

Floyd Gibbons'

ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



"The Babe in the Blazing House"

HELLO EVERYBODY: These adventures provide a cross-section of life, and if they didn't show its grimmer side occasionally, they wouldn't show a faithful picture. That's why I chose for this time a story I found unusually gripping because it demonstrates so clearly how close we may be at any time to tragedy. Mary Ann Grob of New York City who tells this adventure, was only a child of nine when it happened, and this, for me, added particular poignancy to the tale.

Imagine running back into a blazing house to rescue your eight-months-old baby brother only to find the smoke so dense you couldn't see what you were doing.

That's what happened to Mary. The time was the fall of 1921, around September, and at that time Mary's father and mother and Mary's three brothers lived in Thayer, a small mining town in the lower part of West Virginia.

Thayer is a valley, situated between two large hills. To get out of the valley, Mary tells us, you had to ride on a sort of incline. It was a box-shaped affair, the car, let up and down the side of the hill by means of a cable.

On this fateful morning Mary's mother and dad had to go to town, where mother was going to have her teeth fixed. Before she left she called Mary, who was the eldest child, aside and warned her to watch the three younger children, her brothers, while her parents were away. Mary had occasion later, as you will see, to recall that warning.

Of the three John was the oldest brother, then came six-year-old Pete, and last of all little Eddie, who could show only a scant eight months. Mary had her hands full keeping them all out of mischief, and when night began to fall she began to glance nervously out the window, wondering why mother and dad didn't come. The younger children grew frightened with the approach of darkness, and, at their urging, not to mention her own uneasiness, Mary finally bolted all the doors and windows.

Children Were Locked Inside House.

To set the scene for this story it is necessary to explain that next to the house they had a little wash-house, where Mary's dad used to wash when he came home from work. This wash-house had a little coal stove in it. On this particular afternoon the stove was lighted, but with the children locked inside the house there was no one to tend it or check the dampers.

And so it came to pass that as the children sat huddled in the darkness, queer red shadows, ghostly and lengthening, began to dance on the walls of the children's room. Alarmed, the children began to whimper, and at length, unable to stand the strain any longer, Mary went to



"In the black pall she stumbled against something—the crib—she thought."

the window and looked out to see what was causing the strange play of lights on the wall. Then she understood—the wash-house was on fire! Remember, this was no grown-up. This was a nine-year-old child with the care and responsibility of three younger brothers on her shoulders. And now, as the fire spread to the main house, igniting the old, dry wood like tinder, the children fled from the blazing wall into the open air, Mary as scared as any.

This will explain, perhaps, how it happened that on looking around, they discovered that eight-month-old Eddie was missing.

Mary, who was frantic by this time, berated John for leaving the baby behind, as she had understood he had taken Eddie from his crib while she was looking after getting Pete out. But John protested that he had thought Mary was taking Eddie, and so hadn't bothered to go after him.

Meanwhile, inside the burning house, little Eddie lay asleep in his crib. The thought of her beloved little brother in that blazing inferno was too much for Mary. With no sager heads to dissuade her, she rushed back inside the burning house, groped her way through dark, smoke-filled halls to the room where the baby lay asleep.

Smoke Was So Thick She Could Hardly See.

By this time, Mary says, the smoke was getting so thick that she could hardly see. Reaching the bedroom she found herself in the center of a dense, rolling fog, choking her, blinding her so that she could not see her hand before her face. Heat seared her eyeballs, tore at her air-famished lungs. But the nine-year-old girl had made a promise—a promise to a mother who trusted her to care for the younger ones. Mary could hear her mother's last words echoing in her ears as she groped her way to where she thought the crib should be. "Look after them while I'm gone, Mary. I'm trusting you."

The flames were searing hot now, but Mary had but one thought: She must get Eddie out. In the black pall she stumbled against something—"the crib"—she thought. Hurriedly she reached down, grabbed what she thought to be Eddie and almost delirious now with the desire to escape from those hungry flames she rushed out of the house into the open air.

