

## *Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return*

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert*

*(In last month's episode, "Tacoma Tim" gave a cocky Frisco Eddie a few lessons when Eddie challenged him on his own board. They headed for dinner, which Eddie would pay for with his loss, but they're being followed....)*

There was a lot of laughing and joking going on in the car as they were driving along to the steak house. It was only after a mile or so, and several turns, that Tim began to notice the headlights behind them. He began to get suspicious as the lights were still locked on them after each turn.

He mentioned to Lil: "You know, I may be crazy, but I think it's possible that we're being followed." They drove on for a while longer as Lil checked it out. She said: "It sure does seem that way. We'll have to keep an eye out and watch our backs. That crazy Dollar Dan from Texas may be following up on his threats. My ex-husband said he'd take care of things, but who knows -- something may have slipped through the cracks."

Tim suggested that they just continue on as planned as they were almost to the restaurant anyway, and just see what happens. He doubted that even if they were being tailed, that whoever it was would try something in a public place. They pulled up in front of the steak house then and quickly got out of the car. As they entered the front door, Tim said: "I think I noticed the car behind pull up about a half-block from here. This whole thing is getting a little fishy."

Tim was well-known at the restaurant and he asked for a table that would give them a view of the front entrance. He knew many of the people who frequented the place and there were a lot of "hi's" and "hello's" as they worked their way to their seats. The waitress came up then and asked what they would like to drink. They all responded: "Coffee, please." They all knew it was time to sober up and start analyzing the situation they were in -- if, indeed, there was a situation.

The waitress returned with a whole pot of steaming coffee. They had looked over the menu while she was gone, so she took their order. They had decided to begin with a fresh vegetable and fruit tray and, on Tim's suggestion, the french onion soup. They each ordered steaks as well.

While they were waiting, they started to try to put some of the pieces of the puzzle together. Lil said: "You know, it wouldn't have been very hard for Dollar Dan to arrange for one of his associates to be standing by at Sea/Tac Airport. He knew exactly what flight we were on, and it's possible we may have picked up our tail right there."

Tim knew Lil's ex-husband, Tony Russo, and he commented to Lil: "You said you were still on good terms with Tony; are you sure about that?" Lil replied: "No sweat, I'm positive about that. He said he would 'fix' this thing and not to worry. There just must have been a slip-up."

The food began to arrive then and that temporarily shifted the focus. There was a fine assortment of various prepared fresh fruit, and several different kinds of fresh vegetables on a large platter. The french onion soup was delicious. It was thick with onions in a rich stock, with a very tasty white cheese melted on top. The hot french bread was also excellent -- crispy on the outside and very chewy on the inside. The conversation slowed somewhat as they all dug in.

In the next course, the steaks arrived. Tim had the fillet, Lil the New York cut, and Eddie had opted for the porterhouse. They were all prime cuts, and came smothered with sauteed fresh mushrooms. The baked potatoes were giant and topped with butter, sour cream and chives. There was also fresh blanched asparagus tips topped with a creamy garlic sauce. They were served a small bowl of steaming au jus, and one of butter sauteed onions on the side as well.

They were totally engrossed now with the food. It was fabulous! The steaks almost melted in their mouths. Eddie (rather loudly) made a comment then: "Man, this stuff is so good, it tastes just like 'an angel kissing your tongue!'" The people all around them had a good laugh at that.

After they had eaten as much as they could possibly hold, they left and got in the car and headed back for the house. Sure enough, the headlights once again showed up in the distance behind them! Tim was getting angry now. He said he was fed up with this ordeal and that he had a plan.

After they arrived home, Tim told them: "Here's what's going down, guys. We're going to go into the house and I'm going to grab one of my rifles. I saw where those lights turned off and I know exactly how to sneak around behind and get the drop on this guy. What I want you two to do is kind of stand partially in the doorway in the light and pretend that all three of us are talking together."

Over some objections, they agreed to the plan. Tim snuck out the back way of the house then. It was very dark, as there were no street lights this far off the main highway. He maneuvered through the trees that lined the road and, sure enough, about a half-block down, he saw the car.