

THE SACRED DAGGER

By Rita Mohr Norton

YESTERDAY: Anne Willard has been dropped into the middle of a Mongolian snowstorm by the plane which was carrying her to the camp of her parents, on the desert. Her two companions have been taken to the Emir; she is being smuggled to the Emir's palace, but under promise of protection by the potentate's head wife, Anne is disguised as an old crone.

Chapter Seven

Discovered
NEXT morning Khalima rented a donkey from the inn keeper; Anne might ride but she herself insisted on walking. She had always walked this road. They would stay with the caravan as protection from possible highway-men.

Anne noticed that the little lama joined them. If he belonged to their party, they passed a caravan of corpses bound for Turkish holy ground and once they met a party bearing the empty coffin of an ancient Chinese—all alive but expecting to die on the way and be carried beyond the Great Wall for burial.

Shortly after they stopped at another caravaner that night, four men and a pack came into the courtyard. When Anne looked up and saw them she felt her face suddenly grow warm enough for the black grease to melt and run. Sherwood, Mackey, the headman and his younger son.

With a happy heart Anne saw that the camel carried the luggage from the plane—including her own. Perhaps somehow she could gain possession of it. The white men were not shackled in any way though their keepers kept them pretty much under their eyes.

Anne and Khalima had chosen a little room off the main court and door to the common kitchen. Presently the lama came in and squatted down in a corner as if he meant to stay. Anne objected mildly. Khalima explained she had planned it. Her relatives were present. They might suspect she was traveling with the woman supposed to have disappeared in the storm. But as it was, she accompanied a family she had met on the road. She was servant to the old mother of a holy man.

She looked up at Khalima stepped back from the doorway and permitted her relatives to enter. Motioning the white men to follow, they came in and squatted down and began smoking their pipes, taking it for granted they had a right in the room.

With trembling fingers Anne took the bowl of food Khalima handed to her. The native men stared sharply at the holy one in the corner. Khalima explained demurely that she was being paid to look after the relatives who sat looking helplessly at her bowl of food. Anne could not bring herself to eat with her dirty fingers as she was supposed to do.

Sending her need without being fed, the little lama handed her his chopsticks, but Anne felt as helpless as before. Sherwood who had been watching offered the servant woman a spoon from his pocket.

"Try feeding the old woman with this," he directed.
The native men picked up a conversation with the lama while Sherwood and Mackey began talking between themselves. Mackey refilled his pipe and Sherwood took a book and a candle from his pocket and settled down to read.

When Anne felt that the attention of the others had been sufficiently withdrawn from her she turned her back and began eating her evening meal. Then she crouched down in her corner hugging herself for warmth, for the room was chill and becoming colder.

With a start she became aware that the white men were talking about her.
"You wouldn't think," said Sherwood, "that a person could get so grimy in one short lifetime."
"Maybe it's not so short," remarked Mackey idly. "She looks to me as if she might be a hundred."

"These women are sometimes mothers at twelve and toothless at twenty," Sherwood reminded him. "Did you see the old girl has any teeth?"
Mackey laughed. "With your scientific curiosity you'll probably know before the night is over."
Sherwood spoke hastily. "Look at that nose of hers," he chuckled. "A Tibetan with a retrouse nose!"
"And a bald head, I bet," offered Mackey, lying down flat on his back.

Sherwood Knows
ANNE felt an impulse to hide her face from all this fun at her expense, but she realized it might be a confession that she understood the talk.
"I wonder," mused Sherwood, "if we could persuade her to sing for us."
Suddenly the lama rose and the native men followed him into the courtyard directing Khalima to guard their prisoners.

Mackey sat up when they left and looked about the room. "It is cold in here," he said, "and my confounded tooth is beginning to ache again."
Sherwood took a camelskin from the bed platform and hung it before the doorless entrance. Then he told Khalima to bring in a brazier of coals for warmth. He promised they would not stir from the room.

Cruel Dad To Cell
Idaho Falls, Idaho, May 26.—(AP)—Convicted of assault on his 12-year-old step-son in what Judge Fred Wilkie said was "a cruel beating with a horse whip wired at the tip," John Dolett of Idaho Falls today began a 20-day sentence in Bonneville county jail.

Closing time for Too Late to classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.

