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The Silver Horde

By Rex Beach

Author of "The Spoilers" and "The Barrier"

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Synopsis of Previous Chapters.

Boyd Emerson and "Fingerless" Fraser enter Kalvik, Alaska, and meet a young white woman, Cherry Malotte, who shelters them. Cherry describes the salmon fisheries and Marsh, the unscrupulous head of the Kalvik canneries.

Cherry owns a cannery site. Emerson, George Hall and she go into partnership. Emerson telegrams his failure to "make good" in Alaska. Emerson kisses Cherry goodbye. Fraser and Emerson nearly lose their lives in Katmai pass and miss the steamer at Katmai on their way out to sea.

Marsh and Emerson meet Marsh in Chicago. Marsh is a suitor for Mildred's hand. Marsh tells Mildred about Cherry Malotte. He and Wayne Wayland plan a cannery trust. Mildred learns that Emerson and Cherry are partners. Banker Hilliard, Seattle, refuses to lend Emerson \$100,000. Cherry, who has arrived in Seattle, accepts a dinner invitation from Hilliard.

Cherry discovers that Emerson is to marry Mildred. Marsh causes annoying delays for Emerson's party. Tacoma refuses Emerson a loan. Clyde suggests that Cherry can get the loan from Hilliard. Emerson estranges Cherry by criticising her friendly relations with Hilliard. Cherry sees Hilliard, who unexpectedly furnishes the money. Marsh causes a strike, delaying the loading of Emerson's machinery.

Marsh shoots a strike and impersonates Emerson, for whom a warrant is issued. Emerson escapes to Kalvik. Marsh follows. Emerson releases a letter to join Emerson. Emerson's machinery is tampered with. Marsh builds a trap to prevent salmon from reaching Emerson's cannery site. He is mysteriously stabbed. Emerson is accused. Salmon begin their run, but Marsh hires Emerson's fishermen. Clyde threatens to sell his stock. Fraser is noncommittal to Emerson concerning Cherry's early life. Balt threatens to kill Marsh. Cherry gets a crew of Indians to help Emerson pack his salmon catch. Emerson suspects Constantine. Cherry's Indian servant, of attempting to kill Marsh. Cherry tells Emerson Mildred doesn't love him if she will not help him. Emerson's fishing crews fight Marsh. Wayland and Mildred arrive at Kalvik. Emerson tells Mildred his cannery may be a failure. She takes little interest in his work. Wayland approves of Marsh's crooked methods in fighting Emerson and the men to crush him financially. The salmon fill Emerson's traps. Balt cries, "We've won!" Chakawana, Constantine's pretty sister, has disappeared. Cherry asks Mildred to help Emerson and denounces Marsh. Constantine learns Marsh wants to marry Mildred. Mildred becomes jealous of Cherry. Mildred jilts Emerson, and her engagement to Marsh is announced. Wayland buys \$25,000 worth of stock in Emerson's cannery, owned by Clyde and Mildred. Marsh attacks Cherry's character. Cherry tells Emerson she loves him.

(Continued from Yesterday)

"It is very unwise," Marsh chimed in apprehensively. "She isn't the sort of person."

Miss Wayland chilled him with a look and waved the mate away, then sank back into her chair. "I have talked with her already. I assure you she is not dangerous."

Willis Marsh squirmed uncomfortably in his seat. He fixed his eyes upon the knot of men at the starboard rail. Then, with a sharp indrawing of his breath, he leaped up and darted down the deck.

Over the side had come Cherry Ma-

lotte, accompanied by an Indian girl in shawl and moccasins—a slim, shrinking creature who stood as if bewildered, twisting her hands and staring about with frightened eyes. Behind them, head and shoulders above the sailors, towered a giant copper-bred breed with a child in his arms.

They saw that Marsh was speaking to the newcomers, but could not distinguish his words. The Indian girl fell back as if terrified. She cried out something in her own tongue, shook her head violently and pointed to her white companion. Marsh's face was livid; he shook a quivering hand in Cherry Malotte's face. It seemed as if he would strike her, but Constantine strode between them, scowling silently down into the smaller man's face, his own visage saturnine and menacing. Marsh retreated a step, chattering excitedly. Then Cherry's voice came clearly to the listeners:

"It is too late now, Mr. Marsh. You may as well face the music."

Followed by the stares of the sailors, she came up the deck toward the old man and his daughter, who had arisen, the Indian girl clinging to her sleeve, the tall blond striding noiselessly behind. Willis Marsh came with them, his white lips writhing, his face like putty. He made futile detaining grasps at Constantine, and in the silence that suddenly descended upon the ship they heard him whispering:

"What is the meaning of this?" demanded Mr. Wayland.

"I heard you were about to sail, so I came out to see you before—"

Marsh broke in hoarsely: "She's a bad woman! She has come here for blackmail!"

"Blackmail!" cried Wayne Wayland. "I thought as much!"

"That's her game. She wants money!"

Cherry shrugged her shoulders and showed her white teeth in a smile. "Mr. Marsh anticipates slightly. You may judge if he is right."

Marsh started to speak, but Mildred Wayland, who had been watching him intently, was before him.

"Who sent you here, miss?"

"No one sent me. If Mr. Marsh will stop his chatter I can make myself understood."

"Don't listen to her."

Cherry turned upon him swiftly. "You've got to face it, so you may as well keep silent."

"We heard that Mr. Marsh was going away with you, and I came to ask him for enough money to support his child while he is gone."

"His child!" Wayne Wayland turned upon his daughter's fiancée with a face of stern surprise. "Willis, tell her she is lying!"

"She's lying!" Marsh repeated obediently, but they saw the truth in his face.

Cherry spoke directly to Miss Wayland now. "I have supported this little fellow and his mother for a year." She indicated the red-haired youngster in Constantine's arms. "That is all I care to do. When you arrived Mr. Marsh induced Chakawana to take the baby up river to a fishing camp and stay there until you had gone. But Constantine heard that he intended to marry you, and hearing also that he intended leaving tonight, Constantine

was too confused for definite speech. Willis Marsh stood helpless.

"Don't believe her!" he broke out. "She is lying to protect her own lover!" He pointed to Chakawana. "That girl is the child's mother, but its father is Boyd Emerson!"

"Boyd Emerson was never in Kalvik until last December," said Cherry. "The child is three years old."

"It seems I am being discussed," said a voice behind them. Emerson clove his way through the sailors, striding directly to Marsh. "What is the meaning of this?"

Mildred Wayland laid a fluttering hand upon her breast. "I knew he would come," she breathed.

Constantine broke his silence for the first time, addressing Mildred directly: "This baby belongs Mr. Marsh. He says he got it from Chakawana, but he lies. He got it from you because you are rich girl." He turned to Marsh.

"What for you lie, eh?" He leaned forward with a frightful scowl. "If you long time ago I kill you if I tell you don't marry my sister."

"Now I understand!" exclaimed Boyd. "It was you who stabbed him that night in the cannery."

"Yes, Chakawana tell him what the priest says 'bout woman what don't marry. My sister say she go to hell herself and don't care much, but it ain't right for little baby to go to hell too."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Mr. Wayland.

"The father say if white man take Indian woman and don't marry her she go to hell for thousand year—maybe two, three thousand year. Anyhow, she don't never see Jesus' house. That's bad thing!" The breed shook his head seriously. "Chakawana she's good girl, and she go to church. I give money to the priest, too—plenty money every time—but he says that's no good; she's got to be marry or she'll burn for always with little baby. And so that's make her scare, because little baby ain't do nothing to burn that way. Mr. Marsh he say it's all one lie, and he don't care if little baby go to hell. You hear that? He don't care for little baby."

Constantine's eyes were full of tears as he strove laboriously to voice his religious teachings. He went on with growing agitation:

"Chakawana she's mighty scare of that bad place, and she ask Mr. Marsh again to marry her, but he beat her. That's when I try to kill him. Mebbe Mr. Emerson ain't come so quick Mr. Marsh go to hell himself."

Wayne Wayland turned upon Marsh. "Why don't you say something?"

"I told you the brat isn't mine!" he cried. "If it isn't Emerson's it's Cherry Malotte's. They want money, but I won't be led."

