

ANNIE ROONEY

by BRANDON WALSH

HONEST, ZERO - SOMETIMES FOLKS THINK THEY'RE AWFUL LUCKY WHEN THEY AIN'T LUCKY AT ALL... LAST SUNDAY WHEN WE FOUND THAT GREAT, BIG DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING - I SAID, "GEE! WE'RE LUCKY!"

AN' RIGHT AWAY TROUBLE STARTED! FREDDIE... THAT BIG BOY... WANTED TO TAKE THE RING AWAY FROM ME AN' I HAD TROUBLE... BUT MR. MARTIN SAW FREDDIE HURTING MY HAND... THEN FREDDIE HAD TROUBLE

MR. MARTIN TOOK THE RING TO KEEP IT SAFE FOR THE OWNER - AN' MR. AND MRS. MARTIN HAS ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE EVERY DAY ABOUT THE RING. THE DOOR-BELL AN' 'PHONE KEEPS RINGIN' ALL THE TIME. LETTERS AN' TELEGRAMS KEEP COMIN' FROM PEOPLE WHO LOST A RING!

THE FIRST NIGHT AFTER WE FOUND THE RING - SOME BAD PERSON TRIED TO BREAK INTO THE HOUSE AN' STEAL THE RING - BUT MRS. MARTIN HEARD HIM AN' GOT A SHOT-GUN AN' HE RAN AWAY!

DON'T WORRY ANY MORE ABOUT THAT RING, DEAR - YOU HAVE IT SAFE IN THE BANK VAULT... JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!

FORGET ABOUT IT? I'LL BE A NERVOUS WRECK BEFORE I GET RID OF THAT CONFOUNDED RING!

LOST RING OWNERS - FOOLS - SWINDLERS - HOUND ME DAY AND NIGHT. THEY'RE DRIVING ME... THERE GOES THE GOSH BLAMED 'PHONE AGAIN!!

MR. MARTIN SPEAKING - THAT'S RIGHT - YES - YES - THAT'S CORRECT - JUST A MINUTE - WERE THERE ANY MARKS? INITIALS OR INSCRIPTION ON THE RING?

I'M SO GLAD FOR OUR SAKES THE REAL OWNER IS FOUND! WAS THERE ANYTHING SAID ABOUT A REWARD?

REWARD?! THE CAVALRY ARRIVES IN THE NICK O' TIME TO SAVE US FROM THE RED-SKINS AND YOU TALK ABOUT REWARD! I'LL GLADLY PAY THEM TO TAKE THAT DARN RING OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER!

REMEMBER, YOUNG LADY - IF YOU EVER DARE TO FIND ANOTHER LOST DIAMOND RING - A GOLD MINE OR A MILLION DOLLARS - I'LL TAKE YOU AND I'LL SHAKE YOU AND THEN I'LL DRAG YOU AWAY TO THE ISLAND OF BORNEO AND SHOW YOU TO THE CANNIBALS!!