

# Floyd Gibbons Adventurers' Club



## "Hand-Made Inferno"

By FLOYD GIBBONS  
Famous Headline Hunter

GATHER 'round the soda fountain, boys and girls. Mike Foley is standing treat. Mike lives at Jackson Heights, N. Y., and he's going to treat us to a swell yarn. Mike's an old hand at this treating business. He was doing it professionally as far back as June, 1884—the month and year in which he had his big adventure.

But don't get the idea that Mike went around handing out ten-cent cigars like a guy that's trying to be elected alderman. Not on your life. Mike was an oil treader—one of the lads who processed kerosene so it could be burned in lamps. And a mighty dangerous job that was, too.

Mike worked for the Standard Oil company at a big refinery and storage yard that was then located in Long Island City.

### Lightning Strikes Huge Oil Tank!

The tanks in which the oil was treated, and on which Mike worked, were huge affairs twenty feet in diameter and thirty or more feet high. You got to the top of them by wooden stairways. And up the side of each tank ran a pair of six-inch pipes that carried the chemicals with which the oil was treated.

Well sir, to get down to the story, Mike Foley was up on the top of one of the big tanks giving its contents a good, thorough treating. Part of that job consisted of blowing compressed air through the oil, and that was often a messy procedure. Oil would slop over the side of the tank and saturate the wooden staircase. That was not only messy, but dangerous—as subsequent events amply demonstrated.

A thunderstorm was brewing while Mike was inside, under cover of the tank's sheltering top. The storm broke, about quarter after two in the afternoon, and about two-thirty he heard a loud crack. Lightning! It had struck the tank.

### Mike Moves Swiftly to Close Trap Doors.

Mike's two bosses had gone to the office to give in their reports. Mike was all alone in the tank, so it was up to him. He ran out from under the shelter-roof to see what had happened. The lightning had struck



The Whole Stair Was a Raging Inferno of Fire.

all right. The oil-soaked, wooden stairs were on fire. The blaze, starting apparently from the top, had spread down four or five steps by the time Mike got there.

There was one thing that had to be done, then—done mighty quickly, too. Around the top of the tank were five trap doors, wide open to let out the gases that formed in the tank during treatments. Those doors had to be closed before the fire got through them and the whole tank went up in flames.

Mike dashed for the doors. He got one closed—then another. At that point he turned and took a look at the burning stairway. The flames had spread down four or five more steps. The fire was blazing with even greater fury.

### Casablanca Really Had Nothing on Mike

And that wasn't all that was worrying Mike, either. Any minute now—doors or no doors—the tank might take fire and go up with a big WHOOSH! And where would that leave Mike? Not much of anywhere, to tell the truth about it. Just let that tank get going good, and Mike would be trapped. There wouldn't be much left of him but a few cinders when it was all over.

The thought put new energy into him. He got the next three doors closed in jig time. And then he went back to the stairway that was his only avenue of escape. But when Mike got to the stairway, he stopped. No use trying to get down there. Not only the whole stair, but likewise the platform leading to it, was a raging inferno of flame. The timbers that supported it had been eaten through by the blaze. If Mike wasn't burned to death on the way down, he'd be killed in a fall when the weakened supports broke and sent him crashing to earth.

"So there I stood," says Mike, "forty-five feet from the ground, like young Casablanca—the boy who stood on the burning deck. A crowd had gathered down below, and about eight hundred men who worked in the loading sheds near the dock were yelling to me to jump. I didn't want to do that—it would have been almost as bad as burning to death. Still, I couldn't stay up there, either. Most any minute that tank might go up with a roar—and take me along with it."

### Mike Was a Good Hand on the Flying Rings.

It looked pretty bad for Mike—but he still had a trick or two up his sleeve. "At that time," he says, "I was a member of the Star Athletic club of Long Island City, and I was pretty good on the flying rings. So I swung over the edge of the platform."

