

# LOVE ON THE RANGE

BY NELSON C. NYE

## The Story So Far

A plot is on foot to smash the Rafter T, and "Blur" Ankrom takes a job there to help lovely Lee Trone. She saves his life by shooting Kelton Dreen, an impostor, but he learns this only after Dreen's accomplice, Betty, causes trouble between them. Ratchford, the sheriff, and Claydell, a neighboring rancher, both tell Ankrom that the other is after the Trones' land. Then Ankrom learns from Betty, whom Ratchford has jailed, that she and Dreen were Ratchford's tools.

## Chapter 28

### Tricked

"DID you ever hear Ratchford speak of a man named Hackett—Mose Hackett?" Ankrom asked. Betty nodded eagerly. "He had charge of the rustlers who were plundering Trone's ranch, don't you?" "The man you shot?" "Ankrom's cheeks drew taut. That recollection which had sent him hurrying to town had been a lucky one. Trone's remark that Ratchford had taken the girl to town for questioning had been the thing to drop that peg in place. For with the rancher's words Ankrom had recalled the sheriff's reaction to the statement he had made this noon. To his pointing out that a man who would go to so much

for myself; I'm just telling you how it was. He said he loved me. He'd been telling me what an important man he was out here; a man with a future; a man who might even one day be governor! I imagined myself in love with him. Of course I wasn't—I see that now. I was in love with the pictures he painted. I was a fool, but one night I ran off with him. He brought me here. It didn't last long; it took about a week for the glamor to wear away. When I saw the husk of him showing through I was sick. He wanted me out of the country. But I was determined to stay. To keep from starving I found employment in that cabaret from which I waded to you that night we first saw each other when those thugs were trying to gun you down."

Her eyes clung bravely to his face. She seemed to feel he understood.

### The Pranks Of Fate

HE DID, and it made him feel lower in his own estimation than the lowest snake. Yet he had done nothing to place himself in this position. If she had built her hopes on a false premise, could that be charged to him? He had not said he loved her; he'd done nothing to imply it. It was, he told himself, the fact of his being here that had brought her hopes to their present peak; she must feel he would not have come unless he cared!



"I'm arrestin' you for the murder of Kelton Dreen."

trouble to smash the Rafter T would scarcely be likely to be satisfied with so small a reward as the price of a railroad's right-of-way and the chance to build a boom town, when by damming Trone's valley he could control a veritable kingdom, Ratchford had said: "You're right. I hadn't thought of that."

He realized that his face must in some measure have given him away, for abruptly she pressed close against the bars. "Don't take it so hard, Abe," her voice came softly as her hand touched his cheek. "I never loved him, I didn't, really—not as I love you."

Yet even with the recollection Ankrom had been afraid to trust his judgment. He had felt he might be swayed by his own antagonism of the man. But he'd been right. Claydell's guess had hit the nail.

Cold sweat bathed Ankrom's forehead. He was on the point of rushing blindly from the jail when—

"So when Ratchford asked if I would help a man impersonate my father, I told him yes. I believed the time had come when I had it in my power to pay Ratchford back. I had never seen Dreen until Ratchford took me to the hotel and introduced him as the man who was to play my father—"

She broke off as Ankrom thrust close against the bars. "Father? That's the second time you've used that word. Who are you?" "Betty Struthers." "I mean really?" "Betty Struthers was the name my mother gave me."

"I Was A Fool!"

AN KROM dropped the hand that lay in his. The girl's eyes jumped to his face in alarm.

"What is it?" her voice came huskily as he stepped backward from the cell. He caught himself; his part was not played out. There was one more thing he wished to know. "Wait," he said, and stepping close up to the bars asked: "How did you get tangled up in this? Why did Dreen pick you out to play the role of Struthers' daughter?"

"Dreen didn't," she said, and grimaced. "It was Ratchford." "Ratchford?"

She nodded reluctantly. "I had known him for almost two years. It was because of him I ran away from home and let Dad die of a broken heart. I've never forgiven myself. But I was young and inexperienced. He was so big and strong and handsome." Her lips curled bitterly.

With her words still ringing in his ears he saw the neat simplicity of the trap in which he had been snared. Ratchford had feared he was getting too close to the length of things. The girl, angered by Ankrom's indifference to her, had been ripe for Ratchford's use. They'd pulled it slick!

"I'm not trying to find excuses"

News from the Rafter T, 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.

