

MEMORY OF THE MOON

by Jeanne Bowman

YESTERDAY Constance writes the Taylors that she intends to keep the ranch, but asks them to stay. She sets out for the West again.

Chapter 19 Carl Pedersen

CONSTANCE dreaded Christmas. She drew a blind across her memories, had breakfast sent in so she wouldn't see so much reflected cheer; refused to look out when the train stopped at depots, so she wouldn't have to watch reunions.

She'd read the letters. She hated them. She hated them because they were from Peter Taylor's decision slid out and Constance, putting the envelope to one side, checked her movement. There was another slip of paper in it. She pulled it out. One line. She read and re-read it.

"I'm glad you agree that when you are fighting for something you love... all is fair."

It was signed, Pedro.

Fear that was part dread, part consternation, and part a heart strumming confusion, filled her. What had he meant? Was John right? And if so, which of the two reasons underlay the Taylors' decision to remain?

"What a Christmas present," she laughed uncertainly.

Her heart and her mind waged a day-long battle and her mind won. The train slid through dusky white canyons at twilight, to come out in the star-burst of lights that was Ogden; and Constance, walking up and down under the train shed, admitted defeat, and wondered why she labeled it defeat.

For if Taylor had meant to remain, as John had said, to "marry El Cabrillo," it was the ranch and not herself that he would fight for.

Constance spent two days in San Francisco. Carl Pedersen presented himself the morning after her arrival. When he telephoned from the lobby she went down with some apprehension. It would be this man and herself, against the Taylors... and the Cabrillos. She was placing the future of El Cabrillo in his hands.

She noticed these hands immediately—large, strong, capable hands. She looked up to his face and liked what she saw, china blue eyes, blond hair and blunt features.

Mrs. Pedersen was with him, a large, red haired woman who had, surprisingly, Constance learned, majored in English and was now an associate editor for a western magazine. Constance wondered what Donna, with her smattering of education, would say to that. Small Pedersen waited in a nearby hotel; they would be met later.

"You're so young," Mrs. Pedersen said.

"Old enough to know I'm too young, and that is why I need the help of a man like your husband," returned Constance, and won the woman immediately.

Pedersen wasted no time on niceties. He launched immediately into business. "The only thing I have against your plan, Miss Cabrillo," he began, "is the time line. You have a ranch upon which stock have grazed for two hundred years. You expect to turn that into a dairy ranch of equal proportions and show profit in that time."

"You are not starting with slow replacement, but a complete turnover. I can't vouch that your fields will be fertile enough to produce our feed the first year. Thousands of cattle have torn the vitality from the soil. It will need deep ploughing and fertilizing."

"Then we have the weather to consider. If the elements are with us we stand an even chance of winning. If we have droughts and floods, I don't know."

"You see I am being frank with you. Your proposition was a challenge to me. I'd like to have a try at it, but I don't want you to take me on thinking I am a miracle man."

"Happy New Year!" Constance returned thoughtfully. "It gives me even more confidence."

Even Beachport, when she arrived there at noon had a festive appearance.

And waiting for her on the platform was Pedro!

Until that moment Constance hadn't known how she dreaded their first encounter, after that last half-hour on the mountain top; after John had hinted at Taylor's intentions; after all that remained unsaid between them.

She felt she would be putting him to test in this meeting and feared what she would find.

Warily she followed the porter to the vestibule, and from the top step looked down.

"Welcome, Michael," he greeted gaily.

He was glad to see her! He couldn't possibly assume that depth of warmth in his eyes. He was holding his arms and she... why must she be so foolish... she was thinking of John, wondering why she couldn't accept Taylor's touch with the same ease she accepted John's.

"Happy New Year, Pedro," she managed.

"The happiest one I've run into yet," he confirmed. "Here, porter. The bags over there... yes, that's right."

His concern over the bags gave her time to regain her poise, to pretend she had always had one hand tucked securely in Pedro's arm, to pretend the tightening pressure was because he was walking more rapidly than she and not overexuberance, on his part, at her return.

Now he was tucking her under a robe. The top of the car was down and he'd brought out a knit beret. "Meg made it to match your eyes," he said.

Constance changed, aware Pedro was talking too much. It wasn't natural for him to chatter. He was covering up, there was something he should be telling her and he wasn't.

"What was it?" "I hadn't expected you to meet me," she confessed as they drove off.

"Disappointed?" he turned to look at her.

"Heavens, no... look out for that... as a card darted ahead of them. "Of course not, but I thought Julian would insist upon coming, and to be frank I didn't know the Taylors would appreciate my return to El Cabrillo."

"Welcoming Mood" "APPRECIATE it?" laughed Pedro. "Dear child, Meg has spent three days in the kitchen preparing for it. You spent Christmas on the train so she's going to make up for it. And Dad," he laughed again, "he had me drive him to Beachport for a new suit; stood on his good leg while the tailor fitted him."

"He's been singing about Irish eyes, all morning."

It was impossible not to be caught up into Pedro's welcoming mood.

"And yourself?" she asked.

"I was driving along the coast road, the mountains green on one side, the sea glazed gold on the other."

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS: Where to Find Them on the Dial: KEX, 1160, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; KGO, 790, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 970, Seattle; KNX, 1050, Los Angeles; KOA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 540, Portland; KOMO, 920, Seattle; KPO, 430, San Francisco; KSL, 1130, Salt Lake.

Friday: 5:00—Kogen's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX, Walte Time, KPO, KGW, Clark Ross, KNX, KOIN.

