

# LOVE ON THE RANGE

BY NELSON C. NYE

## The Story So Far

Under the name of Abe Streeter, quick-fire Ankrom takes a job on the troubled Rafter T ranch to help lovely Lee Trone. Colonel Struthers and his daughter Betty come to visit, and Ankrom recognizes Struthers as an impostor. Kelton Dreen, Ankrom is shot at in the dark, and Dreen is killed. Betty tells Ankrom she killed Dreen to save him, and slips him her gun. Ratchford, the sheriff, is keeping them all in the ranch-house, including Claydell, a neighboring rancher.

## Chapter Thirteen Whys And Wherefores

"I've a notion to go to bed," Ankrom yawned. "If you want me for anything you can find me in the bunkhouse."

"Take one step out of this room, by golly, and I'll put you under arrest!" Ratchford growled. "You or anyone else! There's been a killin' here tonight and I aim to find out the whys and wherefores of it—'an' who done it!"

A hush closed in upon the room as the sheriff ceased speaking. Ankrom saw that these people about the sheriff glanced covertly at one another. There was something sinister, something evil in the hush.

"Streeter," the sheriff's voice broke in upon his thoughts. "I'd like for you to give the same spid-

you've got Struthers' Mind if I see it!"

"Struthers did not carry a gun, so far as I can learn. What made you think he had one? Were you an' him o' friends? Like him an' Streeter, here?"

Ankrom stared at the sheriff; he did not like the tone in which the sheriff had delivered those last few words linking himself and Struthers.

"An old friend?" repeated Claydell. "Hardly that, Tom. I had only met the colonel this afternoon. There was something fine about him though, I thought," he smiled. "A great nobility of mind—a thing seldom found in the characters of gamblers."

Ratchford's lips were white, so closely did he press them. In the eyes behind those sleepy lids Ankrom saw that clouds of caution gathered. Then Ankrom's glance passed to Old Man Trone to see how he was taking Claydell's revelation which, if Trone believed it, must have shown him that Struthers was an impostor.

Trone's face held an odd expression. The dread which Ankrom had before noticed in his eyes was more pronounced. His gaunt form seemed to be shrinking. But he was sober, now; cold sober.

**Electric Silence**

RATCHFORD was leaning forward. There was a danger-

ous droop to the corners of his mouth as he eyed Claydell. "Just what," he asked portentously, "did you mean by that last crack?"

Claydell raised his bushy eyebrows, shrugged. "Wasn't it evident?" he asked.

Betty's voice crossed the silence recklessly. "My father was not a gambler!"

Claydell's brows shot upward. He looked surprised. "I did not say he was, Miss Struthers. Perhaps you misunderstood me in your overwrought condition. I am sure you would be better off in bed, young lady," he smiled. "This affair tonight must have proved an awful shock to you."

Ankrom could not be sure, but he believed that in the rancher's last words he had caught a touch of sarcasm. But a glance at Claydell's suave face was enough to convince him that he had not. Only sympathy was registered there.

"Do you think I could sleep after what has happened?" she flared.

"Sleep? Perhaps not. But lying down would rest you."

"I guess she can manage to sit up with us till daylight," Ratchford's voice reached roughly out. "She ain't so bad shook up as all of that. She was around when the colonel crossed the line. She may have seen something. When she gets a little stronger I'm goin' to question her, and until I do I aim to see she stays where she can't be got at."

Claydell made a clucking sound. "What makes you think she might have seen something, if I'm allowed to ask?"

"I," said the sheriff heavily, "saw a woman duck out from under that tree as I came up—the pepper tree where we found Struthers' body."

Once again the silence was electric. And then it happened—

Some heavy object struck the floor with a metallic clank. Every eye in that room seemed to focus on Ankrom's feet. Ankrom had no need to send a glance downward to reveal the cause of the accusing looks he read in those staring eyes—he knew. He had felt that cold metallic thing go slithering down his leg; the gun that a half hour ago Betty had forced upon him.

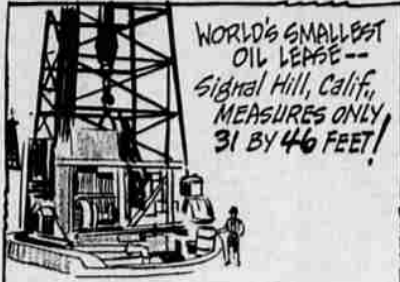
In plain sight the weapon lay upon the floor!

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Tomorrow: The sheriff clamps down.

# STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



**ELK CAT—**  
"TOMMY"—23-year-old cat owned by W.L. Clark, Sebago Falls, N.Y., is a full-fledged member of the local Elk Lodge. He has a bank account in his own name...



**LO, THE POOR INDIAN—**  
WOMEN OWN THE HOMES AMONG THE HOPI INDIANS OF ARIZONA... HARVESTED CROPS ALSO ARE OWNED BY HOUSEWIVES

**THE MINIATURE ARMY!**  
POLAND ENTERED THE WORLD WAR WITH ONLY 300 MEN! THE FAMED "KADROWKA" LEGION, WHICH INVADDED RUSSIA IN AUGUST, 1914, BECAME THE POLISH LEGION, 14,000 STRONG, THAT WON THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

The miniature army... Before the world war, Poland was geographically divided between its three ancient enemies—Germany, Russia and Austro-Hungary—as it had been since 1795. At the outbreak of the world war, Poland found herself uncomfortably placed between two powerful enemies, Russia and Germany, interested in securing political independence, she considered bids from both of these powers, but turned them down to fight her own battle. The czar promised Poland self-government if she would remain loyal to Russia; Germany made similar promises. Poland insisted on complete independence at any cost, and it was obvious she would have to fight for it. Accordingly, under leadership of Joseph Pilsudski, Poland went to war with Russia on August 6, 1914—with only 300 men! These loyalists were known as the celebrated "Kadrowka." It grew into a brigade, then in three brigades. Eventually it became the Polish Legion of 14,000 men. In 1916 Germany, attacking from the west, captured Warsaw, then offered to permit the Polish Legion to separate as a separate army against Russians. Pilsudski, however, held out for complete Polish independence, and was jailed. His Legion was organized as an underground organization, and in 1918, with the downfall of the Central Powers, Pilsudski triumphantly returned to Warsaw at the head of the Legion. In the same year the Poles proclaimed the republic, with Pilsudski as dictator and first provisional president. From a tiny band of 300 men Pilsudski's dream had grown into a political entity.

several other members of the family were at her bedside.

**Life Cycle in Sevens.**  
SAN JOSE, Calif.—(UP)—Edward Russell, electrical contractor, thinks he has about as many "sevens" in his life as anyone else. He was born on the seventh day of the seventh month of the year, a seventh son, and was named after King Edward VII of England.

**Age Programs Grow.**  
SACRAMENTO, Calif.—(UP)—The next legislature will have four old age annuity bills before it as amendments to the constitution. They are the California Pension Plan, California Retirement Annuity Act, and the Citizen's Annuity Act.

**Lion Unwanted.**  
PITTSBURGH, Calif.—(UP)—Roy Ludington, manager of the Crafts Show, would like to get rid of a non-chalant lion. It is no good for show purposes because the more he is prodded and the more blank cartridges that are fired, the meeker he gets. Surrounding zoos refused to accept the beast.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Snoot Isn't Satisfied Yet!



