

"THE PHANTOM EMPIRE"

Fictinized by David Fluurnoy

From the MASCOT Motion Picture Serial
In Twelve Thrilling Chapters — Episode No. 4

"THE PHANTOM BROADCAST"

Synopsis: A gang of crooks frame Gene Autry, young rancher in a murder. Fleeing from them and the sheriff, he plunges over an embankment in a brakeless car.

As the car plunged madly toward the gorge below Gene saw a horseman loom alongside, an arm outstretched to save him.

Leaping to the horse's back in time to prevent himself from being catapulted into the ravine, he discovered that his rescuer was Frankie Baxter.

Frankie stopped his mount and Gene saw that a crowd of youngsters had arrived on horseback—Frankie's Junior Thunder Riders Club. With them was faithful Pico, Gene's own horse.

"Back to the ranch!" Gene ordered. "I've got to make that two o'clock broadcast or lose the radio contract."

"But," Betsy Baxter objected, "Prof. Beetson will call the Sheriff and they'll put you in jail."

Gene stopped, puzzled, but only for a moment.

"I'll hide in the barn behind the ranch house," he said. "Frankie can run a wire there from his secret laboratory and I'll make the broadcast by remote control. Will you kids help?"

"Sure we will!" chorused the Junior Thunder Riders.

The whole group wheeled and galloped back toward Radio Ranch.

Meanwhile the Sheriff dashed up to the scene of the flaming wreck which Gene Autry had quit just in time.

"Reckon he's dead," said the Sheriff. "Better go to town and fetch the Coroner."

Meanwhile these momentous happenings were being angrily watched by unseen eyes—glittering, cruel eyes peering into a miraculous television screen, 20,000 feet beneath the earth! In Murania, the lost nation at the foot of the gigantic elevator shaft underlying Radio Ranch, the devilish chancellor Argo was plotting to wrest control of the rich Phantom Empire from its beautiful but ruthless queen, Tika.

"First I must destroy Radio Ranch and all the earth-men upon it," he mused. "Then the entrance to Murania will remain secret."

Argo strode into the armament chamber. Its glistening metal walls were lined with flame guns, death ray tubes, poisoned swords, instruments of death as yet unknown to earthly science. In the midst of his deadly utensils stood Suma, Chief Armorer, a giant of a man clad in gleaming mail like a Roman warrior of old.

As Argo entered the chamber, filled like all Murania with a ghastly blue light, Queen Tika approached down the opposite corridor.

"Suma," ordered Argo, "project an aerial torpedo at once and destroy Radio Ranch!"

"Stop!" It was the Queen. "No one gives orders here but I!"

"Is your Majesty then going to spare this Gene Autry?" Argo demanded, craftily concealing his anger. "Perhaps you admire his skill and daring?"

Without even deigning to reply, Queen Tika swept away. Argo muttered a curse after her, biding his time until he could strike.

Little dreaming of his narrow escape from Argo's torpedo, Gene Autry was concealed, meanwhile, in the barn at his beloved ranch. Pete and Oscar, his two comic but faithful cowhands, had driven him in with a load of hay. It was two o'clock and the daily broadcast had already begun.

"Gene's lost his radio contract," observed a "dude" guest.

"Doesn't matter to him," said another, "he was in that car that went over the cliff!"

But suddenly they stared amazed at the radio loudspeaker. Surely that was Gene Autry's golden voice, singing one of his own inimitable cowboy songs!

Sinister Prof. Beetson seized the arm of his co-conspirator, Dr. Saunders: "I thought we'd got rid of Autry. He must be hidden somewhere here."

"Then he'll find out we framed him in Baxter's murder," muttered the mad doctor.

"Not if we find him first!" and Beetson fingered his gun.

Suddenly he discovered the wire leading to Gene's hidden microphone in the barn. As the two followed it up, Frankie and Betsy saw them. They began evacuating the laboratory, not realizing that a trail of deadly gunpowder trailed behind them from a sack Frankie carried.

Hiding with Gene in a secret tunnel, they believed themselves safe, but Beetson, now in Frankie's deserted laboratory, dropped a match. Instantly the flame licked along the powder trail toward the hidden trio.

"We're trapped!" Gene shouted.

Betsy screamed. Then all three were blotted from sight by the terrific, shattering explosion!

(Did these three die? Read this newspaper next week.)

Speaking of the Forgotten Man, the depression doesn't seem to have forgotten anybody.

