

Floyd Gibbons

Adventurers' Club

Hello Everybody!



"The Bridge That Wasn't There"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter.

WELL, give a good look at this one, boys and girls, from Dr. Alexander E. Strath-Gordon of East Orange, N. J. If you ever read this yarn he is going to tell you, in a novel, you wouldn't believe it could happen. If your own brother told it to you, you'd tell him he was just plain goofy.

Doc Strath-Gordon thought he was cracked himself when he found out what had happened. And the people he told his story to thought he was crazy, too—for a while. But here are the simple facts, all checked and attested and sworn to. You can't get around the truth of the thing.

You can't say it was a dream, because a bridge is a big, heavy, solid object. If it's there, it's there, and if it ain't, it ain't. You can't dream it out of place and then back again.

All of which leads up to Doc's story. The date is August, 1909, and the place is—well—somewhere on the road between Seattle, Wash., and Duwamish Head on the other side of Elliot bay. Doc was practicing medicine in Seattle and he had received a hurry call from a patient in Duwamish Head.

Patient's Husband Thinks Doc Flew to Sick Room. He started out in his car, and you know what those 1909 vintage automobiles were like. To make matters worse, the dirt roads of the time were wet from a week's steady rain. Parts of them were flooded. But a patient had called him, and even though he was twenty miles away, it was up to Doc to get to him if he possibly could.

The night was pitch dark. The roads were unlighted, and the flickering kerosene headlamps that rattled on the sides of Doc's horseless carriage didn't throw any light on the road at all. There were two ways to get to Duwamish Head and Doc took the shorter. It took him an hour and half to cover that twenty miles, but when he got there, his patient's husband said: "Good gosh, but you made that trip fast. How did you manage to get here so quickly?"

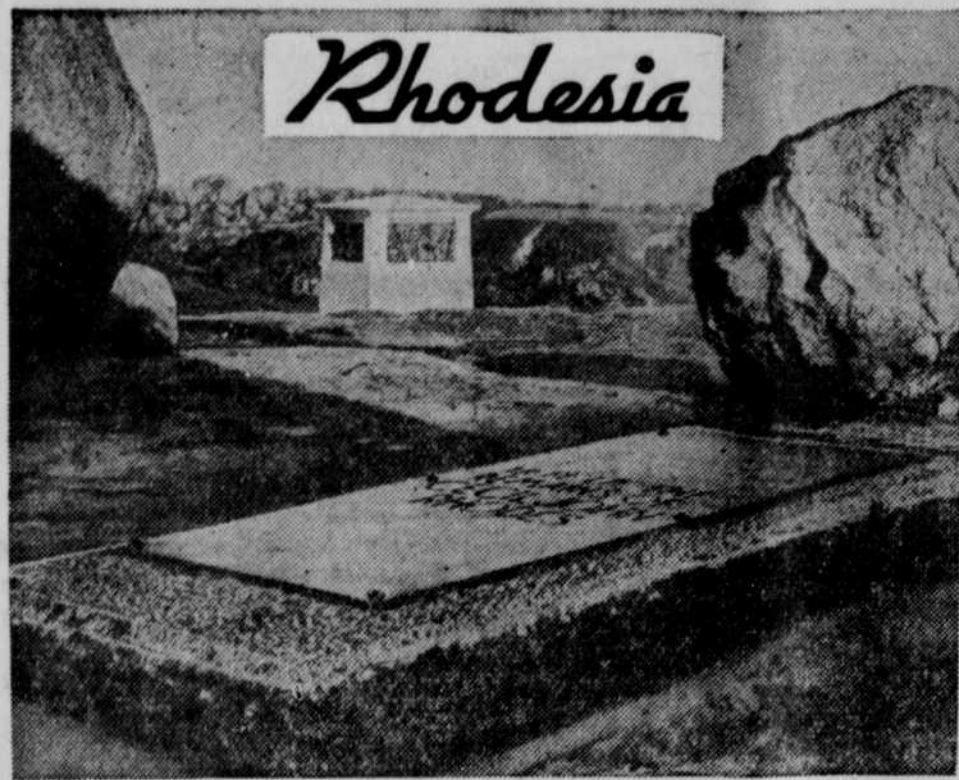
Well, sir, Doc thought that was funny, but he didn't say anything then. His patient was waiting, and he was needed in the sick room. He worked over her for half an hour until she was out of danger, and then he went out to assure her husband that everything was all right.