"You marry my sister?" asked Constantine.

"No," shrieked Willis Marsh. "You can all go to hell—and take the child with you."

Without a single warning cry the breed lunged swiftly. The others saw something gleam in his hand. Emerson jumped for him, and the three men went to the deck in a writhing tangle, sending the furniture spinning before them. Mildred heard Boyd Emerson cry to the sailors:

"Get out of the way! I've got him!" Then saw him locked in the Indian's arms. They had gained their feet now and spun backward, bringing up against the yacht's cabin with a crash of shivering glass. A knife, wrenched from the side into the sea.

Wayne Wayland loosed his daughter's hold and thrust his way in among the sailors kneeling beside the man he had chosen for his son-in-law. Emerson joined him, then rose quickly, crying:

"Is there a doctor among your party?"

"Dr. Berry! Send for Berry! He's gone ashore!" exclaimed Mr. Wayland. "Quick! Somebody fetch Dr. Berry." Boyd directed.

As the sailors drew apart Mildred Wayne saw a sight that made her grow deathly faint and close her eyes.

(To be continued Monday.)



"ITS FATHER IS BOYD EMERSON."

brought his sister back in the hope that Mr. Marsh would do what is right. You see, he promised to marry Chakawana long before he met you."

Mildred could have done murder at the expression she saw in Cherry's face. The woman she had scorned had humbled her in earnest. With flashing eyes she turned upon her father.

"Since you were so prompt in announcing my engagement, perhaps you can deny it with equal promptness."

"Good God! What a scandal if this is true!" Wayne Wayland wiped his forehead.

"Oh, it's true," said Cherry.

In the silence that followed the child struggled out of Constantine's arms and stood beside his mother, the better to inspect these strangers. His little face was grimy; his clothes, cut in the native fashion, were poor and not very clean. Yet he was more white than Aleut, and no one seeing him could doubt his parentage. The seamen had left their posts and were watching with such absorption that they failed to see a skiff with a single oarsman swing past the stern of the Grande Dame and make fast to the landing. Still unobserved, the man mounted the companionway swiftly.

For once in his life Wayne Wayland

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The Value Of Rio Grande Water In Maintaining Soil Fertility

By H. H. Schutz, Assistant Professor of Agronomy, N. Mex. A. & M. College.

POTASH, phosphoric acid and nitrogen are not necessarily the most important of plant foods, but we have more of them because they are the ones that are most apt to become exhausted in soils. Phosphoric acid and nitrogen occur in small quantities in clear waters, the potash may occur in excess and become injurious as alkali. The sediment borne by the river water is very rich as a fertilizer, and since most of the soil in the Rio Grande valley is purely river sediment, it is not surprising to find that soil and sediment have much the same composition.

Amount of Potash. The potash present in the river sediments averages 1.21 percent more than is found in many commercial fertilizers. The New Mexico experiment station found the sediments of the Rio Grande to be fairly uniform, making no difference at what time the sediment is taken. The following table gives the average of a large number of samples of sediment and of Mesilla valley soil:

Phosphoric acid... 142 pct. 132 pct.
Potash... 1.21 pct. .82 pct.
Nitrogen... 1.32 pct. .84 pct.
If we assume that each acre of irrigated land receives two acre-feet of water every year, or three acre-inches for each of eight irrigations, each would receive 5,438,930 pounds of water. The sediment deposited would make a dry layer a fourth of an inch thick and would weigh about 1,300 pounds. This would contain, according to the average composition of the sediment, 1821 pounds of potassium sulfate, 116 pounds of phosphoric acid and 197 pounds of nitrogen. Besides this, the two acre-feet of water contain 39.7 pounds of potash, 2.11 pounds of phosphoric acid, and 1.55 percent of nitrogen, 1.55 percent of potash and .83 percent of phosphoric acid, consequently, every ton accounts for about 24 pounds of nitrogen, 23 pounds of potash and 16.6 pounds of phosphoric acid. Taking a yearly yield of five tons of hay, considerably more than the average ordinarily, there would be removed 41 pounds of nitrogen, 33 pounds of phosphoric acid and 205 pounds of potassium sulfate.

