

THE SACRED DAGGER

by Rita Mohler Norton

YESTERDAY: Things in the Asiatic camp of the Willards are rapidly approaching a climax. Mr. and Mrs. Willard are captives of the Nagara tribe, which guards Shy-a Nago, the hidden city. Anne is appointed to release them, but cannot get to them as yet. And Blaise Sherwood, whom Anne loves in spite of herself, is in the Willard camp although Anne believes he is working against her parents. Now mysterious drums have aroused the whole party.

Chapter 27

The Nagaras Come

IN the silence that followed, Anne felt the drums again. "Let's go make some coffee!" she cried. "No one can sleep."

They strolled towards the mess hall. "I'd like to set up that radio now," suggested Sherwood. "You can never tell what's ahead of you in this country. I wonder if I should mention it to Oliver?"

"Let the poor devil sleep," advised Larry. "He needs it. When I came by his tent he was snoring like a baby. I hadn't the heart to wake him."

Anne was glad to hear that Philip rested. He'd walked out of the mess hut like a man in a trance. She felt he was close to a breakdown.

The girls, rummaging in the kitchen, found coffee and fat little Chinese nut cakes. In despair they gave up trying to build a fire of thorn roots in the mud stove and resorted to the alcohol primus Dr. Martine used in his chemical work. The men stopped labor on the radio to share the food.

Sherwood stood apart by the mantel. After a moment of self-consciousness he took Anne a cup of coffee. His voice said "Thank you," and his teasing eyes kissed her lips.

"Sugar and cream?" she queried.

"So are you," he murmured. She made a little face at him and then noticed Beth watching curiously. Mackey dropped his eyes as her gaze swung to him. She moved away hastily and let Sherwood drink his coffee black.

Presently Beth went to the door and came back. "The drums are still at it," she said.

Mackey rose to start work on the radio again. "If I had all be in the truck on your way to Chuka."

"What? Don't you believe in surrendering to destiny?" Anne asked.

"What's it ever got Blaise?" he growled.

"You'd be surprised if I told you," answered Sherwood.

Anne gave him a startled glance and flushed at the half-threat in his grey eyes. A knock at the door banished the cross currents tangling the air. Doddad came in carrying Anne's silver studded belt with its precious burden, the Nagara dagger.

"Put it on," he said to her.

"Well—" she began, then took it and fastened it about her slender waist. "Why?" she demanded.

"That's where it belongs." He turned and shuffled out. She looked up and met Sherwood's eyes. He grinned and shrugged.

The young Huffs looked at the belt curiously.

"Come on, be a sport, show us the dagger," begged Larry.

Anne put a hand on the sheath. Sherwood was watching her narrowly.

"I don't like to touch it," she said slowly, and explained the peculiar feel of the weapon in her hand. "As if it really were possessed," she explained.

"Perhaps that's because you're a rather high strung person," suggested Larry.

"Am I?" she asked in surprise.

"You're feminine—and you're not stolid," said Sherwood joining them. "Will you three help me with these wires?"

Anne complied hastily, suspecting his motive, glad that he had diverted Larry.

"I'd like to get this thing going," he continued, putting the ear phones on his head. "I may pay us to get in touch with Shani Lun."

The instrument, finally set up, still refused to work. The men started to go over it again.

The door opened suddenly and Dr. Martine came in. His face was bloodless and his pale grey eyes shone with repressed emotion. He looked from one to the other of them and then made directly for Anne. She rose from her chair to meet him.

Man In Torture

"Miss Willard," he said, "since I cannot give my resignation to your father, I notify you that I am through here."

"Why—why, yes," she faltered in bewilderment. "Have you spoken to Philip about it?" He said, "I have no intention of speaking to Oliver," he answered stiffly. "My position here is unbearable. I want to leave on the truck for Chuka in the morning."

The others in the room could not help overhearing. He made no effort to keep the conversation private, yet he managed to exclude them. Anne stared at him helplessly.

