SLUMBERING GOLD

by Aubrey Boyd

AUTOCASTER SERIE.

SIXTEENTH INSTALMENT

Speed Malone, hardened gambler, and Ed Maitland, son of a seafaring New England family, were partners in the Yukon gold rush of '97. They met on the trip north in a crowd that included Frenchy, the fisherman, Lucky Rose, the beautiful girl who took a fancy to Maitland; Fallon, leader of the miners, who resented Rose's interest in Maitland; Brent, old-time prospector; Garnet, who gave Maitland and Speed his outfit when he quit the trail, and Pete and his drunken partner, Owens, who was drowned after a brawl. Pete turned out to be a girl in disguise. Speed killed a man at Skagway—a cheat manager of a sheli game—and months later was arrested and put in jail for his murder. He got out, but while he waited for Lefty, who offered to help him, to get back the mail he had been carrying for the Mounties at Bennett—where Drew and Cathcart were stationed—he was recaptured by his enemy Fallon. But Maitland and Pete rescued him as Fallon was about to lynch him. They made for their camp at Bennett—Pete and Maitland with the horses, by one route, Speed by another. Led by the lead dog, Rusty, they found Dalton's deserted cabin. The second morning, Dalton staggered in mortally wounded—and died before he could tell Pete where the claim was. . . Two Mounties arrest Speed and Maitland for the murder (of which they ar einocent) of murder (of which they are innocent) of a Siwash on Lake Leborge. Garnet defended them at their trial. Cathcart said he had long thought the mysterious Siwash was a blind for a white prospector who wanted to keep his gold discoveries to himself, and the finding of the dead Siwash and the dying Dalton proved this point. He thought Maitland and Speed had known of a letter Dalton had sent to Owens mentioning his gold find. Rose Valery, the singing girl, started her story, and told how she decided to sing in the gold camps when a man who heard her voice told her he was going to Nevada and would take her and give her a steer. Rose Valery, the singing girl, and a surprise witness, is now telling her story from the stand. NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

"In Nevada, the woman in the saloon told me my fingering wasn't so good; took the guitar and showed me. That interested me a lot. I ask her to have supper with me.

"She had sung in the camps in the Seventies, when mining was a big game on both sides of the Sierras. In Placerville, on the California side, she had met a young adventurer named Dalton. She took him at first to be a prospector, and he did prospect to some extent. But a little later, when she became his sweetheart, she learned that he often took the road with a route agent he called Reeves. They worked the mountain passes, holding up pack tarins and wagon shipments of gold till the country got too hot for them, and they disappeared.

"So May's love affair didn't last long. I gathered it was she who did most of the loving. Dalton was a swaggering young rascal, with a lot of life and good looks, and no heart to speak of. It was that, I think that attracted her. She was used to being courted.

"After Dalton left her she had a baby girl. Whether it was his or not, she didn't know for certain. She'd known him that short a time. It interfered with her work, so she sent it away to be cared for, shut it out of her life and forgot about it, as she tried to forget about Dalton.

"Then she met a rancher named Owens, who was taking up a grazing claim on the Nevada side, south of the Carson Valley. So she married Owens, and went with him to Nevada, to settle down and be a faithful wife.

"Her marriage to Owens was unhappy. He was ungenerous and unsociable—almost a miser. The ranch was a day's journey from any neighbor. No one, hardly, came near it. He was jealous of that old life of hers—had suspected, when he married her, what it had been. He worked the ranch himself, so there was no one to talk to but him, and he didn't talk.

"One night in summer, when Owens had watered the stock and she was watching him for the umptieth time draw a lamp alongside the table, fix the wick and read some month-old newspapers, she heard a faint tapping on the door. She opened it, and there stood a visitor. For her!

"A little visitor about three years old, and small for her age, with a cute, solemn baby face, and wet eyes blinking in the lamplight, looking lost.

"'Nice mans said you know where is my Daddy?'

