

# Judith Lane

by JEANNE BOWMAN

**SYNOPSIS:** Morton Lampere is poised to launch his attack against Big Tom Bevins' will—end against Judith Lane, who has been left the Bevins millions to complete Big Tom's dam on the Rio Diablo. The catch is that Norman Dale, Judith's husband, is Lampere's late partner and friend of Big Tom's widow and his treacherous daughter, Mathie. But Judith stands firm behind the promise made Big Tom when she was his trusted secretary.

**Chapter 18**  
**TOM BEVINS SPEAKS**  
JUDITH stood up. She had removed the small hat and the beruffled jacket and with it some of her girlishness. In the plain cream blouse, her hair drawn smoothly back in a coil, she looked more the efficient secretary they had seen at previous board meetings.

"Before going into this, Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask one favor. Will you please look upon me as secretary to the late Mr. Bevins, not as the wife of a member of your legal department?"

"At the time I received the orders from Mr. Bevins pertaining to the dam and to be executed in case of his death, I was not married. I went to his physician, Doctor Kenneth Kelly, to learn the seriousness of his condition.

"Doctor Kelly assured me that Mr. Bevins had every chance to live to be a hundred. If he took a reasonable amount of care of his health. Because of this assurance, I went on with my marriage, which I had sincerely hoped would not be thrown from its normal course by my return to business."

She sat down, conscious that several stockholders were looking at her with new respect. Then Morton Lampere began to talk and her attention was literally riveted to his message.

"As everyone present knows, our dearly beloved colleague, so recently departed, left five million dollars with this little lady." He paused impressively. "He also left her the controlling interest in the Bevins Construction Company." Another pause. Judith controlled an impulse to demand why she had not been called into the closed meeting if she held this power.

"Prior to his departure from this world, the old gentleman had begun the development of the hobby of his life, the building of the Rio Diablo Dam. During the survey, word came to me that he was making a vital mistake, that due to certain phases of the river bed understandable to engineers only, it was not advisable to follow the natural bed but start an artificial channel through virgin land.

"Bevins refused to listen to reason and as a result we, the stockholders, may suffer complete loss of our investment."

"In an effort to avert this calamity, we the remaining members of the board, ask you, Mrs. Dale, to relinquish your claim on the money left for the purpose of erecting the dam, that we may carry on this work in a safe and sane manner, and in accordance with the advice of our finest engineers.

"We are willing to give you time for your decision."

"You needn't, Judith was standing, eyes bright. "You may have it now!"

"DON'T be hasty," warned Morton Lampere.

"Hasty—" Judith's voice was low, controlled. "Mr. Lampere, the decision was made for me by Mr. Bevins on the night of August 25th. He foresaw all of this. He even knew that you would be the one to lead the insurrection."

"Mr. Lampere, under no condition will I resign!"

Judith sat down, trembling with emotion, but with her mind alert. She saw Mathie whisper to Norman, but Norman did not seem to hear. His face was haggard and Judith cried in her secret heart for the pain she was causing him.

"You have made that final, Mrs. Dale," observed Lampere with satisfaction. "Now kindly accept the unanimous resignation of your board and the withdrawal of your stockholders."

"The resignations and the withdrawal are accepted," agreed Judith, and turned to the men who were watching her with different expressions. "May I ask what you wish to do with your stock?"

"I'd like to get my money while the gettin's good," remarked one man.

"If you will make an appointment with my secretary, I will attend to that," interposed Judge Morgan.

"And now, gentlemen," said Judge Morgan, "I would like to read a message to you from this man whom you admired and respected during his life."

"I protest," Lampere was on his feet. "This is entirely out of order."

A low sob from Mathie Bevins caused the distressed focusing of interest in her direction.

"Mr. Lampere, kindly put this to a vote."

Those present voted unanimously to hear the message, and Judith, after a quick glance at Norman, turned to the judge who stood waiting for attention.

"My friends: There has come to me, suddenly and unexpectedly, knowledge that some of you are working to undermine my plans, due to your desire to exploit the Rio Diablo land for selfish purposes. I am warned by my physician that I haven't time to wait and prove your loyalty and so I am repeating all of my faith in the girl who has worked at my side the past four years, Judith Lane, daughter of my former partner and life-long friend, Emil Lane.