When she had left Mackey asked: "Do you suppose this old lady would scream an alarm if we bolted?"
"She might, and it would give us a chance to see if she has any teeth."
"Who cares if she has any teeth," demanded Mackey in irritation.
"She looks angry enough to bite nails," said Sherwood, and laughed. "Miss Willard, the getup is great."
Anne started. Mackey's eyes bulged.
"Sweet serpents," he muttered, "to that Miss Willard!"
"Anne saw that Mackey was innocent though Sherwood had been teasing her all along.
"How did you know?" she asked coldly.
"I made Khalima tell me when I left you the other night. I was worried about you. I couldn't let you disappear like that."
"You mean you wanted to keep track of the talisman I carry," she retorted sharply.
"I do want you to be careful with that dagger," he confirmed. "And whatever you do, don't let any court officials know that you carry it. You see, the Emir has also heard of Shy-a Nago. It means treasure and loot to him."
A native came in, having been told there was a white man present. To the natives all white travelers are doctors. This man rubbed his stomach and made the appropriate gestures to explain his plight. Sherwood dosed him and ordered him out.

Khalima returned with the freckle and resumed her spinning. Mackey lay down with his face close to the coals in hope that the heat might relieve his pain.
"Would you like to try opium?" Sherwood asked.
Mackey shook his head. "I'm afraid of the stuff. It almost got me once."
Sherwood threw a sheepskin over him and then came and sat down beside Anne.
"Forgive my teasing," he said, "but I couldn't resist the opportunity. Somehow, just the sight of you suggests fun and happiness."
Anne felt depressed and cold and dirty. "I don't feel happy," she replied gloomily.
"Shy-a Nago is not something one finds alone," he hinted.
She misunderstood him. "I shan't be alone. My parents share it with me."
"You don't mention Oliver," he observed, keeping his eyes on the ground.
"And Phillip Oliver," she added gravely.

In the silence that followed they heard the hum of native voices from the adjoining rooms. Complaining camels moaned and gurgled in the covered stalls in the courtyard. Somewhere close by, a misguided rooster crowed.
A man brought in a child with an infected foot. Sherwood cleaned and bandaged the wound and sent them away again. Then he returned to Anne.
"What is the book you were reading?" she asked.
"My desert island book," he smiled. "You know in foreign lands an archaeologist frequently gets cast away on desert islands. If you and Mackey weren't here tonight this would be a desert island."
"I ought to have such a book," murmured Anne.
"Yes—especially now that you've really graduated into the tribe."
He put the book away. "Where do you carry the dagger?"
"It wouldn't do you any good to take it away from me."
"I might take you both," he threatened, a speculative look in his grey eyes.

The Dagger
ANNE drew back her native cloak and showed the leather case fastened to a belt about her waist.
"The priest said no one will harm me while I carry the dagger." She opened the case and drew out the knife.
Sherwood's eyes glistened. He spoke softly. "Besides your parents, you and I are the first modern white people ever to see that knife."
Anne turned the weapon over in her hand.
"Look," he cried, "the Eye of Shy-a Nago!" He continued to gaze in awe at the figure carved on this side of the handle. "Among these native peoples of the present day a green eye in a man implies the incarnation of a spirit of supernatural origin—god or devil or both."
"When I first took the knife in my hands that pair of natives watched me to see what I would do," Anne told him. "The weapon felt alive and I guess I showed it the man asked. Do you wish to kill yourself?" and he didn't seem to mind if I did."
"What else did they say?"
"After we got to their camp they warned me that any one touching the knife without the right of ownership would suffer misfortune and die."
"Do you believe that?" he queried, giving her a sidelong glance.
"I don't know. Do you?" With an impulsive gesture she held out the dagger to him.
He laughed and drew back hastily. Never before had she seen him so nearly disconcerted.
"Anne, you don't mean this."
Mackey, who had roused and overheard the last of the conversation, reached out a hand. "Let me take it. Death couldn't be any worse than the way I feel right now."
Sherwood intervened sharply. "Don't touch the thing, Peter!"

No Seizure Action
Washington, May 26.—(AP)—Secretary Hull indicated today that the United States would take no action with regard to the British navy's seizure of the French oil tanker Sthenozade which was en route from the United States to Casablanca in North Africa.