What followed after that brought gasps from the men down below. Like a circus acrobat, high overhead, he began swinging himself along on the braces that held the platform up. He had traveled eight or ten feet around the side of the tank before the spectators saw what he was aiming at. Then they set up a cheer as Mike reached one of the six-inch pipes that ran down the side of the tank and began sliding to safety.

"That pipe was so close to the tank," says Mike, "that I couldn't put my legs around it. I had to grip it with my knees and slide down in jerks about two inches at a time. But I got down all right except for some skin I lost off my hands, and a new pair of pants I had to buy to replace the ones I was wearing. They were ruined."

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### Ancient Legends Account for Eclipse in Odd Ways

Whether or not we believe that an eclipse is a portent of evil, the ancient races invariably linked it with disaster. In mythology an evil dragon was said to be lurking in the heavens and that he made periodical attempts to swallow the sun or the moon. In the Norse legends the sun and the moon were driven across the heavens by charioteers, with huge wolves ever in pursuit. The ancient Greeks held that the sun must always be provided with a chariot and horses to keep it safe, and once a year a chariot and four horses were thrown into the sunlit sea as an offering.

Among many races, an eclipse of the sun signified that the giver of light and life had been caught by an evil monster. The

only thing to save the sun from being devoured was to frighten away the monster by making noises. The Chinese used to chant choruses and bang gongs. In Greenland the natives climbed on to the roofs of their huts and banged kettles and pans to make as much noise as possible.

The oldest eclipse in history is believed to have been noted in China, 2158 B. C., relates a writer in Pearson's Weekly. Two mandarins who practiced astronomy were put to death by the emperor for having failed to give due warning of the phenomenon. The eclipse of Nineveh in 763 B. C. is believed to have been foretold by the prophet Amos when he said: "And it shall come to pass in that day that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the Earth in the clear day."

## BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

Honor Dead at Vimy  
Spanish War Pitiless  
Russia Aids Loyalists  
Hitler Watches Spain

The dedication of the magnificent war monument, designed by a Canadian artist, recently unveiled by the king of England in memory of the Canadian soldiers that fell at Vimy Ridge, is important to all our friends north of the boundary in Canada. It will interest, also, all Americans that were sent abroad in that famous fight, with which



Arthur Brisbane we had nothing to do except lose our men and our money. American soldiers, who liked the Canadian and Australian troops better than any others they met, according to statements made by many, testify to the courage with which the colonial Englishmen fought at Vimy Ridge and elsewhere.

Statistics of the war show that, on the side of the allies, the percentage of death was higher among the Canadians than among any other troops involved, excepting the French themselves, who fought at their own frontiers to defend their own homes.

Sixty thousand Canadians lie buried, each one an "unknown soldier," around that great monument. The king of England, after a long and really admirable speech of appreciation, lowered the flags that hid the monument which, as he said, will forever honor the courage of the Canadians that fought and that lie dead and buried.

The war that killed so many millions, blowing them to pieces, leaving them to die shattered and agonizing on the battlefield; suffocating, making them insane with the poison gas just coming into fashion, seemed between 1914 and 1918 as horrible as any war could be. But the civil war, the worst, most savage, pitiless and ferocious of all wars, now going on in Spain, makes the big war comparatively mild.

Lord Rothermere's London Daily Mail eclipses in the horror of one published statement all stories of

horror in the war and goes beyond anything that could possibly be believed.

When the French newspaper, the Friend of the People, described fighters for Madrid's radical government digging up and throwing from their graves the bodies of Catholic nuns, that horror seems beyond belief.

But Lord Rothermere's newspaper prints the statement that other nuns ALIVE were seized—three of them—their clothing saturated with gasoline, and burned to death. The Daily Mail also quotes the statement that in the city of Barcelona, when the radical forces had conquered the rebellious insurgent inhabitants, "any Catholic priest in the city was butchered without mercy."

Russia is, according to reliable reports, in constant communication with the Madrid government: by radio.

