

Judith Lane

by JEANNE BOWMAN



SYNOPSIS: Judith Lane has seen Norman, her husband, having dinner with Mathie Bevin. Judith, who is quite nervous, because Mathie and her mother are trying to break the will, under which Big Tom Bevin has left his fortune to Judith, to be used to complete the Rio Diablo Dam, and Norman's law partner, Morty Lamper, is directing the fight for the Bevin heirs. Norman is in a difficult situation.

Chapter 24

NORMAN'S DEMAND

"JUDITH... I think you forget my firm represents the Bevin—"

"Forget it!" Judith's laugh was hysterical. "I'd like to... oh, how I'd like to. But with Lamper treating me like an unmentionable and you dancing attendance on those two women like a legal gigolo—"

"You've gone far enough Judith. I hadn't meant to make this Bevin fortune an issue between us, but you're forcing me to it. They warned you you would. I'm beginning to believe they know you better than I do."

"I'm leaving for Galveston again. I'll have to fly back to make court, I had hoped to take you with me, but under the circumstances I think you'd better stay and think things over. Talking only brings on trouble."

"This Bevin affair will blow over and then you and I can settle back into our normal way of living."

"Norman," Judith sat up in bed, alert. "What do you mean, the Bevin affair will blow over?"

"You'll see."

Judith sensed that he knew something more than he was admitting. "But suppose it doesn't?" she countered.

"It will."

Judith jumped out of bed, showered and dressed while Delphy prepared a tray for them. Under the stinging spray of water, Judith promised she would take Clia's advice and wait until Norman had had his coffee, before, as Clia, would say, "starting anything."

She did wait. With breakfast over and Norman glancing at his watch, she spoke.

"Norman, I want you to tell me now, what you mean by saying the Bevin affair would blow over."

"I can't."

"Alright, then, tell me this. If it doesn't blow over, what will be your attitude?"

Norman glanced at her, dark eyes unrelenting, lips in a thin, stern line—"I shall have to ask you either to give up the Bevin money, or me."

Prepared as she was, Judith couldn't repress a start as he said this. There was no comfort in the knowledge that the man who spoke was some grim-visaged stranger whom she'd never before seen. Nor did it comfort Judith any to know she had behaved like a fish wife, using Mathie as an issue while she was only a "barb in the flesh."

"Norman," her eyes begged for understanding, though her voice was cool. "I want to apologize for what I said about you and Mathie. I was jealous and hurt. Slim Sanford flew me down so I could be there in time for dinner with you, then I found you were all ready through and she was with you."

"I truly believe it happened as you say it did, only that it... just as I said that night on board the trawler... we don't think alike. You thought more of acting the gentleman than you did of how your public meeting with Mathie would hurt me. The realization that she probably planned the whole thing doesn't make me any the less bitter."

"YOU mean she connived with my mother?" he began heatedly.

"No indeed," said Judith, "your mother is, above all, sporting. She wouldn't play that way. She was probably so intent upon her tournament she wasn't aware that you and Teel were two of the three principals in the Bevin case."

A rare smile crossed Norman's face—"I'm glad you see that," he said, "she really likes you a lot, Jude."

He looked at his watch—"I wish I didn't have to go, but then," his face had brightened, "by the time I get back we can start fresh and Mathie won't have any further claim on me."

"Norm," Judith stepped close, "I'm leaving too, I'm making a trip to the dam, leaving this evening."

"Judy... Judy you can't do that, I tell you. Not now, not at this time."

"But it's a good time to go, Norman, you'll be away—"

His arms were holding her tight, a desperate tenacity in them—"Judith, remember the night I said that all one needs to make a perfect marriage was enough love! Haven't you enough love to give this up for me?"

"And, Normy, I asked you how much was enough? Have you enough to go against your principles for me?"

"Judith," he pointed out of the window to where an ink-black cloud was sweeping down from the north, "I have to go, there's a storm coming in and I can't be late for court. Now dear, try to be sensible. You're all wrought up over things, go on back to bed, have a good rest, then wake up and read or go to a show—"

"Norman, you don't understand, I'm leaving for the dam tonight. I must go."

"I see," his arms dropped away from her. He put on a light overcoat, picked up his brief case and his hat. "It's up to you Judy. Take your choice. If you think more of your childish belief that no one else can build a dam, than you do of me... all right. Goodbye." He kissed her lightly and left.

Judith raced to the window. She couldn't bear to have him go like this... suppose the storm overtook him, his car skidded on the wet pavement and he'd never know how much she loved him... she wouldn't go to the dam. Big Tom had asked more than was humanly possible for any woman to give... she would stay and help him carry on.

LIGHTNING flashed across the sky, thunder rumbled and darkness closed down. Judith tried to follow in her imagination the race of the little coupe against the storm, and then before her mind's eye came a picture of the storm at the dam; the horror of it, the heart-breaking devastation which lay in its wake... the little crumpling wastrel awed from the banks and the heart-broken resignation of the men who had built them.

Even if Norman were right and she wasn't necessary for the safe erection of Diablo dam, had she the right to leave it to chance?