Outside, safe under the open sky again, she thought of the bundle in her arms. In the smoke-suffused house, Mary says herself, "I did not know for sure whether I had him or not." Now, obsessed by a horrible premonition of possible disaster she dared not put into words, she forced herself to look down.

When you contemplate how easy it would be for a nearly hysterical child of Mary's age to mistake her precious burden in a fog of rolling smoke, you will understand how close is the line between happiness and tragedy. For had Mary's eyes met, not what they did see, but something else, this story would not have the happy ending it now has. Yes, it was Eddie, crying for all he was worth. And was Mary glad? You answer that one. I'll just go on to add that when Mary's mother and dad got home all that was left of the house was the standing chimney. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Arctic Natives Learn Jitterbug Dances

Up under the northern lights of the eastern Arctic, in the vicinity of Churchill, medicine men of Eskimo tribes are in a rage, and waiting for a return to old traditions. The ancient ceremonial dances are giving way to the antics of the modern jitterbug.

The annual excursion dance this year at the Hudson bay port saw scores of swarthy Eskimos eagerly learning the latest terpsichorean products of civilization, while the oldsters glowered in the background. Very unseemly, they said. No dignity at all. The highlight of the social season,

the dance was held in the railway freight sheds. From all directions came all kinds of people. Cree and Chippewayan Indians, Eskimos, trappers, Hudson bay men and their wives, railroad workers and sailors from the ships waiting to take out the grain, all came. So hot was the pace that the local orchestra was forced to work in two shifts. Between dances incidental music was furnished by the howling and growling of dogs outside the dance hall. Attending were 90 American tourists, some from as far south as Texas and southern California.

Make Everything of Chic Wool: Hats, Bags, Evening Clothes

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



DAYTIME suits, dresses and coats made of handsome wool fabric are taken for granted, but hats, handbags, gloves and even footwear fashioned of intriguing wool materials is real news. Shoes with plaid wool spat tops is the school girl's pride this season.

Then there is this matter of evening clothes, the swank idea is to make the long evening coat of handsome wool. Young girls adore the floor-length coats tailored of bright red tweed or duvetyne, quite unfurled but fastening with jewel or military brass buttons. Coats and capes of handsome tweed in rich blackberry tones make appeal to the more mature.

A dinner gown of a luxurious wool is considered "tops." See the stunning dinner costume to the left in the picture. It is fashioned of red wool in that the vogue for red is outstanding this season. The dress has an enormously full skirt with front shirrings, slit pockets and a gold kid belt. The short snug jacket has unusual buttons of clusters of gold colored beads with chain attachment. A two-strand gold beaded necklace, gold earrings and bracelets are smart jewel accessories.

The sophisticated young woman to the right in the group is obviously very wool-conscious in that her swank jacket, blouse and skirt, her hat and her handbag are made of high-style wool weaves. Her stylish hat is of fine wool jersey. It has the very new full draped snood. The over-arm bag has a strap and trimming of wool felt appliqued with tiny multicolored wool discs. Novelty of wool such as ensembled in this costume, made of gay woolsens are everywhere present in the style parade.

One of America's foremost mil-

liners designed the dinner hat shown in the inset below to the right of sheer wool. It is sprinkled with sequins and boasts of a snood (most hats have either snoods or bustle backs) made of soft feathers.

The stunning dress which you see centered in the picture is styled of a sheer wool in the now-so-fashionable grape color. It has the very new and important bustle effect. Rows of shirring make the detail at the neckline. A huge velvet ribbon bow animates her tiny felt pill-box chapeau.

New textures, many of which are sheer and dainty as chiffon, make wool an all-year-round fabric that tunes to occasion perfectly. Then, too, the fascinating color range provided in modern wools has a lot to do with wool's popularity. New "old" fabrics like melton, duvetyne, broadcloth, flannel, serge, wool bengaline and ottoman vie with really new weaves in sheer woolsens. Even tweeds are much lighter in weight than they used to be.