"The woman gave a smothered cry and gathered the child hungrily in her arms, not asking yet how nor why it had come there.

"Owens lit a lantern to go out and see who had brought the little one to the door. The rider was out of earshot now, but on the porch was a sack of gold and a note saying, 'This baby wandered off a train during a hold-up. Keep her till the posse comes looking for her. The gold is from the robbed tarin, and is yourn if you want pay for your trouble.'

"That was all. The rest they tried to piece together from what they could make of the child's talk.

"For hours Owens pored over that note and over the gold, handling it, counting it. . . . And the woman was yearning over the treasure in her arms. Suppose, by some great fall of chance, it was never claimed?

"Neither of them slept that night, and the next day they waited and watched the trails. The same hope was in their minds, though their reasons for hoping were far apart.

"Several days passed with no sign of the posse. Finally Owens made a trip to the nearest freight station to get the news. In his absence, the woman started making a little suit of overalls for the girl.

"Toward sundown she went into the barn to look for eggs for the baby's supper. While she was groping for nests in the hay, she caught hold of a man's boot. She didn't scream. The first thought that flashed through her mind was that this was the man who'd brought the child and the gold.

"But the man sat up and smiled at her, and then her knees almost gave away. It was Dalton—whom she'd never expected to see again. He'd probably learned she was married to the rancher, and had counted on her helping him, if it came to that.

"It was his turn to be surprised when she spoke about the child and the gold. He hadn't had anything to do with leaving them there. But after thinking it over, he told her how it must have happened.

"He and the man he called Reeves had been waiting by a lonely stretch of railway track in the desert to stop a pay train, when a stranger on a bay horse rode by the place they were hiding. He looked like a good gun hand, and they cut him in. During the hold-up the child strayed off the train. When it pulled out and they found her, Reeves wanted to leave her there. They split on that; the man with the bay horse picked her up and rode south alone, with his share of the loot. Dalton believed he had happened on the Owens' ranch by letting his horse hunt water.

"The other two struck west for the mountains. Dalton's horse had gone lame, and Reeves took all the gold on his mount to lighten its weight. But it still lagged and when the posse caught their trail, Reeves was far ahead and kept going. Dalton left the lamed horse on some rocky ground, so he would seem to have gone on with Reeves, riding double, and after several days trailing on foot by a roundabout way, came to Owens' ranch.

"As to the child, Dalton thought it was a bad break to find her there, but he encouraged May's desire to keep her—since giving her up would ruin his hideout. So the baby had its hair cut, as well as being put in overalls.

"Just after May had done this rash thing, Owens came in that night with the news. The posse seemed to have lost the trail of all three of the fugitives, but the father of the missing child had been killed in the hold-up, and—worse than that—was a United States marshal."

"The man in the barn had plenty of time to take stock of Owens' character and of his own position. As the pursuit died away and no word came from Reeves, Dalton realized that his partner had deserted him. He had also done some thinking about the way the posse had been mistracked.

"Dalton proposed staying at the ranch as a hired man until the trail was cold, and calling himself the father of the little 'boy.' The very daring of the scheme would protect them.

"Though the police had given up hope of finding the lost child, there was no slacking in the hunt for the three road agents involved in the killing of the Federal marshal, and Dalton knew that there would be none.

"Deciding to leave the country, he demanded a grubstake from Owens, to take him prospecting in the North. The rancher grudged the money, but was anxious to get rid of him.

"Owens' jealousy got worse after the man was gone. In his brooding rages, he spoke of Dalton's willingness to appear as the child's father as if that were a deeper sign of understanding between them. His fury drove him to charges that may have bordered on a truth he didn't know.

"He gave her such a terrible time that finally she left him and her adopted baby, and went back to her old life, where I found her, in the dregs of it.

"Some years later I came into Carson City, just before the rumor broke about the big gold strike in the North. And there the thing happened that begins to tie up with——"

Fallon, twisting in his chair, caught her eyes now, squarely.

