

# THE SACRED DAGGER

by Rita Moller Nanton

YESTERDAY: Anne Willard, Pete Mackey and Blaze Sherwood are in a desert hotel in Mesquite, sheltering from the storm into which their disabled plane has dropped them. Mackey had been engaged to Anne before she was married to her father, but she also finds that Blaze is a remarkably fascinating young man.

## Chapter Five Life In A Hovel

THEY are friendly, helpful people," Anne remarked presently. "I thought they might be hostile and turn us away."

"That's the charm of Asia," said Sherwood, "you never know what you'll meet."

They were each given a cup of hot, rich broth. Mackey, his teeth still aching, fell into a restful sleep. Sherwood held a long palaver with the men of the hut and as many of the neighbors as could crowd into the room. Then he turned all the visitors out, looked Mackey over and came and sat down beside Anne.

She had drowsed a little and now glanced at him with those lovely eyes that were not round like a European's but had that full

wood and Anne turned and gazed at each other and slowly began to grin.

Anne asked, "Do you suppose she's going home to mother?"

"I'll find out." After a parley with the old man he turned back with a laugh. "It's astonishing, but maybe you're right. He says she may go home to her mother for a while or she may sleep in the fold with the sheep and return in the morning. You see these desert women have more independence than the Mohammedan women of the cities."

Mackey groaned and sat up, holding his aching jaw. Sherwood fed him more aspirin.

"I have pulled teeth with a button hook for a tool," he confessed, "but this tooth is ulcerated and I hate to monkey with it." He massaged the jaw a bit, and then when Mackey lay down again, he went and joined the children.

### A Plan

ANNE sat on the kang idly watching him, marveling at how quickly he won the confidence of these mixed Turki and Chinese children. Presently he was playing cat's cradle with the eldest boy and the others leaned trustingly against his shoulders. The two women approached curiously and were soon talking to him. The native men dozed where they squatted against the wall, manly dignity preventing them



"I didn't mean to startle you," Blaze said.

elongated shape of the eyes of a gazelle. In fact they were Persian eyes. Sherwood told her so. Anne smiled. "Harem eyes. But I don't think I'd be a very pleasant inmate for a harem. I've got too much energy."

"These people fancy you are the one who possesses the harem. They think Mackey and I are both your husbands, that we come from Tibet where polyandry flourishes. They judge Mackey is husband number one because he is the elder, but I—" he grinned and made a bow.

"Interesting people," said Anne, looking around the room at the family—an old man, his two sons and their wives, a litter of pups and three healthy grubby children, roses shining in their cheeks, frolicked in the center of the earthen floor.

### Fight

ONE of the younger men cuffed one of the women, presumably his own wife, and she began squalling. He knocked her down. Anne glanced at Sherwood. He seemed undisturbed. The woman rose and grabbed a basin of cooked rice from the back of the stove threw it on the floor.

"His supper, I bet," whispered Sherwood.

The pups fell on the rice in a snarling, fighting mass. The man tangled his fingers in the woman's hair and began jerking her around. It was too much for Anne. Sherwood caught her arm and held her back.

"Here! Here!" he admonished. "I can't stand it!" she cried.

"They'd both turn on you. These people aren't as sensitive to pain as we are. I've seen them barely whimper when their heads were cut open or the flesh scraped from the bones."

Suddenly the woman snatched up a wooden stool and brought it against her husband's ribs with a hearty whack, breaking one of the legs. She had been screaming and he haranguing her all the time. Now he became really impatient, snatched open the door and threw her out into the storm, tossing the damaged stool after her. Those inside heard her crunch off through the snow muttering to herself.

Peace reigned again in the hut. The children and the pups rolled in play in the spot where the rice had been thrown. The other women resumed their reed-waving, the man their smoking. Sher-

wood from exhibiting curiosity. Having seen Sherwood give Mackey medicine, the old woman brushed her shining hair back from her eyes quickly.

"I hope so," he grinned, and lowered his voice unobtrusively. "I don't like our position here. We're not prisoners exactly but our host is the village headman, and he intends marching us down to Arushar, the capital, tomorrow. While men are not apt to be well received in that robbers' roost though red-headed women are highly prized." It took a moment for that to sink in, then Anne protested.

"But my hair's not red."

"Close enough, I fear—nearer red than black."

"So what?" she demanded.

"I don't know," in troubled tones. "Perhaps if you'd seem to become dreadfully ill they'd leave you here with the women. It's a two days' journey."

"It wouldn't be hard to fall sick here," Anne observed.

He smiled at that. "Shall I repeat what these women think of you?"

"Go ahead," though she felt a bit apprehensive at the twinkle in his eyes.

"They think that anybody keeping as clean as you are, must be in very poor health. And they pity you, profoundly, because you have no baby."

"Well," gasped Anne, and then she laughed. "If my college dean of women could hear that!"

"I learned something else," he went on, "the village headman. Though she's ashamed of it as a fact and keeps it secret, that woman who was thrown out went to a British mission school in Khotan when she was a child. Perhaps you can talk to her."

