

MYSTERY at the LAZY-X

RANCH!

**52 GREAT PAGES** WESTERN THRILLS

APRIL NO. 50 105

HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST COWGALL



## PROWNE BROWNE



































AFTER A FIRECE GALLOW, SENIO MARSE I SENIOD DOS SACCESSORS WHAT THOSE HONGES WILL DO TO STREETO, MONO AND THE CREEKE TO AND THE SENIOR OF THE









BECAUSE I'M CARRYN' ON A BLDOD FELD AGAINST SMOKY MELEAN! MY NAME'S SLIM TURNER! MY GRANDPAW, JDCK TURNER, AN' MILEAN HAD A SHODT-CUT A LONG TIME AGO! MCLEAN WALKED AWAY ... AN' M' FAMILY'S NEVER FORSOTTEN!



AS LONG AS A SINGLE MILEAN IS ALIVE, THE FELD GOES ON! ME AN' MY KINFOLK HERE WON'T REST INTIL THE LAZY-X IS RUNED AN SMOKY MILEAN GETS THE SAME TREATMENT HE GAVE MY

















































## WHEN THE OD

## ARE EVEN

BOB LAMONT sat tall in the saddle, gazing down the hill at Ford City. Slowly, absent-mindedly, Bob reached into an inner pocket, took out a yellowed piece of paper, and deliberately, tore it into small bits. These he allowed to fall from his hand and drift off

with the wind, until they fell to earth a few feet away.

"Twe done right by you now, Dad." be said to himself.
"Guess I won't need that paper

any longer "It was Lamont, Senior's will that Bob had destroyed, the will that specified an Eastern college for Bob when he reached the age of eighteen, and law school after that. The will that had made six years of Bob's life an agony, but that he bad felt bound to respect.

His father had wanted him to be educated in the East, and, much as Bob hated being away from his beloved West, be had his degree, just as his father had wished. But he still had a problem.

"Wonder what use they got for a fancy lawyer in these

Bob cut short his reverie and rode hard toward Ford City, which had been his home until he had left for college. Waiting there were old friends and new adventures.

The first person Bob met when he rode into town was old lake Webster, once his father's ranch manager, now the owner of the Lamont place. Bob's family had sold our after he left for the East, and no land ties, just sentiment, attracted Bob bere again. Bob dismounted when be

"Lukel 1 owdy1 Remember me?"

Luke strained bis eyes, and a quizzical look crossed his

"You look like . . , but I must be dreaming, stranger." "You're not dreaming, Luke.

I'm Bob Lamont."

"But we thought . . . we thought you'd never come back.
Seemed as Ford City was too

small for the Lamonts now."
"Nonsense, Luke. I alweys aimed to come back. And now I'm staying. This is my home, and it always has been. I've heen dreaming for the past six years of being Ford City's first

lawyer."

Luke's eyes opened wide in amazement. He had forgotten Bob's mission back East. Now he looked at him with new re-

spect.

"A lawyer! Well, Bob, my boy, we sure can use you here."

"Glad to hear that, Luke. How have you been, and your

family?"
"Family's fine. Just like you remember them, Bob. The missus, and Peggy. You ought to see Peggy now. Twenty years old, and the prettiest girl in the county. Fill water..."

"How about you, Luke?"
Bob interrupted, "How have
you been getting along, and
how's the ranch?"
"Didn't want to have to tell

you about that, Bob. I got the ranch into some trouble lately, and I'm afraid I won't own it much longer."

Bob looked puzzled, and Luke continued.

". . this here new banker, Jackson, bas his eyes on it, and he got me to mortgage the place last year when we had the cattle blight. Now be's foreclosing, and' there's some trig-

ger boys helping him rusb me out . . ."
"Luke, I think you're my first client! Let's ride out to the ranch and look over that mort-

gage."
Luke's face registered doubt
that Bob Lamont could help
him in his battle against Jackson, the wesltby banker.

Bob was overcome with emotion as the two mer ned to regether. Every stick along the path seemed familiar and yet new. This was the country that Bob had loved since childhood and which was denied him for so long. And there in the distance was the old Lamont reach, the bonn where Bob had grown up. In his heart three was the country of the country of the country of the country of the thin and he had bought so failed from the Lamont family.

Luke had not exaggerated in





























W COME, MY FRIENDS, SOC

































## WHEN THE ODDS ARE EVEN ... CONTINUED if necessary. Peggy came up

describing Peggy. She was every bit as lovely as Luke had said. "Prettiest girl in the countyl" Bob wondered, as his heart leapt at the first elimpse of her fresh beauty, if there could be a prettier girl in the entire state.

Luke brought out the mortgage. Bob sat down with him and started to study the paper. His face was grim! This was no ordinary client. This was Luke Webster, and Peggy Web. ater . . . and the land was the

Lamont ranch. Finally, as all eyes focused hard on his face, Bob looked up, smiled, and announced, "Luke, you may own this ranch a lot longer than you expect." "If you can belp us, Bob, everything I have is yours," Luke said modestly, his head low.

"We'll talk fee later, Luke. Now tell me about those trigger boys you mentioned." Luke told about Slim Iennings and Duke Trent, Jack.

son's hired bullies, who had threatened to move the Websters out by force, if they wouldn't go any other way. ". . . worst part of it, Bob, is he has them sworn as deputies,

so he can make it look like a legal foreclosure." "I ake, first thing they taught me in school is how the law

can be helped out a little by making the odds even. Got any guns?" Luke's evebrows went up with curiosity and surprise. But he was past questioning Bob. He brought some guns, and even sent his foreman to collect a few friends to help out to Bob and whitnessed to him. "You'll never know how you've beloed us, even if you don't succeed. Tonight's the first time in months I've seen Dad smile . . ."

Bob took her hand, "The Websters deserve everything I can ever do for them."

A look of understanding passed between the two. Again Bob's heart sang, as he wondered if he would have a chance

for her affections.



riding out, again to threaten the Websters. This time, the women were sent out of the house, and Bob, Luke, and the three friends met them.

"The Websters eren't moving. The mortgage isn't legal. and no one's going to foreclose it. Luke Webtser now has a

lawyer . . ." Trent drew a six-shooter and announced menacingly, "Law

night. Inckson's orders, and lackson's orders get obeyed, or else . . ."

Bob reached for his gun, knowing what it would mean Sure enough, a shot rang out, and the bullet whizzed in Bob's direction. But Bob had bit the floor, safe for a moment! A first shot was all he wanted A sign of battle made it legal to fire in self-protection.

"Bob, you hurt?" Luke shoutad

"No. I ducked. But someone is going to get hurt!"

With those words. Bob fired twice at Trent. One of the other men crashed a chair down on the head of Jennings from be-

hind. Jennings reached for his gun, turned and was about to fire when a crashing fisttrained at an Eastern collegeconnected with the Jennings iaw, and Slim went down in a heap.

One of the men rode off for the sheriff. He cleared Bob and the others of any guilt, and after reading the mortgage he sent a posse to arrest Jackson, the banker. A firm handclasp between Lrke and Bob told both men that words weren't needed to express what they felt.

Later that evening, on the veranda, Bob spoke to Peggy Webster.

"Tonight's the first time I was glad Dad made me go to law school. I've a feeling it's a great beginning for both of 114."

And, at the door to the ranch house. Luke said to his wife: "I sure would like to see in Lamont inherit this ranch back or no law, they're moving, tosome day . . . and Bob would make a fine, a mighty fine husband for Percy."

THE END



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## WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and other externally caused Skin Blemishes

HEN pimply skin is your prob-MICROSCOPE SHOWS IMPORTANT lem, the first thing to get straight is that you can and should do something about it. To develop the Let's take a look through the microscope to see what's begind those unsightly pumples. The high-powered larner show attractiveness of your face is not more vanity. It is an "open sesame" towards bringing the real YOU closer to other people and giving your personality the poise and confidence it needs. Your good qualities -intelligence, character, dignityall to to naught ... are completely



DEMAND IMMEDIATE CARE Medical statistics tell us that blemished skin usually occurs from adolescence on through adult life. The problem at the adolescent stage is serious enough to deserve attentive care as a family matter. In adulthood, when life's responsibilities are so much weightier, it is doubly important to exert great effort to eliminate these blemishes. And there is no better time to get pimples under control than now.

DON'T ABUSE SKIN

The first instinctive reaction to piracles and blackheeds is to squeeze them out with your feature A bit of experimentation sling reguldes convincing proof that this succeeds only in loffeming your skin and spread-

ing the infection Under no circumstances should plesseles and blackbands ever be squeezed. Ceretake 1949 by Deenel Products, Inc.

your skin coated with a covering which originated from two sources-one, internally and the other, arternatty.
The internal substances on your skin include deed calls, residue from the sweet slands, and a high quantity of oil sucreted sends of these tiny sebaceous glands disraign matter to your skin much as any il map picks up dest. There infectious

I. Airborge materials such as dast, stacke, vepors, ste Materials brought in contact with the skin, such as tiny fragments of clothing, bedding, correction.

2. Micro-organisms such as bacteria See the difference between a healthy skin e pumply skin in the microscopic



Sick, pleaply skie

on gland is a seather rel, waste and infectious THE SEMESTER WAS on amaible alms to achieve in correct res of clogging matter, and to inhibit of wests and foreign metter. other is to discourses offiness with clini celly-proved ingredients, and to kill indec-



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