5:30—Concert Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; Music for Moderns, KPO, KGW; Drama, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

6:00—Public Affairs, KEX, KSL, KOIN; Don Ameche's, KPO, KGW; Boxing Bout, KEX, KJR, (Continuator).

6:30—Templeton Time, KPO, KGW; Al Pearce, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Boxing Bout, KGO.

7:00—Fred Waring, KPO, KGW; Anne and Andy, KEX, KSL, KOIN; Your Voice and You, KJR.

7:30—Johnny Presents, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Dance Orch., KPO, KGW; 8:00—Treasure Island Varieties, KPO, Sports, KGO.

8:30—Golly's Orch., KGO; Death Valley Days, KPO, KGW; Luncheon's Orch., KSL, Baseball Game, KEX.

9:00—Gordon's Orch., KPO; Paul Sullivan, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

9:30—In the Old Days, KPO; King's Orch., KOIN; Music by Woodbury, KOMO.

10:00—Reporter, KPO, KGW; Dance Orch., KNX.

10:30—Richard's Orch., KEX, KJR; Young's Orch., KPO, KGW; Luncheon's Orch., KSL, KOIN.

11:00—Nottingham's Orch., KPO; Tucker's Orch., KSL, KOIN; This Moving World, KJR, KEX; News, KGO, KGW.

Saturday: 5:00—Hudson's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Billmore Boys, KPO, KGW; Kid's Quizaroo, KNX, KOIN.

5:30—Busse's Orch., KOIN; Drama, KPO, KGW; Radio Guild, KEX, KJR, KGW; Message of Israel, KGO.

6:30—Truth or Consequences, KPO, KGW; News of the War, KSL, KOIN; KNX; Melody in the Night, KGO, KEX, KJR.

7:00—Marriage Club, KNX, KOIN; KSI Barn Dance, KPO, KGW; Chester's Orch., KEX; Gems of Melody, KGO.

7:30—New Voices of 1940, KNX; Rey's Orch., KJR, KEX.

8:00—Morgan's Orch., KGW; City of St. Francis, KPO, KGO; Hit Parade, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

8:30—Gordon's Orch., KOMO; Sports Forum, KGO, KEX; Youth's Orch., KPO, KGW.

9:00—Spotlight of Weems, KGO, KEX; Martin's Party, KOMO; Bill Henry, KNX, KOIN.

9:30—King's Orch., KNX, KOIN; Young's Orch., KEX; Crosby's Orch., KNX; Harpa's Orch., KGO, KEX.

10:00—Jones' Orch., KGW; Crosby's Orch., KNX; Harpa's Orch., KGO, KEX.

10:30—Luncheon's Orch., KNX.

KSL, KOIN; Martin's Party, KPO; 11:00—Van's Orch., KSL, KOIN; Paul Casson, KEX; News, KGO; Nottingham's Orch., KPO; News, KGW, KNX.

OREGONIANS USING MORE ELECTRICITY

Salem, Sept. 6.—(AP)—Electric power consumption in Oregon during 1939 set a new record of 1,349,474,260 kilowatt hours, a gain of 11.82 per cent over 1938 and 7.79 per cent over the previous record established in 1937. Public Utilities Commissioner Ormond R. Bean reported today to Governor Charles A. Sprague. Power companies reported gross revenues of \$22,189,107, a gain of \$1,710,374 over 1938. The average revenue per kilowatt hour in 1939 was 1.63 cents, a drop of .16 cents from the previous year. Residential and rural power sold for an average of 2.71 cents a kilowatt hour, down .03 cents from 1938. Since 1930, total sales have increased 34.09 per cent. The Gulf stream is 50 miles wide at its narrowest point.

RAW MATERIALS FOR DEFENSE NEEDS HIT HIGHER PRICE LEVEL

New York, Sept. 6.—(AP)—Key industrial raw materials today in commodity markets stiffened as gathering of supplies for the nation's \$10,000,000,000 defense program widened. Refined copper for immediate

delivery advanced 1/4 cent a pound to 11 1/2 cents. Scrap copper moved up 1/2 cent, making No. 1 heavy wire scrap 9 3/4 cents. Gray goods sold around 1/4 cent a yard over previous levels. Hide futures added .05 to .15 of a cent a pound in future markets. Leather tanners, in view of advancing hide prices, marked up shoe leather. Domestic copper buying has been expanding now for some time. The metal is an important ingredient in shell cases, electric motor wiring, and machine manufacture.

Heavy government orders for both cotton and woolen textile goods for uniforms and blankets are pouring into mills in preparation for the coming military draft. While army shoe orders may be substantial once the training program gets under way in earnest, another factor in strength in hides and leathers is the recent "cautious" forward buying by retailers in the face of brisk sales. As a most populous of the continents, contains more than one billion people.

HOT BATH

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

(Released by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Ruse Is Discovered!

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Request Granted!

THE NEBBS—That's It!

NORTHWEST SEEN DUE FOR INDUSTRIAL BOOM

Spokane, Sept. 6.—(AP)—The Pacific Northwest, because of the Grand Coulee and Bonneville dams, is on the way to becoming one of the world's great centers of electro-chemical industry. Roy A. Hunt, president of the Aluminum Company of America, said here today. Hunt came to Spokane from

Portland after dedicating Monday his company's new plant at Vancouver, Wash.

Best "Convincer" Denver—(AP)—The surgeon told Oliver Woodard, 32, that the time to have your tonsils out was in early fall, after you had stored some summer health in your body. He must have been convincing, because five members of the Woodard family went to the hospital together.

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