All the plant food carried by irrigation water is not available when deposited, but is available to crops only

as it enters into solution. Alfalfa and other clovers draw considerable quantities of nitrogen from the air, thereby tending to overcome the deficiency in the irrigation sediments. Potash and phosphoric acid are carried in such quantities that there is no danger of ever exhausting the soil of these important constituents of plant food.

The fact that alfalfa fields 50 years old and over exist in both upper and lower valleys, further attests that the exhaustion of soils is practically impossible here. In the Nile valley, a well, after ages of continuous cultivation, the soil shows no evidence of impoverishment.

Chemists' Conclusions. The conclusions drawn by the chemist of the New Mexico station as to the value of the Rio Grande water for the purpose of irrigation are as follows: Owing to the continual presence of gypsum in the water, alkali deposited from the Rio Grande must be of the white variety, which is much less injurious than the black kind. This fact also makes the river water an excellent antidote for black alkali.

Alkali deposited from the river water is in about as mild a form as alkali can assume, and, therefore, cannot be corrected by chemical means. The best method for its removal is by means of drains and the use of water, thus washing it out of the land. If not too excessive, alkali can often be removed by growing crops which take large quantities of such material as food. Frequent cultivation tends to counteract the effects of alkali, but, of course, can not remove it from the land.

Water After Rise Poor. If possible, the river water should not be used for irrigating immediately after a rise due to heavy rains coming after a protracted dry period, as it contains more alkali under those conditions.

The water characterized by a large amount of brick-red sediment and locally known as Rio Puerco water should not be used, if possible, as this water contains larger amount of alkali than that of any other period examined.

More plant food is probably added to the land by using two feet in depth of the river water per annum in irrigation than is removed by crops; hence, by using that amount of water such a thing as the absolute exhaustion of the land is probably impossible.

By far the greater amount of plant food exists in the sediment; hence, in irrigating it is desirable to get as much sediment on the land as possible.

Agricultural Notes Of Interest To the Farmers

By H. H. Schutz, Assistant Professor of Agronomy, N. Mex. A. & M. College.

A NEW world record for milk cows has recently been established at the Missouri College of Agriculture, Missouri Chief Josephine, a Holstein-Friesian cow, in a six months test, produced 17,095.3 pounds of milk, an average of 62.1 pounds of milk daily for 273 days. The average of 48.7 quarts, or 11.6 gallons a day. The highest yield for one day was 110.2 pounds. Her record exceeds the former record for six months by 1458 pounds.

Classes of Sorghum. Sorghums are divided into two classes: The saccharine, which has such as kaffir corn, brown corn, durra, shalu, millet, milo maize, Jerusalem corn, Guiana corn, Egyptian rice corn, Kowliang. The sorghums have been cultivated in the orient and parts of Africa for centuries and are used both for human and animal food.

Johnson grass, or sorghum halapense, which is hated in this region as much as it is prized in many portions of the south, is, as its name indicates, one of the sorghum family. In 1825, Gov. Means, of South Carolina, secured the seeds from Turkey and gave some to Alabama. He was very active in making known its good qualities and succeeded in fastening his name to it. It also goes under the following names: Means' grass, Cuba grass, Egyptian grass, Green Valley grass, Arabian millet, Egyptian millet, Syrian grass, Saint Mary's grass.

Prolific Dewberry Plants. A dozen dewberry plants will furnish all the fruit a family will require. It differs from the blackberry mainly by its trailing habit and method of propagating from tips instead of suckers. The Loretta is given as the most desirable variety and matures just between the raspberries and blackberries.

Ashes are not very rich in fertilizing properties, but are useful as mulches in orchard and vineyard and for the dust bath in poultry houses. J. B. Morse, a Michigan farmer, succeeded in killing the grass in his orchard and vineyard by spreading coal ashes on the ground. They also served as a mulch and were effective in unloosening plant foods from the soil.

Barren Cornstalks. Barren stalks in a cornfield may be due to heredity, thick planting, poor soil, insect injuries or unfavorable season. In selecting seed for next year's crop, ears should be taken from big, healthy stalks; in other words,

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