"Mrs. Lane has in the past carried out my plans with such perfection of detail, that I feel no hesitancy in leaving my orders for the construction of the dam in her hands. She is qualified to act as a construction engineer, but has preferred to remain as my secretary, realising her ambition vicariously through me. It is this quality in her which makes me feel she will not be swayed by adverse opinions, but will substitute her individual desires in carry out my ideas.

"With the storm of criticism which will be the storm of raising about her, it will not be an easy task, and I am asking you who are my friends in truth to stand behind her in the reorganization of the company. There will be a reorganization, for I can see, even now, that the original firm will disintegrate through delay."

"I am leaving money for the actual construction of the dam, as I feel liquidation of stock may embarrass the financial standing of the old company. However, she will need the moral support and the help of strong men and I am asking you, who listen to this and who understand, to supply this."

Judge Morgan sat down and Judith arose.

"GENTLEMEN," she said, "those of you who wish to carry on with the Bevins Construction Company may join me in Judge Morgan's office in the Oil and Cotton building, immediately after the adjournment here. It was Mr. Bevins' desire that the new company be organized and ready to start operation immediately upon the dissolution of the old. The men at the dam would suffer no loss."

"Mrs. Dale," Lampere was on his feet, "what do you propose to call this new company?"

"Mr. Bevins proposed that its present name be retained."

"Why, why, you can't do a thing like that. It's preposterous, presumptuous... the idea... look at that poor bereaved daughter sobbing her heart out while you, a mere hireling of our beloved friend dare stand there and say that you... you will carry on a company in his name, the name of Tom Bevins."

"Lampere!" Justin Cunard, retired engineer, tall, taciturn, advanced towards the two. "You insult the intelligence of this board. We are not a jury in a criminal court to be moved by emotional appeal. It seems to me that Tom had a pretty thorough idea of what he was doing when he took his legal affairs away from you. Now, young lady, I'm ready to join you; you may count on my full time if you desire it."

"Cunard," barked Lampere, "it isn't ethical to carry on or reorganize a company using the name of a deceased man against the objections of his heirs."

"In this case it's not only ethical but legal," interrupted Morgan, "for it is so expressed in the deceased's papers. Now, Mrs. Dale, are you ready to leave for my office?"

Judith was sure, in the hours which followed, that she had said the things expected of her, cleared doubts in the minds of the seven men who followed them to Morgan's office, discussed the matters which needed their immediate attention, but all the time like a low cry, her thoughts rang, "Norman, Norman."

Cunard drove her home. He had been made first vice-president of the newly organized company, and chairman of the new board. Judith retained the position of secretary to the late Tom Bevins, President, a peculiar arrangement, which left her free to carry out his posthumous orders.

"And they needn't lose a single day's work," Judith said of the men at the dam, as they stopped before Hillendale.

The cottage was aglow with lights and the quaint old-English standard lamps which lighted each flight of steps to the knoll were glowing in the purple dusk. Cunard looked at the house, then at Judith and his usually taciturn features relaxed into a semblance of sympathy—"Young lady, if an old man's support and confidence mean anything, you have mine."

(Copyright, 1934, by Jeanne Bowman)  
Judith steps into a domestic crisis, Monday.

## RELICS ASKED FOR PIONEER PARADE

The cooperation of southern Oregon pioneers and citizens is sought by J. Verne Shangle, chairman of the pioneer parade committee of Oregon's Diamond Jubilee next June, in efforts to obtain as much material as possible for the parade, which is expected to have entries from all parts of the state. Relics are also in demand for historical exhibits to be maintained during Jubilee week.

Considerable progress in plans for the parade has been reported by Mr. Shangle who, with his committee members, has been putting forth extensive efforts to make this feature of the program one of the highlights of the celebration. The committee will meet Tuesday evening at the chamber of commerce to discuss further plans. Owners of pioneer relics are assured by the committee that the relics offered for Jubilee use will be given the utmost care and that their safe return to the owners is guaranteed.

## 'Practical Politics' to Be Told Kiwanians

"Practical Politics" will be the subject of an address to be given by Professor William C. Jones of Willamette university at the meeting of the Kiwanis club here Monday noon at the Hotel Medford.

Following his address before the service club Professor Jones will continue to the high school to address the student body during the afternoon.

Midget Photos 10c Peasley Studio.

