

# Floyd Gibbons'

## ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



### "The Madman With the Bottle"

HELLO EVERYBODY: You know, they say troubles come singly—which is just another way of saying that Old Lady Adventure is never content with giving you just one sock on the jaw. I don't know how true that is, but it certainly worked out that way in the case of Hattie Rohr of Chicago.

Hattie's big bout with Old Lady Adventure came in the winter of 1917. There was trouble enough in the world then, without having the old girl with the thrill bag on your neck. The war was on and the influenza epidemic was sweeping the country. Hattie, in those days, was just an eleven-year-old girl, living with her mother and dad and three sisters on a farm between Clare and Dodge City, Iowa. Her name then was Hattie McLaughlin.

The flu epidemic struck the McLaughlin family in January. It brought down Hattie's dad and her three sisters, and that left Hattie and her mother to do all the chores around that big farm. It was one of those days when everything seemed to go wrong. Mother had just come from upstairs to call the doctor. Dad and the three sick girls were worse. While they were waiting for the doctor the party-line phone rang. It was the school teacher, down with the flu herself, who wanted Hattie to go to the schoolhouse and post a notice saying there would be no school that day.

Already tired from her morning's work, Hattie struggled more than a mile through the snow to post that notice. She found two small children shivering in the cold, waiting for the school to open, and took them to her home and phoned their father to come and get them. And no sooner had he come and gone with his pair of kids than Hattie heard another knock on the door.

#### Stranger Comes In for Tea.

A strange man was out front. He said he was a telephone lineman from Clare, and wanted to know if he could come in and get warm. Hattie and her mother asked him in and gave him a cup of tea to warm him up. While he was drinking his tea and eating a piece of corn



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bread, Hattie and her mother went on with their work. Nothing unusual happened until he had finished eating and drinking. Then the stranger got up and walked over to the stove.

It was such an unusual movement that Hattie stopped to watch him. He backed up against the stove as if to warm himself, but Hattie saw one of his hands slide into his pocket and come out holding a tiny bottle.

There was a pot of beans boiling on the stove. Slowly, shielded by his body, the stranger's hand crept up and emptied the contents of the bottle into the pot of beans!

Her mother hadn't seen it, but Hattie was standing in such a position that she could see every move he made. She was startled—frightened. An older person might have said nothing, for fear of precipitating trouble. That mother and child were defenseless, with dad ill in bed upstairs. But kids of Hattie's age don't stop to think of those things. She let out a scream and then, impulsively, she darted across the room and knocked the bottle from the man's hand.

#### Out Comes a Long, Thin-Bladed Knife.

Her mother turned to see what was the matter. At the same time, the stranger reached inside his coat, pulled out a long, thin-bladed knife, and slashed Hattie across the legs. Blood began to flow from a long deep cut. Dazed at the turn affairs had taken, Hattie backed away, staring at the man. The man stood, knife in hand, staring back at Hattie. Her mother was staring at both of them. For a minute there was a deadly silence.

The man made no other move—said nothing. Hattie and her mother were too frightened to speak. They began to realize the fellow was stark mad. Hattie sat down, took off a stocking and tied it about her wound. The man stood looking, first at her, then at her mother. He waited until she was finished tying up her bleeding leg, and then he walked across the room to where her mother was standing, breathless and paralyzed with fright, AND RAISED THE KNIFE.

And again Hattie acted impulsively. In an instant she was out of her chair and darting across the room. Reaching out quickly, she grabbed the knife!

The man gave the knife a quick pull. It came out of Hattie's hand, cutting it clear to the bone at the base of the thumb. Crying out in pain, she grabbed at her wrist with her other hand. The madman shoved her away, and knocked her mother down.

For another moment Hattie stood dazed. The man fell on her mother, sat on her chest and began choking her. And at last, a sudden change came over Hattie. Before, she had been frightened—trembling. Now she became furious. A red mist seemed to drop before her eyes. She grabbed up a piece of wood from the pile beside the stove, raised it over her head and brought it down, as hard as she could, on the madman's head.

The man rolled over and lay still. Hattie's wrist was still bleeding and her mother tied it up tightly to stop the flow. They got ropes and tied the maniac's hands behind his back and then—well—then Hattie keeled over in a dead faint.

When she came to, the doctor had been to the house. He had sewed up Hattie's wounds and she had never known a thing about it. The doctor also took the madman back to town and turned him over to the police. They found out later that he had escaped from an institution down in the South, where he had been put for murder.

And when they analyzed that pot of beans into which he had emptied that bottle, it was found that they were poisoned!

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

### Maternity Death Rate Could Be Cut in Half

The lives of 6,000 mothers could be saved every year by prompt and proper medical care, Dr. Phillip R. Williams, of Philadelphia, said recently at the first American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The maternal death rate in the United States is lower than ever before in history, but it is still "disgracefully high" in view of the present knowledge of medical men, Dr. Williams said.

The death rate of mothers declined from 57 out of every 10,000

during 1936 to 49 out of every 10,000 in 1937. Dr. Williams pointed out, however, that this might be cut in half if physicians made use of all available knowledge and if prospective mothers asked for medical attention early.

In addition, the lives of about half of the babies who die in childbirth or soon after might be saved by application of medical methods which are not now generally applied. During 1937, the last year for which statistics are available, 119,931 babies died.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

There is talk of Roosevelt stepping out now, and seeking re-election later... Case of Theodore Roosevelt is recalled... Drouth may force TVA to use steam plants... Lindbergh's attitude on Canada is finding minority support.

### Impossible for Layman to Know Which Side Is Right

Of course this is an old charge. It was alleged by Dr. Arthur E. Morgan during the hearings before the special congressional committee which held hearings last year. But it is so complicated that it is almost impossible for a layman to know which side is right. One little element, for example, is whether interest should be charged on the government's investment—and whether the amount of this investment be allocated to power—as compared with navigation and flood control—is adequate.

It would seem from the present performance, where the channel has been lowered below the figure agreed upon in order to preserve water for power purposes, that perhaps not so much ought to be charged to navigation. Summer before last it seemed to some engineers that the amount of water being held back by the dams was dangerously high if flood prevention insurance were properly considered.

At that time the water level in the lake behind Norris dam was so high that if heavy rains had followed the dam would have been useless for flood prevention purposes. So maybe the figure allocated in the cost for flood prevention was a little high. If both these are too high it seems entirely possible that considerably more of the original cost of the project should have been charged to power.

But even without making any such changes in the actual cost of current which these two elements would produce, and taking the TVA's own estimates, there is no doubt whatever that TVA will be selling current below cost next spring unless record-breaking gains come this winter.

### Lindbergh's Attitude on Canada Finding Support

Col. Charles A. Lindbergh's suggestion that the United States should dominate Canada's foreign policy, or at least that Canada's foreign relations should conform to Pan-American standards, thus severing the Dominion's ties with Great Britain, struck many hearers as merely impolitic, but for a substantial minority, it has developed, it struck a responsive chord.

This minority is not clear-cut as to its objectives beyond a certain point, and is very evasive about how it would reach them, but it is important enough to merit consideration.

There is passionate agreement about the first point—that Canada should not be allowed the right to drag the United States into a world war—or any war for that matter—growing out of Canada's connection with the British empire. Hence there is general agreement—among this minority—that Canada should withdraw from the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The same desire to have Old World ties severed goes for Jamaica, Bermuda, the British, French and Dutch Guianas, British Honduras, Martinique, Curacao, and all the rest of the Americas which at present fly European flags.

None of the minority so far discovered by this writer consider that force would be necessary to impose this.

