

SERIAL STORY

LOVE POWER

BY OREN ARNOLD

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YESTERDAY, Leana Sorini makes careful plans to murder Carolyn. She constructs a radio receiving set, carries it into Tonto Mountain, connects its antenna to a dynamite cap in the X-999 container. A small portable sending set, hidden on the ridge, will send the impulse that will set off the X-999. All she has to do now, is to get Carolyn inside the shaft. Bob Hale asks her to go riding. He and Carolyn have a date. Will Leana come along?

26 MINUTES TO DOOM

CHAPTER XXII

ON four different occasions Leana Sorini had clocked the time necessary to walk from the Tyler cottage, down a trail, around the curving railroad track and into the old mine shaft to the X-999. It varied only from 19 to 26 minutes.

She had, therefore, only to set an arbitrary hour for Carolyn to be inside the shaft. Then she could time herself accordingly, and be at her prepared station on the far side of Mummy Ridge.

She knew that her concealed receiver-generator, wired to set off the dynamite cap, was extremely sensitive. Her transmitter on Mummy Ridge would reach it easily, even through the rock and soil of Tonto Mountain.

This time she had no accomplices, no one but herself to trust. The perfection of the plan gave Leana double satisfaction.

First, it would completely remove that annoying stenographer from the scene, she who had so brazenly intruded upon Leana's and Bob's affairs.

Second, it would "punish" Robert for neglecting her, by destroying the X-999 which he had worked so long to produce. Leana saw this not as fantastic reasoning but as logical, righteous means to an end.

She was so pleased with herself on this appointed day of victory that she had accepted Robert's impulsive invitation to ride horseback with him and Carolyn.

Why not go? Why not? It would be her hour of triumph over the stupid, unsuspecting Tyler girl!

In preparation, Leana spent almost an hour dressing this afternoon. She had only the Hopi Indian cook to aid her, and she lacked what any average American-born woman would have called essential cosmetics, but she did an excellent job.

Perfecting her hair, she saw that it was literally the spun gold of the love-story heroines. She posed before her mirror—undeniably she possessed form and grace. She leaned closer—her eyes were an alluring gray-blue. Only her cheeks and lips annoyed her. The cheeks were too high, like the Indian cook's, and the lips were definitely large and coarse.

Angrily, she knew she could do nothing about either. She hastened to don a most becoming riding costume.

CAROLYN experienced a moment of panic when Leana joined them. That Leana had come at all, or that Bob had even asked her, was a distinct surprise. Of course, Carolyn had no alternative but to pretend pleasure.

"How do you DO?" Leana greeted her with astonishing heartiness. It was as if they had been old acquaintances, meeting again after months of separation. "You look so nice!" Carolyn ventured, and meant it.

"But not nearly as sweet and dainty as you. Isn't she the loveliest thing, Robert, dear?"

Robert, dear, it developed, was quite in agreement. In truth he was delighted that the two girls were so companionable. He recalled now that they hadn't cultivated much of a friendship as yet. But he berated himself for that. Since Carolyn joined the staff everyone had been so busy and distracted by various excitements. He resolved to foster their friendship more. And anyway, come to think of it, Leana was a sensitive person whom he was supposed to—uh—he frowned a bit to himself.

He didn't wish even to think of his deeper personal "responsibilities" toward her right now; he wanted only to ride for relaxation. "I could make thousands of men jealous this afternoon," he said. "Goodness, Bob!" Carolyn was nervous, but pleased.

"Dr. Hale is gallant!" Leana supplied. "But tell me more about yourself, Miss Tyler. Do you have scientific leanings also? Or have you been trained more extensively in the fine arts?" She spoke loftily.

Carolyn tried not to show that she was ill at ease. "Oh, no. I did go through college, Junior college, I mean. But I—I had to work after that. I had to work my way through junior college in fact. I don't mean I'm ashamed of that, but I—I mean—"

It sounded so lame as to be embarrassing. Why was she allowing this woman to annoy her? But she didn't answer her own question; she only knew that Leana Sorini had re-awakened in her a vague but positive fear. Fear of the unknown, an imperative, urgent sense of alarm.

There was nothing she could do about it.

THE two hours' ride dragged like two centuries. Leana kept up her astonishing conversation. Arty, highbrow talk, not quite pious but definitely superior, drawing constantly if unlabeled contrast between her own distinguished

achievements and Carolyn's meager education and career.

Bob Hale didn't notice. He was wont to beam happily at both of them and to show off what his horse could do. He wished he had a lariat. He was a carefree kid at play again. He saw nothing of the girls' rather desperate drama of words. For that, Carolyn was thankful.