"You don't dare——!" he blurted out with a dark menace.

"Do you dare threaten a witness in Her Majesty's Court?" Judge Dugas demanded.

Muttering something, Fallon bit his tongue and waited.

"I was crossing a planked sidewalk," continued Rose, "when I almost bumped into a man stepping down from the porch of the Nevada Hotel. His face came back to me over a long gap of time as well as distance. He'd changed some. I passed him blank.

"We met again in a place where I sang, and he invited me to drink something. I did, because it was rather funny to talk to a man who'd tricked me with April Fool candy the way he'd done and not be remembered.

"So I said, 'Your face looks kind of familiar. Haven't I seen it tacked up in the post office or somewhere?'

"He almost jumped. I hadn't had a notice how near the truth a reward poster might be. When I smiled, he gave a laugh that sounded flat.

"'You've got the start on me, baby,' he said, patting my hand. 'The nearest I ever come to imaginin' you was a fool kid I met once in Frisco. You're pretty wise and you've been around. Maybe as a woman, you can answer a question that got me curious once. It just come into my mind. Do you believe a girl could be brought up as a boy without anyone on the outside guessin' it?'

"'It depends on the girl and the surroundings,' I said, still not suspecting anything in particular. 'I think it could happen, but I wouldn't bet on a particular case without seeing the boy you suppose to be a girl.'

"'Well, you'll never see him,' Fallon said, a little too offhand. 'It just come into my mind.'

"He started his meaningless lovemaking again and I left him.

"What he'd said chimed with something else in my memory. Though I didn't recall right at first what it was, I kept looking as I played the camp for a boy who might not be so boyish except for the clothes. The only one I noticed was a boy with gold hair. He didn't look girlish—wore his clothes, I mean, as if he had a right to them. But it struck me that I could have dressed him up as a stunning girl, and it was a crime to see hair like his wasted on a boy. He was with an older, whisky-faced man I'd never seen in the camps before, and whose name I learned to be Owens. The man was buying an outfit to go to Alaska.

"Owens are uncommon, but it was the name of the rancher May had married, and with that I remembered, in a shock of understanding, that the child left at the ranch house had blonde hair and had been dressed as a boy.

"Dalton had gone North. Owens had staked him. A man like May's Owens wouldn't make that trip without a solid lead to go on. I remembered his passion for gold. Dalton must have made a strike and sent for him.

"Certain this was the same man, I wondered how much Fallon had guessed. Maybe he just suspected a girl in boy's clothes and was curious. She was young and innocent, and he liked them that way. Her name, 'Pete' was as boy-like as possible, but since it didn't fit her appearance, it was kind of give-away."

The chortling voice of the river rippled through the silence as Rose paused. Speed leaned on the bar of the prisoners' dock, intently watching her across the red-coated shoulder of the police guard. Fallon half-reclined in his chair, in a smouldering silence—the sheathed fire of one who holds a final answer in reserve.

"That same night, the big Yukon news came down on the wires from Seattle. Prospectors who had been waiting and ready were pulling stakes for San Francisco and the first steamers. Owens beat the gun by starting ahead of them and showed that he'd had a definite lead on something.

"I caught a train for Seattle, and overtook Fallon's steamer there. He was wary enough to keep Owens out of my way. Pete avoided me of her own accord. My talking to Fallon may have given her the idea I was a friend of his, and she mistrusted him by instinct.

"Fallon started the rancher Owens drinking and gambling—a first sign that he had guessed true about the gold. That it was true, I made sure in a more direct way."

Wade rose to object.

"Your Honor," he said, "I have listened to the witness' vivid story without offering objection till now. I feel it my duty, as counsel for the Crown, to object to it as theoretical and move that it be thrown out."

Judge Dugas looked reflectively at Rose. "How did you prove, Miss Valery, that there was a gold mine at stake?"

