

# THE AMERICAN HOUSE

By Virginia Chase

WE got dinner ready the next Sunday, hoping for a miracle. No one had come at 12 o'clock. At 1, the people in the White Steamer called up from the farm house near a sign that announced the new restriction, and Benjamin went for them with the buck-board. The dinner was good, and they ate as heartily as ever, but we knew, somehow, that they would not be back again.

My father called up on Monday, Benjamin was to meet him that night at the Junction. He had a man with him, a man who was coming to stay.

"It must be a summer boarder," my mother said, more cheerful than she had been since the Town Meeting. "Be sure you don't tell your father what's gone on," she warned us.

It was dark when they came. We heard the wheels on the gravel, then my father's voice. "Where is everybody?" He sounded in high spirits.

We all ran out to meet him. "Remember, not a word," my mother said.

My father kissed us all. Then he turned to the man standing beside him. "Mr. Clayton Cutter, our new clerk," he said, looking quite proud of himself.

We simply stared. A new clerk when only that day my mother had been wondering if we could possibly manage without Ada.

Mr. Cutter bowed, and we all fled quietly into the house.

"How did you find Cousin Victoria?" my mother asked in a polite voice on the way.

"As usual," my father answered shortly. "He had plainly expected quite a different welcome."

No one spoke as we crossed the piazza.

"Show Mr. Cutter his room, Susan," my mother said when we were inside.

NO. 10 was the room we had prepared. It was on the back corner of the second floor, over-

looking the bay. It was a good room, ordinarily reserved for transients.

Mr. Cutter looked more like a transient than a clerk. He was short, but erect, with a bearing that suggested the military. He had thick, lively gray hair, a trim mustache, and a Vandyke beard, the only one we had ever seen outside of a portrait.

"This way, sir," Sue said. We could see she was awed.

"What's the matter?" my father began as soon as they were out of hearing. He was hurt and baffled and a little annoyed.

My mother had to tell him the whole story.

He took it hard. "If I had only taken heed myself," he said, groaning, "it would never have happened."

My mother always let him keep his vanities. "The first thing to do is to send this man back," she told him. "We can give him a week's pay."

My father hesitated. "All he wants is his board," he finally said.

"His board," my mother echoed. "That's all."

"Where in the world did you get a man for that?"

"That's all he wants," my father assured her.

My mother did not notice the evasion then. "Well, that's different," she said. "He looks presentable. We can try him out, anyway."

MR. CUTTER was more than presentable. He was impressive. Indeed, if it hadn't been for his hands, he might have seemed forbidding. They were very white, very soft, and very graceful. He moved them from the wrist with gestures so eloquent that he hardly needed to speak at all. A finger to the lips when someone was telephoning. A backward gesture toward an open door. A half-beckoning, half-welcoming sweep toward the

register. A wide flourish in the direction of the dining room. One finger for the first floor. Two for the second. . . . At only one time was he really voluble. That was when he yawned. Then he tapped his lips gently with his fingers and emitted a loud "HI HO HUM."

At first he made quite a hit in the office. He gave it a real tone. Even the summer people were impressed. His clothes were always neat, his hair well brushed, and his hands and nails immaculate.

He made quite a hit with Ada, too. Here at last was the kind of man she had dreamed of. Distinctive, courtly, alone in the world. She gave him a clean napkin every day and always kept a vase of flowers on his table. Sometimes, when he wasn't there to see her, she slipped into the office with little lunches. A deviled ham sandwich, maybe, or a molasses doughnut, or a glass of buttermilk, which he fancied.

This irritated Mrs. Guptill. Food cost money. Ada wasn't paid three dollars a week to throw it away.

If Mr. Cutter had been a worker, she might have overlooked the lunches. But he wasn't—it turned out—a worker at anything. For hours at a time he would sit at the desk gazing at his hands or idly drawing circles on sheets of paper. Often he dozed in the afternoon, cupping his face in his hands so that his beard hung down like a cornucopia. The telephone might ring two or three times before he stirred himself to answer it.

We girls were very busy—dusting, wiping dishes, setting tables, berrying—and his idleness annoyed us, too.

"Mr. Cutter ought to do that," we often complained when my mother suggested some additional chore. "He's got plenty of time."

"Now, now," she would say. "That meant 'Enough from you.'"

But it provoked her a little, too, to come in and find him sleeping. "Of course," she said, "if we were paying him anything. . . ."

(To Be Continued)

## Our Boarding House

## With Major Hoops



## Out Over Way

## J. R. Williams



## Boots and Her Buddies



## By Edgar Martin

## Summer Gloves



5882

By MRS. ANNE CABOT  
They are crocheted in a widely-spaced knot stitch—and they look like a million dollars! Do them in white, or in the separate flowers in dusty pink, blue and pale yellow. You will need just three 75-yard balls of tatting cotton to make a pair of summer gloves which will be absolutely perfect with your summer print and evening date frocks.