Anne rose. "I'll go to the sheep-fold and see if I can find her." She gathered up her possessions and left.

To be continued

## On the Radio Chains

Where to find them on the dial

KEX, 1190, Portland; KFL, 610 Los Angeles; KGA, 1510, Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1000, Seattle; KNX, 1070, Los Angeles; KOA, 850, Denver; KOIN, 970, Portland; KOMO, 950, Seattle; KPO, 630 San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time shown is PST

Friday

8:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Janet Jordan, KGO; Buster Brown Quix, KEX; Jingles, KJR; Buddy Maleville's Orch., KNX; Eyes of the World, KOIN; University of Utah, KSL.

8:30 p. m.—Drama Behind the News, KGO; Uncle Walter's Dog House, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Playhouse, KNX, KOIN; Accordion Club, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—Hollywood Premieres, KSL, KNX, KOIN; Boating Bout, KGO, KEX; Wings of Destiny, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Scandinavian News, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Gen. Federation of Women's Clubs, KPO, KGW; Al Pearce's Gang, KNX, KSL, KOIN; B-xing Bout, KGO, KEX, KJR; Comedy, KOMO.

10:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Your Happy Birthday, KGO, KEX, KJR; Dance Time, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Great Moments From Great Places, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Ben Bernie's New Army Game, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—News, Claude Thornhill's Orch., KPO; Grandpappy and His Pals, KGO, KJR, KEX; Kate Smith Hour, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Himber's Orch., KGW; Mixem and Matchem, KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—Chuck Foster's Orch., KPO, KOMO; Al Donabue's Orch., KPO, KOMO; We're Building a House, KGO; Baseball Game, KEX; Fort Lewis News, KGW; Public Schools Prim., KJR.

9:00 p. m.—Glad Nelson's Orch., KPO; Dance Orch., KGO, KJR; Paul Sullivan, KNX; Your Mayor Speaks, KGW; Headlight Hour, KOMO; Symphonic Serenade, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—University Explorer, KPO; Lionel Hampton's Orch., KGW; Officer 55, KOIN.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Jay Burnett, Songs, KGO, KJR; News, KOIN; Dance Orch., KSL.

10:30 p. m.—Eric Madriquer's Orch., KGW; Glenn Miller's Orch., KGO; Behind the Headlines, KNX; Northwest Bible Inst., KJR; Masterworks of Music, KNX; Portland Police, KOIN; Dance Orch., KSL.

11:00 p. m.—Gary Nottingham's Orch., KPO, KOMO; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KGW; Fishing News, KJR; Knox Manning, KNX.

Saturday

8:00 p. m.—Paul Carson, KOO, KJR, KEX; Kid's Quizaroo, KNX, KOIN; Barn Dance, KPO, KOW, KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—Gaylord Carter, KNX; Summer Symphony, KGO, KEX, KJR; News, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Summer Symphony, KGO, KEX; Uncle Ezra, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Scandinavian News, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Jon Edwards, KOIN; Grand O' Opy, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Andriani Continentals, KEX, KJR; This World, KGO; Saturday Night Sheepfold, KSL.

10:00 p. m.—Truth Or Consequences, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Your Marriage Club, KNX, KOIN, KSL; The Dance, KGO, KJR, KEX.

10:30 p. m.—Tavern, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Playhouse, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Clyde Lucas' Orch., KGO, KJR.

11:00 p. m.—News, Ozzie Nelson's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Your Hit Parade, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Musical Potpourri, KPO; News, Gene Krupa's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX.

11:30 p. m.—Eric Madriquer's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Little Jack Little's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Defense for America, KPO.

12:00 p. m.—Jim Blade's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; Pete Smythe's Orch., KPO; Ray Noble's Orch., KSL; News and Editorially Speaking, KNX.

## Suburban Heights

FRED PERLEY CAREFULLY CHOSE AN AISLE SEAT IN THE LAST ROW FOR THE CONCERT SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S CLUB, SO HE COULD SNEAK OUT UNOBSERVED, BUT THE OVERFLOW CROWD DRAGGED CHAIRS IN AROUND HIM AND FRED WAS STUCK FOR THE DURATION

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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## L'il Abner

WHERE TO, MISS? BETWEEN EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH ON CHESTNUT STREET!

WHAR YO' TAKIN' ME, GAL?

YOU HAVE THE RAREST TYPE OF BLOOD ON EARTH—TYPE X!—IF I CAN GET YOU TO MY FATHER'S LABORATORY IN TIME—HE CAN USE YOUR BLOOD—OF WHICH YOU HAVE PLENTY TO SPARE—INSTEAD OF THAT BOY'S BLOOD! IT WILL SAVE THE BOY'S LIFE!

AH IS ALLUS HAPPY 'T SAVE ANY BODY'S LIFE. WHO IS TH' CRITTER?

A BOY NAMED L'IL ABNER YOKUM!

