

Montana Rides Again

A RAPID-FIRE ROMANCE BY EVAN EVANS

SYNOPSIS: White Brother Pascual and Mateo Rubris, the quixotic bandits, are hurrying north through Mexico to get El Reed to help recover the stolen crown of the Madonna. El Reed is deciding to forget his promise to his good friend and break the wild more which he has named Sally. El Reed's career in love has been a series of broken promises, and Ruth Laver's father does not believe he will keep his promise to Ruth. El Reed, alias Montana, strikes for the mare.

Chapter Six MONTANA RIDES

TO the men who watched, close up, the similarity was even greater. They saw the devouring hunger in the eyes of Montana. They saw him crouching, gripping the top rail of the fence with both hands.

The next moment he was plunging through the dust that smoked across the face of the corral. They saw him dodging through it while the wild mare tried to flee from him—as though she feared tooth and claw.

He caught her like that, too. As she swerved out of a corner he leaped at her with hands and feet. She reared. He appeared gripping the pommel with one hand, the rest of him streaming upwards. But a moment later he was in the saddle.

The watchers were frozen in place because it was not a riding contest. There was death in the air. Tomstone Joe leaned on the fence

He looked like an army officer—and a consumptive. He wore the garb of a prosperous Mexican charrro, all yellow leather and a starring of silver that brightened and waned as he turned in his chair or lifted his glass to drink the green-white tequila.

He was Jack Lascar. Everyone south of the border knew him, and everyone north of the river knew him; but no one knew his nationality. Some people said that he was in fact a Lascar. They looked at the yellow whites of his eyes and said that.

He carried with him an air of amused superiority. He retained this air as he said: "If I walk into the street and tell people that Mateo Rubris is in here—if I tell the gringos that—what'll they do to you, Rubris?"

Mateo Rubris grinned. A stiff wave of flesh rose up from his cheeks and almost obscured his eyes. He leaned forward.

"Your father—" he began. After that, his voice was so soft that Jack Lascar had to bend his head to hear the words. A dreamy expression came over the face of Lascar.

"That's what I always wanted to know," said Lascar. "I always wanted to know who cut him down. It was you?"

"Who else would have dared?" asked Rubris, leaning back, with a two-handed gesture of triumph.



The Kid pulled out his bandana.

Jack Lascar grunted. "Then what do you want?" he asked. "I want you to accept a favor," said the Mexican.

"Humph!" grunted Lascar again. "Well—"

"You hate one man a good deal?" "Do it?"

"The Montana Kid?"

JACK LASCAR turned a little in his chair, quickly. He glanced over his shoulder at the door. He looked at the window, also. Then he finished the white fire of his tequila and stared at Rubris.

"Damn him!" said Jack Lascar. "Once, in Nevada, in Carson City, in the Imperial Saloon," began Rubris, "on a Tuesday morning—"

"Damn you!" said Lascar. Rubris leaned back in his chair.

He looked, at that moment, like a fat, rather soft man of middle age, a pudgy creature half rotted by time. But Jack Lascar knew otherwise.

"This Montana Kid," said Rubris, "is a man who would come to a challenge like a dog to raw meat. Now, if you write out a challenge in English—can you write English?"

"I write five languages," said Lascar, slowly, bitterly. "If you wrote out a challenge and nailed it on the post-office notice board, the town would know it. The Kid would know it. He would come. And the sheriff he is not in town. And the law is not in town. It is away—for one whole day!"

"The Montana Kid would not come!" said Jack Lascar. "Everybody knows, even the little babies know, that if Montana ever pulls a gun and shoots at another man—even in self-defense—the sheriff will be on his trail with a posse."

"No matter what he fears," said Rubris, "he fears shame more. I cannot challenge him, because I cannot appear. But you can challenge him. How will they know that Mateo Rubris lies in hiding beside one of the houses, or inside a window, with a rifle aimed and ready to end the fight before it begins?"

"(Copyright, 1931, Harper & Brothers)

Tomorrow, Montana is to be married.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF 2525 SHATTERS RECORD IN MEDFORD

With 2525 students now in attendance and a good many uncalculated for registration slips, the Medford public schools are now boasting the largest attendance they have had in several years, and an increase of 64 over last year, according to figures released by the city school superintendent's office today.

The junior high tops the list with 706 students and the senior high is next with 603. In the elementary grades, the Washington school leads with 399, followed closely by the Jackson with 318, Roosevelt school being third with 292, and the Lincoln school trailing the rest with 222.