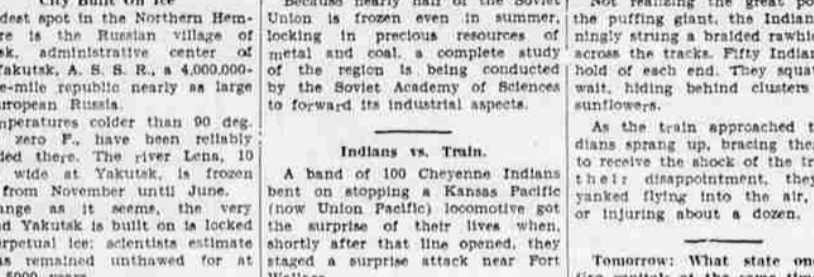


**GOLIATH MESSIAH—**  
New York,  
RAN 3 MILES  
BACKWARDS  
ON HIS 72ND  
BIRTHDAY!  
—1938—

THE SLATE-PENCIL  
SEA URCHIN,  
of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia,  
IS COVERED WITH BLUNT, HARD  
SPINES MOUNTED IN  
BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINTS



A BAND OF 100 CHEYENNES  
TRIED TO STOP A KANSAS  
PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE WITH A  
RAWHIDE ROPE  
STRETCHED ACROSS  
THE TRACK!  
—Near Ft. Wallace,  
Kans.—



THE CITY ON ICE!  
YAKUTSK, RUSSIA,  
IS BUILT ON FROZEN GROUND  
WHICH HAS NOT THAWED IN  
5000 YEARS!

**City Built On Ice**  
Coldest spot in the Northern Hemisphere is the Russian village of Yakutsk, administrative center of the Yakutsk A. S. S. R., a 4,000,000-square-mile republic nearly as large as European Russia.

Temperatures colder than 90 deg. below zero F., have been reliably recorded there. The river Lena, 10 miles wide at Yakutsk, is frozen over from November until June.

Strange as it seems, the very ground Yakutsk is built on is locked in perpetual ice; scientists estimate it has remained unthawed for at least 5000 years.

Because nearly half of the Soviet Union is frozen even in summer, looking in precious resources of metal and coal, a complete study of the region is being conducted by the Soviet Academy of Sciences to forward its industrial aspects.

Not realizing the great power of the puffing giant, the Indians cunningly strung a braided rawhide rope across the tracks. Fifty Indians took hold of each end. They squatted in wait, hiding behind clusters of all sunflowers.

As the train approached the Indians sprang up, bracing themselves to receive the shock of the train. To their disappointment, they were yanked flying into the air, killing or injuring about a dozen.

Tomorrow: What state once had five capitals at the same time?

**PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS GROWING MORE CAREFUL**  
SALEM, Aug. 25.—(AP)—Professional automobile, truck and bus drivers reduced their accidents by 22 per cent during the first six months of this year, compared with the same period last year, Secretary of State Earl Snell said today.

Truck drivers were involved in 3,302 accidents during the period.

**Bingo Rush Perilous.**  
TORONTO, Ont. — (UP)—Among casualties treated at the Toronto General hospital was a woman who fractured her shoulder in her rush to get a seat at a bingo game. Dashing to a table she tripped and fell on the shoulder, fracturing it.

**Tree Shades 7,885 Persons**  
CHICO, Cal. (UP)—This city boasts of the world's largest oak. Known as the Sir Joseph Hooker oak, its height is 101 feet, circumference at the ground 25.7 feet and at eight feet above the ground, 28.4 feet while the circumference outside its branches is 446 feet. Allowing two square feet for each person, 7,835 people can stand under its branches.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Betty-Lou Goes on the Program!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Buying Begins!