HURRY! HURRY!! OH (SOB!) WE'RE PROBABLY TOO LATE, NOW!!

AT THAT MOMENT AT LAST HE IS ASLEEP! HE WILL NEVER AWAKEN!!

TAILSPIN TOMMY Tommy Seems to Have the Solution!

A CLIPPER SHIP LEAVES MAZIL TOMORROW, IF YOU AND YOUR FRIEND ARE WISE, YOU SHALL BOTH BE ABOARD THAT PLANE-SIGNED THE BLACK PANTHER!

HOLY CATS!

YES...BLACK CATS, SKEETS! NOW I'M CONVINCED YOU DID SEE A PANTHER INSIGNIA ON THAT SHIP THAT ATTACKED US!

AND THERE'S SOMEONE IN DON CASMETTO'S HOME WHO OBVIOUSLY RESENTS OUR PRESENCE HERE.

THERE'S ONE GUY HERE WHO DON'T LIKE ME, WITH OR WITHOUT MY PRESENTS! MEANIN', CAPT. GOMEZ.

NONSENSE! CAPTAIN GOMEZ IS INEZ'S FIANCEE! YOU'RE PREJUDICED BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH YNEZ, YOURSELF, YOU BIG LUG!

YEAH? WELL, GOMEZ HANGS AROUND THIS JOINT A LOT, DON'T HE?

AND...THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO VISITS THIS HACIENDA... DON CASMETTO'S COUSIN, MANUEL GORGONA... AND DON'T FORGET, IT WAS WHILE WE WERE TRYING TO PHOTOGRAPH GORGONA'S PLANTATION AT BOLANDO, THAT WE WERE SHOT DOWN!

G-GOSH, TOMMY! YOU'RE RIGHT!

THE NEBBS Not on Your Life

RUDY IS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTEREST THE MAYOR IS TAKING IN GENTRY, THE MANUFACTURER.

I UNDERSTAND YOU CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL—WHAT'S THE GREAT EVENT?

WELL, MR. GENTRY WANTS THE CITY TO MAKE SOME FINANCIAL DONATION TO ENTICE HIM TO BRING HIS FACTORY HERE.

GOING TO PAY HIM TO COME HERE? I BUILT THIS TOWN UP—BUILT A HOTEL—GOT A POWER PILL FACTORY, INFLUENCED THE MOVIE COMPANY TO COME HERE, I NEVER GOT A PLUGGED YEN FROM THIS BURG AND THERE ISN'T ANYBODY ELSE WILL GET A CENT EITHER!!

I'M MAYOR OF THIS TOWN AND I'M GOING TO BUILD IT UP AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE BE A BRAKE ON ITS PROGRESS—EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU YOU HAVE BEEN STICKING YOUR TONGUE OUT AT OPPORTUNITY!

## THE GRANGE

Central Point Grange

At last regular meeting of Central Point Grange, a memorial service was held with appropriate readings and songs.

Doris Jacqueline Jones was obligated in third and fourth degrees.

It is hoped to hold an initiation June 20 so it will be necessary for all applications for memberships be in at the next meeting, June 6.

The men will be hosts at next meeting and the birthday party for all members having birthdays during April, May and June will be held.

The May 14 program for the public was well attended and greatly enjoyed. The Grange expresses appreciation to all those taking part. The program consisted of numbers by the Central Point high school orchestra, Medford Junior high glee club, piano selection by Miss Hester and solos by Mrs. Hester and Marguerite Luman. Tap dances were given by Margie Carter and Helen Robertson. Other numbers were given by members of the local Grange. The spirit of the gay 90's was carried out throughout.

Pomona Grange will be held Saturday evening, May 24, in Central Point hall with initiation in fifth degree.

EAGLE PT. TOWNSENDERS SLATE MAY 26 MEETING

Eagle Point, May 22.—(Sp)—Townsend club No. 1 of Eagle Point, will meet May 26 at the regular time. All are cordially invited. A light lunch will be sold.

Closing 4:30 for Too Late to classify Ads in 1:30 p. m.

## FORMER COMMANDER OF FT. STEVENS DIES

Washington, May 23.—(AP)—Brigadier General William C. Rafferty, 82, retired, died today.

He attained the rank of brig-

adier general in the World war when he commanded the 54th artillery brigade at Camp McClellan, Ala., and later took command of the coast defenses of the Columbia river area at Fort Stevens, Ore.

Marshfield, May 23.—(P)—New bids for erection of a \$30,000 building by the Coos Bay Mutual Creamery will be opened June 6. Previous bids were rejected by directors, who said only two firms submitted offers.

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



NO-GOOD NEIGHBORS

After the courting period, the female scorpion usually eats her mate!

NECESSITY BEVERAGE

In 1782 England failed to gain control of the Dutch East Indies, chief coffee producing region of that day, and began importing tea from India to replace coffee. Of course, it was good policy to drink tea for India was, and still is, the greatest tea-producing country in the world!

Tomorrow: Lollipop Queen!