Chapter 32 STRANGE CAPTIVE

A LREADY, at the top of the pla-A LREADY, at the top of the plateau where the travelers were pausing, the sun was hotter than even Montana had ever feit it before. It scalded his shoulders through the thick of his shirt; it gathered like a weight between the crown of the hat and his head.

"There!" he whispered, and raised the great beam of his arm.

And then Montana was able to see one dim, one single silhouette.

"It's only a single scout!" murmured Montana. "Hold the horse here, and I'll see if I can get him; he can tell us where the others may

He could feel the air he breathed. hot and thick, until it was deep in his lungs. And the sweat ran out and slunk forward over the ground,

question to Heaven. As for escape, he could understand why even the most desperate men would not be able to escape from the valley. The reason was that the mounted Indians guarded the verges of the pit of hell, and in-side the pit there were other trained bloodhounds, and finally, the prisoners were kept chained day and

Once inside, we'll never come out

"Once inside, we'll never come out again," said Montana.
"Never again," said the friar, "And there is nothing to draw you forward, but for a man like me, who has renounced the world—"
"Renounced my foot!" said the Rid. "Where's the fellow who gets more fun out of the world or loves the people of it more than you do?"

His a the people of it more than you do?" "Well," muttered Brother Pascual,
"I have to go forward—"

But he had a terrible sinking of the heart that told him only shame was driving him now, and that if the friar had not been in his company, he would have turned back and taken the lean red mare back

They went down towards the lower entrance to the valley until trom a high place they could see the road that wandered away into the world. Up that road, the rumor said, the carayans of the damned were foot of the Valley of the Dead.

And here guards came out from the valley, the trusted agents of fuan-Silva, to pay down the head money and take charge of the chained criminals, and march them back into the valley.

Has giance into the depths of it. And yet this was she, this was her voice.

Now she was sitting crosslegged by the fire, and the friar was giving her food, and she was eating, and lifting her eyes to the pain-struck face of Brother Pascual.

She looked thinner and older a little; her eyes were larger than they had been. She was quiet. All the bubble and the flash had gone from her. She looked like some product of the desort—brown and slender as a deer, with a sense of light

THERE Brother Pascual made his evening prayer while big Monkana looked through a powerful glass and saw three horsemen ridting around the lip of the Vailey of the Dead, and well behind them an THERE Brother Pascual made his evening prayer while big Mon-bans looked through a powerful glass and saw three horsemen riding around the lip of the Valley of back the Dead, and well behind them an the vice and habind these another other trio, and behind these another set of three. The sun gleamed on their fiesh. They were half-naked indians. The sun burned in bits of Same on their lance-heads. He could see the little rounds of their shields.
"What's he done?" asked Monwill soon be inside it!" "What's he done?" asked Mon-tana. "Brought in the Indians and kept them wild?"

"Ay," said Pascual. "Even to the bows and the arrows. Men who try to run away die stuck as full of ar-rows as a porcupine is full of quiils." "I see," muttered Montana.

For his mind was struggling for-rard, striving to envisage the nature of this man who ruled the Valley of the Dead.

At least the creature was a king, even though he was a king of the Silva."

doubled hands would hold and over and shouldered against her master. She afood with her head thrown up high, pointing like a hunting-dog at some danger that stalked them through the night.

"They're coming!" said Montana. "The damned Indians, it must be." said the friar, calmly, "it must be they."

Of course they could not wait by the fire. They faded into the dark-ness at the right-and the mare stalked with them, bending her knees, fanning out her nostrils as she shuffed at the air out of which she had read her message.

For all the keenness of the eye of Montans, it was the friar who saw the outline first. He touched the shoulder of his friend.

"There!" he whispered, and raised

on his body and dried away instant, moving in a swift semicircle, drawby to sait! He could see the beads ing up on that single rider. He was of water start to run down the face so close now that even if he were of Brother Pascual and disappear, seen, he would be able to shoot What would it be like, then, in the valley at the bottom of the slope!

The valley began in a jumble of high rocks and ran out again through a deeply carved badlands.

The valley carved badlands.

over, when he was in close. This figure in the thick black of the night "Why would God put such a place on earth?" he could not help exclaiming, and the poor friar merely locked up, with both hands held in pound of other flesh when it comes pound of other flesh when it comes to hand-to-hand fighting.

> QUARTERING from the rear, he came in on that silhouettethen a step and a leap brought him right on the back of the little mus tang with the crushing strength of his arms cast around the body-of a woman.

> pitch, and Montana sild off with a twisting, gasping, fighting figure in his grasp, and the big friar coming up at the run to help.

"Be still!" said Montana, through his teeth. "I'll do you no harm

"Montana!" said the voice of His arms fell away from her. He

was so stunned that the darkness moved before his eyes and the little And the Kid responded, sighing.

dim stars in the renith whirled around above his head. He could hear the friar exclaiming over her. He went in with the two of them

towards the camp, but still he would not let his brain understand, for something inside him kept saying that it could not be, No woman who across the horrible steppes towards the world of the living.

They went down towards the lower entrance to the new towards the world of the living.

der as a deer, with a sense of light

"Here," he said, "you are already on the lip of the Valley of the Dead "Why do you talk to me, Brother?" she asked him, suddenly, "I am here

Then said Montana angrily, "What could you do, Rosita?" "I could be here," she answered.

"But being here-what can you do

"I can keep the horses when you're inside—hell," said the girl, "They'd wander and starre. They'd be useless before you got out, and whether you bring Rubris or only yourselves, or only one of you, you'll have to have horseffesh to carry you away from the Indians of Juan-

The night fell auddenly. They
The night fell auddenly. They
The night fell auddenly. They
Rother Pascual could do no more
Rother Pascual could do no more
There was so
Rother Pascual could do no more
Rother Pascual could do no more There was so much sense in this had seen her before so long unemil-

She sang to them in a voice not mich bigger than a whisper, It was an Indian song. There was Indian in the girl, too.

