

FLAME TRAIL

BY MARIE DE SERVAUD

...SIS: Kay Crandon decides to rebuild her burned ranch house and barn though Neighbor Josh Hastings, whom she hates, wants to buy her ranch and marry Kay. Ted Gaylor, a puncher she impulsively hired, fights Scrap Johnson, a cowhand who molested Kay. Shooting it out, they wound each other. Hastings sneaks up and kills Scrap with Ted's gun. Ted crawls to a cabin where a girl (Marion) nurses him. Kay sees them together, misunderstands, and deliberately gives away the hideout after a fall. Ted is arrested and taken away. Marion's insane father, the firebug, turns up.

Chapter 37

The Steel Nail Head

SOMETHING deeper and stronger than the jealous resentment that Kay had been cherishing took possession of her, and with a startled gasp she pulled herself up, as she suddenly saw the whole situation in a different light.

What did it matter whether he cared for her or the other girl? His very life was in danger, and she was doing nothing to help him! This vital issue surmounted everything else.

What could she do? What could she do? Kay clenched her fists until the nails bit into her palms. She must think of something!

She lay back and concentrated on all she knew of the affair, trying to piece it together, and turn it some way to Ted's advantage. In spite of everything, she still be-

lieved him innocent. She shut her eyes, and pictured again the scene of the crime.

Josh Hastings' remark about Ted having crawled to the water flashed back to her, with his hasty explanation that he had only been imagining it. His whole manner had been very queer, and Kay felt again the conviction she had had then, that he knew more than he was telling.

A fresh wave of resentment against Tom Runyon for having brought her to the flying six swept over her. To be sure, she hadn't seen Josh Hastings since she had been there, but to be under this fresh obligation to him was decidedly galling. Even though she had not accepted his hospitality of her own free will, the fact remained that she had been under his roof all this time.

She had thought it was queer that she hadn't seen him, when she was better, but until today no one had told her anything at all. This news explained why he hadn't sought her out. He had gone to the trial to do everything in his power to convict Ted.

"If I could only have a little more time!" Kay moaned, half aloud. There must be more clues that she could follow up.

A sudden memory of the tiny steel nail head she had found roused her. Getting up, she went to the closet and felt in the pocket of her leather coat. Her fingers touched the surface of the bit of steel, smooth on one side and rough on the other, where it had been broken off. Pulling it out she examined it carefully.

She soon came to the conclusion that there was very little help to be had from that. Nearly everybody on the range wore steel-studded articles of one sort or another. She was about to slip it back in her pocket again, when her eyes sparkled with an idea.

Josh Hastings' Gauntlets

SHE had seen Josh Hastings with some studded gauntlets once, and this nail head was about the size that would be used on a gauntlet. It was almost too small for a belt or a saddle trimming.

Her heart beating fast, Kay unlocked her door, and gently opened it to peer into the hall. No one was



With a gasp, Kay saw a nail head missing.

there wouldn't be a chance. A vision of the monument marking the dividing line between the two states flashed before her. In her mind's eye, she could see its lettered markings — Idaho on the west side, Montana on the east.

An exclamation suddenly escaped her, and she sat upright, her eyes brilliant with excitement. Breathing quickly, she ran over to the window and looked out. Aunt Kate's rocking chair was empty, and the porch deserted.

She hastily slipped off her dress and put on her riding clothes. Clapping her broad-brimmed hat over her gleaming hair, she ran to the living room, and quickly pulled out some books she had seen mulling over the day before. She shuffled over several paper pamphlets, chose one and slipped it in her pocket.

Then, turning to the front door, she unlocked it, left the house, and ran down to the corral.

'No Break This Trip'

WHEN Ted was led out of the shack, and gruffly ordered to follow Sam Cutter through the thick brush to the spot where the horses had been left, such a wave of weakness swept over him that he felt he never could comply with the demand.

Realizing, however, that he would be bound and ignominiously carried if he couldn't make the grade on his own, he summoned all his strength, and pushed on.

Sam Cutter motioned him to the horse he was to ride, slit the ropes at his wrists, and watched him mount.

"You know what any try for a break means, don't you?" He put his hand on his holster.