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On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Where to find them on the dial:
KEX, 1190, Portland; KFL, 940, Los Angeles; KGA, 1210, Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1000, Seattle; KKN, 1070, Los Angeles; KOA, 450, Denver; KOIN, 870, Portland; KOMO, 550, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time shown is PST

Monday
5:00 p. m.—Radio Theater, KNX, KOIN, KSL, Dr. I. Q., Jim McClain, KPO, KGW, KMO; String Ensemble, KGO, KEX, KJR.
5:30 p. m.—Drama Behind the News, KGO, KEX, KJR; Floyd Wright KPO; Stars of Today, KGW; Chuck Wagon Serenade, KOMO.
6:00 p. m.—Guy Lombardo's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Gordon Jenkins, Orch., KGO, KEX; Contested Hour, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Scandinavian News, KJR.
6:30 p. m.—Cavalcade of America, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Blondie, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Nat'l Radio Forum, KJR; Mingo Bondaidi, KGO, Small We Waltz, KEX.
7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Voice of Hawaii, KEX; Greater Washington Hour, KJR.
7:30 p. m.—I Love a Mystery.

Tuesday
5:00 p. m.—Speaking of Glamour, KGW, Streamline Journal, KGO, KJR; Waltz With Us, KPO; Second Husband, KNX, KOIN; Allan Both's Orch., KEX; Bible Quiz, KSL.
5:30 p. m.—Drama Behind the News, KGO, KE, KJR; Fibber McGee, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Invitation to Learning, KSL, KOIN; Afternoon Dance, KNX.
6:00 p. m.—Ob Hope Variety show, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Invitation to Learning, KSL, KOIN; Afternoon Dance, KNX.
6:30 p. m.—Address by President F. D. Roosevelt, KGO, KJR, KEX, KOIN.
7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fred Waring in Pleasure Time, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Grand Central Station, KGO, KEX, KJR.
7:30 p. m.—Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Johnny Presents, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Court of Missing Heirs, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:00 p. m.—We, the People, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Easy Aces, KGO, KJR, KEX; Ozzy Nelson's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Richard Himber's Orch., KPO.
8:30 p. m.—Musical History Book, KJR; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Hollywood Showcase, KNX, KOIN; Baseball Game, KEX; Richard Himber's Orch., KSL.
9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN; Eric Madriguer's Orch., KGO, KJR; Al Donahue's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Gay Nineties Review, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Harry James' Orch., KOMO, KGW; American Challenge, KPO.
8:00 p. m.—Neil Bondshu's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; Those We Love, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Amateur Hour, KGO; Sports, KEX; Buy Washington, KJR.
8:30 p. m.—Point Sublime, KPO, KOMO, KGW; What's On Your Mind, KSL, KNX, KOIN; American Challenge, KEX; Concert Hall, KJR.
9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN; Jim Blade's Orch., KEX; Hawthorne House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Memory Book, Hot Stove League, KJR; Hymn Service, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Bobby Ramos' Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; Beautiful Music, KGO, KEX; Lionel Hampton's Orch., KNX, News, KJR, KSL; Northwest Neighbors, KOIN.
10:00 p. m.—Musical, KNX; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Basin Street Chamber Music, KGO, KEX, KJR; News, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.
10:30 p. m.—Music, KGW, KOMO; Nat'l Radio Forum, KGO; Masterworks of Music, KNX; Eyes of the World, KOIN.
11:00 p. m.—Carl Ravazza's Orch., KSL, KOIN; Chuck Foster's Orch., KPO, KOMO; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KGW; Knox Manning, KNX, Fishing News, KJR.

Wednesday
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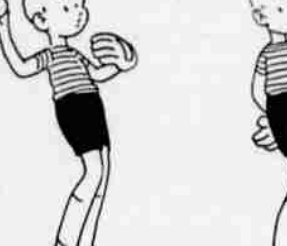
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WAITING

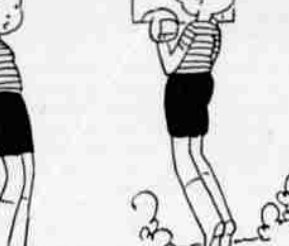
By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