LEGISLATURE

Weekly Happenings In North Carolina General Assembly

By M. L. SHIPMAN

BARACA-PHILATHEA CONVENTION

The Franklin County Baraca-Philathea Convention met with the classes at White Level Baptist Church May 5th, 1935. The morning session began with the audience singing "Loyalty to Christ." G. A. Nelms, of White Level conducted the devotional, using as a scripture lesson Psalm III. In this lesson it was made very clear that there is plenty of work to be done by all Baraca-Philatheas classes. The words of welcome were graciously extended to all by Mr. P. B. Murphy, of White Level, and Mr. A. J. Joyner of Sandy Creek responded; next was the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, and the roll call of the classes.

The Durham Quartette furnished special music throughout the day.

Mr. Hubert May, of Nashville gave a very interesting and helpful talk on "The Value of Sunday School for Young People." He stated that about ninety per cent of the young people who go to church today are non-church goers. Sunday school is the best place for training people. It helps to develop a character of truthfulness and honesty, a character which will stand out in life.

The Durham Quartette rendered another selection, and then we were invited to a bountiful lunch.

The afternoon session began with the audience singing, "Send the Light."

Rev. F. G. Walker, of Castalia then introduced for speaker Rev. L. B. Reavis, of Henderson.

The topic used was "The Business of Living." Not only should Baracas-Philatheas have heard this talk but every worker of the church and Sunday school. He said, "the supreme need of today was to teach people to live for Christ."

The report of the nominating committees were as follows: Pres. P. B. Murphy, of White Level, Vice-Pres. Willard White, of Bunn, Sec'y. Mrs. Willis Gupton, of Sandy Creek, Asst. Sec'y. Lola Leanard of Sandy Creek. Program committees, Mrs. Herman Dickens, of White Level, Mrs. N. H. Griffin, of Centerville, and G. A. Nelms, of White Level.

The following classes were awarded banners: White Level Sr. Baraca; White Level Sr. Philathea; Bunn Jr. Baraca; Sandy Creek Jr. Philathea.

The next convention will meet at Sandy Creek Baptist Church the first Sunday in November.

LOUISBURG GOLFERS DEFEATED BY OXFORD

Oxford golfers came through with a smashing victory in a tournament with Louisburg on the latter's home course Wednesday afternoon, May 8th.

Twenty-five players from Oxford participated in the contest, the final score being 39-28. Individual scores were not available.

The Code
Waiter: "I'm afraid we can't cash a check, sir. You see, we've a little agreement with the banks that we cash no checks; and they serve no soup."

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Raleigh, May 13.—The Legislature of 1935 goes down into history as one that marched up the hill and then marched down again. It finished in grand style. After marching down the hill on Prohibition, it started marching up again by passing whiskey election laws for seventeen counties. If it had continued in session for another week, it would certainly have retracted this action, for by that time it would have become evident to the legislators that they had done a fool thing by passing acts plainly unconstitutional. Nobody expects any elections to be held in seventeen counties or in one county. Injunctions will certainly be secured. There is not the slightest doubt that the acts conferring liquor upon certain counties are unconstitutional, according to lawyers well acquainted with the law.

The Legislature marched up the hill and then down again on the revenue act with the result that it finally enacted the bill first presented to it by the revenue commissioner and the budget director. There was one important change, the amount diverted from the State highway fund was increased from one million to one and three-quarter millions, but that was not done until Washington said that would be all right. Both houses marched up the hill and down again on the rate of the sales tax, and also on exempting foods from the sales taxes, but the final bill emerged as the Administration had planned. The net result was that the Legislature spent between three and four months getting acquainted with the bill, and then agreeing with what had been presented to it. This was in accord with what experienced legislators said they would have done, and all goes to show just how little a new member of the Legislature knows. It takes him three months to find out that he doesn't know so much.

The Legislature of 1935 could generally be counted upon to turn down any legislation that threatened any serious change in the general set up in the state. It was thumbs down on absentee ballot reform, even after the State Board of Elections urged it, and after the scandals revealed last summer. The Legislature would have none of it nor would it sponsor the Federal child labor amendment, giving Congress the right to regulate child labor.

The Legislature did make a show of doing something about making the highways safer for travel by passing a law requiring drivers to be licensed after July 1st. It is generally agreed that such a law is only helpful to the degree that it is enforced, and that it cannot be enforced without support of public sentiment. The Legislature increased the number of the State highway patrol, and this will be helpful in enforcing the new law, but there are far too few patrolmen, even with the new set up, to provide effective enforcement unless public opinion demands it.