Acting School Superintendent C. G. Smith made it clear that these figures were for those in actual attendance, and not the total enrollment. The total enrollment figures being considerably higher than those given. Asked his opinion of why the schools are growing in attendance, Smith stated that the school census shows a diminishing of unoccupied houses in the city, indicating that the total census for the town is growing, a fact which naturally accounts for the increase in students at the school.

A A A WEAR BETTER CLOTHES Suits and O'coats to measure, \$21.50 up. Klein the Tailor, Upstairs.

Phone 542. We'll haul away you; refuse. City Sanitary Service.

27,000 WORK ON SERA PROJECTS

PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—(AP)—The SERA committee announced here today that 27,000 men and women, the majority of whom are heads of families with dependents, are being employed on state relief projects. Thousands of dollars weekly are going into the channels of trade as this vast work program continues.

Already this week the SERA has approved work projects to cost \$145,000.

Word has been received from Marion county, the committee announced, that additional suggestions for proposed SERA projects for relief in that county have passed the \$4,000,000 mark in tentative applications. Remodeling and modernizing the Marion county courthouse is one of the large projects proposed. This would cost about \$100,000.

JUDGES ASSIGNED BY HIGH COURT

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 30.—(AP)—Four temporary assignments for circuit judges were announced by Chief Justice J. U. Campbell of the state supreme court yesterday.

R. Frank Peters of Washington was named to substitute for T. K. Zimmerman in Clatsop county.

Judge C. H. McCulloch of Baker to substitute for Judge C. H. Sweek of Umatilla county.

Judge James W. Crawford of Multnomah county, for Judge Arlie G. Walker in Yamhill county.

Judge Arthur D. Hay of Lake county to Multnomah county.

Who abuses himself gains a lot—but it's in the cemetery.

Do it now, delays are dangerous. We pass this way but once.

GETTING READY FOR SUPPER

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

with his face dripping blood and black, clotted dust. The yelling had ended. Each cowpuncher retained his past position. One was on one knee. Another, on tiptoe, gripped the top of a post and seemed to be yelling, though no sound came. Another held his hat rigidly above his head, but forgot to wave it. And from the veranda it could be seen that the head of Montana, at every impact, wavered crazily up and down. His chin was beating on his breast. At every lurch of the mare he seemed about to shoot from the saddle, but something stuck him in place. Luck, men might have called it. But it was not luck. The man or the mare would fall dead, surely. Then she staggered and stood still, her legs braced wide apart. After a time, Montana got slowly from the saddle. He slid down. His face was crimson. Blood from his mouth, his ears, his nose had covered his face with a red mask. He felt his way to the head of the mare. He put his arm around her neck. He began to stroke her face. And she, with half-closed eyes of exhaustion, leaned slowly against him. He pulled out his bandana. Instead of drying his own frightful face, he began to wipe the slobber and the froth from the muzzle of Sally.

LONG'S DENUNCIATION DEMANDED BY ENEMIES

BATON ROUGE, La., Jan. 30.—(AP)—A formal demand upon the elected state officials to "renounce the dictatorship of United States Senator Huey P. Long" was issued today from headquarters of the Square Deal association of Louisiana.

The demand, a formally written statement signed by the officers, was a call upon the officials technically and constitutionally composing the state administration and state government to rebel against the rule imposed by Long as a United States senator.

In all ages thinking men have been clever, whether learned or not. There are more words in a lie than in the truth. Cyclones carry off everything but the mortgage. Use Mail Tribune want ads.

SYNDICALISM REPEAL MEASURE IS CHANGED

SALEM, Jan. 30.—(AP)—Senator Peter Zimmerman today withdrew his measure which would repeal the criminal syndicalism law and in its place be introduced a new measure which would refer the repeal proposal to a vote of the people at the next election.

The repeal proposal, known as senate bill No. 1, had no chance of passage in the senate; a poll taken of members revealed, but Zimmerman believes, the referendum measure would be approved. A large hearing on the repeal was held last week.

It's easier to give likes than to take them. Smiles and tears speak all languages. Who thinks too little talks too much. Use Mail Tribune want ads.

SMATTER POP—

TALLTALES—

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Some Hope Yet!

THE NEBBS—Twas Ever Thus

BRINGING UP FATHER

By C. M. Payne

By Hal Forrest

By EDWIN ALGER

By George McManus