

Floyd Gibbons Adventurers' Club

Hello Everybody!



"City of Death"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

ALL during the World war, Anita Johnson of Lynn expected to be blown up by a bomb. In those days she lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia. That, of course, is up Canada way, and from 1914 right through to the Armistice, the folks up there took precautions against air raids and attacks by the Germans. At night, no lights were allowed to face the harbor. The harbor was patrolled by boats day and night.

Anita was just a kid then. She didn't know what all those precautions were for, exactly. But she sort of understood that one day the German airplanes would come flying over the Atlantic and start showing bombs on the city.

But nothing even remotely resembling an air raid happened in Halifax until December 6, 1917. Then something happened that was worse than a hundred air raids.

The Great Halifax Explosion.

You remember what happened then. You remember how two ships collided in the harbor—how one of them was loaded to the gunnels with ammunition that exploded and almost wrecked the whole town.

The great Halifax explosion was one of the notable disasters of the century. And Anita was right where the big blast did some of its worst damage.

Anita was ten years old when it happened, and she was in school when the big French munitions ship let go with a roar that was heard round the world.

"We had just been in our class rooms for five minutes," she says, "when suddenly we heard a series of noises. I remember looking toward a window and thinking that a car must have backed outside. But it didn't take long to find out that it was no car."

What Anita had heard was just a couple of little explosions that set off the big one. The real blast didn't sound like an explosion to her at all.

Teacher Knew What Was Coming.

Anita may have thought those sounds were the backing of a car, but her teacher wasn't fooled. She seemed to sense what was coming and told the children, "Quick! Put your heads down on your desks!"

Those kids did as they were told. Then it came! Not a loud report. Those kids were too near it to hear the blast, for the schoolhouse was on a hill, not five minutes' walk from the harbor. But all of a sudden it seemed as if the whole world were crashing down on them. AND ANITA?

Well, suppose we let her tell you herself how she felt.

"At that age," she says, "my mind was, of course, full of war. I had my own ideas about air raids, so, as my head lay on the desk, my eyes tightly closed I felt myself traveling skyward as I expected a bomb should send me.

"I kept traveling up and up until it seemed there must be something wrong with my means of transportation.

"After all, a bomb could only send me so far, and I should be coming back by now. I was positive I would be killed when I landed, and I could see no reason to prolong the agony, so I decided to investigate.

"I opened my eyes and saw the floor. Now that floor wasn't supposed to have followed me, so I realized that I wasn't up in the air at all.

"I hadn't even moved, AND I COULDN'T MOVE. There were so many things on top of me. I heard some yelling and I yelled too. But that didn't help, any, so I waited."

Most of Them Were Dead or Disabled.

Anita doesn't know how long she waited. Time didn't mean a thing to her. She was so dazed by the shock that she didn't feel any pain.

It wasn't until later that she even realized she was hurt. But she sat at her desk until some soldiers came into the room and pulled her out of it.

"Luckily I was able to walk," she says. "There were only five or six of us who could."

Then Anita started making her way out of the school building. "We managed to climb and crawl over things that blocked the halls," she says. "The stairs were all gone but there was enough debris piled up where they had been to take their place. We slid and crawled down those piles and finally got outside.

"I stayed there at the school for quite a while, too dazed to do anything else. All I could see around me was fire. The soldiers kept bringing other girls out of the school building.

"Some of them were dead. Others so injured that they couldn't be recognized. Other buildings were down all around us.

"It didn't take us long to find out what had happened. After I had been there for ten or fifteen minutes I saw my sister coming out."

Anita Was Covered With Blood.

Anita waited for her sister to come up. But sister walked right up to her—walked right on past her and didn't even notice her.

Anita called to her and she came back. And only then did Anita learn that she was just as unrecognizable as some of those other injured kids she had been pitying.

HER FACE—HER CLOTHING—HER WHOLE BODY—ALL OF THEM WERE COVERED WITH BLOOD.

Together, she and sister started for home. They walked around wreckage, dodged live electric wires and stepped over dead bodies by the score. And when they arrived at their home they found it just another wreck like the schoolhouse and all the other buildings in the neighborhood.

Anita's head was full of bits of glass, but she managed to have it all taken out except for one piece which she says she thinks the doctor left there for a souvenir.

She has a few fancy scars, too, but they're nothing to what she might have had.

"And," she says, "I have still to find out what it feels like to be blown up in the air by a bomb."

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Birds' Muscles Centered; Body Is Short and Deep

The whole secret of a bird's structure is found in its adaptation to flight. This seems like stating a commonplace, yet if we look into the changes which flight has brought to the structure of the bird, we open a whole storehouse of interesting information, observes an authority in the Detroit Free Press.

On first glance, it may seem that birds have nothing in common except wings and feathers. Yet, strip them of their feathers and all birds are fundamentally alike. The majority of their adaptations are directed toward one end: to transform a heavier than air body into a flying machine.

First of all, the body of a bird is light. Feathers, beautiful and delicate as they are, are the strongest structures for their size and weight known. Bones are hollow and thin-walled, not heavy and filled with marrow as those of mammals. There are no heavy teeth, but instead a light horny beak. The tail has been telescoped and a second-

ary tail of light, air-resisting feathers is used as a rudder in flight. The birds' muscles are not scattered all over the body, but instead are centered in a compact mass. The large, heavy flight muscles of the wings are located on the breastbone. Birds have small calves and most of the muscles are on the upper legs close to the body. The body itself is short and deep, with all its parts centralized, thus bringing the relatively heavy liver, gizzard and intestines close to the center of gravity and affording the smallest possible bulk to pass through the air.

Albinism

Albinism occurs more among birds than with mammals. Albinism must not be confused with the changes that take place with some birds and mammals on the approach of winter. The mountain hare, brown in summer, becomes white when the mountains are covered with snow. The ptarmigan, a rich mottled brown in the breeding season, is clothed in snowy white feathers in winter.

what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

Privacy for the Windsors.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. —"In order to live quietly and escape as much public attention as possible—" I'm quoting the dispatch—"the duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson, following their marriage, will seek a secluded residence in the United States."

The idea is not new. Hoping to kill Stanford White in some very remote secret nook, Harry Thaw picked out a New York roof garden on the first night of a big musical comedy. And only lately one of our movie queens, striving to get away from it all, put on all her portable jewelry and went to the Broadway preview of one of those colossal, titanic, gigantic, mastodontic superscreen epics, only to come forth complaining that one could never flee to the most private of hiding places without being annoyed by crowds.



Irvin S. Cobb

So America is certainly the right place for the newlyweds' honeymoon—where nobody will stare at them, or follow them, or yell at them or ask for autographs or photographs or interviews or try to tear their clothes off for souvenirs.

Why, just off-hand, I can think of fully three spots where famous folks may enjoy such immunity—Mount McKinley in the winter, Death Valley in the summer and Alcatraz island all the year round.

Giving Up Earl Browder.

FOR years it has been my regular custom to give up something during Lent. Last year I gave up boiled turnips—I never eat boiled turnips, anyhow—and jokes about Mae West.

The year before, I gave up "Anthony Adverse" (at page 2,749) and nearly all Little Theater movements. The year before I gave up Upton Sinclair as my spiritual guide in matters political.

For this year I decided to give up Mr. Earl Browder. I don't quarrel with his sincerity. He happens, though, to be the outstanding exponent in America of the communist movement, which has done so much for human happiness and human progress in the countries that tried it, such as Russia.

Victory Dinners.

WHO says New Dealers aren't smart business men? That \$100 victory dinner means a clear profit of \$94.70, figuring the food at \$5 a head and the combined speeches at 30 cents, which, even if they average up to most after-dinner speeches, is indeed a high valuation.

Back in Andy Jackson's day you could pay off a campaign deficit with hoop poles and coon pelts. And in Thomas Jefferson's time the strongest pack mule in Virginia couldn't tote \$100 worth of vittles. So, naturally Jeffersonian simplicity and Jacksonian thrift will be extolled.

Presumably the Republicans will follow suit with a nonvictory dinner or donation shower for John Hamilton's hope chest. Needy guests will wear Liberty Leaguers' old clothes, while the idea of having Canada annex Maine and Vermont will be strongly opposed.

Congressman Ham Fish will speak—such being his habit—unless, for economy's sake, they switch his name around hind part before and serve him as two courses.

Signs of Spring.

OUT here the first sign of spring is not the birds coming back. Mainly, our birds don't fly away. They go mute awhile, being practically the only residents that even temporarily refrain from bragging about the climate, or, in case of a cold snap, explaining that this is very unusual.

With us the herald of spring is the surf-bather—that hardy adventurer who plunges in and comes forth as blue as an Easter egg and as deflated-looking as a toy balloon on the morning after circus day. Because the Pacific is never what you'd call a real cozy ocean and especially it isn't following a chill-some winter.

We make fun of the bathing suits our mothers wore. But middle-aged persons of both sexes disporting on the beach in the modern skimpiest present a morbid, not to say gruesome, spectacle, except to students of the adult human leg, including the slabby-shanked, the full-calfed, the bowed, the double-jointed, the buckled, the knock-kneed, the spavined, the ankle-sprung, the heavy-hocked, the varicose-veined, the fur-bearing, etc., etc.

Sometimes a fellow gets to thinking that right young babies and raw oysters are almost the only things that should ever be exhibited on the half-shell.

IRVIN S. COBB

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Wool Tailleur for an Early Easter

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



THE calendar announces an early Easter. Supposing the weather should happen to go temperamental. Just merely supposing it should by any chance happen to cloud a bit, rain a bit, possibly send down a snowflake or so, then, oh, then, comes that ever haunting "what-to-wear" question.

And the answer? A practical, ultra modish tailored wool outfit is the logical answer if you want to be ready for rain or shine. Smartly, simply fashioned, it must be of a swanky wool weave in latest approved color with fashion-right accessories that add the final accent of chic. The illustration pictures what we are meaning to say. Perfect is this trio of "what-to-wears" for Easter or for any spring day, be it sunny or cloudy.

Before we describe in detail the stunning tailleur pictured we want to say a word in regard to outstanding colors for spring. We are going to talk mostly about black, navy, beige, gray and the new pastels. Many best-dressed women are selecting black cloth suits with which they plan to wear frilly lingerie blouse or neckwear, adding white doekin gloves and a white boutonniere. As to navy, it's big news for spring, navy wool twills especially for the classic suit. And there's beige! It, also, is staging a most exciting comeback. In the pastels you'll adore the new "dusty pinks," also various soft blues, "rusty" yellows and misty greens.

You will be hearing the expression "softly tailored" frequently this season because most suits have lost their mannish lines and the trend is to graceful, subtle silhouettes. Note, for example, the charming youthful suit as illustrated to

the right in the above picture.

Smart in either black or navy is the lightweight wool that styles this distinctive spring model. The skirt is short and slim and the cutaway jacket buttons up to a "young" round collar. The short blouse is of white satin. The pillbox hat with jaunty quill and piquant face-veil is decidedly chic.

Pastel blue wool kasha makes the three-piece cape costume centered in the group. Capes are very important this season, emphasizing as they do the softly tailored theme. A slightly flared skirt is topped by a short-sleeved, front-buttoned jacket with body of jacket and sleeves made in one piece, stitched into a yoke. The matching cape with fitted shoulder ties at the chin under the jacket collar.

It is to be expected that the three-piece tailored ensemble to the left be in the smart widely-exploited beige color, for as we said before beige is definitely "in" this spring. With the jacket this very lovely three-piece becomes a smart suit, just such as will fit into the Easter style program admirably. Without the jacket you have a winsome light wool dress which will come in perfectly for mild spring days. The matching beige fur is a smart detail for the fur-trimmed skirt is conspicuously present in advance style displays. Note the off-face hat of Breton influence, for this is the very latest for hat and hairdress. The black doekin gloves and strap-handle bag "say it" with fashion emphasis.

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SMART PLAID TWEED

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Plaid woollens for spring! You'll be "tops" in fashion if you come out in a full-length reefer coat, a picturesque cape suit, a classic jacket suit or with a short box coat of plaid woolen. It's English, it's Scotch, it's both. Due to the interest shown in the coming coronation, woollens take on a decidedly English accent this spring. The coat pictured is of imported tweed with coronation red prominent in its coloring. The white toya hat has red grosgrain inserts in complement to the red in the plaid.

GLOVES PROMINENT IN SPRING STYLES

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

Soft, oozy glace kidskin, that makes the hands look long and slender, is very much in fashion now. The styles shown by Aris for formal afternoon wear are exceedingly chic and those marvelous 16-button evening gloves in glace kid or suede reach the nth degree of extravagance.

Mokado, the superlative quality French doekin, is the supreme in that leather. It is washable, which accounts for its continued popularity. Nothing could be handsomer than a pair of six or eight button handsewn doekin gloves. The longer lengths, by the way, are smarter this season than the short, either in white, black or fetching new colors.

While the plain, classic slipper remains most acceptable, the costume glove is more interesting and more fun to wear. Then, there are all sorts of touches, such as hand-whipping, embroidery, stitching, thong lacing and so on, that give the new gloves distinction.

Flower Styles Varied

The smartest complement for the printed dress is a bright nosegay from the florists. Flowers are no longer limited to the conventional shoulder corsage.

Two-Jacket Suits

A dressmaker type of suit which is advocated for wear under the winter coat has two jackets that are designed after the manner of fitted overblouses.

Slide Fasteners Used

The Schiaparelli types of housecoat developed in flannel and fastening at the front with a patent slide fastener is popular.

Household Questions

Items of Interest to the Housewife

To make lace look new, squeeze in hot, soapy water, then in cold water, and then in milk to stiffen it. Press on the wrong side with a fairly hot iron.

When blankets are to be washed for the first time they should be soaked over night in cold water and then rinsed. This is to remove the sulphur used in bleaching. After this they should be soaped until clear in a lukewarm lather made with boiled soap and water, and then rinsed well in clear water.

Dishes that have contained sugar or greasy articles should be soaked in hot water before washing.

Using Beef Fat — Pour off the fat from the pan in which the

roast of beef has been cooked. Put it in a bowl and let cool until it starts to harden. Then beat well with a fork. Afterwards it may be used in place of lard.

Don't treat your stockings carelessly. Put them on carefully, and be sure that feet and leg seams are straight. The slightest twist will alter the position of reinforced splicings, and wrinkles always run into holes.

One gallon of coffee will serve 25 medium sized cups. The size that would accompany a dessert after a dinner.

Rayons should be pressed with a warm, but not hot iron. A hot iron will melt some synthetic materials.

When cream will not whip, add the white of one egg and thoroughly chill before whipping.

Chocolate stains may be removed by washing in cold water or by soaking in boiling water to which borax or a little glycerin has been added.

Horseradish Sauce — This condiment gives the tang to hot roast beef. Mix together two tablespoonsful of grated horseradish, one tablespoonful of brown sugar, a good pinch of salt, a teaspoonful of made mustard and two tablespoonfuls of vinegar. Lastly, add a quarter-pint of cream, or the yolk of an egg and a little milk.

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Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

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1. What Revolutionary leader was known as the "swamp fox"?
2. What is meant by "high German"?
3. To what do "great primer" and "long primer" refer?
4. In what state was Abraham Lincoln born?
5. In geography, what is meant by a march?
6. What two great mountain systems traverse the United States?
7. By what church official is a mitre worn?
8. What mountains separate Europe from Asia?
9. What is meant by a "modicum"?
10. In what ocean is the island of St. Helena?

Answers

1. Francis Marion.
2. The language of Germany as distinguished from that of the Netherlands, etc.
3. Sizes of type.
4. Kentucky.
5. A boundary or the territory adjacent.
6. The Appalachian in the East and the Rocky in the West.
7. A bishop.
8. The Ural mountains.
9. A small account.
10. The Atlantic.

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