

Montana Rides Again

A RAPID-FIRE ROMANCE BY EVAN EVANS

Chapter 40
MATEO

THE guards lassoed the first man to bolt from line, threw him flat on his face, and beat his back raw with their whips. Afterwards they threw him inside the threshold, since he was not able to walk, and over that prone body the rest of the condemned stumbled.

Once inside, each man made for a bunk in a desperate scramble. These bunks rose in tiers of five deep, with narrow aisles between them. The swiftest or the strongest took the lowest bunks, not because they were simply easier to reach, but because during the night the foul stench of humanity kept rising in the air.

But many who lagged too far behind in the general rush got no place whatever for the night. And most of those who failed were the men who had been in the valley so long that the labor, the climate, the frightful food, had worn them to a frail shell. They would die soon.

repents. And it is she who keeps the good horses and waits for us outside the valley."

MONTANA had been taken, blood-dripping, naked, straight to the presence of terrible old Juan-Silva, and the ancient man had sat up and looked at the Kid with his eyes which were too young, saying: "It is El Keed! And now it shows that it is better to try a thing three times, so as to make perfectly sure."

"And now it is time for us to treat our guest in another manner. Take him quickly, Emilio. You know where the rooms are where we give honor to a guest. Open the press to him and let him and his clothes. Quickly! Quick! Quick! That he may change his mind!"

They took the Kid off in haste, therefore, and the head-captain of the guard, muttering: "No man ever before was treated like this! Not even the tax-collector! Some one is growing too old!" There was everything that a man could wish, it seemed to the Kid, in the rooms to which he was taken. The ceilings were high. The air was heavenly cool, forced by fans through constantly showering water the very sound of which ran like a blessing through the mind of Montana.

When he had dressed himself he was cool to the point of real comfort.



"Who says that a friar is here?"

What the friar could see made him drop to his knees. He was still praying when a bull-toned voice bellowed through the room: "Who says that a friar is here? Who says that a big man, a giant, a priest or a friar, is here with us?"

The friar leaped from his prayer to his feet. "Mateo!" he cried.

He heard a grunting answer, and then the thumping of heavy foot-falls. Towards that sound he hurried in turn. And suddenly the tremendous grasp of Mateo Rubriz was on him. He put his huge arms around the bandit and crushed him with an embrace. It was like hugging a huge, rounded barrel.

"How have you brought you here? The dog Estrada—was it he? Answer me, brother—Mateo—my friend—"

"I came with El Keed, to find you, Mateo."

"To find me? Here? You came willingly? Willingly do you say, Pascual?"

"Ay, willingly."

"And El Keed—he is here? Where is he?"

"In the hands of Juan-Silva."

and the pressure of hot blood was still gradually receding in his brain. Juan-Silva sent for him. He went out. A Mexican woman brought them food. She looked like an ape, with a flat face stuck out at the end of a forward-leaning neck. She had a hump behind her shoulders that indicated strength rather than age, and her arms were prodigiously long.

Juan-Silva laid hold of her arm and stopped her. "This is Maria," said Juan-Silva. "For ten years, now, she has been serving me. And yet she is not paid with money."

Afterwards, while they were eating, the Kid said: "Does she love you so much, senior?"

Juan-Silva parted his lips from his long teeth and laughed. "Maria came in the same way ten years ago. She had found out that her two sons had been sent here not many months before. But one of them was already dead, and the other the met crawling down the road. The chains had been taken from him. He was free!" Juan-Silva interrupted himself to laugh again. "And so she is still here—and she is only waiting. She is paid by expectation."

"Waiting for what?" asked the Kid.

"For my death!" said Juan-Silva. (Copyright, 1931, Harper & Brothers.)

Montana learns, tomorrow, Juan-Silva's secret.

school. They are Frances, Bertha and Mary.

Herrick Wheeler Enrolls at W.S.C.

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE, Pullman, (Sp.)—Herrick Wheeler, Medford, Ore., has enrolled as a freshman this semester at the State College of Washington, according to Frank T. Barnard, registrar. Wheeler is enrolled in the school of veterinary medicine.

TRACTOR USERS TO ATTEND MEET

Farmers, contractors, roadbuilders and all others interested in machinery will gather at the Miller Tractor Equipment Company, 114 South Riverside, Tuesday, to attend a special meeting conducted by representatives of the Caterpillar Tractor Company. This is an annual event which is looked forward to by local power users because it always brings them the latest information on farming, dirt moving and road building equipment.

This year, Diesel tractors will be featured and special talking pictures will be shown explaining how these tractors burn low-cost fuel oil without the use of carburetor, magneto, spark plugs or ignition system and why they save as much as 80 per cent of the fuel bill. New pictures of Diesel tractors in operation will also be shown.

These valuable and interesting meetings are held under the auspices of Miller Tractor and Equipment Company, local dealers for "Caterpillar" products, and everyone is cordially invited to attend. Admission is free and the morning session starts promptly at 9 a. m., and the afternoon session at 1:15 p. m.

Lawnmowers—time to get them sharpened and repaired: called for and delivered. Medford Cycle, 23 N. Fr. Phone 261.

Home portraits of family groups and children at Special Prices. Shangle Studio. Phone 1308.

28 ENROLLED IN TALENT CLASSES

TALENT, March 11.—(Sp.)—Much interest is being shown in the classes being conducted in Talent under the FEBA plan of adult education. Mr. McCulloch, educational advisor for the local COG, reports there is now an enrollment of 28, and promise of more people becoming interested as the studies progress. Although the classes are primarily for the COG boys stationed here, they are open to anyone, and a number of local people have already registered. Mr. McCulloch states:

Mrs. Helen Beecher of the Talent high school faculty and Mr. Wiley, who is now attending Ashland Normal, will conduct classes in commercial law, shorthand and public speaking, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings of each week.

GRIFFIN CREEK P. T. A. WILL SPONSOR SHOW

GRIFFIN CREEK, March 11.—(Sp.)—The Howard school district minstrel show which scored a big hit when presented in that district recently, will be given at the Griffin Creek school at 8 p. m., Wednesday by the same cast, for the benefit of the Griffin Creek P. T. A. A small admission will be charged and the P. T. A. hopes there will be a good turn out.

When it comes to radios, remember, "Fruit's can do it." Phone 22.

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A BOY BRUSHES HIS HAIR

S.MATTER POP

TAILSPIN TOMMY

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER

THE NEBBS

BRINGING UP FATHER

CHILDREN OF ALUMNI ATTENDING OREGON U.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, (Sp.)—A total of 128 alumni, 90 of whom are men and 38 women, representing classes from 1904 to more recent years, may re-live their University of Oregon days by detouring to campus tales from their children, who are now attending school here, records compiled by Robert K. Allen, alumni secretary, show. These alumni now have a total of 119 children at the university, of whom 80 are girls and 39 men.

The class of 1909, with 15 alumni as parents of present students, is best represented, with classes of 1907 and 1910 tied for second with 14 parents each. Ten parents are members of the class of 1911, and eight graduated in 1908.

Three children of Olen Arnsperger, '06, and Mrs. Helen McKintney Arnsperger, '07, of Medford, are now in

PHOENIX HEALTH UNIT WILL MEET TUESDAY

PHOENIX, March 11.—(Sp.)—The Phoenix Health unit will meet at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Ralph Wilcox on the Columbia creek road. Mrs. W. B. Barnes will be joint hostess for the occasion.

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