and how they chased two men into his

cabin. He himself managed to flee

Both of them knew there could be

went to a finish. But they were

store for them without weakening.

The attackers grew more wary of

exposing themselves. Presently the

"Something's up," Calhoun said.

'Probably getting ready to rush

never was in this kind of a jam

before. All we have to do is let

them know who we are and they

Larry was watching the attack-

ers through his peephole. "They are

getting their horses." His voice

grew excited. "By the jumping

horned frog, they're riding away.

They figure it would cost too much

to dig us out of our hole. Seems

It was too good to be true. More

the hills, but enough were left to

keep up the attack on the cabin.

Terry tried again, during the lull

in the firing, to let Ellison know

who they were, but he was fired upon

plan was tried to dislodge the be-

sieged men. Two horses were taken

into the barn. A few minutes later

they came out drawing a wagon

The wagon was driven into a

meadow of wild hay. Near the cen-

ter of the field was the remains of

a stack of hay, most of it weeds

tossed aside as unfit food for stock.

Men began to gather this trash with

pitchforks and load it on the rack.

the purpose of this jumped to his

mind. "Ellison is going to burn us

Larry caught the idea. "Sure.

They aim to get behind the hay and

push the wagon by the tongue up

After a moment Larry spoke.

"You've been favoring these fellows,

no longer. They mean to kill us,

them or us. I won't let them rub me

the way to us by now, I expect.

friends. When he reaches Black

but not very much if we are lucky."

Calhoun took careful aim

"That will hold them for a while,"

A voice outside, not far away,

hailed the house. It came from the

searched the alfalfa field and saw

"Someone has worked up right

"Ask him who he is," Terry said.

Larry shouted the question. The

"Claims he's Jeff Brand and is

going to make a run for the door.

He must have crawled up the

moment later he cried in excite-

ment: "Hell, it's Jeff, all right! He's

coming on the run . . . They've hit

Terry ran to the door and flung it

Stooping, Calhoun picked up

reached it in safety and Larry bolted

on the bed. "Where did they hit

Jeff Brand did not answer. He

"They got him in the ankle," Lar-

stared at his rescuer in vast as-

(TO BE CONTINUED)

open. He thrust the rifle into the

"We can send a message by him

and tell Ellison who we are.

it on to his friend.

him. He's down."

you?" he asked.

tonishment

close to us," he told his compan-

ion. "Sounds like he's only forty or

side Larry was defending. Richards

nobody.

out without fighting back."

At first Calhoun was puzzled, but

with a hayrack on it.

out," he said.

set fire to the hay."

At the end of an hour another

the instant he opened the door.

would let us alone, but as soon as

they blast away at us."

us." He laughed sardonically.

firing died down except for an occa-

to aid them.

sional shot.

THE STORY SO FAR: Over Calhour Terry's protests, the big ranches have imported a large number of Texas expeace officers to round up and kill suspected "rustlers." Several killings preceded this, and Jeff Brand, a rustler

### CHAPTER XXVI

From the Box 55 to Lee Hart's | Box Canyon. place it was eight miles across the hills. Jeff rode fast.

Before he had covered half the a long journey ahead of them. way to the hill ranch he heard the his ears.

tured a man peacefully hoeing a po- part of the initial payment. tato patch or mending a fence. place. If so, Wade would probably have been whistling, his mind on a girl in Cheyenne who worked in the railroad restaurant, one he was expecting to marry in a few months.

Instead of taking the gulch he followed the rim, keeping to cover as he came close to the edge. Looking down, his gaze swept the clear- roared across the park. Larry's we poke a nose out to tell them ing and picked up details. He saw two men crouched back of the barn. Evidently there were others in it for as he stood there a puff of smoke came from the window opening in the hayloft. At least one man was Terry. stationed in the bed of the creek a hundred and fifty yards from the house. A shot from that point told him so.

There was a small alfalfa field to the left of the house. It ran to the draw leading up to the ravine. He could see the ditch crossing it in the direction of the house. Rank grass covered the edges. A wild idea jumped to his mind. Why not get into that ditch, crawl along it till he was close to the cabin, and make a dash to join the defenders?

Near the top of the ravine he picketed his horse, then moved down it cautiously. As he came round a bend in the gulch, he looked down into the little basin which held the ranch. Thirty yards below him a man crouched behind a large boulder, a rifle in his hands. He was watching the log cabin, evidently hoping to get a glimpse of one of the defenders. Lower down in the draw and fifty yards to his right another marksman was also waiting behind cover for a shot.

Jeff tiptoed forward, revolver in hand. He had not been a big-game hunter for nothing. No perceptible rumor of his movements reached the lank Texan toward whom he was soft-footing. Unwittingly the sniper helped at his own undoing. Intensely preoccupied with the job in hand, his mind was following a single track which led straight from him to the quarry in the cabin. When Brand was about ten strides from him he drew a bead and fired. As the rifle cracked Jeff flung aside caution and took the last stretch on the

The Texan whirled, too late. The long barrel of the .45 smashed down one. on his lifted forehead. His body swayed, and collapsed.