Doc Hears He Crossed Bridge That Was Out. He sat down for a few moments' rest before starting on the return trip, and again his patient's husband brought up the subject of the quickness with which he had arrived.

"How the dickens did you come here, anyway, Doctor?" he asked. "Did you fly?"

"Why, I came by the Bay Side road, of course," said Doc. The man looked at Doc sort of curiously. "You couldn't have," he said bluntly. "The bridge is out."

Doc thought he was joking, and tried to laugh it off. But the man insisted the bridge was being repaired—that the planking was all off and



Tomb of Cecil Rhodes.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

PIONEER country's memorials are usually natural features. Rhodesia has its Indaba tree and its Matopo hills. But the most curious spectacle extant associated with Rhodes is that deserted, craterlike pit at the Kimberley diamond mines, where he began digging the fortune which made possible his future colonizing schemes.

Picture Kimberley in the 1870s. Atop a bucket, alongside the checkered pattern of claims, sits a big, rump-haired, slacker English youth, staring into vacancy. In him Natal has lost a cotton grower, and the world will one day gain—to put it thus, since his name is Rhodes—a Colossus.

The English doctors gave this young Cecil John Rhodes a year or so to live, but the South African climate has saved him. From death to diamonds, and from them to vast wealth, South African statesmanship, and empire-building—such will be the swiftly ascended rungs during a life that will end at forty-nine years.

Meanwhile he dreams—he is an incorrigible dreamer. Presently he will be making wills, based on some future, chimerical wealth, to the end of extending the British empire so vastly as to "render was impossible and promote the best interests of humanity."

The two Rhodesias, of which the Northern colony is almost double the size of the Southern, contain about two and a half million Bantus and but 61,000 persons of European descent. And over what an expanse are these few scattered! One might roughly compare the area of the Rhodesias with that of the thirteen states, or parts of states, lying south of Pennsylvania, east of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, eastward along the Gulf of Mexico, and north of a hypothetical line running through central Florida.

Picture the above region as being occupied by a population only nine times that of Atlanta, Ga.—a population wherein the Bantu and white races are proportioned at 40 to 1. Consider, along with that, a civilization only four decades old, and you have the basic elements of Rhodesia, the pioneer colony.

Land of Real Pioneers.

In Rhodesia, individual effort has developed into co-operation, crop specializing into mixed farming, and a department of agriculture, having to do with the cultural and financing sides of Rhodesian husbandry, has come into being for the benefit of the pioneers.

"Pioneer," he it noted, is strictly masculine. We have heard of the farmerette and the aviatrix, but never of the "pioneeress." Comparing the proportion of women to men in given countries, one finds that the older civilizations generally have an excess of the former over the latter, whereas the reverse is true of lands later settled, such as Canada, New Zealand, the United States, and Australia. Now, in this matter of male surplusage, the yet-younger Rhodesia out-tops almost all countries and exceeds the above-named quartette by a "masculinity" of four to seven times greater.

That conveys, of course, no social picture of Rhodesia, where woman is playing her full part, as always. Rather, it tells the old story—that the foot-free man strikes out for new lands and, in time, sends overseas for that "girl at home" to make the land worth living in.

And just here the governmental settlers-assistance schemes enter the picture. Somewhat similar in effect to the Homestead act that, in 1862, called American pioneers to plant their homes on free western lands, the Rhodesian assistance schemes went much further, in offering nominally free passages from England to the colony and, upon the settler's arrival, free agricultural instruction for a year.