15 YOUNG EDDIE CAN'T COME OUT UNTIL HE HAS FINISHED PRACTICING AND HE HAD BETTER WAIT OUTSIDE



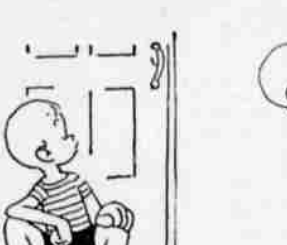
60ES AROUND TO SIDE OF HOUSE AND AMUSES HIMSELF BOUNCING BALL AGAINST WALL



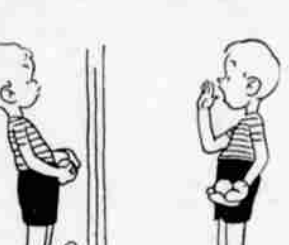
EDDIE'S MOTHER CALLS NOT TO DO THAT, IT SHAKES THE HOUSE AND HE MIGHT BREAK A WINDOW



EDDIE'S MOTHER CALLS HIM AWAY FROM WINDOW, SITS ON FRONT STOOP BOUNCING BALL ON PORCH FLOOR



EDDIE'S MOTHER OPENS DOOR AND TELLS HIM TO STOP IT MAKES TOO MUCH NOISE



AS SOON AS SHE HAS GONE, RINGS BELL AND BRINGS HER BACK TO ASK HER HOW MUCH LONGER EDDIE HAS TO PRACTICE



SHOUTS TO HER THROUGH KITCHEN WINDOW CAN HE COME IN TO WAIT NOW? IN SELF-DEFENSE, MOTHER RELEASES EDDIE FROM FURTHER PRACTICING

L'L ABNER Throw Away the Carcass!



TAILSPIN TOMMY Crossed Wires... In Favor of Tommy and Skeeter!



THE NEBBS — That's Telling Him

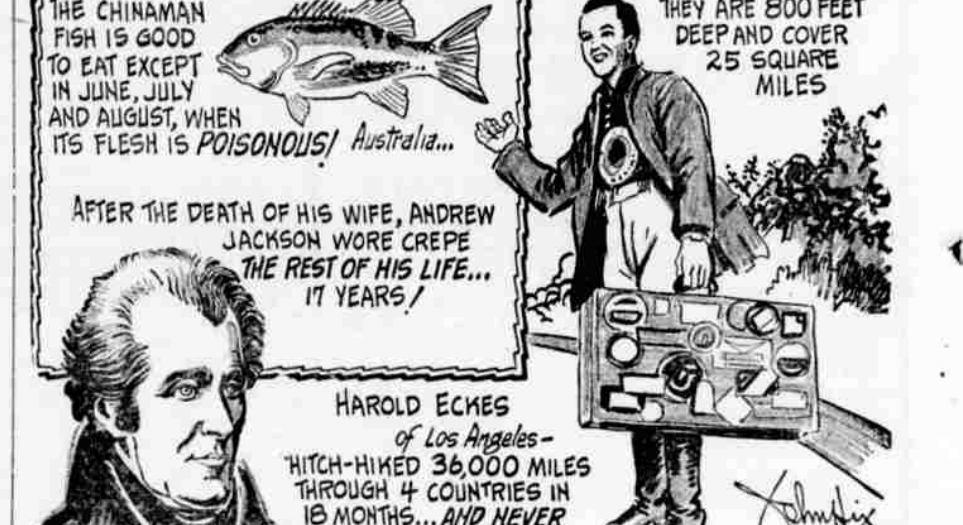


STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



THE GREAT SAND DUNES
THE HIGHEST AND MOST SPECTACULAR SAND DUNES IN THE U. S. ARE LOCATED HIGH IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES... IN ONE OF THE MOST FERTILE VALLEYS IN THE COUNTRY!



THE CHINAMAN FISH IS GOOD TO EAT EXCEPT IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST, WHEN ITS FLESH IS POISONOUS! Australia...
AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, ANDREW JACKSON WORE CREPE THE REST OF HIS LIFE... 17 YEARS!
HAROLD ECHES of Los Angeles—HITCH-HIKED 36,000 MILES THROUGH 4 COUNTRIES IN 18 MONTHS... AND NEVER USED HIS THUMB!
SEA OF SAND
Located in the San Luis Valley, Colorado's famous dunes became the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in 1932. Higher in places than most of New York's skyscrapers, this great tumbled mass of sand is constantly shifting, and bones of men and animals are reported uncovered by the wind, buried possibly for centuries.
The Denver and Rio Grande railroad runs along the edge of this waste for 50 miles without a curve. From one window passengers may see vast fertile valleys, while from the other they see sand where nothing grows or lives!
Tomorrow: Adventurous Bible!

Closing time for Too Late to classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.