Nobody had noticed what had taken place. Jeff helped himself to the man's rifle and cartridge belt. He moved to the left and stepped down into the dry ditch he had seen from the bluff above. Crouching low in it, he crept forward. The alfalfa hid him pretty well.

Crossing the field was a slow business. He went on all fours, dragging the rifle beside him. He was near enough the cabin to see lead fling splinters from the logs.

He called softly, "Hello the house," and when no answer came back to him he called again, more loudly. It was after his fourth atthat somebody inside answered.

"Who is it? What you want?" "Jeff Brand. I'm gonna make a run for the door. Fling it open for

me when I give the word." There was a perceptible silence before the man in the house replied. "How come you there-if you're

Brand?" "Don't talk, you fool. Do as I

Jeff came out of the ditch running. From the edge of the valley he | right." heard a shout. Somebody had discovered the Texan he had knocked out and was spreading the news.

The guns roared. He bowled over, all the power knocked out of him in an instant. That he had been hit he knew. though he felt no pain. Still clinging to the rifle, he tried to clamber to his feet. The ground tilted up at him, and he went down again. Still conscious, he crawled forward a foot

or two. The cabin door was flung open. Two men showed at the entrance. One ran toward Jeff, in long, reachrescue, firing at the figures which barn. A few seconds later Calhoun's hurried back to the house. He had come into the open to get Brand. It was a matter of seconds. man reached Jeff, gathered him up. and plunged back toward the house.

### CHAPTER XXVII

Calhoun Terry and Larry Richards, on their way to Round Top to meet a cattleman who had a registered Hereford bull for sale, struck | him. Maybe his friends will get the

INSTALLMENT THIRTEEN

himself, traces them to Jack Turley, "spy." Nor does Jeff like Calhoun, foreman of one of the big ranches. Ellen Terry seems interested in both of them. Lee Hart, a rustler-rancher, reports of the mobilization of the Texan invaders

country to hit Johnson's | idea that they haven't been invited | for gifts. Prong and take the short cut down to come any nearer."

They traveled at a road gait, not less a Methodist church falls on pushing their horses, for there was | them," Larry said lightly. "Wish I

When they talked it was mostly carry that far with any accuracy. sound of firing far to his left. First about a new enterprise in which Looks like I'll have to be an innoa single shot, and perhaps a min- they were to be partners. They had cent bystander until they begin to ute later two more. Though he lis- made an arrangement with John Q. tened for more, no popping reached | Powers to buy the old Terry Ranch once owned by Calhoun's father, and only one ending to the battle if it To Jeff there seemed something | with it a fine stretch of river land sinister in these breaks disturbing adjoining. Larry had lately inherit- cool, game men, used to danger, the silence. His imagination pic- ed some money. This was to make and they could take whatever was in

They came to the lip of a small From the direction of the report it | mountain park and dipped down might have come from Wade Scott's | into it. Terry pulled up his cowpony and pointed to the opposite slope. A large body of men on horseback was moving down it.

"The Texas invaders," Larry said. "Yes, and we'd better get away from here," his companion decided. Too late, they wheeled their horses. The sound of a rifle shot horse went down and flung him. His friend raised the palm of his hand to give the peace sign, but the answer was a splatter of bullets.

"Come a-running, Larry," called Richards vaulted to the back of the horse, and they were on their

too good luck to be true." than forty men took a trail into

From the ridge they headed down into a country of huddled hills and



Jeff tiptoed forward, revolver in hand.

ravines where outlaws had their abode. The roan gelding did its best, but when Larry looked back he knew the race would be a short

"They're coming hell-for-leather," he said. "We won't reach the hills." He held up his hand in the peace sign, but it did not stop the crashing save us. That will take some time,

"We'll have to hole up at Lee Hart's till we get a chance to explain we're not the men they want,"

Terry said. "Yep. There's Lee down there of it. The driver swung the team with his stock. He isn't waiting to

ask questions either." "Don't blame him. He's on their | time since leaving the barn.

They reached the clearing, flung themselves from the horse, and the ground. raced for the cabin by the creek. Once inside, they slammed and bolted the door. From the window Larry saw the leader of the regulators disposing of his men.

They could hear bullets thudding into the logs. One shattered the other window.

"We'd better move back out of sight," Larry suggested. "Have to dig holes between the logs to shoot | fifty yards away."

"I'll try a white flag," Calhoun "If they'll hold back long enough to listen to us we'll be all

answer astonished him. He passed He found an empty flour sack, opened the door a few inches, and waved the white sack. He called out his name to Ellison. The noise of the guns killed the sound of his ditch." Larry demanded more information from the man outside.

voice. Lead tore into the door. "Quit that foolishness, Cal," his friend snapped. "You'll get shot up, first thing. The darned fools are crazy with the heat."

A foreman of the Circle C C ranch, a big, blustering fellow who rode his men hard, was gesticulating violent- hands of Richards and raced toward ly and pointing toward the cabin. the man on the ground, who was Apparently he was urging them to crawling toward the house. a charge. Terry shot him in the ing strides. The other covered the arm, and he took cover behind the Brand, the rifle still in his hand, and rifle scored another hit. A lumbering Texan behind a cottonwood tried | the door. but they stretched interminably. The to improve his position by running Terry put the wounded man down to another tree closer to the house. He stopped before he reached it, lurched sideways, and fell to the ground. With scarcely a moment's delay he began crawling back to his original position.

ry said, pointing to a hole in Brand's "You got him!" Larry cried. "In the leg. I didn't want to kill | boot.

without identifying them. The two men Despite incessant reminders to are Calhoun Terry and his foreman, But "shop early," last-minute shoppers Jeff did not know this when he decided will crowd the stores the day or two before Christmas in a mad search

When there is little time left it is best to sit down and think over "Some folks can't take a hint unthe problem before leaving the house. This sounds paradoxical, but far more can be accomplished by had a rifle too. My six-gun won't spending time planning than by rushing around a store without any idea of what is wanted.

A little ingenuity will disclose countless presents that can be acquired with a minimum of time.

Simple combinations of articles make admirable presents. For example, if the friend is a camera addict, combine several rolls of film, a flood lamp and a few flash bulbs | mas day. into an attractive package.

It is inadvisable to hastily select monogrammed or initialed stationery for an inveterate letter-writer. A very welcome present can be made by enclosing a book of postage stamps in an extra-nice box of plain

These are just two of many comseveral other practical remedies.

Fill in that subscription blank for your favorite magazine that has ease. been around the house, and wrap a current issue in an attractive carton with a note explaining that there are 12 more to come. Only be careful that the friend does not already subscribe to the magazine or your present will lose a good share of its

Another welcome gift can be secured at the last minute by telephoning the local theater for a few tries. tickets. Then write a little note, preferably in rhyme, and include it United States in with the tickets.

A little ingenuity will disclose | ily P. Bissel of the countless presents that can be ac- Wilmington, Del., quired with a minimum of time. By all means don't buy things | designed a seal that

that come in sizes unless you are was sold locally. sure of the size. And don't buy a The campaign was gift that may have to be exchanged so successful that unless the store will exchange the the next year the National Red article willingly.

### Apple Ornaments



prise when he sees this tree being the holidays. decorated by a young lady from Virginia. The tree is completely dec- of dollars in wages, and a good orated with brilliant red, yellow, share of this extra force is kept busy green and mottled apples, dried ap- handling poorly wrapped and imple tinsel and crab apple lights.

### Holly Decoration Used

In Pagan Celebrations ated with Christmas, but why, no- cities resembles a warehouse. body knows.

thorns and blood-red berries, sym- chickens, turkeys, or fruits. These bolizes the crown of thorns worn are quickly sold and the sale price by the Saviour. Another belief is held in a fund which is ultimately that the use of holly as Christmas | turned into the treasury. When all ed the plant to Saturn to be used are sold by an auctioneer. at the Saturnalia, his festival, occurring in December. At about the same time the early Christians celebrated the birth of Christ, and to times erroneously used to designate with holly.

Holiday Decorations

Christmas decorations are an ading into the home and revive that | village is a wondrous vision i holly and mistletoe. Hang a bow- of the sky. tied wreath of holly on the door. Bring out the festive candles, decorate the mantel with spruce, and dangle shiny balls where they will educational, full of action, or duplicapture the eye. When you've made | cates of large articles. Most toys the house bright and gay you'll be used through the ages fall into one aglow with the true Christmas. of these three categories.

### Personal Touch



Instead of sending her presents through the mails, this young lady prefers to deliver them herself. It adds a personal touch that is greatly appreciated by friends on Christ-

### First Christmas Seals Originated in Denmark To Fight Tuberculosis

That harbinger of the holiday seabinations which will satisfy the need | son, the cheerful Christmas Seal, for last-minute presents. If you are has recently made its appearance too tired or too busy to employ even as the National Tuberculosis assothis simple device there are still ciation opened its annual drive for funds to continue work in the pre- best. vention and cure of this dread dis-

The idea of the sale of seals to aid the fight against tuberculosis originated in Denmark in 1903. The follow-