Newspapers in England, and the more conservative newspapers in France, declare that Russia, in addition to advising Madrid concerning the immediate civil war and helping the Spanish government by the purchase of Spanish bonds, is also sending by radio detailed information as to the organization in Spain of a "Soviet government" similar to that existing in Russia.

France, thanks to the existing alliance with Russia—resented by many of the old-fashioned Frenchmen, who ask, "Is Stalin the real ruler of France?"—is under pressure from Russia to help the Madrid government against the insurgents.

If Spain should become really sovietized, under the guidance of Russia, the Spanish peninsula would be practically a branch and a dependency of Soviet Russia at the southwest corner of Europe.

Russia, whose planes have been taking information on manufacturing poison gas and building factories to the nations that are friendly to her in central Europe, might build up a chain of Communist states too powerful even for the dictator governments of Italy and Germany, and the remaining "democratic" government of Great Britain. It is not a happy time for Europeans, or for any interested in Europe's future peace and welfare.

Hitler is reported on the point of siding with the Spanish insurgents against the radical Madrid regime, because of savage attacks made on Nazi officers in Spain. It is reported that a woman in charge of the Hitler office was threatened with death if she would not reveal the whereabouts of her principal; dragged into the streets, her dress was soaked with gasoline. An interruption prevented applying the match.

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## Solving Midseason Dress Problem

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



WHEN summer clothes begin to take on a jaded and somewhat worse-for-wear "has been" air, and you are loath to force the season by donning advance fall fashions before the psychological moment arrives, then what? Aye, that's the problem that has destroyed perfectly good dispositions and peace of mind of the fair sex throughout decades and decades of time.

However, we are not going to be tantalized and tormented with such momentous worries this midseason, for good news concerning this question is winging its way fashionward at this very moment. Tidings of great cheer, they are told in terms of dresses and suits tailored of the black or dark-toned silk sheers, nets and laces which have come into favor of late as they never came before. These cool and comfortable dark sheers are a perfect blend from summer to fall. In such you are sure to hold poise and serenity in the assurance that you will be smartly and appropriately costumed all through the prologue which nature and the weather man play to autumn. In fact, no wardrobe may be said to be complete these days without at least one tailored black or dark sheer in its collection.

Acquire a two-piece gown of black silk marquisette as shown to the left in the illustration and your between-season dress trials will vanish like dew on a sunny morn. In regard to selecting a sheer for dependable wear, perhaps a few words of advice will not come amiss. When you buy, insist on a weave of guaranteed quality. In order to get maximum service and real joy and satisfaction in the costume you rely upon to carry you through the between-season valiantly, the sheer of which it is made should be nothing less than pure silk and fast dye. Perish the thought of a shoddy black that is apt to take on a greenish bilious cast as cheaper blacks in cheaper weaves are wont to do. Buy pure silk and your dress will wear dependably. As to the smart styling of the model pictured, note that it is a tunic costume. Newly arriving fashions verify previous reports that the tunic will continue to be the big idea for fall. The large black buttons that fasten this tunic, also the modish short sleeve and the white jabot, register important fashion details.

Advance fashions tell of the emphasis placed on the princess silhouette for both dresses and coats as the print costume with full-length princess coat of the print in this group demonstrates. The print is black and wine on a cream ground. There is increasing interest shown for wine and red shades and they are regarded as color "firsts" for fall and winter. An innovation is the use of velvet revers on coats and jackets after the manner noted in this costume. This coat-dress qualifies admirably as an ideal midsummer costume. Its sheer print guarantees comfort while its modish velvet revers tune to the march of time that leads to fall days.

In the redingote made of fine black lace as portrayed to the right, answer to the midseason dress problem is given in no uncertain terms. A lace redingote such as this may be worn over different dresses converting the simplest frock into a costume of style distinction. For formal wear pose it over a black satin slip. What could make a more charming hostess or dinner gown than the redingote of black lace topping a white cotton pique foundation as here illustrated. The soft pique collar and perky bow lend fetching accents to this costume. You'll love a black lace redingote or jacket over your summer pastel silk crepe frocks. Try out the idea. You will find it well worth while. Separate lace jackets are smart, too, in either black or white.

