



FLOYD GIBBONS Adventurers' Club *Hello, Everybody!*

"Holocaust in the Cellar"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter.

YOU know, boys and girls, some of us go out looking for adventure, and the rest of us are smart enough to sit around and wait for adventure to come looking for us. About 90 per cent of all the adventures have happened to people who weren't looking for them—and about 80 per cent of them—according to my figures—come to people in their own kitchens, and dining rooms and living rooms.

Now here's a story I got the other day from Gladys R. Strom, and Gladys had to go farther than most people to find the big thrill of her lifetime. It didn't come to her on the ground floor of her home. She had to go down into the cellar to find it.

Gladys remembers the exact date of her experience. It was December 2, 1929. She had climbed out of bed, as usual, at about 6:30 that morning, and the first thing she did after she came downstairs was to attend to the furnace.

She had bought a new-fangled composition fuel the day before, and she threw several shovelfuls on the fire. She had never used the stuff before, but she figured that you handled it pretty much the same way you did coal.

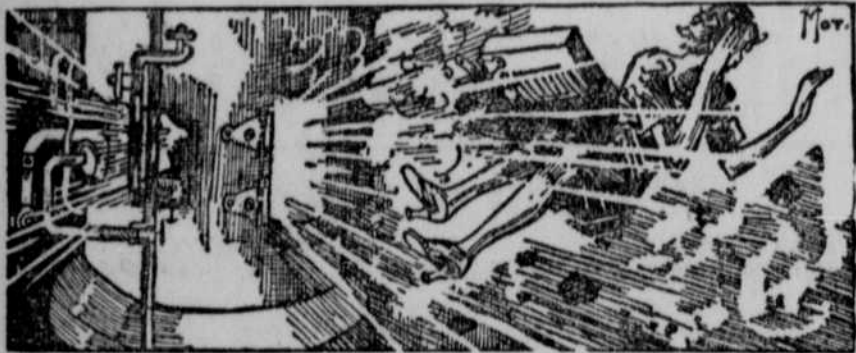
But you weren't supposed to use it like coal. That was the part Gladys didn't know. And, as a result, she put too much of it on the fire.

It All Started With Her Forgetting the Furnace.

When the furnace was filled, Gladys went off and forgot about it. She didn't think of it again until about 8 o'clock, when her three children were just about ready to go to school. Then she noticed that the house seemed colder than usual.

She felt of the radiators, and sure enough they were stone cold. Then she knew there was something wrong with the heater and went down into the cellar to see what it was.

She was within three feet of the furnace—reaching out to open the door—when the door blew open of its own accord, and a terrific blast



A Terrific Blast Hurler Her Across the Cellar.

picked her up bodily and hurled her across the cellar. She landed against an ice chest and was almost knocked unconscious, but she struggled to her feet again.

Explosion Made the House Do the Rhumba.

The whole house was rocking from the force of the explosion. The door was blown off, and so were the draught pipes at the top of the furnace. Great sheets of blue flame were shooting out of the door, and out of the holes where the draught pipes had been. They were reaching up—licking at the ceiling.

And although Gladys wanted to do nothing so much as to drop back to the floor again, she knew that if she did the house would be on fire in another ten seconds.

Moving in a daze, she reached with trembling hands for one of the battered draught pipes. Fighting her way close to the blazing furnace, she tried to put the pipe back in place, and thus pen up the flame that was shooting out of the empty hole.

There Was No Trifling About This Explosion.

The damage, she noticed now, was a lot worse than she had originally thought. There was a big, gaping crack running across the entire top of the furnace, and looking up she saw that the brick chimney had been blown to pieces. At the spot where the furnace pipes went in there was a hole big enough for two men to crawl through.

Somehow Gladys managed to get that draught pipe back in place. She had burned herself terribly in the doing of it—but she had accomplished something. There was still another draught pipe, and she tackled that. When it was in place alongside of the other, she picked up the hot iron door of the furnace.