Like the homesteader, he pledged himself to remain for three years. Unlike the homesteader, he was subject to a minimum and a maximum of available capital, and bought his land, at a dollar or so per acre, on a 24-year installment plan.

Settlers Have Good Homes.

To reach a Rhodesian settler's farmstead, you might possibly drive 20 wooded miles off the turnpike, and, if it is after nightfall, hear some stray lion gulping gurgurally in the distance. Yet, once arrived, you find yourself in a true home that the man and his wife have made together. He and his native boys have built the house, planning it around a big central room with a wide hearth. She has made it bright with gay curtains, with the rugs brought from overseas, with the homestead's flowers.

And the smart furniture? Well Rhodesia has its teak, and it is astonishing what carpentry native "boys" can achieve with the assistance of designs cut from household magazines, and the vicarious elbow grease of your constant presence.

Across the broad acres the reaped corn stands in regimented stacks. There's a farm store where the settler sells his native "boys." For amusements, there are horseback riding, hunting, and fishing, books from public libraries, and maybe a radio set.

As for educating the regional settlers' children, a minimum of ten pupils calls for the establishment of a governmental school. Failing that number, in sparsely peopled sections, there will be an "aided farm school," with a government grant for each child.

Heading eastward from Salisbury, you soon find yourself nearing those mountains beyond which extends Portuguese territory. Completely cupped within their foothills' lofty profiles lies Umtall, eastern outpost of the Rhodesias. Nothing could reveal itself as a more charming surprise than this neat little town, tucked away on the colony's remote verge, its streets lined with tall flamboyant trees that rear their masses of scarlet blossoms against the mountain-ringed valley's vastness of overhead blue.

A 250-mile swing around a circle centering on Umtall reveals it as Rhodesia's gateway to the wild heart of things, where waterfalls plunge over precipices, and primitive forests clothe the land with silence, and nude peaks pile their shapes against the sky.

The Matopo Hills.

At times you traverse 50 miles of wild woodland that offer no more guiding features than a dry stream-bed or some cement causeway, built at low level to allow seasonal torrents to sweep across instead of under it. Brilliantly plumaged birds flash past, groups of rock-perched baboons discuss family affairs. Issuance into the open, with a mission church ahead, is an experience, while the passage of some other car is a downright sensation.

Yet, though you would not have guessed it, there are often kraals near the road, and thus you get a glimpse of native corrugating, snuffmaking, hairdressing (as complicated a process as permanent-waving), and listen to a fat old grandmother tending Uncle Remus stories in the original version.

Near Bulawayo you visit the Matopo hills. After a few hours' drive, the land begins heaping itself into a wide series of rocky kopjes. Here nature seems to have worked haphazard, flinging so many great bowlders atop of so many pinnacles that one might well call the place the Valley of Balancing Stones.

Now you clamber up the vast, smooth slant of a massive formation and find yourself on a rocky plateau, feeling unlike beside the huge, globular bowlders that are perched there over "World's View." Away stretches the tumbled kopje-heaped valley, resembling earth's beginnings as sculptured by some supernal Rodin, who has tossed the half-finished work aside, saying, "Make out of it what you can."

The bowlders immediately encircling you are vivid with lichen, in reds, greens, and gold. A child would call this a fairy place, and dream of enchantments. Then suddenly one severe slab, imbedded over what was laid to rest in the blasted-out heart of the rock, tells you that here has been high burial:

"This Power that wrought on us and goes

Back to the Power again . . ."

Ah, power! Far better than any cathedral aisle does this "View of the World," Rhodes' self-chosen burial place, suit with the rugged power of the man. The gnarled pinnacles are his cathedral's spires, the richly hued bowlders his stained-glass windows.