### GLACE KID IS NEW FALL GLOVE STYLE

The smartest gloves this fall will be "smooth." There is a definite revival, to quote Vogue, "of the firm, moulded hand," possibly following the moulded silhouette, the moulded bust and moulded hips, which will be featured for fall. As the high style leather of the coming season, Paris is consequently sponsoring thin, supple glace kid. It has always been a standby and favorite, but now it is coming up rapidly in the fashion world.

Since three out of the four gloves Molyneux will show with his collection are glace kid, it goes without saying that the smartest women in Paris and this country will adopt the fashion. Fashions, as a whole, are becoming more and more feminine and the glace glove is but a natural result of that trend. Thin, smooth leather is the most flattering a woman can wear. It outlines the shape of her hand and makes her fingers appear long and slender.

Color is again a dominant note. Colored gloves are not going out of style. On the contrary, the fashion will be harnessed to practical, sensible shades of which some will become almost staples.

### Prints and Big Hats

Colorful prints, broad-brimmed hats, and strap pumps with high build-up heels are favorites among outdoor diners at Manhattan's fashionable terrace cafes during the noon hour.

### Choosing Corsages

A good principle to follow in selecting a corsage or shoulder bouquet is that the large flowers look best on the tall woman, small ones on a short woman.

### TYROLEAN JACKET

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



Here is a little indispensable jacket you will want to wear with your culottes or shorts. It is made of white linen bound in bright colors like copen, red, navy or black with silver buttons. It is colorful and has the decorative buttons because it is of Tyrolean inspiration. Much of the fashionable sportswear this season reflects influence of Austrian peasant dress. The outstanding fashion note of this attractive jacket is the hand-quilted Trapunto design at the neck and on the pockets and sleeves. The Vogue for hand-quilting is growing into a most outstanding style movement.

### Pique for Toque

White pique flowers make a summer toque.

## POULTRY

PARASITE CONTROL TO IMPROVE FLOCK

Poultrymen Can Help the Birds by Routing Lice.

By O. C. UFFORD, Extension Poultryman, Colorado State College.—WNU Service.

Poultry producers can improve the vigor and producing capacity of their flocks by controlling poultry parasites.

Internal parasites such as round worms and tape worms are increasing, but may easily be prevented by growing young stock on ground that has been plowed and used for crop production or on ground that has not been used by poultry for at least one year.

External parasites such as lice and mites can readily be controlled. The former may be eliminated by applying nicotine sulphate to the roosts or by using sodium chloride as a dip or by sprinkling the dry powder into the plumage of individual birds.

For the control of mites strong spraying material such as commercial dips, is recommended. These may be painted or sprayed on the roosts, walls and floors of the chicken house.

It is during the warm months that parasites multiply most rapidly and become a serious menace to the poultry flock. These pests are responsible for much of the poor health and lack of vigor among many flocks.

### Best Time to Caponize From Two to Four Months

Cockerels may be caponized at from two to four months of age or at from 1 1/2 to 2 pounds in weight, the weight being a better guide than the age. They should be kept without food for from 24 to 36 hours previous to the operation and by themselves for a few days thereafter, being then fed the usual ration. The American breeds, notes an authority in the Rural New-Yorker—Barred Rocks, R. I. Reds, Wyandottes and others of this class are preferred for medium-weight capons, weighing from 8 to 10 pounds at maturity. The heavy breeds, such as the Jersey Giants, Light Brahmas and others of this class will make capons weighing over 10 pounds. The Barred Rocks are the most popular of breeds for caponizing and the yellow skinned breeds have some preference in most markets. Market demand is greatest from November to April and the heavier capons are preferred. Records show that it takes from 9 to 10 pounds of feed to produce a pound of weight, the cost of this being the largest item in the expense account.