Ted nodded. "I've given you my word not to make a break on this trip," he declared shortly.

"I ain't worrying about breaks on any other trips!" Sam Cutter gave a short, disagreeable laugh. "My guess is you won't be making so very many more trips."

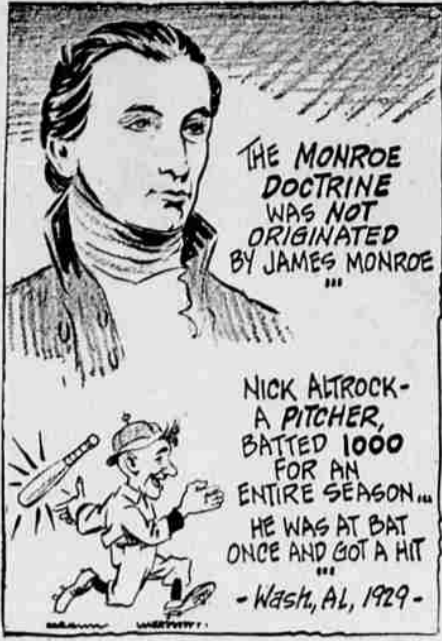
Ted made no answer to this leering observation, and the sheriff led the way to the summit of the central divide, and started down the west trail to Clear Water Basin.

(Copyright, 1937, Marie de Servaud)

Ted's trial gets under way, tomorrow.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



THE MONROE DOCTRINE WAS NOT ORIGINATED BY JAMES MONROE

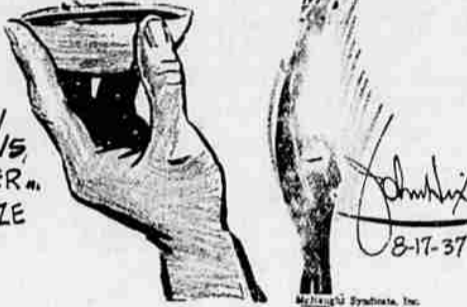
LARGEST ELM IN THE U.S., Marietta, Ohio. OVER 300 YEARS OLD—165-FOOT SPREAD—50 FEET AROUND TRUNK...

NICK ATRUCK—A PITCHER, BATTED 1000 FOR AN ENTIRE SEASON... HE WAS AT BAT ONCE AND GOT A HIT

—Wash., A.L., 1929—

POISON DRINKERS!

AFRICAN KAFFIRS DRINK THE SAME POISON THEY PUT ON THEIR ARROWS. THE VENOM OF THE PUFF ADDER... THEY BELIEVE IT WILL IMMUNIZE THEM AGAINST THE BITE OF THE SNAKE...



Poison Drinkers

Though a deadly poison when injected into the blood stream, the venom of the puff adder may be swallowed without ill effect. The Kaffirs of South Africa use it for poisoning their arrows, and drink the same poison, believing that it will protect them if they should be bitten by an adder.

Snakes are objects of superstitious awe in many sections of Africa and are shown reverence in weird customs and ceremonies. Among some of the tribes it is an annual practice to kill a cobra de capello and hang its skin, tail downward, from the branch of a tree. All children born in that year are then taken to the tree and made to touch the skin in the belief that this act will put them under the protection of the reptile.

Kaffirs, when they find a dead serpent, dress it in clothes and lay it to rest with an elaborate funeral ceremony.

Monroe Doctrine

Strange as it seems, it was John Quincy Adams, not James Monroe, who originally formulated the so-called Monroe Doctrine.

With the recently formed republics in South and Central America looking toward their "big sister" in the north for protection from European powers who threatened their independence, the United States sought a policy to govern her treatment of the matter. James Monroe was president when matters came to a head and it was on his administration that the problem fell.

Long discussions were held by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams convincing the president that he should make a declaration of policy. In his papers on the subject, Adams formulated the chief points of the Monroe Doctrine as it stands today. Most of the presidential message on the doctrine which Monroe gave on December 2, 1823, was prepared by Adams, even its phrasing and wording being largely written by him.

Tomorrow: What Great Invention was Made Possible by a Dream?

Congressmen Plan Jaunts to Oregon

PORTLAND, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Excursions of congressional committees to the west to study national problems during the adjournment of congress will bring at least two delegations to Oregon.