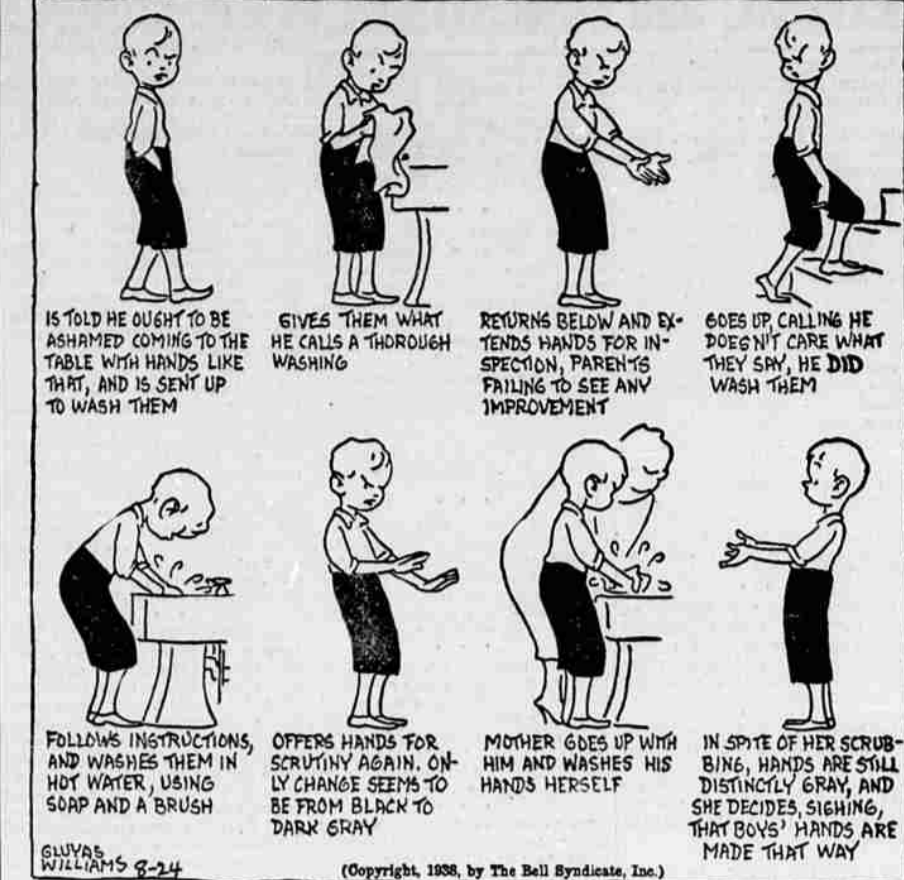


THE NEBBS—Fresh Kids



# INDELIBLE HANDS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



IS TOLD HE OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED COMING TO THE TABLE WITH HANDS LIKE THAT, AND IS SENT UP TO WASH THEM

GIVES THEM WHAT HE CALLS A THOROUGH WASHING

RETURNS BELOW AND EXTENDS HANDS FOR INSPECTION, PARENTS FAILING TO SEE ANY IMPROVEMENT

GOES UP, CALLING HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY, HE DID WASH THEM

FOLLOWS INSTRUCTIONS, AND WASHES THEM IN HOT WATER, USING SOAP AND A BRUSH

OFFERS HANDS FOR SCRUTINY AGAIN, ONLY CHANGE SEEMS TO BE FROM BLACK TO DARK GRAY

MOTHER GOES UP WITH HIM AND WASHES HIS HANDS HERSELF

IN SPITE OF HER SCRUBBING, HANDS ARE STILL DISTINCTLY GRAY, AND SHE DECIDES, SIGHING, THAT BOYS' HANDS ARE MADE THAT WAY

GLUYAS WILLIAMS 8-24 (Copyright, 1938, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

# S MATTER POI

By C M PAYNE



By HAL FORREST

# UNION HEAD RAPS REGULATION PLAN

SALEM, Aug. 25.—(AP)—A proposed initiative to regulate labor unions was attacked today by Ben Osborn, executive secretary of the Oregon Federation of Labor, who said the measure would "make it impossible for labor unions to function."

The measure, which will appear on the November ballot, would outlaw jurisdictional labor strikes, prevent interference in the marketing of farm products, prevent picketing unless a dispute between employer and employee exists, and throw labor union books open to inspection by members.

Osborn's statement, made in a formal argument against the measure, will appear in a voters' pamphlet.

"The measure would virtually prohibit picketing," Osborn said. "Picketing is the only means available to unions to inform the public that there is a strike."

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# SEATTLE DEMOS ASK DIES PROBE

SEATTLE, Aug. 25.—(AP)—The local Democratic league announced today adoption of a resolution requesting the Dies committee to conduct hearings here for investigation of "communist domination" of the Washington Commonwealth Federation's executive board.

Jack Dalton, league secretary, was ordered to forward the resolution to the committee.

The Democratic league recently was organized by a conservative group. The Commonwealth Federation is active in statewide politics, as a "left-wing" organization.

Three hundred attended last night's meeting.

A resolution approved by the league stated it "is the avowed intention of the communist party to enter the Democratic party and thereby obtain control of it through the Commonwealth Federation."

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By SOL HESS