A Fawcett Publication Rod Cameron

western

"THE WHITE BUFFALO TRAIL!"

STARS IN A SAGA OF THE WEST

ROD CAMERON

THE WEST'S FEARLESS DYNAMO

C ¢ AUG. NO. 10



ROD CAMERON WESTERN . WILL LIEBERSON AL JETTER



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W A Faweett, gr. President



RENEGADES ! Behind a wall of bullets they thundered down the rampage trail, hurling Redman against White in a wild bid for an *untold treasure* ! How could the indomitable Knight of the Open Range, **ROD CLIMERON**, stem this monstrous deluge when he, too, was MARKEY FOR DOOM ON THE WHITE BUFFALO TRAIL?





















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Howdy, Pals,

21 SO. BEVERLY DRIVE

A LITTLE WHILE BACK, I WROTE YOU PAROS ABOUT SOME OF THE WESTERN EXPRESSIONS WE USE IN THESE PARTS. THERE'S ONE A LOT OF FOLKS USE THAT IVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REALLY HANKER FOR. IT'S CALLED "BARWING AT A KNOT,"

THAT PHRASE MEANS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE WHEN A COWHAND SEES ANOTHER WADDY TRYING TO DO SOMETHING HE RECKONS CAN'T BE DONE, HE'L JUST STAND BACK AND SAY, "LOOK AT THAT HOMBRE BARKING AT A KNOT."

BUT I DON'T USE THE EXPRESSION. WHY? WELL, T JUST UT THINK BACK OVER HISTORY AND NOTE HOW OFTEN FOLKS LAUGHED AND RUBICULED A MAN THEY THOUGHT WAS BARKING AT A KNOT. YET THOSE MEN WHO PAID NO HEED AND HEPT RIGHT ON TRYING ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE INVENTIONS AND PROGRESS WE KNOW TODAY -- THINGS OTHER FOLKS CALLED IMPOSSIBLE.

> SO DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO FOLKS WHO LAUGH AND SNEER AT YOU AND SAY YOU'RE'BARKING AT A KNOT." IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING AND YOU'VE GOT FAITH IN IT, KEEP TRVING AND YOU'LL FIND THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BECOME REALITY.

WELL, PARTNERS, I'LL BE MOSEVING ALONG NOW, BUT KEEP A PLACE OPEN FOR ME AT YOUR HITCHING POST.

P.S.— ALL YOU PARDS WHO WOULD LIKE MY PICTURE, JUST SEND YOUR REQUEST AND MONEY ALONG TO ME.

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YOUR PARTNER,











THE usual group of idlers was lounging in pulled in. Each was wearing his broad hat on the back of his neck and a straw between his techt. They were, of course, interested in the stage, for it was the daily "event" in Thrée Mile City. They were, however, not interested enough to move from their slack positions when a drummer, an old rancher, and a middleareel lady emerged from the couch.

But when the apparition got out, "it" really held their attention. It was dressed in flat shoes, peg-topped pants and a tight fitting coat. It wore a necktie with a high, white, celluloid collar, and an iron hat—that is to say, a derby.

Ail the idlers sat up and one of them even stood up.

"Whoops!" bellowed flannei-mouth.

"Dudley the Dude!" exclaimed Pinky.

"Where did you get that hat?" yelled Big Sandy.

"It" got a little pink in the cheeks, but otherwise gave no notice to the scoffers. Instead, it said to the middle-aged lady, "Here, allow me to carry that heavy valise for you."

The lady was pleased and grateful and surrendered the heavy bag. But Pinky had moseyed up. He tripped the character in the pegpants and the iron hat; the bag fell in the mud and burst open, spilling clothing into the occing black muck.

A fist shot out and sent Pinky sprawling into the same black ooze.

crom that moment on the loafers ceased refering to the strange-looking character as "it" and called it "hlm." They respected that punch, no matter how the owner was dressed.

Pinky was violently angry. He raised himselt off the ground, made a swipe or two knockting the muld from his pants, then said, "All right, Mister. Nobody knocks me down. I'm counting ten, then we draw. One ... two ... three..."

The stranger with the punch paid no attention. He was helping the middle-aged lady gather up the spilled contents of het bag. When Pinky finally said "ten" and whipped his Golf from its holster, another gun barked, and Pinky's weapon flopped from his hand. No one was certain who had fired that shot. All eyes had been focused on Pinky and the stranger. And they knew the stranger hadn't fred; he was bending over to pick up the last of the splited things from the value.

