dam the Rio Diablo and reclaim a vast tract of land in Western Texas. Bevins has called Judith to his office.

Chapter Ten BEVINS' PLAN

NORMAN left her at the street door and Judith ascended to the floor of the Bevins Building on which Big Tom kept his private suite. She opened the door with her own key, then stood for a moment. The room was dark, and Big Tom sat before the wide window opening onto the dusk and city lights.

"Thank you for coming, Judy," he said. "Turn on the desk light, will you please, there..." he sighed queerly as the yellow glow revealed the desk with its pile of neatly stacked papers.

Judith looked at it in surprise, she looked at him.



"As things stand now, I have Lampere blocked both ways."

"Mister Bevins... you're ill," she tried.

"No, Judy, I was ill this morning. All right now, Judy come here, come close... that's a girl."

He searched her face with an intent gaze, much as Delphy had searched it an hour before, and like the old colored woman, he nodded satisfied.

"Judy," he said, "you're a fine girl. You've made up in great measure for my not having a son. We've worked here together for four years and I believe we understand each other pretty thoroughly, don't you?"

Judith looked at him in surprise. He seemed suddenly old—"Yes, indeed, Big Tom."

"I may do things in the future which seem a little queer to you, but knowing me I believe you'll see below the surface to the motive. Now to business."

"Get that surveyors plat of the Rio Diablo basin, will you... that's it. Now see the crest line... then those dotted lines beyond."

"I've a record of the deeds filed in Rio Mar here, and I have a few new deeds, taking care of the upper dam. I want you to check that map as I read these off... you remember you made a copy from the one in the County Clerk's office... and see that every inch of the basin, upper and lower dam, spillway and two miles beyond is covered. Ready?"

HALF an hour later Judith looked up. "It's water tight, Mr. Bevins. Except for the Scoggins farm angle which juts into the main basin, there isn't an inch of ground you need that you don't own."

"Tomorrow, Judith, you will own it."

"What... what do you mean?"

"This... After I left you last night I got the wires busy. By dawn I knew Lampere was trying to double-cross me. When our reports of the annual water footage which might be expected in the Rio Diablo basin came in, Lampere discovered that what he had thought an old fool's hobby, could be made a veritable gold mine.

"He thought that by purchasing a tallent piece of land, a piece neces-

sary for my building of the dam, he could force me to exploit the project, charge the poor landholders exorbitant rates for their irrigation privileges, and utilize the water power for selfish purposes.

"He discovered I owned every bit of the land save that owned by Scoggins and sent a representative to Scoggins, offering him a remarkable price for his land. Fortunately he approached the most loyal, land-loving man there. He kept faith with me and refused to sell (you understand, Judy, that Lampere did not show his hand in any of this, but because of your friend, Clia, I was able to trace it back to his influence).

"Having failed to obtain land around the lower dam, Lampere had a wily engineer by the name of Manhauser, go over the copy of a blue print, obtained from the original real estate people there, and he discovered that they might switch the course of the Rio Diablo, through an artificial channel, around the land owned by the natives and through virgin territory, upon which Lampere quickly obtained an option.

"However, he first had to acquire land around the upper dam, and thanks to that storm, I was spared into buying that before he got into the field.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE HELD FAIRER SYSTEM

Secy. Perkins Says Employers Should Share Burden When Workers Idle — Depression Is Cited

WASHINGTON, March 22.—(AP)—Secretary Perkins told a house committee today it was only fair that employers help pay in advance "the huge expenses of caring for people whom they dismiss, often without a thorough investigation as to their future."

Advocating passage of the Wagner-Lewis unemployment insurance bill, Miss Perkins said that "the depression would have caused much less tragedy and distress" if unemployment reserves had been built up during the 1920's.

"In the past," she said, "it was the custom for the full risk of unemployment to be borne by the worker and the full burden first by the worker and then by the public at large.

"In the future some of this burden must, in all fairness fall upon the employers to whom the workers originally look for jobs and security and small but steady purchasing power."

Miss Perkins termed both profitable and fair the proposed 5 per cent

tax on payrolls to be paid by those who hire ten or more persons except agricultural labor, domestic servants, nurses and teachers. She said it would produce approximately a billion dollars a year and that "the vast federal expenditures for unemployment relief" make this billion doubly necessary.

The secretary said there would be no competitive gain from decreasing payrolls since the tax affects virtually everyone and most of the cost would be "passed on painlessly by a minute price rise."

Dance at Rogue Elk, Saturday night, March 31.