To obtain complete crocheting instructions with actual size detail sketch of the knot stitch used in the Summer Gloves (Pattern No. 5882) send 15 cents in COIN, plus 1 cent postage, YOUR

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

(Continued from Page 2)

Eden was in the league assembly at the time. . . . Despite their diametrically opposite backgrounds, Eden is the Britisher who Molotov knows and likes best. In 1941 it was Eden who sat in the Kremlin with the Germans only 38 miles away and signed the 20-year pact between England and Russia. . . . That was one of Eden's three trips to Moscow—one in 1935 to discuss trade relations, the 1941 trip to sign the 20-year alliance, and the trip to sign a pact with Cordell Hull in 1943. He also went to Yalta with Churchill.

Though put in the shade by the spectacular figures of Eden and Molotov, San Francisco is studded with notable world statesmen. One is Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Spaak, jailed for two years by the Germans in the last war, and imprisoned by Franco and Petain while a refugee in this war. . . . Spaak is one of Belgium's foremost socialists, his mother having been a strong socialist and Belgium's only woman senator. . . . The Belgium delegation to San Francisco represents all walks of political life, including an active member of the communist party, Dr. Albert Martheaux, the minister of public health. He is also a physician and was imprisoned ten months in Spain by Franco. . . . Another Belgian delegate, Victor Delevyala, gave up his law practice to fight the fascists and is originator of the "V for Victory" slogan.

NAME, ADDRESS and the PAT-  
TERN NUMBER to Anne Cabot,  
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## Play Set



8833

By SUE BURNETT  
Vacation time calls for sturdy play clothes for the young set. She'll find lots of uses for this brightly colored cotton three piece play suit.

Pattern No. 8833 is designed for sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8, skirt, requires 1 1/2 yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric; blouse, 1 1/2 yards; shorts, 1 1/2 yards.

For this pattern, send 20 cents in COINS, your name, address, size desired, and the PATTERN NUMBER to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif. Ready now — the Spring issue of FASHION, just 15 cents. A complete guide in planning wardrobe needs for all the family.

## Official Records

Water turned off, May 5:  
P. V. Carman, 1502 Second St.  
Water turned on:  
Melvin Westenskow, 607 Fourth St.

A shrew is a small mammal, or a scolding woman.

## Hold Everything



## Freckles and His Friends



## Red Ryder



## Wash Tubbs



## Alley Oop



## By V. T. Hardin

## Chinese Official

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Pictured Chinese Minister of Finance, O. K. | 2 Distinct part                  |
| 4 Youshate                                    | 3 Resident physician in hospital |
| 10 Head covering                              | 4 Pair (ab.)                     |
| 13 Girl's name                                | 5 Cotton fabric                  |
| 14 Edit                                       | 6 Dutch city                     |
| 15 Collection of sayings                      | 7 Swiss river                    |
| 16 Arachnid                                   | 8 Fin                            |
| 18 Roman emperor                              | 9 And (Latin)                    |
| 19 Against                                    | 10 Ingenuous                     |
| 20 Solid (comb form)                          | 11 Poker stake                   |
| 21 Team                                       | 12 Couple                        |
| 22 River (ab.)                                | 13 Goddess of discord            |
| 23 Hawaiian food                              | 14 Shortly                       |
| 24 Taut                                       | 15 First woman                   |
| 25 Enrich                                     | 16 Mimic                         |
| 26 Symbol for iridium                         | 17 Point                         |
| 27 Of the thing                               |                                  |
| 28 Pencil                                     |                                  |
| 29 Sent in payment                            |                                  |
| 30 Self                                       |                                  |
| 31 Individual                                 |                                  |
| 32 Imps                                       |                                  |
| 33 Redactor                                   |                                  |
| 34 Friends (Fr.)                              |                                  |
| 35 Polititude                                 |                                  |
| 36 Pedestral part                             |                                  |
| 37 Sesame                                     |                                  |
| 38 Easy                                       |                                  |
| 39 Youth                                      |                                  |
| 40 Before                                     |                                  |
| 41 Lubricant                                  |                                  |
| 42 Compass point                              |                                  |
| 43 Sweet pea                                  |                                  |

## ADVERTISE TO FOREIGN FRIENDS

ADVERTISE TO FOREIGN FRIENDS

HARRY BYRD

27 Age

29 Boundary

30 Moist

31 And (Latin)

32 Subject to

33 Shield (var.)

34 Sun

35 Measure of length

36 Wife of Geraint in Arthurian legend

39 Metallic substances

40 Palm fruit

41 Prince

42 Wound mark

43 Lampreys

44 Harem room

45 Was carried

46 High card

47 Narrow inlet

48 Fine grain

49 (ab.)

50 Early English (ab.)