

### Stranger In Shady Gulch

By Denver Bardwell

(Continued from page 1)

on the leather thong. He spoke to Caesar, who was still leaping up and pawing at him, licking his hands.

"Tear it off, pardner! Bite it, Caesar!" he ordered.

The dog, soon made to understand what was wanted, jabbed his teeth into the knots above his master's wrists. He worked with determination. At last, the knots began to loosen perceptibly, then suddenly came free under one last tearing bite and jerk.

Radkin slid out of the saddle, rubbing his swollen, aching wrists. Then, he made a quick investigation of what his enemies had left him.

One of his hip guns had slipped from its holster during the plunge into the water, but the other remained in the soaked leather. His rifle was safe in its scabbard. He felt for his bank notes, sewn under his clothing, and sighed with relief to find them still there.

He also found his water-tight, oil-ed matchbox in a back pocket of his pants. The matches were dry and safe.

He searched for a dry shoulder of rock and struck a match. Then, burning one after another, he led the pony and Caesar along the uneven rock beside the rushing stream. He knew that, by following the escaping waters, he would find the mouth of the cavern where Stalagm Creek came into being.

As he came around a long curve, there was a definite increase of light, so much that he could go forward without striking more matches.

He saw tremendous hollow on his left, a high-ceilinged chamber, with white, sharp-pointed stalactites hanging down from above. Then, the memory of other caves like this, with their stalactites above and corresponding stalagmites on the floor came to mind as he noticed, with some curiosity, that there were no stalagmites over there to the left. Instead, there were heaps of dark, gray things.

At the same instant, an unpleasant odor assailed his nose. He moved into the chamber and saw that the heaps were dried cowhides. He began pulling them out. They bore MW and Stagginger H.L. brands! He didn't take time to search for Bear at hides when one turned up in the first dozen he examined, but he was sure there would be plenty of all three brands.

Here was proof that the Half Diamond had stolen, killed and sold the small ranchmen's beef. Then the hides had been put in this perfect hide-out against the day when a deal could be made to dispose of them.

Radkin was now spurred by urgent purpose as he headed once more toward the cavern exit. It was easy to find his way along the trail the hide storer had made. He soon rounded the last high corner.

He held the impatient Tuffy and Caesar at the mouth of the cavern until he had made a careful survey of the country out front, looking for the Half Diamond riders. No moving objects except cattle were out there.

Cautiously emerging, he looked northward and southward. There were no men in sight to the north but a little ridge cut off his view to the south. He climbed it and peered over.

The Half Diamond men were down there at the foot of the trail to the mesa top, several hundred yards away. Some were on horses, but others were still on the ground. They had evidently just come down from the mesa, and seemed in no hurry to move on. With this ridge to hide him, he could get away without being seen.

He mounted Tuffy and started northward along the creek course, going at a walk at first, so that his hoof beats wouldn't be heard. Then, at a safe distance, he put the pony into a gallop, heading for the Thule ranch.

As he sped along, he laid plans, the discovery of the hides coupled with the discovery yesterday of the unfinished wells on the dunny homestead sites, gave him ample evidence of Thomas Lully's crooked methods in his fight to ruin the small ranchers.

He was now more than ever determined to make the latter's cause his own—if for no other reason than to settle his score with Duke Hasser. But it would be best, he decided, to let Hasser and his men think, for a while, that they had got away with killing him. That way, they would no longer be on the lookout for him, and he could operate more freely.

However, he must see Arlene Walker as soon as possible—let her know that he was still alive and ask her to keep quiet about what she had witnessed. Otherwise, she would undoubtedly go to the sheriff and precipitate action against his "killers." He wanted no action taken against them until he had had time accomplish certain things.

(To be Continued)

**TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF WARM AIR AND CENTRAL STEAM HEATING SYSTEMS, NO. 1 GENERAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHOOL, SUMMERBROOK, P.E.I.**

SEALED TENDERS, enclosed in envelope marked "Tender No. 19-88-27—Heating Systems, No. 1 G.R.S. Summerbrook, P.E.I.", and addressed to the Secretary, Department of Munitions and Supply, Ottawa, Ontario, will be received until 2:00 P.M. (E.D.S.T.) November 10, 1942.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department, and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein. These forms, together with the plans and specifications and form of contract, are on exhibition at the offices of the Department of Munitions and Supply, Room 1123, No. 3 Temporary Building, Ottawa, Ontario, at which offices plans and specifications may be obtained upon the deposit of \$20.00 in the form of a certified cheque made payable to the Receiver General of Canada. This deposit will be refunded when the plans and specifications are returned in good condition.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque on a chartered bank in Canada, payable to the Receiver General of Canada or Bearer Bonds as specified in the form of tender for ten per cent of the amount of the tender. The cheque or bonds of the successful tenderer will be forfeited should he decline to enter into a contract for the work, or should he fail after accepting the contract to complete same in accordance with the plans and specifications.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.  
G. K. SHELLS,  
Deputy Minister,  
Department of Munitions and Supply,  
Ottawa, October 30, 1942.  
Tender No. 19-88-27.

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