Once, when Rhodes was a boy, he asked a gray-haired man why he should thus be buried in the hills, since he would never live to see them full grown. Unforgettably for Rhodes, the veteran replied that he had the vision to see others sitting under the trees' shade when he himself had gone. And well may Rhodesia be likened to an English oak, springing by like vision from the dust now resting under the slab in the Matopo hills.

Just an Idea

It was John Ruskin who said it long ago, but it is still true that the man who looks for the crooked things will see the crooked things, and the man who looks for the straight will see the straight.

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington.—On the outgo side of the national ledger the relief item is the most important single factor in determining how far the budget falls short of balancing. Any congressional debate on relief, therefore invariably brings in the budget question. Recently the senate debated relief—and heard about the budget.

The most searching examination of the budget problem came from a Democrat—Senator Byrd of Virginia, frequent critic of New Deal policies. He brought up the question, Why is the budget suffering from progressively increasing relief expenditures when business conditions are improving?

On the basis of figures supplied by the acting director of the budget, Mr. Byrd calculated that in the fiscal year starting July 1 the government would spend for ordinary purposes and relief \$600,000,000 more than in the current year.

"This means," he said, "that we will spend nearly \$1,000,000,000 more than in 1935 and \$3,000,000,000 more than in 1933; yet conditions today are greatly improved and the need for relief and governmental expenditures is much less than in those previous years."

In 1937, he continued, the government will collect \$1,600,000,000 more in taxes than in 1936, "and still the deficit continues in an alarming amount."

Similar protests against increasing taxes were voiced at last week's general meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute in New York. Remarking that relief expenditures were mounting at the same time that employment and payrolls were going up, Eugene G. Grace, president of the institute, said that "the only sure way to cure unemployment and solve the problem of relief is to increase production."

As a sidelight to all this discussion of government spending, the treasury announced plans for our largest peace-time financing operation—\$2,050,000,000—which was offered on June 15. It will increase the public debt to about \$32,600,000,000, the highest yet.

All States Share

Benefits under the Social Security act are now shared, under one or more of its provisions, by all the 48 states as well as Hawaii and Alaska, according to a survey made at the office of the Social Security board.

The survey revealed that, since February and up to the period ending June 30, the Social Security board has approved grants in aid or administration expenses totaling about \$30,000,000. Most of this has been paid to those states that have qualified under unemployment compensation and public assistance laws approved by the board.

The board also has made payment for expenses of administering unemployment compensation laws, as well as grants for other social services carried on under the children's bureau of the Department of Labor, the Public Health service and the office of education.

Scope of Aid Widened

Although not every state has shared in all the benefits of the Social Security act, the number of states submitting plans for approval to the Social Security board is increasing. Eleven states and the District of Columbia already have had unemployment compensation plans approved by the board. About 7,000,000 workers, or 40 per cent of all those eligible in the entire country, now are covered by approved plans.

In addition, plans for old-age assistance (free pensions) have been approved by the board for 32 states, which now have 628,674 needy aged on their rolls. Twenty-one state laws covering assistance to more than 20,000 blind persons have been approved by the board.

Nineteen state plans for aid to 184,803 dependent children also have been approved.

The board has made no official estimates of federal benefit payments, but an unofficial tally revealed these approximate figures for the February-June, 1936, period.

Public assistance . . . \$22,437,193.54
Unemployment compensation . . . 847,100.29
Vocational rehabilitation . . . 841,000.00
Public Health Service . . . 2,232,323.00
Children's bureau . . . 1,569,916.22

Plans are being made for an enumeration of 26,000,000 wage-earners, who will be covered on January 1, 1937, by the old-age benefit (compulsory contributory pensions) provision of the security act.

Federal Role Indirect

The Social Security act delimits the functions of the federal and state governments. The states have the primary task of administration of laws enacted by them, passing of amendments, appointment of staff and organization of unemployment compensation commissions.

The role of the federal government is indirect, being primarily concerned with protecting the state funds and seeing to it that the state organizations are properly administered.

Under the provisions of the act the federal government can insure

collection of comparable statistical material that would otherwise be difficult with interstate and federal-state co-operation. Since the federal government is responsible for all expense of state administrations, it is directly interested in the efficient expenditures of this money.

Under the public health section of the security act there has resulted a closer co-ordination of health activities of federal, state and local governments, according to Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon-general of the public health service. Before the act only 540 local health units were in operation out of a total of 3,000 counties in the United States. In three months 175 new local health units were added to this number, an increase of more than 30 per cent.

Eleven states have set up new units for the study of industrial hygiene, bringing the total to sixteen. Grants from the funds under the act have enabled California, Washington, Montana and Idaho to set up special facilities for the control of bubonic plague.

In the realm of special projects Alabama has been assisted in extending its efforts toward the eradication of hookworm and Missouri and Tennessee have been assisted in their fight against trachoma.

Link A. T. T. and "Wealth"

A former Harvard instructor traced for the communication commission's investigation of the American Telephone & Telegraph company evidence he said showed a link between the utility and its subsidiaries and "a large part of the total corporate wealth of the United States."

He was Dr. N. R. Daniellan, who under questioning of Samuel Becker, special counsel for the investigation, said that primary consideration of the company in selecting directors was "not familiarity with the problems of the telephone industry, but men who boast wide interests" in other industries.

Daniellan contended directors were selected as a "channel of spreading good will."

Summarizing a study of membership in chambers of commerce, boards of trade, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and similar clubs, the witness said 35 telephone corporations had spent \$4,838,038 for "dues and contributions" in the last ten years.

"It appears," he testified, "that the telephone subscriber has paid the major part of these dues and contributions."

Jobs for 1,660 Youths

Success in placing 1,660 unemployed young people in private jobs by the National Youth administration's 24 junior placement services was reported to Aubrey W. Williams, executive director of the N. Y. A., by Dr. Mary H. S. Haynes, director of guidance and placement.

Representing the efforts of N. Y. A. employment counselors in ten states during March and April the 1,660 jobs were obtained through 2,485 visits to private employers. The number of positions obtained in April was 940, an increase of 70 per cent over the March total of 320.

The 24 placement services included in this report are situated in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Calif.; Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, Conn.; Davenport, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Waterloo and Sioux City, Iowa; Boston, Worcester and Springfield, Mass.; Concord, Nashua and Manchester, N. H.; Brooklyn and Bronx, N. Y.; Fort Worth, Texas; Durham, N. C. (two offices); Chicago and Indianapolis. A twenty-fifth placement service was established in Richmond during May.

Applications for jobs during the two months totaled 6,989. This means that 24 per cent of that total were placed in private jobs.

Of the total 6,989 people applying, more than 6,100, or 88 per cent, were from families not on relief, the report showed. Thirty-five per cent of all the young people who applied have never worked, the report stated. N. Y. A. services are, by executive order of the President, limited to young people between sixteen and twenty-five years of age.

The New Speaker

The new speaker of the house, Representative William Brockman Bankhead of Alabama, is not happy over the manner of his elevation. It was at the expense of the life of Speaker Joseph Wellington Byrns of Tennessee. Less than two years ago both Bankhead and Byrns were battling for the speakership, following the death of Speaker Henry T. Rainey of Illinois, Byrns won.

Speaker Bankhead is a veteran member of congress, having first been elected in 1916. He is a brother of Senator John Bankhead. Speaker Bankhead was born in Moscow, Ala., in 1874, son of Senator John and Tallulah Bankhead. Speaker Bankhead has been a strict Dixie Democrat.

WNU Service.

The Phrase "Touch Wood"

The phrase "Touch wood" is the symbol of a strong superstition. Various explanations, logical and otherwise have been suggested, but the most likely one is that the phrase is a corruption of "touch rood," the church rood being in a place of sanctuary where a poor, hunted fellow was safe from his enemies. And seemingly, it was during Cromwell's time that it became "touch wood" instead of "touch rood," the change itself doubtless being for safety in view of the religious feelings of Oliver and his followers.