Continued next week

Administration NRA Act Costly

New York, June 9.—The total cost of administering the national recovery act and its 578 codes during the two-year period ending this month amounted to more than $93,000,000, according to a report of the National Industrial Conference board.

In a breakdown of the figures, the report lists code authority expenditures of $71,704,000 as the largest single item. Administration of the petroleum code cost $2,214,963 and the National Labor Relations board spent $1,214,489, according to the report.

The conference board is sponsored by large manufacturers throughout the country.

666 CHECKS MALARIA IN 3 DAYS COLDS FIRST DAY. Liquid - Tablets Salve - Nose Drops Tonic and Laxative

Highway Chairman Addresses Chamber

The June meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held Tuesday evening with President D. C. Heustess presiding. Several out-of-town visitors were present and four new members announced.

A. L. Shepard suggested that it would be beneficial for the community to stage a county fair every fall. The president reported that a committee would be appointed to make an investigation of the proposal.

The club had as its guest, C. O. Hearon of Spartanburg chairman of the state highway department. He touched on the CCC camps which he termed as real pioneers and will survive permanently. He stated that the state now has 6,000 miles in the highway system, of which 4000 has already been paved. The remaining unimproved roads will be completed, he prophesied, within the next two years. Mr. Hearon further stated that $11,000,000 has been allocated to this state from federal funds for road construction work and that of this amount $5,000,000 has already been received.

Touching on road conditions in this section, Mr. Hearon stated that both he and Commissioner Z. F. Wright of Newberry, are interested in the unimproved roads in this section and predicted that within eighteen months the Musgrove road would be paved. He further stated that he expects all roads now in the state system and already approved to be completed within the next two years.

President Heustess, reporting for the Attendance - Communication - Tone committee said that the club, together with the city, was endeavoring to get a swimming pool and communiy building out of the federal relief funds.

Additional Locals

Mrs. B. O. Whitten, Misses Mildred and Martha Whitten and C. B. Elliott spent last week-end in Seneca with relatives.

Mrs. Minnie C. Adair, Misses Dorothy Adair and Martharene Pitts are attending a house party at St. Simons Island, Ga.

Bill Pitts and Dudley Ray spent Sunday in Augusta, Ga., with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lawter and little son of Spartanburg, are visiting Mrs. Lawter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Black.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Will Leake and Mrs. C. C. Bailey attended commencement exercises at the University of South Carolina in Columbia last week. Miss Lidie Leake, the former's daughter, was a member of the graduating class.

F. M. Boland, Mrs. A. J. Sproles, Miss Adeline Boland and David Boland were in Columbia last week for the graduating exercises of the Columbia hospital. Miss Marguerite Boland was a member of the graduating class.

Mrs. J. A. Dugan and little daughter, Marsha, of Hartsville, are spending sometime with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Neighbors. Mr. Dugan has returned to Hartsville, after spending a few days here.

Ware Shoals, Joanna Hold League Pace

Joanna more than tripled the score over Clinton in the Central Carolina league to add a victory to its column Saturday, 10 to 3, and remained in a tie with Ware Shoals for league leadership.

Playing air-tight ball behind the delivery of Ouzts, the Joanans came through in the pinches with the deciding blow.

Joanna	10	12	3
Clinton	3	13	2

Ouzts and Girk; Hill, Suggs. Trammell and McCarter.

Ninety-Six Loses

Greenwood took a close call from Ninety-Six in the Central Carolina Saturday afternoon, 3 to 1.

Outstanding for Greenwood was Rice with three for four and Morrah with two for four. Garrison led Ninety-Six by getting two out of four.

Greenwood	3	9	2
Ninety-Six	1	6	1

Riegels Triumph

The Ware Shoals Riegels in the Central Carolina dusted off Matthews Saturday afternoon to the tune of 10 to 9 in a 12-inning game replete with thrills.

Williams was the big gun of the day with a pair of homers and as many singles out of the six times to bat. Rhodes got four out of five and Werner four for six.