Among new finds in the wool fabric realm, one of the most appealing types is that of printed wools, some of them done in hand-blocked gorgeous florals, others in conventional sports motifs. Metal-touched wools answer the call for fabric elegance also. These are effective for handsome evening jackets. Jackets of pastel wool, either sequin embroidered or needle-worked with yarn or chenille, are worn with flaring skirts of crepe or velvet. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Town Coat



Your black town coat, if trimmed with brown fur, will credit you as among the best dressed. The type pictured has a detachable fur plastron with softly flaring revers in the brown fur. It goes without saying that with this smart black-with-brown coat there must be a plentiful gleaming of gold jewelry. In this instance milady responds to the call by wearing effective two-tone gold hoop earrings and pin together with a striking wide gold link bracelet. Hat and bag are suede.

Linen Blouses Are Latest for Autumn

Linen is the news in the blouse department this season. Some of the best custom designers have experimented very successfully with the heavy, rougher linens in rich fall colors. But if you want a linen blouse, chances are you'll have to find it made up, because you won't have many well-tailored plain ones offered on the market.

Gloves for the dressier suits should be three-quarter length. And unless you plan to put a lot of money into gloves you'll match your suit—rather than your blouse or hat. If they're in a contrasting color.

Flair for Fringe Is Style Message

Again a revival of fringe is foreseen. Very new evening dresses are enhanced with rows of fringe detailing sleeves and neckline. Also smart shops are showing both blouses and jackets that make fringe their theme.

Long fringed tassel ends finish off the streamer ends of the girdles. With evening fringe-covered jackets tiny muffs also fringe-covered will be carried.

Simple Styles in Shoes Is Favored

Now that designers of shoes have turned their thoughts in the direction of simplicity in styling and are working out the idea of lower heels, there is prospect of wearied woman enjoying style plus comfort in the new footwear. The outlook is also for some very intriguing shoe fashions that make the approach to low heels in strikingly clever ways.

Highlights Burnt Sugar

A brown which approximates the shade of burnt sugar is highlighted this autumn.

FARM TOPICS

PLANT DISEASE EASILY SPREAD

Insects Are Found to Be Chief Carrier Agents.

B. C. W. HUNGERFORD

How are plant diseases spread? There is little mystery in the answer to that question, though plant scientists, entomologists, and others are constantly adding to our knowledge of the subject. Man, domestic animals, rodents, slugs, snails, birds, insects, wind and water are among the more common agencies that spread plant diseases. Insects are the most important spreaders of certain types of diseases, according to the results of tests conducted at the Idaho college of agriculture.

Perhaps you have wondered just what causes plant diseases. Plant diseases have about the same causes as diseases of animals and humans. Fungi and bacteria cause many plant diseases. Others are caused by a group of organisms known as viruses, which are too small to be detected with the most powerful microscope.

Wind and rain act as agencies for spreading many plant diseases. In some of the winter wheat growing areas of the country the spores of the stinking ant are blown in such quantities that "smut showers" occur and many thousands of spores fall on every square foot of ground. Birds may also carry fungus spores. In one case a single downy woodpecker was found to be carrying over 750,000 spores of the chestnut blight fungus.

The secret of control for many virus diseases lies in the control of insects, which are the principal means of spreading these diseases in the field. Much can be done to prevent the spread of plant diseases in general by seed treatment and by general sanitary practices around the farm. Burning of diseased plants and disinfection of pruning tools and various containers are examples of proper sanitary practices.

Silt Rate Increases In Historic York River

This historic York river of Virginia is an example of the way in which too much land in clean cultivated crops, and land worn out and abandoned because of too much row cropping, may increase sedimentation in a stream. Sediment has been accumulating in the York river during the last 27 years at a rate five times as great as during the preceding 57-year period, the soil conservation service finds.

Carl Brown, geologist in charge of the studies, says this sedimentation is the result of increased erosion on the slopes draining into the headwaters of the river—slopes on which in recent years there has been an increase in land either in clean-cultivated crops or abandoned because of too much row-crop farming.

A comparison of navigation charts prepared by the coast and geodetic survey indicating water depths on the stream in 1857 and 1911 shows that during that 54-year period approximately 5,600 acre-feet of the soil from the watershed settled as sediment in the York river estuary. Sediment accumulated at the rate of more than 100 acre-feet a year. From 1911 to 1938, when scientists of the service made soundings to determine the extent of accumulation, 15,293 acre-feet—566 acre-feet a year—lodged in the river bed.