## Apple Blossom Queen



Roberta Hensel, 18, will rule over the fifteenth annual Wenatchee Wash. Apple Blossom festival April 14. (Associated Press Photo)

## F. D. R. Kin Weds Solon

NEW YORK, March 31.—(AP)—With only a few friends and relatives looking on, United States Senator Robert J. Buckley, of Ohio, and Mrs. Helen Graham Robbins, of Lindsay, Ont., a distant relative of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, were married today at Grace Episcopal church.

For Garden Paving Tel. 912-J.

## MILLER CONFERS WITH ALLEN HERE

Lewis B. Miller, holder of a transcontinental speed record established in a Plymouth car, was in Medford the end of the week to confer with W. W. Allen, head of Pierce-Allen Motor company, local dealers for the Dodge and Plymouth.

According to Mr. Miller, the Dodge Brothers corporation experienced a 11 per cent increase in business in January and February this year over the same months in 1933. This gratifying record was obtained from sales figures throughout the nation, indicating that prosperity is making a rapid comeback.

The Dodge Brothers corporation has substantially extended its advertising program for this year in view of improved business conditions. Mr. Miller, who handles the northern California and southern Oregon territory for Dodge, stated yesterday that he was gratified in the fact that his company had secured the Pierce-Allen Motor company as Medford dealers for Dodge and Plymouth. Perry Ashcraft of Ashland is a sub-dealer for the same cars in his city, operating there for Pierce-Allen.

COLUMBIA, O., March 31.—(AP)—Jack Medina of the University of Washington today set a new national Intercollegiate Athletic association swimming record by winning his heat of the 1500-meter race in 19:21.

Warrant Call, School Dist. No. 2. Warrants numbers 538-567 are called for payment. Interest to cease March 29, 1934. Warrants payable at First National Bank, Medford, Oregon. BESSIE SNYDER, Clerk Dist. No. 2.

## SEASONS IN THE COAT CLOSET

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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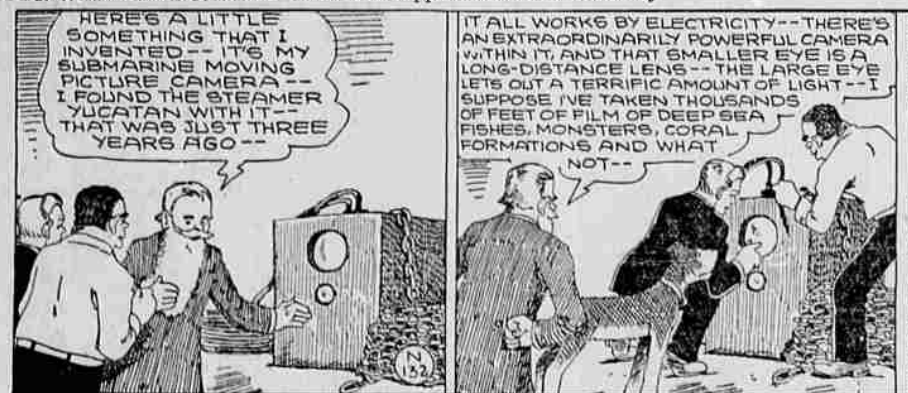
## SMATTER POP—



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Skeets Doesn't Want To Go On Without Tommy!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—How Dan Jeppard Made His Discovery



THE NEBBS—Look Out Ahead



BRINGING UP FATHER



## By C. M. Payne



By Hal Forrest



By Edwin Alger



By Sol Hess



By George McManus



## Budweiser On Tap Again This City

Budweiser beer on draught has been placed on sale in Medford and is again quenching the thirst of Budweiser fans as of old. The Budweiser is of legal strength and is being eagerly sought by southern region quaffers who had been looking forward to its return for weeks.

Grant C. Rogers, northwest sales representative in charge of Oregon Washington and Idaho, left yesterday for northern headquarters following a week spent in Medford and southern Oregon selecting distributors. He will probably return again to this section during the latter part of April.

## HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE HELD IN GIRL'S DEATH

PETERSBURG, Ind., March 31.—(AP)—Ward Davis, 20-year-old former high school athlete, was held for safekeeping in a nearby county today while officers sought the reason for the slaying of the girl he started to escort to a junior class party last night.

The body of Annavieve France, 16, a bullet in her heart, was found in an automobile in front of Davis' home by his father last night, a few hours after she told a friend she feared "something desperate" might happen.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—Senator Norris (R., Neb.) told reporters today that testimony regarding alleged power lobbying by Warren T. Thayer, state senator of New York, represented "a universality of the activities of the power rust that exists in nearly every locality in the United States."