Quick, Safe Relief For Eyes Irritated By Exposure To Sun, Wind and Dust—

May Be So
How the prehistoric animals might laugh if they saw some of the models in the museums intended to be replicas of them.

SURE DEATH TO ANTS

Sprinkle Peterman's Ant Food along window sills, doors, any place where ants come and go. Peterman's kills them—red ants, black ants, others. Quick. Safe. Guaranteed effective 24 hours a day. Get Peterman's Ant Food now. 25c, 35c and 60c packages at your druggist's.

PETERMAN'S ANT FOOD

Blemishes Made Her Old Looking

Face Clear Again with Cuticura Soap and Ointment

Here is a letter every skin sufferer should read. Its message is vital. "There were blemishes on my face, of external origin, and they made me look old and haggard. They were red, hard and large. They would hurt, and when I scratched them the skin would become irritated, and I would lie awake at night and start digging at my face.

"But after using two cakes of Cuticura Soap and one tin of Cuticura Ointment my face was cleared again." (Signed) Mrs. L. Whetzel, 2nd St., Florence, Pa., June 15, 1935.

Physicians can understand such letters. The Cuticura formulas have proved their effectiveness for over half a century. Remember, Cuticura Soap and Ointment are also for pimples, rashes, ringworm, burning of eczema and other externally caused skin blemishes. All druggists. Soap 25c. Ointment 25c.—Adv.

Rid Yourself of Kidney Poisons

Do you suffer burning, scanty or too frequent urination; backache, headache, dizziness, loss of energy, leg pains, swellings and puffiness under the eyes? Are you tired, nervous—feel all unstrung and don't know what is wrong?

Then give some thought to your kidneys. Be sure they function properly for functional kidney disorder permits excess waste to stay in the blood, and to poison and upset the whole system.

Use Doan's Pills. Doan's are for the kidneys only. They are recommended the world over. You can get the genuine, time-tested Doan's at any drug store.

DOAN'S PILLS

KILL ALL FLIES

Place anywhere. Daisy Fly Killer attracts and kills flies. Guaranteed effective. No conventions—cannot spill—without soil or injury to anything. Lasts all season. 20c at all dealers. Harold B. Stone, Inc., 150 De Kalb Ave., N.Y.

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FOUR TEASPOONFULS OF MILK OF MAGNESIA IN ONE TASTY WAFER

DOLLARS & HEALTH

The successful person is a healthy person. Don't let yourself be handicapped by sick headaches, a sluggish condition, stomach "nerves" and other dangerous signs of over-acidity.

\$ & ♥

MILNESIA FOR HEALTH

Milnesia, the original milk of magnesia in wafer form, neutralizes stomach acids, gives quick, pleasant elimination. Each wafer equals 4 teaspoonfuls milk of magnesia. Tasty, too, 20c, 35c & 60c everywhere.

Tortoise Carries Water in Travel Over Dry Land

The word tortoise is applied to the land turtle. Sometimes called the ground hog of California for his habit of hibernating during the rainy season, there is still another nickname that might be given. "The little camel of the desert." Located under the hard shell is a membrane sack in which they store a supply of water to carry on their travels far from streams and ponds. From plant life growing on the wastelands they obtain more than enough moisture for their daily use and are able to store up a supply so large, that if a person suffering from thirst could locate

the animal, they would be able to obtain enough water to carry them over a period of two or three days.

Possessing no teeth, states a writer in the Los Angeles Times, their jaws are hard and sharp on the edge, forming a beak. This is the means they use to grind their food small enough to swallow. The large shell protects them from any attacking enemy. They are in reality their own foe. The males when fighting strive to overturn the opponent. When this occurs, they have no means to right themselves and are left to die by the victor. Land turtles are sun creatures and when night comes or the day is dark and gloomy they seldom put in appearance.