### Admit Administration Has Not Been Neutral

Curiously enough, nearly every one of this minority desiring to divorce all the Americas from European ties are New Dealers, and nearly every one of them, though agreeing with the New Deal on everything else, disagrees violently with President Roosevelt's foreign policies since the outbreak of the war. They will admit, with sadness, that the administration has not been neutral—that virtually every action taken by Roosevelt or this government since the war clouds began to hover has been distinctly pro-British and French.

The much talked about 300-mile zone around the Americas is, however, one of the things these "Pan Americans" do not agree about. Many of them are enthusiastic about it, though agreeing that it would be a distinct help to Britain and France, and a headache for Germany.

The "Pan Americans" admit that there is a sharp division inside the administration about the whole war policy. Some of the New Dealers, they insist, are on their side.

fact that several of the steam plants taken over in the recent deal by which TVA, and local authorities purchased the Tennessee properties of the Commonwealth & Southern are not as efficient as the TVA experts had figured.

The truth seems to be that the Commonwealth & Southern, working for the last few years with an ax over its head, had not spent any money on these plants. They had not been kept in good condition, according to information here, much less brought up to date. Hence while they can be operated they are not efficient. Cost of producing power at them is very high.

So to be compelled to use these plants to produce enough current to carry out the TVA contracts next spring would mean, according to experts, that the TVA would be selling current for less than it costs to produce.

### British Disasters Bring Check on Our Naval Plans

By LEMUEL F. PARTON  
NEW YORK.—This department flushes a swarm of rumors about drastic changes in our naval building plans, said to have been induced by new problems of defense against planes and submarines as disclosed by British disasters.

So far as we can learn, there are impending some possible changes in personnel, and a general check and overhauling of work on new ships to date, but nothing revolutionary. It is indicated that there will be intensive studies and training in coordination of ships, planes and submarines.

At the highest peak of American naval construction in peacetime history, Rear Admiral Alexander Hamilton Van Keuren is made chief of the bureau of construction and repair. That puts him right in the wheelhouse of the navy efficiency drive, as this is the acid-testing bureau for fighting ships, and it bears the responsibility for their being sound and fit, structurally and in design. Defects have been found, and are being remedied in several 10,000-ton cruisers.

Admiral Van Keuren, a navy technician for 36 years, is one of the most highly rated specialists in naval construction. He smokes a drop-stem pipe, carries on easily and informally, and marshals engineering data with a precise mastery of detail. His previous post has been that of industrial manager at the Philadelphia navy yard. He is a dependable safeguard against pitted or pithy armor plate, such as we heard of years ago. He is a native of Michigan, graduated from Annapolis in 1903. His predecessor in the bureau, Rear Admiral W. G. Du Bose, becomes commander of the new model basin at Carderock, Md.

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL VAN VOORHIS, assigned to the supreme command in the Panama Canal Zone, is an officer up from the ranks who has been entrusted with many critically important assignments in the past—among them the guardianship of the bulk of the nation's \$17,000,000,000 gold reserve, at Fort Knox, Ky. The fact of his selection is evidence of the crucial importance of the canal defenses, in the eyes of the high command.

### From Zanesville, Ohio, he enlisted in the Tenth Pennsylvania Infantry in 1898 and won a commission as second lieutenant in the Philippine Insurrection. He is the army specialist in mechanized defense and attack, and just now the canal is a concentration of swift mechanization. In the World war, he was chief-of-staff at Brest, and holds the Distinguished Service medal, the Navy Cross, the Silver Star and the Legion of Honor decorations.

IN HIS new book, "The Defense of Britain," Capt. Liddell Hart, the British military expert, says, "Our chief risk of losing a war lies in trying to win the war."

His preceding book, "Europe in Arms," published in August, 1937, he thought there was hope of ending war in the limitations of the military mind. Fat-headed generals would cling to gaudy mass attack and make war so stupid and ridiculous that anybody surviving would just forget it. But the trouble with a war expert is that you can't bottle him up, and other nations in the past have used him as a military consultant.