That was the point where Gladys' memory went blank on her. The furnace door got put back into place somehow, but she doesn't remember doing it, or how she did it. Nor does she remember any of the other things she did from then until the firemen arrived.

Blast Sent This Little Boy for a Ride.

Upstairs, in the kitchen, Gladys' nine-year-old boy was eating his breakfast when the explosion occurred. The blast threw him from his chair, and the cat, lying nearby on the kitchen floor, was lifted about a foot in the air. The doors of the kitchen stove were shaken open, and the heavy iron lids on top rattled and danced. The other two boys, playing in the next room, ran screaming from the house, and the neighbors began telephoning for the fire department.

When the engines arrived the firemen found Gladys still reeling about the cellar, moving in a daze around the still blazing furnace. But Gladys doesn't remember anything about that—doesn't remember a thing from the time she started to put back that furnace door to the time when she came out of a dead faint upstairs, with a couple of firemen giving her a first-aid treatment. Gladys spent a few days in the hospital as a result of her adventure, and when she got out the first thing she did was to chuck all that new-fangled stove fodder out the back window. She hasn't used any of it since. And I don't blame her.

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Wrote "When You and I Were Young, Maggie"

The place made famous by the old love song "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," is at Ducktown, Tenn., near a creaking old mill which ground meal for the Indians and pioneers, and the occasion, the return of an aged couple to the scene of their romance, relates a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The site is marked by a tablet placed there by the Daughters of the American Revolution, which tells all about it, and about the author, George W. Johnson, who there met, wooed and married Maggie Harris, and who years afterward wrote the poem about her.

Early in the Eighteenth century, Johnson, who, according to historians, was a rambler and hunter of gold, heard strange tales from the Indians about wealth in the mountains of east Tennessee. Johnson loaded his canoe and took off from his home near the mouth of the Hiwassee river. Following the river he reached Spring creek, which finally became so shallow he abandoned his canoe and walked. Hearing a creaking mill far up the creek Johnson strode in that direction. And then he saw Maggie. He gave up his search for gold and stayed around until he had won her, and then took her to his home down the river.

Years afterward when both were aged and gray they returned to the hills, and the scene of the old mill where Maggie lived when she was young. This inspired Johnson to write the poem. His poem was found later by a musician, J. A. Butterfield, who set it to music.

Invented Non-Sinkable Boat

Joseph Francis, American inventor and boat builder, patented in 1837, a nonsinkable lifeboat which was widely used for several decades after 1850. He was the founder of the American Shipwreck and Humane society, developed a corrugated metal lifeboat and used his same invention in the construction of steamers. He received the Congressional Medal, the Franklin Institute Medal and International recognition for his work.

Leading Coffee Drinkers

The Danes, Swedes and Norwegians drink the most coffee. People in the United States come next, while Belgium, Finland and Cuba follow in close succession. The per capita consumption of coffee in the Scandinavian countries is more than 15 pounds, as compared to 12, and 15 pounds in this country, annually.

Chic Suit, Gay Print Share Honors

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



LET'S go crystal-gazing in search of fashion futures for spring. What do we see? According to the signs of the times it's suits, suits and suits plus, coming in endless procession on the new style program. Indeed, 'tis prophesied that this will be the biggest suit season ever.

Of course a suit means just one lovely, stunning blouse after another, and as to accessories, well, you'll be surprised at the smartness, the cleverness and the color-chic of the bags, and the belts, the scarfs, the gloves and the footwear and gadgets that novel they invite a smile, all of which will play a part in dramatizing the suit theme for spring.

After you get an "eye-full" of suits as revealed in the crystal globe of fashion, turn the other eye. Behold! The picture shifts to a scene of riotous color and startlingly new design for the incoming prints are just that. Birds, fruits, vegetables, postage stamps and newspaper print, are some of the many unique motifs that gay print fabrics are staging this season.

