

Judith Lane

by JEANNE BOWMAN



Judith Dale's eyes were fixed on the Rio Diablo dam according to the plan of Big Tom Bevin. Her former employer is complicated by Morton Lamper's effort to recover for the Bevin heirs the five million dollars left Judith by Big Tom for the dam. Apparently Lamper's agent has led Scoggins into the belief that the Scoggins farm contains oil, to hamper Judith's work. She is waiting for the report of her geologists before acting.

Chapter 36 SCOUTING TRIP

JUDITH awaited the return of Geologist Kane, and the town of Big Tom seemed to wait with her; sensitive to the feeling of this mass thought, she knew they were waiting for her to make a move.

"This fellow who's dealing with Scoggins must have told them something," said Slim Sanford, as he sat on the step of Judith's shack.

"If we only knew what it was," said Larson, "we might know how to deal with it. Work has actually slackened off; oh, not the hours of labor, but the efficiency."

"He's probably spread the rumor that we're going to abandon the dam so Scoggins can drill for oil," interposed Judith wearily. "Scoggins made it plain to me that if we wouldn't stop work, they would ask for an injunction."

"But Judith," Slim interrupted, "isn't the dam more important than an oil well?"

"We think so, but the rights of the individual are always important, and it would be up to the courts to decide that. They'd probably have to set a precedent with their decision because I'm sure such a problem never before has come up."

"And meanwhile," said Slim thoughtfully, "the dam work would be lying idle and that wouldn't look so good for you in court, would it, at the time of the will contest?"

"She could prove it wasn't her fault couldn't she?" asked Larson. "Yes," agreed Slim, "but Lamper could use the point against her case. He could say that had Big Tom been in his usual mental health, he wouldn't have overlooked protecting such a salient piece of land, from such possible danger."

"And," added Judith, "he could say that of course one could not expect a mere stenographer to foresee and handle such an oversight, therefore proving her to be unworthy of her trust."

"What do you say we hop into my ship and fly up to Scathorne's field? It won't be as trying as sitting here waiting for Kane."

They followed the course of the Rio Diablo up to the point where it forked, one fork working its way into the low lying hills, the other curving aimlessly through a section of brown plain.

Slim, eyes accustomed to reading the far mystery of the earth's topography, sighted Scathorne's field below and started banking through the sunset to a height where the others could see it.

The wooden derrick had been erected, and although the little shed housing the machinery which supplied the dynamo was but half completed, the dynamo was evidently in working order, for as they watched lights flashed on and off on the derrick.

Kane was waiting for them when they landed. Judith spied him first and set the rapid pace for the others. Eagerly the trio faced the geologist and waited for his verdict.

"Now of course," he parried, "I'm not psychic enough to tell whether there is oil any place, but I can tell you this much. There is every evidence of Scathorne's having struck a lucky pool."

"And our land here, Scoggins' land," interposed Judith.

"There isn't any reason, geological or otherwise, to allow anyone to believe there is oil there."

"Then why—" began Max Larson. "I'll answer that," said Judith with sudden conviction. "It's clear now, the whole thing. Lamper has had an unbelievably lucky break. If Scathorne brings in a well and Scoggins is drilling, Big Tom's dream of building a dam in this valley will be outlawed."

"If there is oil here and the people don't need the dam, don't want it because it will flood land from which they can win more money than they could in a thousand years by farming it, there will be no more need of my going on with the dam and the logical procedure of any jury will be to return that Bevin's money back to Mathile and Mrs. Bevin."

"What are you going to do, Judith?" asked Slim and Larson in unison.

"I'm going up on the rock and I'm going to think," said Judith decisively. "If my eyes tell me true, Scoggins is coming up the hill. Keep him entertained, don't give him your report. Mr. Kane, and I'll be back soon."

She slipped out of the rear door and in the gathering shadows of twilight raced up to the rock. Delphy had asked if this was where she communed with Big Tom. Perhaps it was, perhaps, however, that great basin of shadows and the cupped bowl of the sky impressed her with the vastness of the world and kept petty problems from intruding into her analysis of the important ones.

What would another man, an engineer, do under such circumstances? Which was the more important, oil, or growth? But that wasn't up to her. She had sworn to carry on as Big Tom had wanted without thought of self.

Eyes on the glimmer of the evening star, silver against the apricot aether, she thought, "What would he do? Suddenly she knew... but without money how could it be done? Big Tom would find a way and so would she."

Judith turned and walked back down the hill ready to face Scoggins.

THERE was something martial in the step of Judith Dale as she strode down the hill to her house where Scoggins, Kane and her two faithful friends awaited her.

"Hello, Mr. Scoggins," her greeting was friendly. "I was going to call you up to hear Mr. Kane's report. You've met him of course, the boys would see to that. Mr. Kane, you know, is Jackson B. Kane, the geologist who free lances among the big oil companies of the south... you've heard of him I know."