In the World war, a stripping just out of Cambridge, a captain and a war correspondent, he gave the generals a lacing to the limit of the censorship, and, although they growled menacingly, they took him into their counsels. He invented a lot of new trick plans, including the "indirect approach" and the "expanding torrent" system, and his reputation was well on its way before the war ended.

He has scolded many of the main panjandrums of the big war, in the post-war years, apparently with public approval, judging from the sale of his books. He was a war buddy of Lawrence of Arabia and insisted that this human cryptogram knew more about war than all the generals put together.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)



## WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

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## ASK ME ANOTHER?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

### The Questions

1. What is the difference between a contest and a tournament?
2. Why did George Eliot, the English novelist and poet, not live to be an old man?
3. How many time changes from Chicago to San Francisco?
4. What is a trade dollar?
5. For what do the following abbreviations stand: Ad lib.; e.g.; i.e.; viz.?
6. Would you call a person living in Rome a Roman or an Italian?
7. Was the "Star Spangled Banner" originally entitled so?
8. How many Indians are there in Alaska?

### The Answers

1. A contest is any battle for supremacy; a tournament usually refers to some test of athletics or card skill.
2. George Eliot was a woman.
3. Two—one to mountain time, and one to Pacific time.
4. A U. S. coin not minted since

### Useless Wisdom

If wisdom were offered me on condition that I should keep it close and not communicate it, I would refuse the gift.—Seneca.

5. Ad libitum, at pleasure; exempli gratia, for example; id est, that is; videlicet, namely.
6. "Roman" generally implies the early Roman empire. "Italian" is used.
7. The "Star Spangled Banner," which became the national anthem of the United States in 1931, or 117 years after its composition by Francis Scott Key, was originally entitled "Defense of Fort M'Henry."
8. There are about 11,000 Indians and 19,000 Eskimos and Aleuts in Alaska. The total population of the territory is about 60,000.

## CLOTHESPIN NOSE

Sensational extra help for colds—Luden's! These famous cough drops not only soothe throat, but release a menthol vapor—which, with every breath, helps penetrate clogged nasal passages, helps relieve "clothespin nose!"

LUDEN'S 5¢ Menthol Cough Drops



THE TOBACCO THAT EXPERTS FOUND COOLEST IN TESTS IS THE ONE I'VE ALWAYS ROLLED FOR MILD, TASTY 'MAKIN'S' SMOKES!

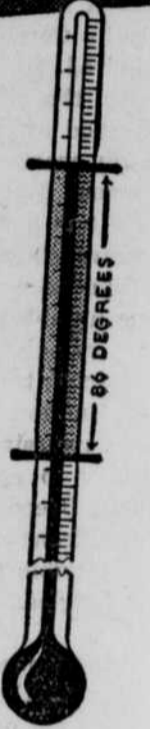


ROLL-YOUR-OWNERS, READ THESE SMOKING FACTS!

In recent laboratory "smoking bowl" tests, Prince Albert burned

86 DEGREES COOLER

than the average of the 30 other of the largest-selling brands tested—coolest of all!



YES, SIR—EE—"makin's" smokers—there's a big tip for you here! Experts in a nationally known independent laboratory recently made "smoking bowl" comparisons to find the COOLEST-SMOKING TOBACCO! Automatic smoking and heat-registering machines registered and printed the findings every step of the way. Results—Prince Albert burned 86 degrees COOLER than the average of the 30 other of the largest-selling brands tested... coolest of all!

Thousands of "makin's" fans have always praised P.A. as the cooler-smoking brand. P.A.'s choice tobaccos smoke full-bodied—richer-tasting, YET EASIER ON THE TONGUE. Prince Albert is "no-bite" treated! The famous P.A. "crimp cut" smokes cooler, draws easier. Besides, it rolls up faster, neater—without bunching or spilling—because it lays right. There's no other tobacco like Prince Albert! Get Prince Albert for your papers today. (So cool in pipes, too!)

Prince Albert THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE



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70 fine roll-your-own cigarettes in every handy tin of Prince Albert