The lesson to be gleaned in this foreglimpse into fashion's moves is that in assembling the new spring wardrobe one must think in terms of both cloth suit and costume of gay print. One is almost as important as the other in the scheme of fashionable apparel. So count on a budget that makes provision for both.

As to the new suits, their most outstanding message is "mannish" both as to the stunning wools which fashion them as well as their manner of tailoring. The more "man's-wear" look your suit carries the smarter will it be. The favorite among favorites bids fair to be the strictly short-jacket type

buttoned single row or double breasted. As to color for the new tailored mannish woollens, fancy runs decidedly to grays in every degree from light to dark and to mixtures that give a gray impression. Spice brown is also good style and it is interesting to note the many blues showing. The up-to-the-moment suit pictured is of chalky French-blue imported woolen. Buttons in double row accent the front panel which is cut in one with the yoke of the brief jacket. The hat, gloves and bag are navy, so are the shoes, for navy footwear, you know, is going to be pronouncedly in fashion this spring.

And now to prints! It will be difficult to choose from the wealth of print fabrics being shown. Jacket frocks made of striking prints claim most of the attention because they are so eminently practical. The dress itself can be worn attractively under the long topcoat, reserving the print jacket for later on.

The refreshing new styling given to the advance spring jacket frocks simply fascinates with display of originality that identifies spring 1936 vintage at a glance, as for example the good-looking print costume pictured. The material of which it is made is an all-bermberg triple sheer in leaf green, brown and beige checks. The jacket with full graceful sleeves alternates bands of net with bands of the triple sheer print. Jeweled buttons lend a brilliant touch.

You will be wanting a number of these smart-looking and practical triple sheers in your spring wardrobe. These fabrics are not weighted and consequently launder or dry clean beautifully.

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NEW HAT FASHION

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



To say that the new "Rose of the Rancho" hat is making an instantaneous hit is but expressing it mildly. See in the illustration herewith Gladys Swarthroat, lovely singer and one of filmland's bright and shining stars, wearing this hat just as she wears it in her picture, and now many stores and shops are showing it in their advance millinery displays. It is the type young girls will delight in wearing with their sports outfits. The chin-strap detail of cord cleverly drawn through a big button is irresistible. Of course to complete the ensemble one must have a high-color dude ranch handkerchief-square scarf knotted nonchalantly about the throat.

Printed Scarfs

Gay printed scarfs in bright colors have a bib front and long ends that encircle the neck to tie again at the front.

Universe Is Pouring Out Its Wealth to Lover of Nature

Daily the lover of nature gathers the fruits of seed sown in the beginning of the world. For him no season is dull, for each is successively absorbing. In spring he is entranced by the awakening of myriad forms of life; summer reveals the maturity of all creation; autumn brings the fulfillment of earlier promises; winter lulls life to sleep, with its assurance of the resurrection. All weathers are one: The rains of spring nourish all nature; the heats of summer mature and ripen its fruits; the frosts of winter give rest and peace; in all he rejoices. Each day is good. In the morning life awakens with him; through the noon it works; the peace and quiet of evening shed their benediction upon him.

He knows no dull moment; he seeks not to hurry time. If he be delayed he may discover something never before seen by man and his impatience is forgotten. His youth is filled with the joys of discovery; in middle age the marvels about him hold his interest undimmed; he awaits old age with calmness, for he is one with the universe and is content.—Edward A. Preble.

Clever and Wise

A clever fool is more dangerous to argue with than a wise one.

CONSTIPATED



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Leaning Tower of Pisa Only a Second-Rater in Slanting

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is not unique. Similar structures exist all over the world, and some are even higher and more out of perpendicular than that of Pisa. They are campaniles, steeples, pagodas, minarets and lighthouses such as the Portoferraio on Elba. One giant minaret in Samarkand, Russia, leans so far over that it has to be supported by thousands of feet of heavy steel cable.—Collier's.



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