"Dr. Martine, if there's anything I can say or do—"

"I'm sorry, Miss Willard, there's nothing."

"At least write father a personal letter and I will see that he gets it."

He nodded. "I'll be glad to do that. Your father is a fine man to work with."

"Is—Is Diana going too?" she stammered.

"I'm going alone." She walked with him to the door.

Foul Play

Portland, June 13.—(P)—The body of an unidentified Indian woman who appeared to have been strangled was taken from the Willamette river today by the harbor patrol. Detective William Nelson said the forehead had been crushed.

Indian Sentenced

Portland, June 13.—(P)—Federal Judge James A. Fee sentenced Wilbur Hixon, Klamath reservation Indian, to eight years in a federal penitentiary today for the slaying of Abner McNair. A jury convicted Hixon of manslaughter.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Where to find them on the dial:
KEX, 1190, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1310, Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1060, Seattle; KXN, 1070, Los Angeles; KOA, 850, Denver; KOIN, 970, Portland; KOMO, 950, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time shown is PST

Wednesday

8:00 p. m.—Reid Tanner's Orch., KOIN, KSL; Hemisphere Revue, KGO, KJR; Summer Serenade, KEX; Eliot Wright, KGW; Playground News, KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—Concert Favorites, KPO, KGO, KOMO; Big Town, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Concert Music, KGW.

9:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KSL, KOIN; Author's Playhouse, KGO, KEX; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

9:30 p. m.—Ray Kinney's Orch., KJR; Juan Arvizu, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Etchings in Brass, KGO; Allen Roth's Orch., KEX.

10:00 p. m.—Quilt Kids, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KSL; Tony Martin, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

10:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Dr. Christian, KXN.

Thursday

8:00 p. m.—Music Hall, KPO, KOMO, KJR; Major Bowes' Amateur Hour, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Caribean Melodies, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:30 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KOIN, KSL; Cugat Rumba

KOIN, KSL; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—Time to Smile, KPO, KJR; Fred Allen, KXN, KSL, KOIN.

8:30 p. m.—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Chuck Foster's Orch., KGO; Baseball Game, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KXN, KOIN; Music in the Night, KGO, KJR; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; Sunnyside Polka, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Don K.aye's Orch., KGO; Five Edwards, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, KJR, KSL; Baker Theater, KOIN.

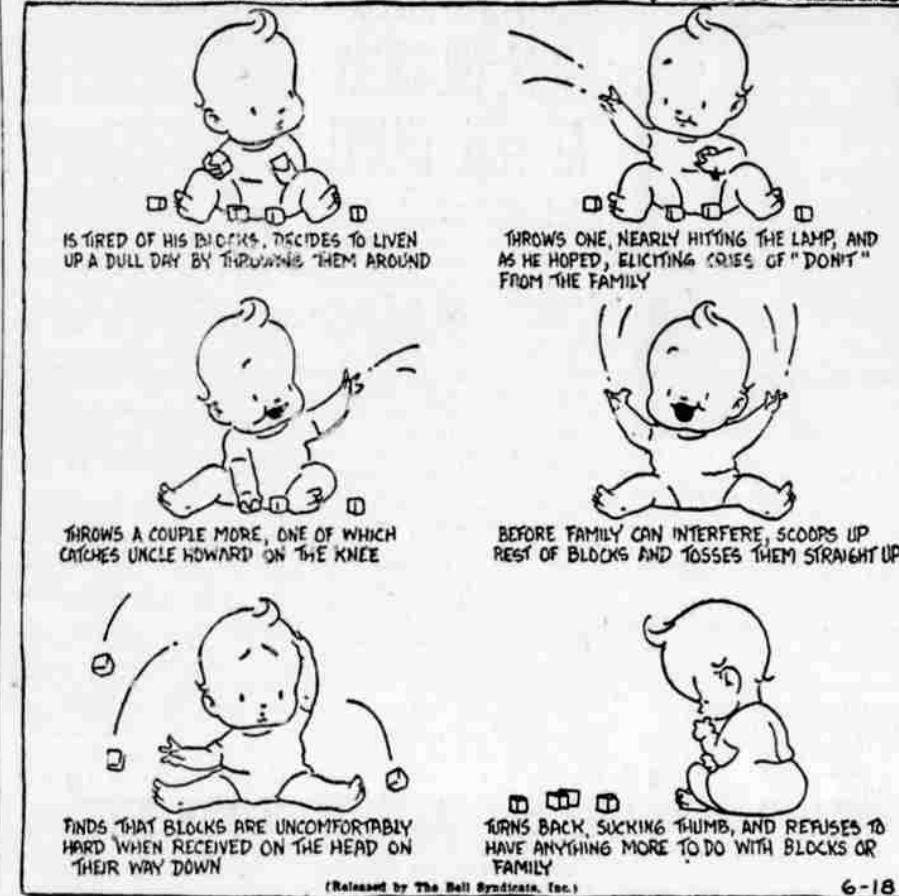
10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Ray Noble's Orch., KSL, KXN; Jay Burnett, KJR, KEX; Musical Baseball, KGO.