In determining the amount and rate of accumulation, the surveyors took water depths at the same points along the river at which measurements were made in 1911.

Low Advertising Costs

Of all commodities retailed in the United States, agricultural equipment bears the lowest advertising expense. In other words, when a farmer buys farm machinery less of his money goes to defray the cost of advertising that commodity than it does in the purchase of many other advertised products. This is the finding of the Twentieth Century fund.

An advertising analysis recently conducted by the fund discloses that out of each dollar spent on farm machinery but 1.6 cents goes to advertising. This compared to 8.2 cents by tobacco manufacturers; 6.7 cents for confectionery and bottled goods; 6.2 cents for groceries; 6.1 for furniture; 4 cents for automobiles; 3.7 for clothing; approximately 3 cents for home furnishings; and 2.2 for hardware.

Agricultural News

Close observers of conditions in the farm implement industry now believe that sales for the year will probably run about 10 per cent under the 1938 dollar totals.

The oldest horse of which England has any record died at the age of 60 years. In this country, so far as we know at the moment, the oldest horse lived to be 52 years old.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



"STURDY and masculine." Also, "Red trimmings, please." That was the order for the bedspread in the combination work-and-play room of a 10-year-old lad. Blue and tan predominated in the room. The clever mother made curtains for the rather large square window; using lunch cloths in these colors—one cloth making a pair of curtains. Blue denim with red gingham bands is suggested for the spread. The diagram may be used as a guide for cutting and making a spread of any 36-inch material for

a bed of any width. The amount of material needed will be three times the full width of the finished spread, plus two inches. Two seams covered by bands run straight across the width of the spread. The two lengthwise bands may be close together or far apart according to the width of the bed. The corners at the foot are cut out as shown. The edges are then pressed to the right side and bands stitched over them.

NOTE: Readers who are now using Sewing Books No. 1, 2 and 3 will be happy to learn that No. 4 is ready for mailing; as well as the 10 cent editions of No. 1, 2 and 3. Mrs. Spears has just made quilt block patterns for three designs selected from her favorite Early American quilts. You may have these patterns FREE with your order for four books. Price of books—10 cents each postpaid. Set of three quilt block patterns without books—10 cents. Send orders to Mrs. Spears, Drawer 10, Bedford Hills, New York.

Keep your body free of accumulated waste, take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. 60 Pellets 30 cents.—Adv.

Life a Pastime

To maintain oneself on this earth is not a hardship but a pastime, if only one will live simply and wisely.—Thoreau.

INDIGESTION

Sensational Relief from Indigestion and One Dose Proves It. If the first dose of this pleasant-tasting little black tablet doesn't bring you the fastest and most complete relief you have experienced send bottle back to us and get DOUBLE MONEY BACK. This Bell-an tablet helps the stomach digest food, you eat the nourishing foods you need. For heartburn, sick headache and upset so often caused by excess stomach acids, helps you feel sour and sick all over—JUST ONE DOSE of Bell-an proves speedy relief. 25c everywhere.

Dangerous Game

But war's a game, which, were their subjects wise, kings would not play at.—Cowper.

CLOTHESPIN NOSE

Sensational extra help for colds—with Luden's 5c. These famous cough drops not only help soothe the throat, but release a menthol vapor—which, with every breath, helps penetrate clogged nasal passages, helps relieve "clothespin nose!"

LUDEN'S 5c

Menthol Cough Drops

Encouragement

Tell a man that he is brave and you help him to become so.—Carlyle.

NEW PACK! YOUNG TENDER



PENNY FOR PENNY YOUR BEST CIGARETTE BUY

By burning 25% slower than the average of the 15 other of the largest-selling brands tested—slower than any of them—CAMELS give a smoking plus equal to

5 EXTRA SMOKES PER PACK!

MORE PLEASURE PER PUFF—MORE PUFFS PER PACK



CAMELS' LONG-BURNING COSTLIER TOBACCOS