"Well... well yes," admitted Scoggins reluctantly. Judith knew that he had because she had taken pains to see that an oil weekly, printed in Houston and carrying a picture and story about Mr. Kane, fell into Scoggins' hands before the two met.

"I'm going to let Mr. Kane give you his report in detail. Suppose we go into the house where there is a light and he will show you some maps he has made."

For the ensuing hour they sat about the table, listening to Kane's slow voice speaking in its assured tones. He used words a layman might understand, and Scoggins nodded from time to time as if he were being convinced against his will. When the geologist had concluded the farmer leaned back against his chair, a queer, baffled look on his face.

"But you won't swear before God there ain't oil there," he challenged. "No," agreed Kane, "for only God knows."

It was a serious moment. Scoggins nodded. "I'm glad you said that," said it the way you did, it makes me sorta believe in you more'n if you said you did know there weren't any."

Again a few moments of silence, then he spoke again. "Course, my man, the feller who's goin' to run the test well for me, he said you'd say there weren't none, he said Miss Judy'd see to that."

"And you believed I'd do such a thing, Mr. Scoggins?"

"No, I didn't, and I up and told him so."

"And how do you feel about this now?" Judith's voice trembled in spite of her effort at controlling it. "I... Miss Judy... if it wasn't just for Tommy and Mame, I'd say, forget it, but your man here says maybe... that is he wouldn't swear there weren't no oil. Miss Judy, I just got to go on and see for myself."

"I don't blame you a bit," declared Judith, to the utter astonishment of everyone present. Scoggins included. "It's the only thing to do under the circumstances. If we went ahead and flooded the basin you'd spend the rest of your life wondering if you'd done wrong. You'd never use a yard of water for your orange trees without wondering if that water had washed over land that covered oil."

"That's just it, exactly," murmured Scoggins in wonder, "exactly. You ain't mindin' me goin' on then and you stoppin' work on the dam?"

"Mr. Scoggins... you realize if I stop work on the dam, and your well doesn't come in, you'll put your planing back on whole year? And you'll put the planing of every other farmer along the river back that same length of time?"

(Copyright, 1931, by Jeanne Bowman)

Monday, Judith discloses her daring plan.

nant color note. There is a sewing kit provided along with many other accessories appreciated by the working girl.

One particularly comfortable and attractive chair was donated by Mrs. H. V. Lundsten. Other contributions were made by members of the Humane society board, and the upholstering and decorating were done by Miss Jane Smedicor.

The girls in each office in the court house have keys to the room and will take turns keeping it clean and in order. Twenty-six attended the luncheon celebrating the opening of the quarters today.

BOSTON.—(UP)—Lieut. Gov. Gaspar O. Bacon received a complimentary shoe shine by a debutante recently. Miss Jane Bogardus, one of eight girls who will shine shoes at a carnival sponsored by the emergency campaign of 1934, gave Bacon the shine because she needed practice.

SALEM, April 21.—(AP)—The weekly report of the state accident commission shows that four men died as the result of accidents during that period. A total of 466 accidents were reported.

WOMEN WARNED REDUCING DRUG HOLDS DANGERS

Medford women want to reduce! In spite of all the Mae West curves publicity "dished" out by the movie magazines, and the glorification of the more buxom lass, sought by Mussolini, the fair sex here still seeks the svelter figure.

The former may be very intriguing on the screen, and the latter ultra smart in Italy, but in the city of peace "the body beautiful" must be thin and lithe. If the opinion of the "women folks" is to be accepted as criterion, it was revealed yesterday to an almost tragic degree to City Health Officer Dr. L. D. Inskip.

It all began with publication of a story from Chicago, reporting the findings of Dr. Edward L. Bortz of Philadelphia, as given before the American College of Surgeons. The article listed the advantages of a drug "Di Nitro Phenol" as a reducer of human bodies. The story appeared in The Mail Tribune Wednesday night.

Thursday morning at an early hour the women began to call at local drug stores. They wanted the drug and they weren't at all particular about the quantity. If a little was good... it would positively burn the fat away—a lot would be better.

They failed to take seriously the warning issued through the article, urging no one to try the drug without consulting a physician. The word "reducing" stood out to them in

German Maiden Ostracized For Loving A Jew

DARMSTADT, Germany, April 21.—(AP) Because she failed to resist the attentions of a Jewish suitor, a 17-year old gentle girl Emma Katharina Kehr, is being upheld to all residents of Hessen by the official state press department as an example of "forgetfulness of duty toward her race."

Her name was published throughout the state, while her suitor was taken to the state prison "for protection of his own person."

golden letters and they were on their way to new and slender figures.

The druggists, fortunately, refused to sell the drug in the quantities sought and a little investigation of its sudden popularity began. The instructions in the article were reviewed and several women, inclined to be plump, saw their desired shadowy figures overcast with fat again, and realized another fond hope shattered.

It was then the health officer was asked to release a statement, and he did last night.

The drug, if taken, as prescribed in the article, released from Chicago, he stated, would not be harmful. The drug, if taken in the dose desired by one Medford woman, would cause death in 48 hours. It is safe, when used under a doctor's care, but decidedly dangerous for experimentation.

He concluded, adding that life holds many perils, more to be shunned than "fat and forty."

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)—The postoffice department has announced appointment of Frank Fark as postmaster of Williams, Ore.

STATE BUYS FIRST OUT-OF-STATE GAS

SALEM, April 21.—(AP) Three carloads of gasoline—30,000 gallons—were purchased yesterday by the state of Oregon from the Union Oil company of Salem for delivery from Tacoma as the initial move in an effort to reduce contract and retail prices in Oregon. It was announced today by William Ehnig, state purchasing agent. The gasoline will be delivered here beginning Tuesday at 5 1/2 cents a gallon and including state tax and transportation will be laid out at Salem at 12.32 cents, more than a cent cheaper than the contract price to the state at Salem and more than 6 cents less than the dealers are now paying.

D.A.R. TOLD DISCONTENT BAR TO DISARMAMENT

WASHINGTON, April 21.—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told the Daughters of the American Revolution today that "we should prepare everyone in our nation to live well" as "the only way we can advance the world to a place where we may wish to disarm together."

"You are interested in preparedness," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "I agree that as long as the world can't disarm together we must all continue to defend ourselves."

From Sprague River—R. A. Thomas of Sprague River is a patient at the Community hospital, where he underwent a major operation this morning.

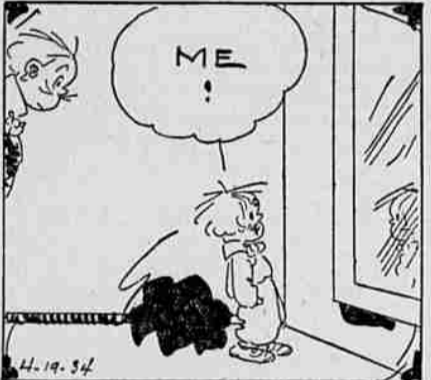
DOORS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



(Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

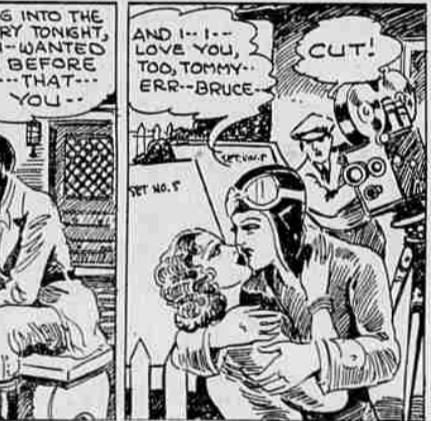
S'MATTER POP—



(Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

By C. M. Payne

TAILSPIN TOMMY—An Easy Sequence For Betty And Tommy



By Hal Forrest

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Permission Granted



By Edwin Alger

THE NEBBS—All's Well That Ends Swell



By Sol Hess

BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus

COURT HOUSE WOMEN HAVE INVITING ROOM FOR NOON LUNCHEONS

A ray room for lunching and lounging has been provided the feminine employees at the Jackson county court house by the Jackson County Humane society and the official opening was marked by a luncheon of employees today.

The room, located just off the law library on the third floor of the court house, has been furnished by the Humane society to form an inviting spot, which anyone would welcome as a resting place.

One particularly comfortable and attractive chair was donated by Mrs. H. V. Lundsten. Other contributions were made by members of the Humane society board, and the upholstering and decorating were done by Miss Jane Smedicor.

The girls in each office in the court house have keys to the room and will take turns keeping it clean and in order. Twenty-six attended the luncheon celebrating the opening of the quarters today.

BOSTON.—(UP)—Lieut. Gov. Gaspar O. Bacon received a complimentary shoe shine by a debutante recently. Miss Jane Bogardus, one of eight girls who will shine shoes at a carnival sponsored by the emergency campaign of 1934, gave Bacon the shine because she needed practice.

SALEM, April 21.—(AP)—The weekly report of the state accident commission shows that four men died as the result of accidents during that period. A total of 466 accidents were reported.

The room, located just off the law library on the third floor of the court house, has been furnished by the Humane society to form an inviting spot, which anyone would welcome as a resting place.

A comfortable lounge, upholstered in chintz, occupies an important place. Attractive chairs also have restful green coverings. A dressing table and a reading table are completely equipped with feminine fables, and the linoleum, which covers the floor, has green as its predomi-