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GILA CREEK



By VIC YARDMAN
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WNU Service.

TODAY I suppose you'd call Chuck Santrell's little name a racket. But back in the period when Arizona was still an unsettled wilderness and the law of the six-gun was more effective than the laws written in books, you'd think of it as just plain blackmail.

Chuck rode up from the South and settled in the little gold mining town of Gila Creek.

He was a big, blustering, red-faced galoot, who wore a six-gun strapped low down on either of his legs.

He had a bold stare and walked with a swagger and you got the impression that the man was dangerous to trifling with.

That first night in the Gila saloon he told us he'd been taught to draw and shot by Wally Evans, which fact impressed us mightily, because Wally Evans was known from the Mackinac border to the Grand Canyon and as far west as California.

He was chalo lightning on the draw and as accurate as death with his aim.

The greatest gunman of his day, it was, which meant that if Chuck Santrell was telling the truth, then we had every reason to respect and fear him.

Lefty Warren thought that Chuck was bluffing, as indeed we all did, but Lefty was the only one among us who had guts enough to call the bluff.

For his efforts Chuck Santrell shot and killed him.

It happened up the street a ways, and Lefty Warren reached the scene a minute before Lefty passed out and Lefty uttered the one word "Santrell" before he lost consciousness.

That was enough to convince us that Chuck wasn't bluffing, because Lefty was faster with a gun than anyone around Gila Creek.

And when Chuck explained to us that it had been a fair fight, that



"I'm Santrell," he said. "And I Don't Like Your Looks or the Sound of Your Voice."

Lefty had drawn first, we had to believe him. Or no one wanted to dispute the claim.

So Chuck came to live in Gila Creek with his reputation already established, and we were careful not to tread on his toes.

He was a bully and a braggart, but there wasn't much we could do about that, either.

From the day of his arrival, he never did a lick of work.

He didn't have to.

Strangers paid him a fee to keep from getting killed.

You see, it worked this way: Whenever a stranger came to town who looked as though he had a little money, Chuck would devise some method of fooling the man.

The stranger, naturally, would make a play for his gun, and instantly be jumped on by a couple of half-breeds who were in Chuck's employ.

They would tell the stranger who Chuck was—that he'd been taught to shoot by Wally Evans and had beaten Lefty to the draw.

Which statement never failed to produce the desired results.

The strangers figured it would be suicide to indulge in gunplay with such a man, and would usually wind up by trying to smooth things over with an apology.

But Chuck spared their apologies; the only thing that would appease his wrath was \$100 in gold, which was always paid.

Seems incredible, but if you'd lived in those times you'd have understood how Chuck got away with his racket.

We hated him and felt sorry for the strangers, but there wasn't anything we could do.

About six months after the death of Lefty Warren, a tall, lean stranger came riding into town and disappeared in front of the Gila saloon.

He pushed open the twin doors of the saloon and a man who didn't care a dang about anything much, and strode to the center of the dance floor and looked around him.

"I'm looking for a Jigger named Chuck Santrell," he said, evenly. "Anyone here who can tell me where he might be?"

A hush fell over the place and everyone turned to eye the stranger. He seemed like the alien.

He had suddenly become charged with electricity, so great was the tension.

Then Chuck Santrell rose from the table where he'd been playing

cards, and turned to regard the stranger quizzically.

There was a half smile on his lips, and that look in his eyes that warned another victim was about to be baited.

He swaggered up to the stranger and thrust out his jaw.

"I'm Santrell," he said. "And I don't like your looks or the sound of your voice. Mebbe you do."

He knew it, mister, but when folks in this town speak the name of Santrell, they're a mile more respectful.

"Tussio," said the stranger coolly. His eyes traveled over Chuck from sombrero to spurs, and presently a smile came to his lips.

"So you're the two-faced, four-flushing skunk who shot my friend Lefty Warren when he was looking for a fair fight? Well, feller, mebbe now you'll show us how you act when things is square and even."

Chuck's face became suffused with blood, but he held his composure with a credible effort.

"So you're a friend of Lefty's?" he said coldly. "An' some sneakin' covey came runnin' to you and said 'I'd shot him when he was lookin' for a fair fight'?"

Well, mister, when a weasel like yourself insults me, I usually let him off with a hundred dollar fine. But you, mister, it's different. Mister, say your prayers!"

"They're said," replied the stranger. "But it ain't for me I said 'em, it's for yuh, two-face. Go for your gun!"

There was a mad scramble as the boys piled over one another to get out of the line of fire.

Watching from positions of safety, we felt sorry for the stranger.

We admired his nerve and respected his desire to avenge the death of Lefty, but there was no doubt the man was a fool.

Out in the center of the dance hall, the two men had squared off, half crouched, their hands hanging claspwise above the guns at their hips.

