

# THE AMERICAN HOUSE

**XXIII**

MRS. GUPPILL was beginning to understand, too. "Let's look over the lay of the land," she suggested to my mother.

They crossed the yard without stopping to speak to anyone and stood looking up at the chimney. The two upper floors were half hidden by heavy smoke. Ada rushed up to join them. She had lost them on the way. Her face was sweaty, and her hair hung limply down her back.

"It's as plain as day," Mrs. Guppill said, pointing.

A big flame broke out and lighted Mr. Cutter's window. He was standing there, looking out, his face quite calm. As they watched, horrified, he opened his mouth in a yawn. The flame died down, and he disappeared completely.

Ada gave a long shriek and dashed for the kitchen door. My father caught her on the threshold. "You can't go in there," he told her. "It's a mass of flames."

She pushed and screamed harder.

My mother ran across to Benjamin, who was taking down the ladder. "Wait," she cried. "Wait!"

He turned and wiped the soot from his face to the back of his hand. "It's no use," he said. "We've got the stable to think of."

"But Mr. Cutter," she cried. "He's in his room!"

Benjamin stopped short. "What's that?"

"We saw him through the window. Ada's trying to get back in."

Through the din we heard her shouting. "Let me by! Let me by!"

"I'll go up," Benjamin said. "You tell her."

"Only if you're sure..."

He moved the ladder right over where the flames were hottest. Then he grabbed an ax from a man who was passing. The chim-

"Keep off," Benjamin shouted. "Twon't hold."

He kept coming, slowly, slowly, testing each step.

Flames burst out of the broken window. Heavy clouds of smoke. Just six more rungs. Five.

"Four..."

"We've got him," my father shouted.

The crowd closed in, cheering. Benjamin pushed his way through it, looking neither left nor right. He was heading for the stable. Jay and my father carried Mr. Cutter to the steps of the Town Hall. Ada, my mother, and Mrs. Guppill followed them.

They had barely left when the roof fell in a shower of sparks, that stung our faces and clung to our clothing until we slapped them out.

"Get back! Get back!"

Big flames shot up. Hot noisy ones. Timbers crumbled. One after another the walls fell in. We could hear the windows crashing and the chimneys swayed and collapsed. People ran back, stumbling over buckets.

"Look out!"

"Look out!"

A horse whinnied again, wildly. Above it all, if you had been listening, you could have heard the Town Clock striking 9.

In the middle of the night I woke up suddenly. I was in my own bed at home. But there was something, it seemed, hanging over me. Something I had forgotten. Something immense. Something frightening...

Then it came to me.

The comet!

I got out of bed and crept barefooted to the window, half afraid to raise my eyes.

There it was, right above the Academy, streaming across the sky, trailing its long, misty, nebulous tail...

I watched it gravely.

After the events of the night, it seemed only a rocket, set off on a Fourth of July, that had never burned out. And its tail, the terrible, dreaded tail, seemed only a wisp of fog.

(To Be Concluded)

## Our Boarding House



## With Major Hoople Out Our Way



## Boots and Her Buddies



## For Youngsters!



**5888**

By MRS. ANNE CABOT

A jolly-looking play suit which delights every youngster who sees it! Make the strapped sunsuit of checked or striped cottons in gay colors—use plain material for the "bunny-rabbit" applique! The features are embroidered in floss. Sizes include 1, 2 and 3 years.

To obtain complete pattern, chart for embroidering rabbit for the "Rabbit" play suit (pattern No. 5888) send 15 cents in coin, plus 1 cent postage your name, address and the pattern number to Anne Cabot, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

## Editorial

Continued From Page 2

will continue at high levels. As a result, no early general improvement in the civilian food supply situation can be expected. Food production must be continued at record levels.

7. The structure of many government controls over industry must be maintained to insure war and essential civilian production. Within this structure, restrictions will be relaxed gradually wherever it is possible to do this without damage to the war effort. Transportation restrictions, for example, must continue in full force, but generally speaking, materials and manpower no longer pre-empted for war will be freed for civilian production.

8. One major home-front battle that will continue to demand strongest public support is that against inflation and rising prices. Restraint in buying, observance of price control and rationing regulations remain near the top of the list of civilian responsibilities. A wage stabilization policy must be maintained during the reconversion period to prevent inflationary price increases and to avoid a post-war deflationary trend which might destroy wage standards.

9. The necessity for raising vast sums of money through the sale of war bonds and by taxation for financing the war with Japan will remain undiminished for a considerable time. Taxes and war bonds also are essential factors in price control.

10. The paramount command is: Win the war! Victory over Japan comes ahead of every other consideration. The war will be shortened and peace speeded, lives will be saved, our men will come home sooner, if everyone dedicates himself to this main objective.

## Summer Chic



By SUE BURNETT

Very pretty and very feminine is this exciting "date" frock with figure-hugging lines and gay scallops for accent.

Pattern No. 8862 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14, requires 3 3/4 yards of 39-inch fabric.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coin, 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.

## Freckles and His Friends



## Red Ryder



## Wash Tubbs



## Military Leader

HORIZONTAL	VERTICAL
1,7 Pictured commander of Allied Air Forces in southwest Pacific. Gen. —	1 Merchandise
3 Trying experience	2 Wandering
14 Type of fur	3 Alleged force
15 Either	4 Of the thing
16 Mock	5 Chatter (coll.)
19 Babylonian deity	6 Enthusiastic ardor
20 Challenge	7 Retain
25 Kind of tide	8 Make a mistake
24 Young salmon	9 New Mexico (ab.)
26 Trap	10 Symbol for nickel
28 Rugged rocks	11 Power
29 Czar	12 12 months (pl.)
30 Breezy	17 Compass point
31 Symbol for sanatorium	18 Symbol for tantalum
32 Promissory note (ab.)	21 Headland
33 Clef	22 Obliteration
35 Sicilian volcano	24 One who prints
38 Mexican name	25 Swiss river
39 Stagers	27 Muse of poetry
41 Demolish	28 Arctic
42 Listen	31 In gear
46 Actor's part	34 Lords (ab.)
47 Area measure	36 New (comb. form)
48 Enclosures for fields	37 He commands 55 Pair (ab.)
50 Within	38 Prattle
51 One who peeters	40 Perception
54 Fruit (pl.)	42 Flock
57 Redacted	43 Half-em
58 Pompous show	44 Symbol for actinium
	45 Harvest
	48 Charge
	49 Health resort
	52 Sixth
	53 Street (ab.)
	56 Music note

## Official Records

Water turned off, May 19: George Walker, 1022 Benton avenue.

Water turned on: George Walker, 1006 Y avenue; H. W. Smith, 906 I avenue; Joe Southall, 601 C avenue.

Steel mills buy diamonds for their wire-drawing dies, for rock drills, and for dressing grinding wheels.

## Hold Everything



## Alley Oop



## By Edgar Martin



## Merrill Blosser



## Fred Harman



## By Leslie Turner



## By V. T. Hamlin