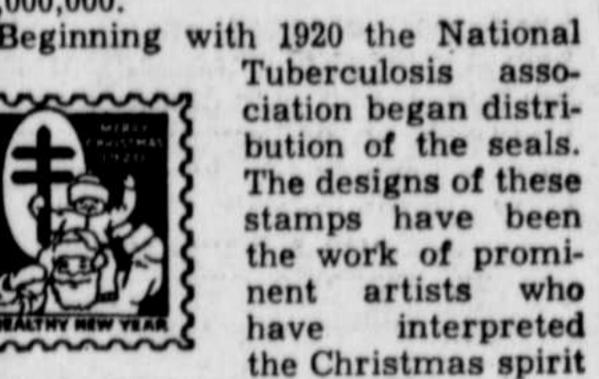
ing year the first seals were sold. The idea gained almost immediate popularity and soon spread to neighboring coun-

Christmas seals appeared in the money

1907 when Miss Em-Red Cross chapter

Cross adopted the idea and conducted a nation-wide campaign. From then until 1919 the Red Cross continued the annual Christmas Seal distribution. In their last year the

Beginning with 1920 the National Tuberculosis asso-



each in his own way. In addition to the United States approximately 40 other countries have adopted the Christmas seal for raising anti-tuberculosis funds.

### Post Office Auctions Gifts 'Lost' in Mails

Uncle Sam will soon make profits by selling Christmas presents sent through the mails, but he would much rather deliver them-and he would, if he knew where they were supposed to go.

American people are so rich and in such a hurry that they don't even take the pains to see that their gifts sent by mail are properly wrapped and addressed. Of course, all are not careless about it, but the post-Santa Claus will get a big sur- men do have a hard time during

Extra mail clerks receive millions properly addressed packages. Many thousands of Christmas gifts will be sold because they contain no clew concerning their sender or the intended destination. The "unaddressed" department of the inquiry Holly has become closely associ- section of the post office in large

Some gifts cannot be held long, Some claim that holly, with its such as alligators from Florida, live decorations was handed down by efforts have been exhausted, the unthe pagans. The Romans dedicat- identified and unclaimed packages

Wrong Use The name Kriss Kringle is someprotect themselves from prosecu- Santa Claus. Kriss Kringle is a cortion, they decorated their homes ruption of the German Christ-kindel, the Christ-child.

Mountain Beauty

Christmas in the Swiss mountains mirable first aid to the Christmas is full of scenic enchantment and spirit. They usher the holiday feel- poetry. Every hamlet and every belief in Santa Claus we all need white, with its fleckless beauty still so much. So hang the house with accentuated by the sapphire blue

> Tip on Toys To be in demand, toys should be

Linoleum floors can fresh and bright with regular coats of varnish. Moreover, varnishing much-used linoleum about twice a year preserves the colors and prevents the grinding in of

A drop of perfume on an electric light bulb will scent the whole

Casserole dishes made of meat, vegetables or fish can be cooked in the morning and reheated just before they are to be served.

Potatoes bake more quickly if placed on the broiler instead of the floor of the gas oven, and the flavor will be much improved by quick baking.

Remove the little black line in shrimps before using them. The line is the intestinal tract.

Dry atmosphere and high temperature are the two biggest difficulties in growing house plants Unless you have a good heating system, which gives you airconditioning, it's necessary to put evaporating pans on the radiators house, so that plants will do their

Toasted nuts are very good served on ice-cream sundaes. puddings or frozen desserts. Try toasted almonds or cashews with chocolate mint sauce on vanilla ice cream.

# DEPARTMENT

**NUTS WANTED** 

NUTS SHELLED PECAN HALVES 330 Above prices are for delivery in St. Louis MOUND CITY NUT CO., 7th & Biddle Sts., St. Louis

### Complete Life

In the mind of him who is pure and good will be found neither corruption nor defilement nor any malignant taint. Unlike the actor who leaves the stage before his part is played, the life of such a man is complete whenever death may come. He is neither cowardly nor presuming; not enslaved to life nor indifferent to its duties; and in him is found nothing worthy of condemnation nor that which putteth to shame. -Marcus Aurelius.

## "MIDDLE-AGE" HEED THIS ADVICE!!

If you're cross, restless, nervous -suffer hot flashes, dizzinesscaused by this period in a woman's life — try Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Made especially for women. Helps to relieve distress due to this functional disturbance. Thousands upon thousands of women report remarkable benefits, Follow label directions.

Backed by Pride Too rigid scruples are concealed pride.-Goethe.

## Miserable

W/HEN kidneys function badly and Wyou suffer a nagging backache, with dizziness, burning, scanty or too frequent urination and getting up a night; when you feel tired, nervous, all upset . . . use Doan's Pills,

Doan's are especially for poorly working kidneys. Millions of boxes are used every year. They are recommended the country over. Ask your

### All the Traffic Would Bear"

• There was a time in America when there were no set prices. Each merchant charged what he thought "the traffic would bear." Advertising came to the rescue of the consumer. It led the way to the established prices you pay when you buy anything today.