The stranger placed his hat on a nail in the wall of the narrow hotel bedroom. Then he sat on the edge off the hard mattress and, chin in hand, began wondering if it had all been a mistake—his coming here to Three Mile City. He had not missed the jeers of the loafers, the hostility that their ridicule implied. He felt very alone and unwanted.

A knock on the door interrupted his thoughts.

"Come in," he said, without enthusiasm.

A tall, broad-shouldered, sandy haired man entered. "Howdy, Dudley," he said. "My name's Larkin, Everybody calls me Sandy."

"How do you do," said the stranger, stlffly. "I recognize your voice. You made a comment on my hat when the stage arrived today."

Sandy chuckled. "You've got sharp ears, Dudley, and that's a fact."

"... and I suppose you're calling me Dudley because I was referred to as Dudley the Dude."

Sandy chuckled again. "Nope. I looked at the hotel register and according to that, your name is George Dudley. And nobody, seeing how you used your fists today, is likely to be calling you a dude."

"I'm sorry about that," said George Dudley. "I lost my temper."

"You did no more than what was right," said Sandy.

"Then you haven't come here to play some kind of joke on me?"

"Nope, I come here as a friend. I admit I was struck kind of funny by your grupp. I reckon maybe that's the way people dress in the east, but It looked kind of peecoolar out here. But no mind. It ain't how a man dresses; it's what he's got under his skin that counts. I'm for you. You're the new school reacher?"

"I was going to be."

"What do you mean, was?"

George Dudley stared at the floor It was a moment or two before he spoke, then he said, "I guess I'm sort of an idealist. I heard there was a great need for school teachers in this frontier territory. I decided to come out. I thought I could do a lot of good by helping the young teres in a wild country. I see I was all wrong."

"All wrong?"

"Surely! A teacher has to command the respect of his pupils. But I'm a laughing stock to the adult population of Three Mile City. Children ape their elders. If the growmaps laugh at me, the boys and girls will have no confidence in what I have to say. I've decided to take the morning stage back east."

Sandy strode up and down, his great brown hand stroking his hard chin. "Of course," he said, "if you're a quitter — if you're scared of Pinky — why I guess..."

"I'm not a quitter!" blazed the teacher. "I'm not afraid! But I want to do my job right. I..."

Sandy cut in, with his amazingly mellow drawl, "No, you're not afraid. And I size you up as a right good teacher. We need you here. But, listen. Even a teacher can learn something and there's something I want you to know. Now I'm not much for books, myself, because I can't read so good, but I herrd a saying, 'When you're in Rome you've got to carry on the same as the Romans do.' In a manner of speaking, you're in Rome. Now the first thing I'd recommend is that you trade in that irôn hat — somebody could use it for a wash basin — and get yourself a sombreto. Then ...'

George Dudley listened intently to the suggestions, decided that Sandy was truly sincere and that his ideas would be helpful. At one point he broke in with, "Why are you so interested in a stranger — a dude school teacher?"

"My kids," chuckled Sandy. "I've got two boys and a girl. They've got to have an eddication. What I know is good enough for me, but when they're grown-up, they'll have to know a heap more than their old man if they're to get along right and proper This country is getting ... why it's getting civilized !"

The new teacher was convinced of Sandy's sincerity. He let himself be newly outfitted with a broad-brimmed hat, a plaid shirt, levis and chaps, high-heeled half-boots, with sputs. "You look purty good," said Sandy at last. "Except you're practically naked without a six-gun."

"Oh, I don't need a gun!" exclaimed Dudley. "It was a gun that saved you from getting drilled by Pinky." responded Sandy Larkin, dryly.

"You?"

"The same!"

"But a gun! I don't believe in violence! I could never kill a man. I . . ."

Sandy talked earnestly and briskly to the teacher, who finally nodded.

In the Purple Dog saloon, Pinky was blowing off steam. He said the dude had hit him while he wasn't looking. He said somebody had meddled by shooting the gun out of his hand. He said he would take care of the dude the next time they met.

"We're meeting now!" said a voice from the swing doors.

Pinky whirled.

He saw the Dude, now dressed completely in western regalia. He saw the dude flip a sixgun from the holster at his side, spin it in the air, and catch it deftly. Pinky bolted out the back door, leaving a half-finished drink on the bar. He was last seen heading out of town as fast as his palomino could gallop.

ATER, in the hotel room. "Dude" George Dudley handed the slx-gun back to the chuckling Sandy as he said, "It worked."

"You're all set," laughed Sandy. "You will now be the most respected school teacher in all the west. The kids will learn a heap."

"Well, thanks to you for keeping my secret." "That the gun was empty?"

"Yes, that. And that I'm so near-sighted I couldn't hit the side of a barn!" responded the new teacher.

THE END























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