

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Eddie was at the airport just about to take the next flight home when he remembered that he still had the \$10,000 that he and Lil had won in Texas....)

Eddie's arms were folded over his brief case; and inside the case was the \$10,000 that he and Lil had won in Texas from Dollar Dan--the Money Man.

He had backed away from the ticket counter and was sitting in the waiting area. His brain was whirling as he tried to figure out exactly what his next move would be.

He thought for a long time, and then came to his decision. He got up from the bench (with his bag in hand) and started to make his way to the arriving flight area. He knew he wouldn't have to wait long for a cab there.

He exited the door and entered the crisp, clean, late evening air. As he hailed a cab, he was thinking about how beautiful this part of the country was. He didn't have to wait but a half a minute and his ride was there. He gave the driver a rough description of where they were going as he got into the back seat of the cab.

Eddie explained to the driver that he would have to wait a short time at their destination and then take him back to the airport. The cabbie replied: "That's fine with me, mister, but I'll have to keep the meter running." Eddie said: "No sweat," and they were underway.

A lot of possibilities were going through Eddie's mind now. He had been at the airport long enough that, if it was Lil's intention, she had plenty of time to track him down there. The rare prospect that Lil hadn't thought about the \$10,000 also existed. However, he didn't place much weight on that theory.

He selected his strategy. He would go to the door, face Lil and explain that it was never his plan to make off with the money. They would split the cash up fair -- and then he would leave and return to the airport.

They had made their way out of the city now and were in Puyallup. By coincidence, the driver took them past the steak house where they had eaten earlier. His mouth began to water as he thought of the juicy steak he had there. He surmised that if it hadn't been for the unpleasantness of the "hustle" part of the deal (among other things), this could have been a pretty pleasant trip.

They were nearing Tim's house now and he gave the driver the rest of the instructions on how to get there. His anxiety level rose slightly as they approached the house. He noticed that Tim's van was still parked outside. He also noticed that there were some lights on in the front of the house.

He again reminded the driver to wait and said that he

wouldn't be long. As he approached the door, he wondered what kind of reception he would get. He said to himself: "the hell with it," and knocked on the door.

Almost immediately Lil opened the door. She looked into Eddie's eyes and said: "Well, now, it's nice to have you back, stranger. Come on in!"

After Eddie entered, he said: "I'm not BACK, Lil. I'm here 'cause I have the \$10,000 and we need to split it up. I'm on my way after that. You must have forgotten about the money."

Lil replied: "No, Eddie, I knew you had it when you walked out of here. I also know what kind of man you are. I was never worried about the money."

Eddie asked where Tim was as he was taking the money out of his travel bag. Lil told him that he'd gone to bed. He'd said he had enough of the whole deal.

Eddie placed the money on the coffee table and said: "There it is. You split it up however you want and I'll be on my way. I turned in the rental car and have a cab waiting outside."

The money was divided by Lil into two \$5,000 bundles. She picked one of them up and handed it to Eddie. He said: "This isn't quite fair. You paid almost all of the expenses, Lil." Lil replied: "But you did most of the work, remember? Nothing would have worked out if you hadn't been there."

Eddie took the money and placed it in his bag. Then he started for the door. Just as his hand touched the knob, Lil said: "Wait! Wait, Eddie." She came to him and before he knew it, she had her arms around his neck and she gave him a long, passionate kiss. She whispered in his ear in a low, desperate voice as her grip tightened: "We made some mistakes, but we can play it clean and honest from here on out. I can't go on without you, Eddie...I need you! Please stay, please!"

After she let him go, Eddie looked at her face. There were tears in her eyes -- they looked like real tears, and Eddie was sure the pained expression on her face was also for real. Behind her tears, she said: "You can leave or stay. I won't try to stop you, Eddie, but remember this...I'll always need you, and want you."

Eddie turned then and opened the door. He closed it on his way out. As he was approaching the cab, his mind was totally "jacked-up" and his heart was pounding. Should he get in the cab and go? Or pay off the driver and return to Lil?

He opened the front passenger side of the cab and placed his travel bag on the seat. He hesitated for a moment and then told the driver: "I want to...."

--TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH--