

# Floyd Gibbons

## Adventurers' Club

### Hello Everybody!



"The Iron Mouth"  
By FLOYD GIBBONS  
Famous Headline Hunter

NOW here's a yarn that just goes to show what an age of progress we live in. You know, thousands of years ago, when the cave men roamed the primeval forests the boys who made the Adventure Club were the ones that came running back to the family campfire and told Ma Stone-hatchet and the kids about how one of them just missed being gobbled by a dinosaur with a mouth big enough to take him all in one bite.

Well, the dinosaurs died off and you don't see them any more, except stuffed ones in museums, but you can still have the adventure of being gobbled by a mouth as big as a prehistoric monster's because nowadays we manufacture them—make them out of iron, and put rows of sharp teeth in them, attach them to great mechanical animals and send them out to bite people like David J. Hanlon of Belmar, N. J.

Dave had his run-in with one of those steam-powered man-eaters at three o'clock on a cold October morning in the year 1927. Dave was just out of high school then, and working at his first real full-time job. It was the job of laborer on the state highway bridge over Shark river between Belmar and Avon, and Dave was working on the night shift.

#### Most Dangerous Job to the Youngest.

Dave says it was an adventure all in itself to be staying up all night, working with a crew of grown men. He was the youngest one in the crew and also the smallest. As a result, the foreman had given him the easiest job on the bridge. That foreman might have thought he was doing Dave a favor, but it so happened it was the most dangerous job on the bridge as well.

The crew had run a temporary trestle out over the water and out on that trestle they had rolled a big crane with which they were excavating holes for the big concrete piers which were to form the bridge's foundation. The crane was equipped with a clamshell scoop—two great jaws with sharp teeth set along the edges, hinged at the upper end. The crane dropped that scoop deep in the mud and silt of the excavation. The jaws closed on a mouthful of the muck, and the scoop was hauled up and dumped on the other side of the trestle.

There was a caisson of heavy planking built around the edge of the excavation to keep the sides from caving in, and down near the bottom of the hole carpenters had built a wooden ledge that a man could stand on. It was Dave's job to stand on that ledge, wait for the clamshell to come down, and push it to a spot where it could get a good big bite of the mud they were dredging.

#### How the Huge Scoop Worked.

It took three men to work that job properly. Jerry, operator of the crane, would drop the big scoop down to within a few feet of the slimy mud, and then stop it. Then, to make sure it got a good mouthful, Dave would push it to the desired spot. When he got it there he'd yell, "Oke." That was a signal to Sam Smith, the boss, standing directly above him on the edge of the caisson. Sam would relay that signal to Jerry with a motion of his hand, and Jerry would let the big scoop fall and gobble its mouthful of mud.

"Time and again," says Dave, "Jerry would drop those half-ton jaws and they'd eat up more mud. We soon attained a certain rhythm at it, and all night long it was 'Oke—splash! Oke—splash!' so steady and monotonous that we could have done it in our sleep." And the whole trouble was that those three birds almost did it in their sleep, and a big iron monster is something a man ought not to fool with UNLESS HE'S WIDE AWAKE.

The planking Dave was standing on was narrow, and time and again he almost lost his balance and fell in. And then, somehow, Dave did slip and fall. "I'm not sure how it happened," he says, "but all of a sudden I was falling, and the next minute I was on my back in the mud, right under the gaping, six-foot jaws of that half-ton clamshell scoop. It was probably only a couple of seconds that I lay there, trying to get my wits together, but I remember thinking of what would happen if that scoop should fall and the teeth close on me."

#### Steel Jaws Closing on Him.

And then, suddenly it began to look as if Dave was going to find out. Up above he heard Sam give the signal. Oke! It was purely mechanical on Sam's part. He had been giving that signal at a certain interval for so long that now he was doing it without thinking. Then—SPLASH! Down came the scoop right across Dave's body!

The jaws landed on either side of him and sank deep into the mud. They hadn't hurt him because his body lay in the triangle up at the top where the two parts were hinged together. But in another second or so those two parts would begin to come together!

"There wasn't much use in trying to yell," says Dave, "for down there in the muck, under that great steel shell, my voice would be smothered and drowned by the clatter of the machinery and the noise of the pumps. Beside that, there wasn't time. I could see, to my horror, that they were going to close over my head and my feet which stuck out at either side!"

Those jaws were almost on Dave now. He gritted his teeth and shut his eyes. In another moment it would be all over. He drew in a deep breath—and thought to himself that it would probably be his last. And then—

And then, all of a sudden, the great jaws stopped closing. Up on the caisson, Sam Smith had looked for Dave and hadn't been able to see him. He knew something was wrong and gave a signal that stopped the closing of the scoop. "He did it calmly and easily," Dave says, "but I've often wondered what would have happened to me if Sam had been one of those excitable fellows. If he had lost his head then, I am pretty sure I would have lost mine, too."  
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#### Nature Supplies Power and Ice From Volcanoes

Sometimes Nature supplies power for nothing. The people of Larderello, in the Province of Pisa, Italy, live at the foot of an active volcano.

Every unit of heat, power, and light used in the town is obtained from its fiery interior, thus saving the citizens endless expense and taxation. In addition, commercial borax is obtained from "blow holes" in the hillsides, relates a writer in London Answers Magazine.

The people of Styria, Austria, live beside another kindly mountain. This is "Der Erzberg," the Iron Mountain, which is 5,000 feet high and contains about 300,000,000 tons of iron ore—fifty per cent of its volume.

There is another iron mountain in Sweden—Kirunavaara—which is 2,455 feet high and contains more high-grade iron than any other equal area on earth, for seventy per cent is pure iron.

Necessity to say, both these mountains have been exploited by the communities who live in the vicinity.

Nature has also her own gas-works. Medicinal Hat, in Alberta, has for years obtained gas and light from inexhaustible subterranean generating stations. There are a

number of wells which supply fifty miles of houses and streets.

Welland, Ontario, also has a natural gas supply, and so has some of the Mid-Western of the United States, but in the latter case gas is sent by pipeline from Texas—where the wells are—800 miles away.

Mexico has a volcano that produces ice. This is Colima, which sometimes bursts into activity. By some freak, huge hailstones fall continuously round the crater. These are collected in special bins, conveyed to distant towns, and sold in cafes and hotels.

#### Chameleons

The change of color in chameleons and certain frogs is a very interesting phenomenon in nature. Many complicated factors enter into these color changes, but in general, they are caused by the expansion and contraction of the pigment cells in the superficial layers of the skin. The cells are linked up with the sympathetic and central nervous system by means of nerve fibers, and they all act in harmony as the result of a common stimulus, which may be due to moisture, light, or temperature conditions, cerebral excitement, food, or the creature's physiological condition; or the surroundings acting through its eyes.

## "Say It" With Frilly Neckwear

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



YES, indeed, fashion is in an utterly feminine romancing mood and flowers and laces, suits prettified with the daintiest frilliest lingerie blouses worn for years, dresses of prints so flowery and multi-colored as to dazzle the eye and that which is a sure sign of the return of romanticism in the mode—the revival of the laiciest, the daintiest, the most adorable fluff-ruffle neckwear and dainty snowy lingerie touches that even the wildest flights of one's imagination might ere devise.

And now that we know that frilly, ultra-feminine neckline and wrist-line fantasies are going to be the very thing let's look up some of the entrancing things which shops are showing this season. The group pictured is typical of the many charming, flattering jabots, collar-and-cuff sets and "bibs" that smart women are wearing to give an extra spring-like touch to their tailored silk and their sheer wool dresses.

In the first place there's nothing smarter than finely pleated laces for neckwear. The good-looking collar and cuff set that gives so keen a fashion touch to the simple crepe frock worn by the young woman standing below to the left in the picture is of a rather heavy lace in a dark shade of ecru. The V-shaped collar is extremely flattering and together with its wide cuffs makes a "picture." With this lace three-piece you can give infinite variety to a winter-weary wardrobe or it will enhance your newest frock to a glamorous degree.

See to the right below in the group Claudette Colbert wearing a stunning collar made of an interesting silk-drawn novelty lace fluted row upon row as you see. This actress

favors a combination of the collar in Peter Pan effect, the jabot at the front and a tiny bow of dark plain material to match her dress.

An entirely different type of lace neckwear is the "bib" or yoke effect pictured left above. It is one of those exquisitely fine and beautiful accessories that you can wear with your very best gown in most ladylike fashion. The lace is a choice Alençon type with insets of hand-embroidered batiste as delicately sheer as chiffon. The lace is cut in a square with a circular lace ruffle at the top and another ruffle following the square outline of the bib.

Above to the right lavish embroidery edged with dainty val lace adds charm to a band collar with its tiered ruffles of permanent Swiss organdie beautifully flower-embroidered. Fine as a cobweb, this imported organdie is decidedly practical in spite of its fragile look.

Bows, too, are going to be worn a lot this season. In fact snowy, lace lingerie accents are registering for a tremendous vogue, be they collars, cuffs, dainty gilets with waistcoat belts that button around the waist, "bibs," jabots or any accessory item made of lace, of Swiss organdie, of washable mousseline de soie or of any delicate sheer and these will carry a wealth of embroidery or hand stitching in many instances. The new bows now showing in endless variety are cunning on tailored dresses. If they are not of mousseline or organdie with lace edgings then they are apt to be entirely of heavy laces like Cluny or Irish.

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#### SMART FOR SPRING

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Capes, capes and more capes, thus does the parade of spring suits announce a vogue of tremendous importance this season. Even if you buy a jacket and skirt suit you are supposed to buy a stylish smartly tailored wool cape to wear over it. The new ensembles are that way—skirt, plus jacket, plus cape. The one shown here is of a stunning black wool fabric for skirt and cape with jacket of black and white loosely woven worsted. The scarf is coral colored.

#### SAILOR HATS AND TURBANS IN STYLE

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

Where there's new fashions there's always new thrills. Just about the most exciting thrills registering on the new season's program are the "nifty" little sailor hats and turbans that are made of bizarre plaid or stripe crepes or taffeta silk. These are the sort that the moment you see them you make up your mind in a flash that your happiness depends on acquiring just such a chapeau. The sailors are covered as smooth as glass with the striped silk (or the plaid) with perhaps a little whirl-gig of ribbon for a finish or a rakish wee feather; and then as if that is not enough to entice you, more than likely a matching scarf adds to the allure, or if not a scarf, one of the new romantic gypsy sashes that ties so nonchalantly about waistlines these days. Cast your plainest dark crepe frock under the witchery of these plaid or striped silk accessories and it will take on untold glory and glamor.

#### Tunic Dresses Are Worn for Daytime and Evening

Mainboucher, who first launched the tunic dress, makes use of them for every occasion in his winter collection.

One of the new Mainboucher tunic dresses is in black wool crepe. The top, which ends in a flaring basque at the hip, has been caught into a diamond-shaped pattern which is plained with brilliants. The skirt is of plain wool crepe.

Outstanding is a black satin tunic evening gown which comes to the knees in front but extends downward in back to form a train. The underskirt is black tulle, gathered very full.

## AROUND the HOUSE



**Protecting Buttonholes**—A row of machine-sewing around button holes in knit underwear prevents stretching and makes them last longer.

**New Hot-Water Bottles**—Have a little glycerine added to the water with which hot-water bottles are filled for the first time. This will make the rubber supple, and the bottle will last longer.

**Preparing Salted Nuts**—Here is an ideal manner in which to prepare your salted nuts at home: Take blanched nuts, salt and oil. Sprinkle nuts very lightly with oil, using not more than one teaspoon to one cup of nuts. Spread in one layer in a baking pan and brown delicately in a moderately hot oven—375 degrees—stirring occasionally that they may color evenly. Sprinkle with salt after removing from the oven, and spread on crumpled unglazed paper to absorb any surface oil.

**Care of Shoes**—The preservation of patent leather shoes presents difficulties because, by the very nature of the hard finish, it will crack eventually. But the fateful day may be delayed by occasionally applying just the smallest touch of pure vaseline and rubbing it in well with a soft cloth. Patent leather shoes should be polished by rubbing with a soft cloth only.

**Shrink the Cord**—When loose covers for chairs, etc., are being made, boil the piping cord before using. This little precaution prevents unsightly puckers after the cover is washed.

**Salmon in Rice Nests**—Two cups of rich cream sauce, one egg yolk, two teaspoons lemon juice, one pound can salmon, one small can mushrooms, one cup rice, two hard cooked eggs. Beat egg yolks slightly and add to the

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets made of May Apple are effective in removing accumulated body waste.—Adv.

**Law of Sacrifice**  
In common things the law of sacrifice takes the form of positive duty.—Froude.

hot cream sauce with the lemon juice. Add the salmon and the sliced mushrooms and heat thoroughly. Boil the rice, drain and form in mounds on plates; then make depression in mounds to form nests. Fill with salmon mixture. Cut hard cooked eggs in quarters lengthwise and garnish each serving with one.

**Boiling Old Potatoes**—Old potatoes sometimes turn black during boiling. To prevent this add a squeeze of lemon juice to the water in which they are boiled.

**For Steamed or Boiled Puddings**—Puddings will not stick to the basin if two strips of grease-proof paper are put crosswise in the basin before the mixture is poured in.

**Removing Stains on Hands**—Vegetable stains can be removed from the hands by rubbing them with a slice of raw potato.

**For Good Gravy**—Did you know that gravy, to be served with roast meat, will taste much nicer and contain more nutriment if it is made with the water in which the vegetables have been boiled?  
WNU Service.

#### Illimitable Ideals

It is by believing in, loving, and following illimitable ideals that man grows great. Their very impossibility is their highest virtue. They live before us as the image of that into which, we are to grow for ever.—Stafford Brooke.

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