The shrilling of the telephone caused her to hurry to the instrument. Neither Lige nor Delphy would touch anything electrical during a storm.

"This is Mrs. Dale speaking," she said, "Oh yes, Judge Morgan... oh... oh..." She sat down suddenly, "yes I'll be down right away, thank you for calling."

She hung the receiver back on its hook, carefully, replaced the telephone and looked out on the rain washed streets. Morty Lamper had been granted an injunction against her use of the Bevin money until he could contest Tom Bevin's will, and a decision be handed down. She had expected it. Her shock came from the realization that Norman had known it and left her to face it without forewarning her. At least it made her decision more easily reached. She went to her room, dressed and finding the storm quieting, called Lige to bring around the small truck they had bought in preference to a car for her.

He drove her to the end of the nearest street car line and by the time she reached Judge Morgan's office, she had outlined the path she would follow.

One of Mrs. Nathalie Bevin's first actions after finding she owned the Bevin building, had been to ask the newly organized Bevin Construction Company to move. Big Tom, owning the building, had never considered a lease necessary, and regardless of Judge Morgan's intervention, she was able to demand their eviction.

It was one of the innumerable little things such as Big Tom had had to contend against throughout his married life. He did contend with them, Judith remembered with a thrill, and somehow they had cost him nothing more serious than worry.

But Judith knew that the worry had had its part in wearing down the engineer; now his own company was driven from his own building.

Judith had not waited for the end of their time of tenure. Afraid of having company papers inspected, during their absence, she had moved to temporary quarters in an office adjoining Judge Morgan's.

Upon reaching there she found the judge in consultation with Justin Cunard—"You mustn't worry over this, Mrs. Dale," he hastened to say when he caught sight of her face.

"I'm not," she assured him. "I expected it."

The two men exchanged quick glances of understanding. "As for money," said Cunard, "remember I have a couple of producing oil wells at Longview and I can turn them over to the Rio Diablo project at any time... the proceeds, I mean."

"Thank you," said Judith, then with sudden thought, "are you going to allow me to go on with the building?"

Judith prepares, Monday, for Lamper's trickery.

ABBEY COMPANY SHOW NEW 1934 GRAHAM MODELS

Walter W. Abbey Incorporated, has been appointed Medford dealer for Graham cars, according to an announcement recently made. New 1934 6-cylinder models are now on display at the Abbey showrooms at 123 South Riverside in this city.

The progressive character of Graham engineering is reflected in the outboard springs, banjo frame, aluminum head, full-length water-jackets, and other features which give additional comfort, safety and economy to Graham owners. A supercharger is featured on the Custom Eight model.

Bigger and roomier, with 116-inch wheelbase, the Standard Six at a popular price makes it possible for more people to enjoy the thrill of driving a Graham, according to Mr. Abbey.

C. H. Herman is the first person in Medford to purchase a 1934 Graham from the new Medford dealers. Nash car and International trucks are also handled by Walter W. Abbey Incorporated, and late models are now being shown.

Auto Price Boosted
DETROIT, Mich., April 7.—(AP)—Automobile price increases were announced today by the Graham-Paige Motors corporation on all its standard six-cylinder models excepting a convertible coupe. The increase, \$50 on each type, is effective April 8.

Dietitian Coming



Two days of interesting and instructive discussions on homemaking are in store for the women of this community when the Kelvinator hostess school, under the supervision of Helen Kerr, home economist, trained in the famous Kelvinator kitchen of Detroit, comes to Medford Wednesday, April 11, according to an announcement made this morning by John Cupp, manager of the John Cupp Furniture Store, under whose auspices the school will be held.

"This is not an ordinary cooking school," declared Mr. Cupp yesterday morning, "but a school for home-

makers who wish to be perfect hostesses, not only in the preparation of food, but in the interesting and serving of the meals. It is really a post-graduate course in modern home management and will bring the latest developments in practical homemaking to the women of this city."

"This store," he continued, "feels very fortunate to have Helen Kerr with us at this time to conduct our school, since she is an authority on home economics and will be able to give the homemakers here the benefit of her experience in this work. Helen Kerr was trained in the famed Kelvinator kitchen in Detroit, which has one of the best trained and most capable groups of home economics experts in the country to conduct its research work and to present its hostess school throughout the country," declared Mr. Cupp.

Helen Kerr has just returned to the coast from a survey of eastern cities, and brings with her the latest phases of meal planning and practical ideas for food economy and marketing.

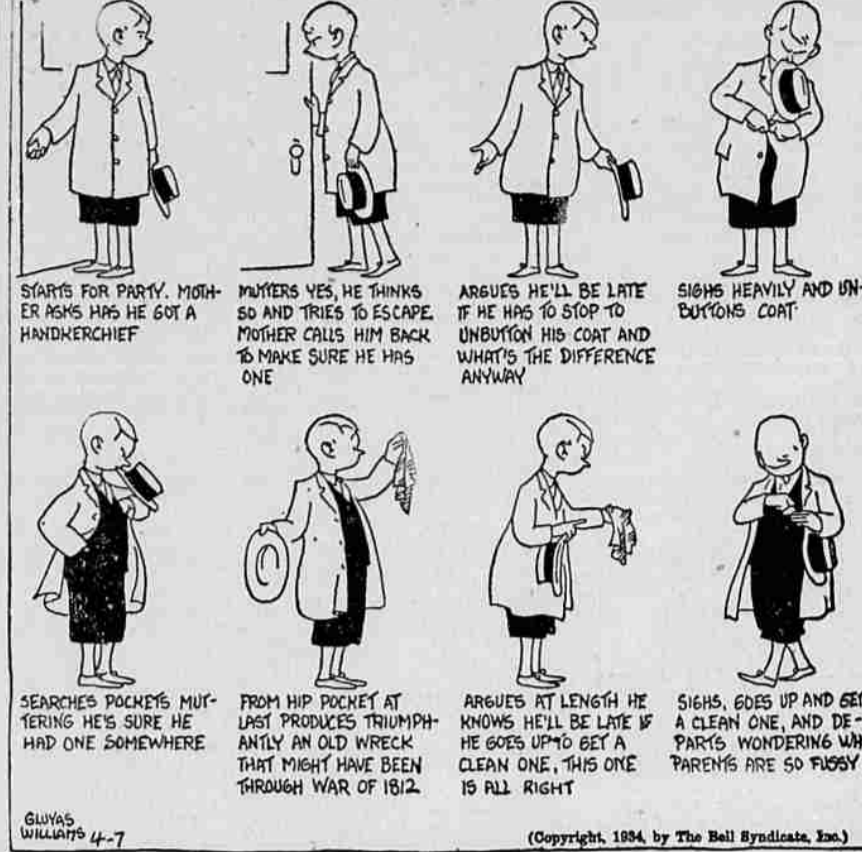
DOUKHOBOR CHIEFTAIN PAYS \$25 DRUNK FINE

NELSON, B. C., April 7.—(AP)—Peter Verigin, president of the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood and spiritual leader of the Doukhobors, was fined \$25 today when he appeared before Magistrate William Brown in police court charged with being intoxicated in a public place. Verigin was arrested March 31 in a beer parlor here and suffered slight injuries in a scuffle.

Richfield Reorganized
LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 7.—(AP)—Proposed reorganization and sale of the Richfield Oil company, now in receivership, and its subsidiary, the Pan-American Petroleum corporation, were approved today by Federal District Judge William F. James.

SNAPSHOTS OF A BOY AND A HANDKERCHIEF

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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S'MATTER POP—



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Skeets Is "Tongue-Tied" But Determined



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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The First Man



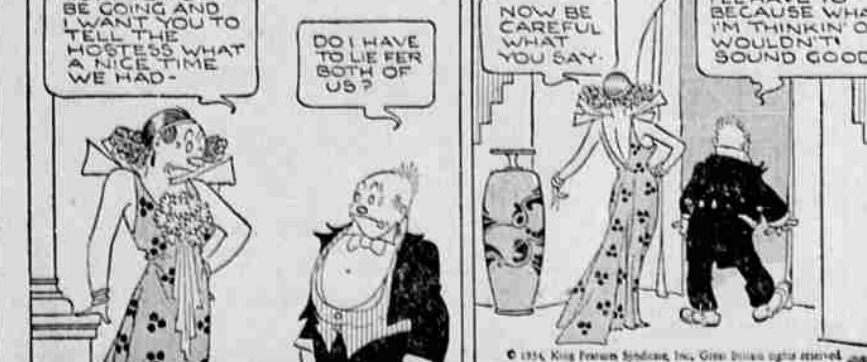
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THE NEBBES—Baiting The Hook



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BRINGING UP FATHER



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LONG AND CLARK ASK SQUABBLE BE ERASED

WASHINGTON, April 7.—(AP)—At the request of both Senators Clark and Long, who yesterday engaged in bitter and at times highly personal debate on the senate floor, all the comment of both men which violated rules of the senate was ordered expunged from the congressional record.

Workmen razing an old porch on the Cardin, Okla., postoffice found many coins dropped by careless patrons.

Warrant Call
Notice is hereby given that there are funds on hand for the redemption of warrants drawn on School Dist. No. 14 as follows: No. 44, \$7.49; No. 81, \$3.34; No. 84, \$4.50; No. 86 and 82 Interest on April 7th, 1934 Warrants payable at First National Bank, Medford, Ore.

A. AUGUST WALRUFF, Clerk School Dist. No. 14.

POISON ATTEMPT NETS POINTER 15-YEAR TERM

HILLSBORO, Ore., April 7.—(AP)—William Pointer, was sentenced to 15 years in state prison today for the attempted poisoning of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Geiger, elderly couple living near here. Pointer pleaded guilty. He admitted he put poison in their food because they had accused him of stealing some of their farm property. He lived near the Geigers.

Midget Photos 3 for 10c. Peasey Studio Opp. Holly Theatre.

Notice.
Pacific States Mines, Inc., asks for bids on hauling concentrates from the mill at Jacksonville to Selly Smelter. Trucks must be tight and hold minimum tonnage 50 tons monthly. Written bids must be in by noon on Monday, April 9th.

PACIFIC STATES MINES, INC. Jacksonville, Oregon.