Ware Shoals	10	14	10
Matthews	9	16	6

Hanson, Corley and Doolittle; Ingle, Newberry and Wrinkle.

Watts Blanks

Watts shut out Laurens in the Central Carolina, 5 to 0.

It was a close game that was hard fought throughout, and despite the score was close game. Watts connected safely 11 times while the losers hit safely six times. Watts erred twice.

Laurens	0	6	0
Watts	5	11	1

Rook and Brady; Howard and Duncan.

If You Don't Read THE CHRONICLE You Don't Get the NEWS

Local Dealer Is Honored By Tire Company Plaque

In recognition of 15 years of friendly relations, a handsome plaque has just been presented to the McDaniel Vulcanizing Works, local Goodyear dealers, by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company.

Accompanying the plaque was a letter from P. W. Litchfield, president of Goodyear, expressing the manufacturing concerns appreciation of their outstanding loyalty as a Goodyear dealer and the hope the friendly relations may continue indefinitely.

The plaque, which occupies a prominent spot in the McDaniel place of business, is strikingly done in bronze, with the name of the McDaniel Vulcanizing Works and of Goodyear appearing in raised letters on the lower portion.

Various means of transportation, such as the automobile, bus, truck, railway train, steamboat, airplane and airship, are portrayed in bas-relief.

NOTICE OF SALE

State of South Carolina,
County of Laurens.
Court of Common Pleas.

Eugene Gary, individually and as executor of the last will and testament of Corrie Rook, deceased, Plaintiff, vs Thos. Rook, et al, Defendants.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to order of the Court in the above entitled case I will sell at the Court House at Laurens, S. C., on salesday in July next, the same being Monday, July 1st, 1935, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property to wit:

All those several pieces, parcels or lots of land situated near the Town of Clinton, County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, containing in the aggregate 10.28 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as follows:

All that piece, parcel or lot of land, situated, lying and being near the Town of Clinton, County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, containing four acres, more or less, and bounded on the North by the Huldy McCoy estate and lands of A. B. Henry and Mary Davidson; on the east by lands of Huldy McCoy estate and other land hereinafter described; on the south by lot No. 16 according to survey made by A. V. Martin and A. E. Spencer, October 25, 1902, and on the west by lands now or formerly belonging to Frances Henry. The said lot of land was conveyed to Arthur Rook by D. E. Tribble and W. M. Finney by deed dated December 5th, 1904.

Also, All that piece, parcel or lot of land, situated near the Town of Clinton, County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, containing two acres, more or less, bounded on the northwest by twenty-foot street; on the northeast by other lands herein described.

Also, all that lot, piece or parcel of land, lying, situate and being near the Town of Clinton, County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, containing three acres, more or less and bounded on the north by lands now or formerly belonging to Frances Henry; on the east by other lands herein described and a twenty-foot street, and on the west and south by other lands herein described.

The above parcels of land will be sold as one parcel.

The terms of the sale, cash. The successful bidder will be required to deposit five per cent of his bid as evidence of good faith in the bidding and in the event the bidder does not comply with the terms of the sale within thirty days after sale the property will be resold on the same terms on some subsequent salesday at the risk of the former purchaser. The purchaser to pay for stamps, deed and recording and will be let into possession of the premises upon the production of the Clerk's deed.

The bidding will not be closed upon the date of sale, but shall remain open for a period of thirty days from the date of such sale, within which period of time any other person, besides the highest bidder at the sale or any representative thereof, may enter a higher bid upon complying with the terms of sale by making any necessary deposit as a guarantee of his good faith, and thereafter within such period any the last highest bid, and the successful purchaser shall be deemed to be other person may in like manner raise he who submitted the highest offer within said period of thirty days and make the necessary deposit or guaranty.

THOMAS W. BENNETT,
Clerk of Court of Common Pleas.
6-27-3tcw

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*This advertisement was reviewed and approved by a registered physician.

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