When the trip was over and they were back at their little village stables again, they separated with a certain forced merriment. Carolyn walked straight home. It was after 5 o'clock, she noted. Her mother was mixing a chocolate cake and, oddly, it didn't interest Carolyn, who also loved to cook. She just sat and stared at the floor for 20 minutes or so—and was surprised again when Leana Sorini called her from out front. She went to the porch. Leana was still on her horse.

"Oh Miss Tyler," Leana began. "Robert asked me to bring a confidential message. He wants you to meet him in the tunnel at 6 o'clock, please. It seemed to be important." Carolyn was mildly surprised. "At—6?"

Leana nodded. "Yes. He thought it best to meet there while most of the village is at the dinner hour." Leana spoke significantly. "You understand, at—a substance, I think I shall ride a bit more myself. Another time we can go together, maybe?"

THE older girl rode away. When Carolyn had changed from her riding clothes she started to walk down to the trail and around the bend that led to the Tonto Mountain tunnel. She was curious. She looked for Bob but didn't see him.

so probably he had already gone in.

From across a canyon Leana watched Carolyn depart. She noted the exact time on her wrist watch. Then she rode her horse on around Mummy Ridge out of sight.

After exactly 26 minutes she pressed a switch on the transmitter she had concealed. (To Be Continued)

Bonanza

Mrs. Cy Pool of Willow Ranch, Calif. was a visitor to the home of her daughters and families, Mrs. Lola Pankey and Mrs. Mable Maxwell. She was accompanied by another daughter and son-in-law and granddaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dyer and Geraldine from Redding, Calif. The entire group, including Mrs. Maxwell and daughter Delores and Mrs. Pankey and daughters, Olive and Ruth Eta, returned with Mrs. Pool to Willow Ranch Saturday evening and spent Mother's day there.

The Bonanza Garden club will meet at the library building Friday afternoon, when Mrs. Blanch Gowan will act as hostess. There will be an interesting program with members answering roll call with a verse about flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilton were called to the bedside of Hilton's mother last Tuesday afternoon. The Langell Valley matron was reported to be quite ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gowan and daughter Helen were visitors with friends in Sprague River last Sunday.

Bonanza now has a dentist. Dr. W. P. Taber has established a dental office next door to Bill's Place. The office will be open two days a week, Tuesday and Wednesday.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



RED RYDER

By Fred Harman



THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

By Harold Gray



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

By Marti



WASH TUBS

By Crane



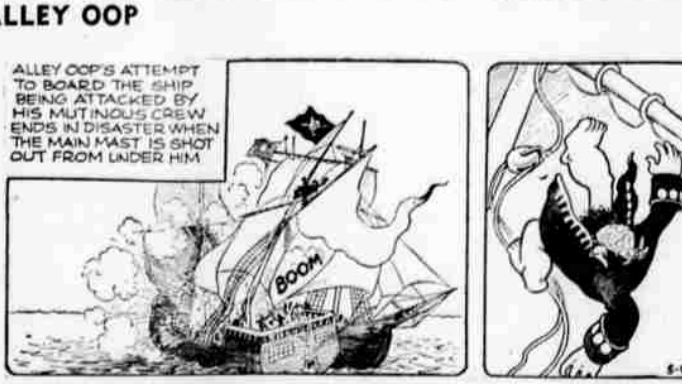
FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Blosser



ALLEY OOP

By V. T. Hamlin



DIRECTOR OF MINT

Crossword puzzle with clues and a grid. Clues include: 1. Director of U. S. Mint, 11. Small dog, 13. Pile of cloth, 14. Well-behaved, 15. To build, 17. Hops kin, 18. Those who smile, 20. To be indebted, 21. Preparation of place, 22. Flowing forth, 25. Tiny animals, 30. Rat, 32. Satiric, 33. Bow the head, 34. Clay hut, 37. Norse mythology, 38. Most dilatory, 40. Round hand, 44. Light brown, 45. Red flowers, 49. King of beasts, 50. God of sky, 51. Perfume, 52. Buffalo, 33. Big, 55. She directs the — to be struck, 56. She supervises the — to be deposited, 57. first woman to serve as a state —, 16. Sprite, 18. Swimming bird, 19. Fuss, 20. Single things, 23. To low, 24. To sum up, 26. Female deer, 27. To free, 29. Blemishes, 31. Type of berry, 35. Senility, 36. To stupefy, 38. Drug, 39. Supernatural being, 41. Hodgepodge, 42. Unless, 43. Ceylon tree, 46. Land right, 47. Spore sac, 48. Therefore, 52. Before Christ (abbr.), 54. Half an em.