Unless exceptional opportunities for limiting production costs or obtaining superior prices in the market are available, it is a question whether there is any profit in keeping chicks of broiler age for sale as capons, though these latter fowls are of unquestioned superiority to mature fowls on the table.

### Testing for Pullorum

There are several methods of testing birds for pullorum disease. In all cases the basic principle involved is the same as in the test for avian or bovine tuberculosis infectious abortion in cattle typhoid in humans etc. In the case of pullorum testing, says a writer in the Montreal Herald, the procedure is briefly this. A sample of blood of a bird is brought into contact with a standardized suspension of Salmonella Pullorum organisms in a saline solution. This liquid is called antigen. When antigen comes into contact either with the blood or serum of the infected bird a definite reaction takes place which can be easily observed by an experienced technician. If properly conducted the test is very effective in detecting the reactors, which should then be immediately culled out and sent to market.

### Substitute for Green Feed

Where green feed is not available a balanced laying mash reinforced with a potent fish oil should be kept before the birds at all times. The addition of from 5 to 7 and one-half per cent of alfalfa leaf meal will in most cases provide ample insurance for the lack of this green feed. Where possible dehydrated alfalfa leaf meal should be used. The use of this leaf meal and a good laying mash should keep the birds in a good healthy laying condition, says the North Carolina State College.

### Salt Additions Desirable

Good chicks have been grown with rations that did not contain any common salt (sodium chloride) addition. Rations that carried as much as a 5 per cent of common salt appear to be mildly injurious. It is true, says the Wisconsin Agriculturist, that generous supplies of chlorine are needed to make hydrochloric acid in the stomach which aids in protein digestion. The results secured seem to show quite definitely that it is well to add from one-half to one pound of salt to each hundred pounds of chick mash.

## Portrait of Kittens Done in Stitchery



Pattern No. 5604

How can you resist this appealing pair of kittens? Their "portrait" on a pillow top or picture will add charm to your home aside from your pleasure in making it. And how effective it is, worked quickly in colorful floss, the crosses an easy 8 to the inch. Since the motif requires but the merest outline, you're finished before you know it!

In pattern 5604 you will find a transfer pattern of these kittens 13 1/4 by 14 inches; a color chart and key, material requirements; illustrations of all stitches needed.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) to the Sewing Circle Household Arts Dept., 259 W. Fourteenth St., New York, N. Y. Write plainly pattern number, your name and address.

## The Mind Meter

By LOWELL HENDERSON

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### Best Time to Caponize From Two to Four Months

The Similarities Test In each problem of the following test there are three words. The first two bear a certain relationship to each other. Write in a fourth word which will bear the same relationship to the third word that the second does to the first.

1. head—hat—hands, .....
2. Ophelia—"H a m l e t"—Portia, .....
3. Paraguay—republic—Sweden, .....
4. boy—pants—girl, .....
5. Yale—bulldogs—Princeton, .....
6. Lou Gehrig—baseball—Wilmer Allison, .....
7. Carter Glass—Virginia—Geo. W. Norris, .....
8. "Dombey and Son"—Dickens—"Innocent Aton"—.....
9. Ohio—Columbus—West Virginia, .....
10. pint—capacity—yard, .....

### Answers

1. gloves. 6. tennis.
2. "Merchant of 7. Nebraska. Venice." 8. Mark Twain.
3. kingdom. 9. Charleston.
4. skirt. 10. length.
5. Tigers.

### Foreign Words and Phrases

A posteriori. (L.) From that which follows, from effect to cause.

Au jour le jour. (F.) From hand to mouth.

Battre la campagne. (F.) To scour the country; to go on a fool's errand.

Ca m'est egal. (F.) It is all the same to me.

De profundis. (L.) Out of the depths.

En grande tenue. (F.) In full dress.

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