Three members of the house sub-

committee on interior department appropriations will visit Bonneville dam in September, while a senate agricultural sub-committee headed by "Cotton Ed" Smith, South Carolina democrat, will ask Oregon farmers their ideas on new farm legislation.

Exact dates of hearings here have not been set.

Girls in Holdup Role

KLAMATH FALLS, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Lois Cannatta complained to city police today of the loss of \$90 in \$10 bills. He said two girls held him up and took his wallet.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Ironbridge Casualty Works.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Precautions Taken!



AT THE DENVER 3-POINT TERMINAL

WE'LL NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES, BUT TRY AND KEEP IT QUIET UNTIL WE INVESTIGATE!

TOMKINS IS WITHIN RANGE NOW, MR. JENKINS. I'LL CALL HIM DOWN.

DENVER TO WACO TEN. FIELD ALTITUDE THIRTY-TWO FEET... WIND DIRECTION S.E. EIGHT. FIELD IS CLEAR...



TRY AND KEEP IT QUIET... WITH THIS ARMY OF REPORTERS



WAL, SIR, IT WAS LIKE THIS...

WHAT HAPPENED, PILOT? WE HEARD YOU LOST A PASSENGER

DON'T TALK HERE, SKEEPER! COME TO MY OFFICE

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Moving Out



WHAT'S ALL THIS? I WANT TO BUY SOMETHING AT HIGGINS-

SORRY, LADY, BUT-

-THIS IS A MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE. HIGGINS JUST AIN'T HIGGINS ANY MORE!



SAY, SHERIFF, I THOUGHT THE MORTGAGE GAVE CALED CRUNCHER ALL THE MERCHANDISE, TOO-

OH, NO, GON- JEST THE BUILDING- THAT'S ALL-

GOSH, UNTIL THEY ARREST ME FOR HOLDING UP TRAFFIC, I CAN STILL SELL YOU GOODS, MRS. PEARSON-

ALL RIGHT BEN, LET ME HAVE TEN POUNDS O' SUGAR-



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FIGHT, MAX?

THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' TO THINK ABOUT - IT'S IN THE BAG!

WELL, I GOT 20 BUCKS HID AWAY IN THESE OLD CLOTHES OF MINE THAT SAYS LUTHER'S GOING TO MAKE YOU UNCONSCIOUS PHYSICALLY - YOU BEEN THAT WAY MENTALLY FOR YEARS

TAKE THAT 20 BUCKS HOME TO YOUR OLD MOTHER. SHE AIN'T GOT A DIME OUTTA YOU SINCE YOUR FIRST TOOTH THROUGH!



I DON'T KNOW - IT AIN'T ON ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHT BUT I JUST CAN'T GET ANY SLEEP - THIS PILLOW IS LIKE A SACK OF CEMENT!

Earthly Prosperity Comparative Dross Pastor Points Out

Prof. M. Weatherford, speaking at the Church of the Nazarene Sunday morning drew his message from the 73rd Psalm, using as his topic "The Solution to one of Life's Greatest Problems."

"The problem that confronted the Psalmist was the result of his contemplation over the prosperity of the wicked as against some of the trials and burdens of the 'righteous,' the pastor declared. "He saw that in temporal blessings they have more than one should desire, yet they were not smitten."

"The Psalmist had permitted unbelieving thoughts to ferment in his mind and the pang of passionate discontent to pierce his inmost soul. He had for the moment forgotten that distance which isolates from

God, separates from life, and makes certain the fruit of death. He had overlooked the fact that temporal prosperity often proves to be the primary deceptive symptom of a fatal disease.

"The problem was insoluble to him until he went into the sanctuary of God. When he went into the sanctuary he found the light turned on. In the light of God he easily discerned the solution to his perplexity. Communing with God reveals the comparable dross of all earthly prosperity."

Freewater Cannery Destroyed By Fire

FREEWATER, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Fire apparently caused by defective wiring destroyed the P. J. Burk cannery and the Western Dehydrator Vinegar and Pickle plant Sunday with an estimated loss of \$40,000. Only a change of wind prevented destruction of other property.

THE NEBBS—The Nights Are Long



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