Cities and towns had been complaining that they had to keep up streets that were worn out by traffic over State highways from which they received no revenue, not even the tax from the gasoline consumed, as did the State highway fund. The Legislature had a heart, and provided a million dollars for the upkeep of municipal streets. This was necessary because the condition of many city streets is so bad that it is difficult for heavily loaded trucks to negotiate them. It is also a bad advertisement for a town to have its streets advertised to the world as being sordier than the State highways.

Governor Ehringhaus is being praised for having secured a major portion of his recommendations. He did get the major portion of them, but he beat a strategic retreat on some of the more important, such as the child labor amendment, with the result that it was defeated. The same was true with reference to absentee ballots, but he is happy enough over the accomplishment, even if the Legislature did leave him with a mess on his hands in the way of hodge-podge prohibition legislation, legalizing wines without providing any funds, this law being passed in this form largely to prevent it having to be put on three separate readings in each house. The Governor kept himself in the background until the last minute and then his appearance was ineffective, as the Legislature was in a hurry to go home, and left the liquor laws in a mess.

The Legislature did the accustomed thing when it submitted five amendments to the State Constitution. All Legislatures do something of the sort. An old friend appeared in the amendment to permit classification of property for taxation purposes. Another was the amendment to permit State income taxes as high as 10 per cent. Still another is one to permit an increase in the num-

ber of Supreme Court judges. A new one would permit the Legislature to exempt homesteads from taxation up to \$1,000.

While the Legislature was generally averse to any changes, it made an exception in the case of substitution of lethal gas for the electric chair. This was largely a compliment to a Mitchell county Republican, Dr. C. A. Peterson, but also due in part to the fact that the State had to provide another chair, and it is cheaper to build a death house for lethal gas than an electric chair, particularly since the State now executes two and three at a time, in many instances. At any rate, there is the new method. North Carolina taking its place as the first State in the East to enact such a law.

Probably the Legislature will be longest remembered in history for having made more liberal provisions for the schools. This was as imperative, for the teachers were deserting the schools like rats desert a sinking ship. Their reserve capital gone, teachers could not live on the salaries being paid, if they maintained the standard of living that the patrons demanded. The same went for other State employes, so the Legislature boosted salaries some, and made other increases in appropriations, the total for the next biennium being \$64,681,000 as compared with \$49,839,000 provided by the last Legislature. That is quite an increase, and is probably the biggest achievement of the Legislature.

The Legislature of 1935 was unique in the fact that it produced one definite announcement for the Governor. Lieut. Gov. "Sandy" Graham broke a precedent by announcing his candidacy to the State Senate. He had an eye out for the publicity. He got ten times as much notice that way than he could have gotten any other way. He stole the show, as the newspaper boys say, for the announcement was made at a "love feast," when presents are given attaches of the Legislature. It made all the headlines in the papers the next morning and put "Sandy" in the running in a big way. His supporters are jubilant over the fact that "Farmer Bob" isn't running.

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They profess not to be worried about Clyde Hoy.

"Sandy" Graham is frankly trying a Bob Reynolds. It will never be known whether or not it was Bob Reynolds' championship of the repeal of the eighteenth amendment or the anger of the voters towards Cameron Morrison that brought about his election, but there is no doubt that "Sandy" Graham has groomed himself as the "Wet" candidate in the next campaign.

COLORED WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The colored welfare meeting will be held Sunday, May 19th, 3:30 o'clock in the court house, colored people all over the county are urged to attend, white friends are cordially invited to be present. There will be an address by a good speaker, Music will be a special feature. Several choirs will sing.

George Pollard, Chairman.
Ellen S. Alston, Sec'y.

Nobody's pleasanter to do business with than the man who doesn't intend to pay.

A net profit of \$38 a head over feed cost is reported by C. A. Brown of Cleveland, Rowan County, who has fed and sold one lot of 50 steers.

Small grain and hay crops in Lincoln County gives promise of bumper yields, reports the farm agent.

FOR SALE—A Harley-Davidson Motorcycle in good condition—\$50.00. J. E. (Sue) Perry Jr. 5-17-11.

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One of the chief causes of premature grayness, falling hair and ultimate baldness is lack of circulation in the scalp. To overcome this and bring an abundant supply of blood to nourish the hair roots, massage scalp at night with Japanese Oil, the anti-static counter-irritant.

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