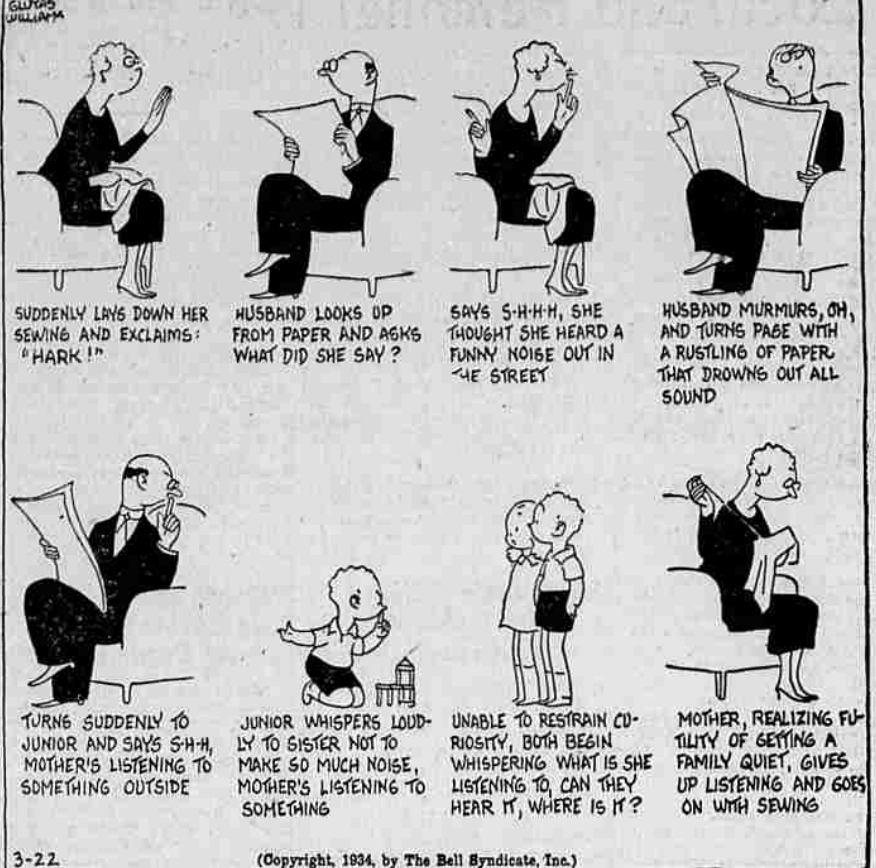
FEDERAL INCOME TAX IN OREGON \$511,947

PORTLAND, March 22.—(AP)—This year's federal income tax collection in Oregon amounted to \$511,947, as of March 20, an increase of \$188,538 over the corresponding period last year, it was announced by J. W. Maloney, collector of internal revenue.

Be correctly corseted in an Artist Model by Ethelwyn B. Hoffmann.

3 Midget Photos 10c Peasley Studio.

FAMILY LISTENING



SUDDENLY LAYS DOWN HER SEWING AND EXCLAIMS: "HARK!"

HUSBAND LOOKS UP FROM PAPER AND ASKS: WHAT DID SHE SAY?

SAYS S-H-H-H, SHE THOUGHT SHE HEARD A FUNNY NOISE OUT IN 'E STREET

HUSBAND MURMURS, OH, AND TURNS PAGE WITH A RUSTLING OF PAPER THAT DROWNS OUT ALL SOUND

URNS SUDDENLY TO JUNIOR AND SAYS S-H-H, MOTHER'S LISTENING TO SOMETHING OUTSIDE

JUNIOR WHISPERS LOUDLY TO SISTER NOT TO MAKE SO MUCH NOISE, MOTHER'S LISTENING TO SOMETHING

UNABLE TO RESTRAIN CURIOSITY, BOTH BEGIN WHISPERING WHAT IS SHE LISTENING TO CAN THEY HEAR IT, WHERE IS IT?

MOTHER, REALIZING FUTILITY OF GETTING A FAMILY QUIET, GIVES UP LISTENING AND GOES ON WITH SEWING

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S'MATTER POP



3-22-34



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Paul Makes A Suggestion!



1827



HAL FORREST

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Old Warrior!



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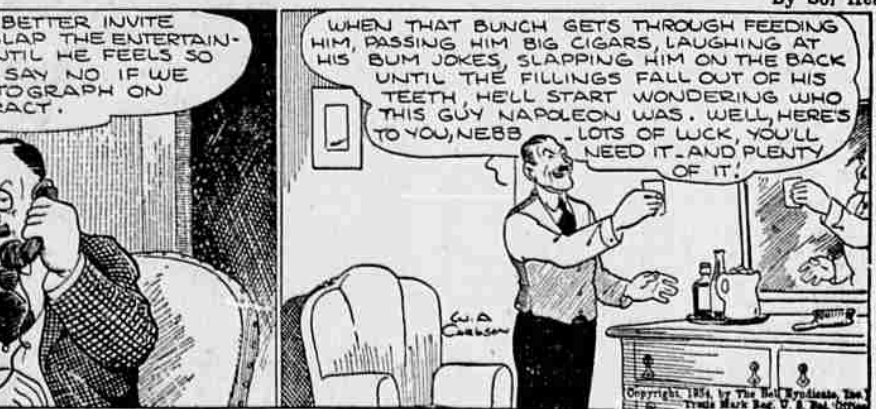


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THE NEBBS—Said The Spider To The Fly



3-22



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DURANTE SUED AS ALLEGED PLAGIARIST

NEW YORK, March 22.—(AP)—Jimmy Durante, comedian, and the National Broadcasting company were named defendants in a \$100,000 damage suit filed in U. S. district court today by Alfred Kreyenborg, an author, who charged that Durante had plagiarized "through singing, shouting and reciting" several poems he had composed many years ago. He set forth that the poems were copyrighted, and had been included in a volume of verse.

Since 1929, Kreyenborg charged, Durante had used the verses at night clubs, theaters and over the National Broadcasting system "although he had due notice of his plagiarizing."

SON IS HOSTAGE FOR TANK FULL OF GAS

EL CENTRO, Calif., Mar. 22.—(AP) It's quite all right with "Jimmy Doe," aged 7, if his mother leaves him as security for a gasoline bill.

H. J. Day, Jr., operator of a service station here, reported today Jimmy's mother purchased three gallons of gasoline, found she had no money, and left her son as "hostage" while she went home for some.

Day put Jimmy to work cleaning windshields and filling radiators. An hour and a half later his father drove up, paid for the gasoline and claimed his son.

All kinds of legal blanks for sale for rent, no hunting no trespassing and other cards for sale at Commercial Printing Dept. of Mail Tribune.

BRINGING UP FATHER



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