

and there is no end in sight.

There are three principals left in the feud:

Fletcher Deaton, now in jail, is a mild-mannered man, and his broad chest is adorned with all kinds of pins and medals emblematic of fraternal societies. Fletcher radiates benevolence. But he is charged with the murder of Ed Callahan.

"I would have done anything in the world for Ed," says Deaton. "I had no animosity toward him."

Little Hargis Callahan, the typical mountain child, bred in the feudal atmosphere, does not believe Fletcher Deaton. He is regarded as the natural avenger of his father. He so thinks of himself.

Little Hargis calmly accepts the role of avenger. Already he can shoot straight. "I expect to get even for this some day," he says, with a snap of the jaws, and a cold, straight look from his old-ish, steel-gray eyes.

But his sister is fighting with love to break this spell of destiny. She does not want her brother to have the blood of Fletcher Deaton and the other men who will be killed on his soul. She is fighting with the untamed spirit of the boy, but her progress is slow.

"I am doing this to save my little brother," says Mrs. Lillian Callahan Gross. "He already has the hate in his heart. Our children get these hates early.

"It is so terrible. Our children are so helpless. They draw the feud spirit in with their breath. It passes on from father to son,

"I want to make Breathitt county so safe that no wife or mother in the county will have to worry when her husband or son goes out of doors. The men fight, but the women suffer. It's about time the feud came to an end."

Mrs. Gross, who is better educated than the average mountain woman, is a graduate of a woman's college. She rode with the posse that tracked down her father's slayers. She was in the saddle for two weeks after Ed Callahan's murder. But when Fletcher Deaton was arrested her anger was satisfied. She wants the law to take its course and to end the feud.

She will take Hargis Callahan to Louisville and put him in school. There he will have a chance to grow up away from the scenes of violence and he will not be reminded of his father's murder.

The sister believes that when he returns to Breathitt county a man he will see things differently. The feudal atmosphere will have been overcome. She believes she can end the feud.

But the old men, whose lives have been spent in the hills, nod over their pipes and disagree. If Fletcher Deaton killed Ed Callahan, then Hargis Callahan should kill Fletcher Deaton. It is fate.

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He—Are you superstitious about the number 13? She—I'm not a bit superstitious; only I don't like it because I think it brings bad luck.