Chuck's face was white, but we attributed this to nothing more than natural reaction from so tense a situation.

"Draw, yuh polecat!" the stranger hissed slyly.

And then Chuck went for his gun. He was fast, you could see that from watching him, but compared to the stranger his hand was like lead.

Chuck's gun never left his holster. With it only half drawn, he pitched forward, clutching at his shirt front, when the stranger's bullet had ripped through his belt, fell sprawling at the stranger's feet.

There was a moment of silence, of hushed, incredible amazement. And in that moment while we stared in stupefied wonder and awe, the stranger reassembled his gun and turned to face us.

The same cold, reckless smile was on his face.

"Gents, you're a bunch of fools to let a four-flusher like that bluff yuh all this time. Mebbe this will teach you a lesson."

And with this he turned.

But before reaching the door, Rus Santrell leaned over the bar and said: "Hey! Wait a minute. What's your name, stranger? Whoever you are, come back and have a drink on the house."

The stranger turned and shook his head.

"My name's Evans," he said. "Wally Evans, an' I don't aim to drink with a bunch of spineless monkeys like you."

And he swung away, pushed through the swinging doors, and disappeared.

Diagnosis of Disease by

Dream Reported in Britain

A curious account of the diagnosis of disease of a certain part of the brain from the nature of a patient's dream is given in the British Medical Journal.

While it is well recognized that dreams can reveal states of psychological tension and be of great service in the unraveling of disorders of the mind, it is only in a very small number of patients that organic diseases of the brain can be diagnosed in this way.

In the present instance a patient over forty years of age began to have an unusual variety of fits, associated with some disturbance of the chemistry of the body as regards the burning up of sugar.

By a close consideration of all the available evidence the conclusion was reached that there was probably a patch of inflammation present in the deeper parts of the brain near a structure called the "third ventricle."

While this diagnosis was sent to the patient he had a dream. This was recorded and sent to Professor Jung, in Switzerland.

Part of the dream referred to the "draining of a pond," and Professor Jung, in his hesitation in saying that this was evidence of interference with the flow of the cerebro-spinal fluid—that is, the fluid which bathes the whole of the central nervous system.

Amateur Ape

Lily Pons, opera star, and a group of friends were visiting the private menagerie of Dr. Serge Voronoff, monkey keeper and specialist in the field of the ape, when the group passed before the cage of a large ape.

A hairy arm reached out and pulled Miss Pons close to the cage. The ape then kissed the opera star just below the left ear.

WEST POINT PARK

Dr. Colbran, chief surgeon at the Ford hospital, and his family were entertained at dinner Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Heichman.

Mrs. Ethel Middlewood and daughter Miss Barbara were guests Wednesday evening of her sister and family Mrs. Alma Stewart of Detroit.

Mrs. Leslie Mansfield is again in a serious condition.

Mrs. Zaida Wolfe has purchased and is preparing to move into the house formerly occupied by Mrs. A. Paister.

Miss Freda Ault was a guest Friday at the home of her cousins Mr. and Mrs. Herman Keyser of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Ault and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Keyser of Detroit.

Mrs. Gordon Way has been ill for several days.

Miss Virginia Vance has been ill of sunstroke, suffered one day last week.

Mr. Otto Trapp and daughter Dorothy were Detroit visitors Friday.

Miss Anna Thayer left Tuesday for an extended visit with her sister, Mrs. Frank Witt of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. William Zwalhen of Detroit were Sunday dinner guests of Miss Alma Berger.

Mr. and Mrs. James Eastman and Miss Anna Thayer were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Thayer at their cottage on Union Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones of Detroit were guests Tuesday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sharrow.

Mrs. Alfred Smith of Farmington was the Sunday afternoon guest of Mrs. Viola Grace.

Mrs. James Eastman was the lucky person to win the hand which had been spread which was raffled Saturday by the ladies of the Universalist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heichman and daughter Gloria were guests Sunday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bousseur of Plymouth.

Ruth and Robert Murphy of Detroit were the week end guests of their aunt and uncle Miss Alma and George Berger.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sarnawak and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Laramie, sons Gordon and Robert of Detroit were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mix.

Albert Heichman entered Henry Ford Hospital Monday of this week to undergo a serious operation.

Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson of Detroit were guests Friday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Sharrow.

EDITORIALS

Historic Michigan

(Exchange)

Long designated as the "most historic spot in Michigan," Mackinac Island is taking a leading place in the celebration of Michigan's Centennial year.

Before the Declaration of Independence, Mackinac Island was a thriving outpost of civilization with the largest population of any Michigan territorial town.

When Gen. Cass went in canoes to mark the northwestern boundary of the territory 125 years ago there was a larger population on Mackinac Island than in all of what is now Wayne county.

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