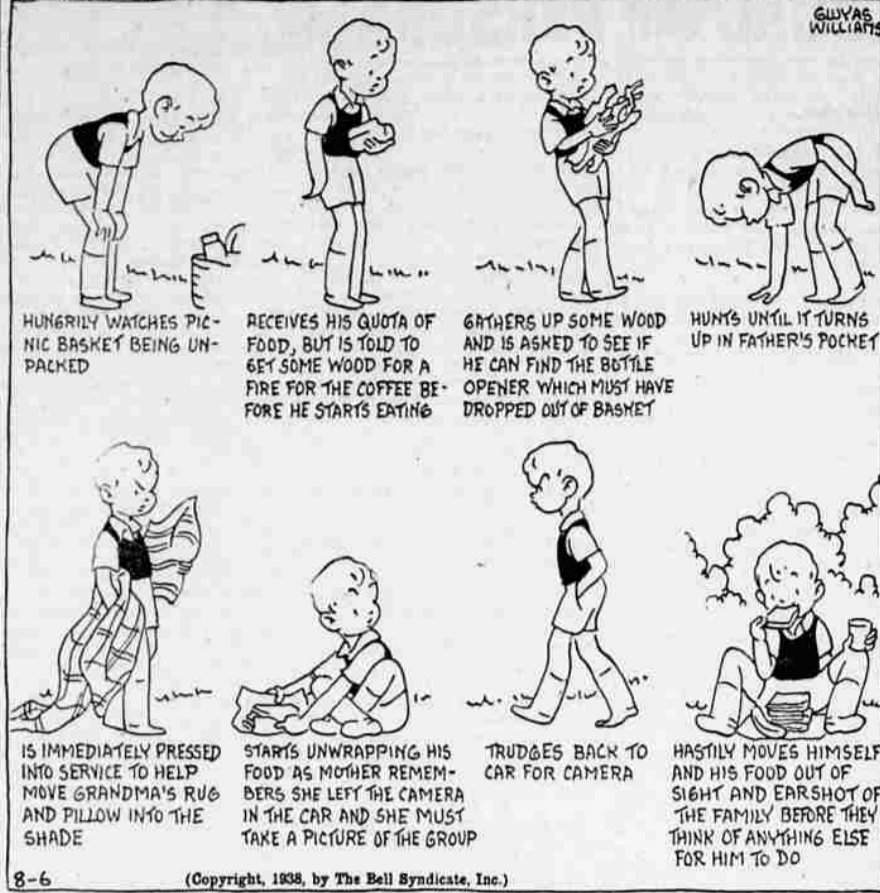
## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Gone!



## THE NEBBS—Search Me



## PICNIC CHORES By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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## SMATTER POI By C M PAYNE



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## By HAL FORRESTER



## By EDWIN ALGER



## By SOL HESS



## APPLEGATE HAS TOWNSEND CLUB

**BIG APPLGATE, Aug. 6—(Sp.)**—With a few industrious workers out on a membership campaign following a Townsend meeting here last week a Townsend club has been formed at Upper Applegate with 27 signers, two over the requirement. At a meeting at the Grange hall the following temporary officers were elected: Almo McKee, president; George Peck, vice president; Frank Bowman, treasurer; Miss Gladys Byrne, secretary.

The meeting was sponsored by the Medford club, and among speakers were W. A. Sumner, representative of the national department of Mrs.

Townsend organization, and George Iverson of Medford. Members from Talent and Ashland also attended. A resident of Middle Park undertook a 15 mile journey on foot to attend the meeting. August 13 has been set as a date for the next meeting.

**Early Hop Season**  
INDEPENDENCE, Aug. 8.—(AP)—The hop harvest in this district will start August 15, nearly a week earlier than usual. Hops have matured rapidly because of the warm weather. Picking prices were set at \$1.25 per hundred, at a meeting of the Independence unit of the Oregon hop growers.

**Barr's Mother Dies**  
OAKLAND, Calif., Aug. 8.—(AP)—Months of illness ended fatally for Mrs. Dora Barr, 60, mother of Max Barr, the former heavyweight boxing champion, she died yesterday after a brief illness that followed a blood transfusion Friday. Max gave the blood to his mother. He and