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Monday, the caravan of the

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## PAUL REVERE 'BELL' PUNCHBOARD FIGURES WILL RING NO MORE IN ORIGINAL RACKE

CLEVELAND (UP)-Bell," a self-appointed Paul Revere, has been lo-

About 60 and "obviously a mental case," according to Detective Chief James Bill, of auburban Cleveland Heights, "Bell" is "under observation" by officers.

For months, Bell, who aigned no other name, had deluged mannels institutions, individuals and Chambers of Commerce with letters darkly warning of some impending hand robbers and surrepitious plots by politicians.

The one who may suffer most from Bell's capture is Poetmaster-General

Bell's capture is Postmaster-General James A. Farley. Bell was no tight-wad with his stamps.

WILSON, N. C - (UP)-A motorist cated finally by police. Whose car bore Tennessee license About 60 and "corrously a mental plates sold W. H. Johnson, filling

Gives Violin Concert at 52 James A. Parley. Bell was no tight-wad with his stamps.

"Smoke" Costs Woman's Life CLEVELAND.—(UP)—A "amoke" in bed cost the life of Mrs. Elimabeth Bert, 26-year-old stemographer. She fell salzep as she purfed a cigarette, and was burned to death.

## EXPERIMENT MAY SAVE BURNS FROM HEAD TO ROANOKE VET HOSPITAL SIGHT OF MANY BABES FOOT LEFT UNTREATED TAKES PATIENTS SOON

PHILADELPHIA - (UP) - Experiments are being conducted here which may mean the saving of eyesight of thousands of infanta each

rum—commanny called "habies" sore ores," is contracted on an average by two out of every 100 infants, and unless promptly checked, frequently results in blindness.

Dr. Louis Lehrield, of Philadelphia General Hospital, who is conducting experiments expressed the theory of checking the disease by protection against infection at the source—the mother. He said the theory will rere-lutionize executes. lutionize existing methods.

## STONE DISEASE CURES FLOOD IN FOR VICTIMS

MUNCIE, Ind (UP)—Letters from all over the nation flood the sick-room here of Charles and William Wagner, victims of a disease which is alowly causing petrification of their

Some of the letters express sym-pathy. Others extend self-appointed actice on how to cure the disease, which doctors have called incurable. A message from Texas tells how "a pretty girl was saved from turn-ing to stone" by a diet. An Illinois woman who was "similarly afflicted

30 years ago" says she was cured by

STEUBENVILLE, O (UP)-A seven- ROANOKE, Va. (UP)-The Veterhere year-old boy, burned seriously from ane hospital near here dedicated last

pear-old boy, burned seriously from had to foot when his clothing had caught fire from an open grate, was discovered in need of medical attention five days later by police.

Officers entered the home of the boy's parents seeking information about a neighbor. While there, they noticed the suffering of the child, Casmir Velaska. The parents told police they were destitute and could not afford medical treatment. The mother said her boy had been burned from his neck to his feet. The boy was taken to a hospital, in critical condition.

Red from Plan County of the Veterans bureau announced that he has received 10,000 applications for membership on the consist of 200 persons.

Take Stopp But No Liquer

Red Cross Plans Convention

WASHINGTON—(UP)—The American Red Cross annual convention will be held here April 8-11, the national headquarters announced.

Saw Philadeletria, U—(UP)—Two masked holdup men forced O. J. Two m

Take \$1000 But No Lique NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.—(UP)—
Two masked holdup men forred G. J.
Miller, state liquor store manager, to





S'MATTER POP-YESSIR. TROUBLE HE AN' HIS POP TOGETHER. HAD TROUBLE TOGETHER TAILSPIN TOWNY - Friendship With Tommy!

By C. M. Payne EXCEPT IT THA TROUTLE NO WUZ TROUBLE MOST ALL FET FER MY POP (Copyright, 1935, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

MR PRESIDENT, WE SHALL HAVE TO DEFER THIS ARRIAL SURVEY! A DESERTER FROM THE REBEL ARMY OF EL LIBERATOR TOMMY, THIS IS MADNESS! YOU WILL HAS MET BROWSHIT STARTLINE NEWS TO EL PRESIDENTE YOU MEAN & CONZALES - AND TO OUR FRIENDS, THAT THE SELF STREED SEENT ANTRIOTHE ASSEMBLED PLANES AND OTHER MANTIME OF ANCHORENS TRAINT MEST IS THE BUY MESURE, THE MAN JOHO ALDED THE BUY TO BE SHOT AT DAWN-2118 BEN WEBSTER'S CARFER-Ben's Bombshell!

TOM'S RIGHT, BETTY, LISTEN, BETTY, THIS I THIS



I'VE GOT ENOUGH ON MY MIND WITHOUT TRIFLIN' WITH YOU -I'LL TELL YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT CHIRP AIN'T GOIN' TO GET THIS SHOW BACK-NOW, YOU MAKE TRACKS OR ELSE

SUPPOSE ILET YOU KNOW THAT MR CHIRP HAS HALF OF THIS CIRCUS BACK RIGHT NOW! TROUS





THE NEBBS-I Was Just Feeling THERE'S A CAR 1 BOUGHT WITH A SMALL PART OF GEE, YOU MUST HAVE PAID \$ 2500 TIP AND I DON'T 1 DIDN'T HAVE A THOUSAN YOU HAD 1000 SHARES FOR THAT CAR THAT'S ABOUT EVERY DIME 1 MADE OF MONEY AND YOU GOT A PROFIT OF OVER FIGURE OVER MADE I THE PART TO ASK YOU TO LOAN ME \$500.