10:30 p. m.—Daryl Harpa's Orch., KGO, KJR; Ozzie Nelson's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Jerry Jones' Orch., KSL; Behind the Headlines, KEX; Masterworks of Music, KXN; Eyes of the World, KOIN.

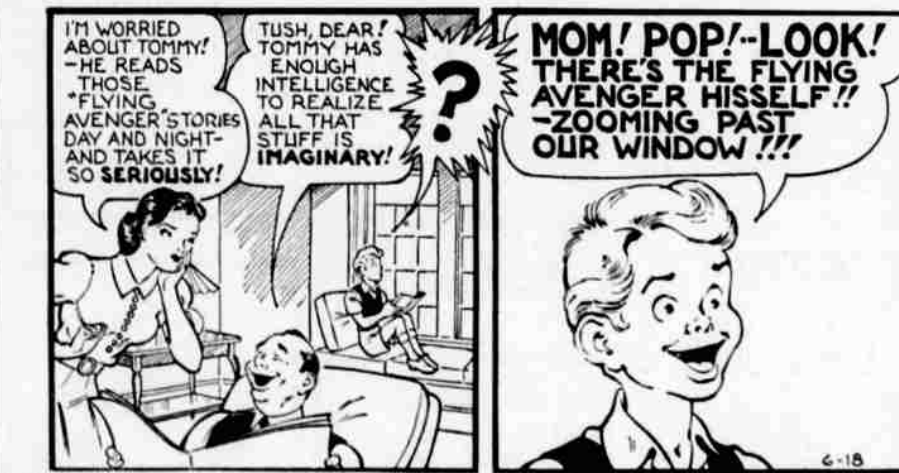
11:00 p. m.—Chuck Foster's Orch., KPO, KOMO; News, KGO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX; Bob Bradley and Erwin Yeo, KOIN, KSL; Fishing News, KJR; Knox Manning, KXN.

THROWING THINGS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



LIL ABNER—Fancy Running Into You Here!



TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Secret Hangar



THE NEBBS—Soliloquizing



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Law Steps In Too Late to Save Life

Gilroy, Calif., June 13.—(P)

Fourteen-year-old Louise Ford died today in a hospital where she was taken on court order from the home of her parents who believed in healing by prayer alone.

The girl was suffering from double pneumonia with less than one chance in ten to live,

said Dr. Leon Melkonian, when sheriff's deputies pushed through a crowd around her home last night and carried her to an ambulance.

In Auto Smashup

Portland, June 13.—(P)—An

automobile accident seriously injured Mrs. W. E. Walter Tigard, sister of State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott, and her husband on the Columbia river highway yesterday.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



6-18

By AL CAPP

By HAL FORREST

By SOL HESS