

LOVE BRAVES AN ATOM BOMB

by OREN ARNOLD Copyright by NEA SERVICE, INC.

THE POWER OF X-999

THE STORY: Spud Delaney, driver of the truck carrying Hale's precious cargo, stops for a beer. Then, curious to know more about his unusual load, he opens the box and an atom-bomb is revealed. A bit of hot cigar ash falls, Carolyn, at home, suddenly hears a terrifying roar. Fearful that X-999 is the cause of the blast, she hurries to the scene.

"GEE!" murmured the driver, appalled. He slowed down because he had to, now. In a moment the traffic stopped him entirely. "Come on, miss! On foot, eh?" He was excited.

Efficiently he escorted her up a railroad embankment. He asked questions of everybody. He climbed part way up a power pole ladder the better to see, then boosted Carolyn up.

"Oh-o-h!" The devastation was overwhelming. From her point of view the power pole Carolyn could see a limitless wreckage. Twisted girders. Piles of brick and stone. Flames. Smoke. Every kind of debris.

It was as if the whole area had been run through a grinder, so small were the pieces. She wasn't familiar with this section of town and so couldn't tell what structures had actually gone down, but the whole lurid landscape here was a scene from a warfront hell. She looked around to side and rear. She couldn't even pick out their taxi now in the sea of cars that had crowded up behind. Honkings and shoutings, police whistles, wailing, sirens, all added to the general hysteria.

CAROLYN learned that Bob Hale was safe when she telephoned her mother at 5 a. m. "He called here twice and came out just a little bit ago!" Mrs.

Tyler said, after Carolyn's initial explanations. "Carolyn, you haven't had any rest and—"

But personal rest and comfort were farthest from Carolyn's mind. After her mother hung up, she went outside again and a newsboy crying third extras assailed her. She bought one.

"With only four lives known to have been lost," the paper read, after the opening summary, "citizens can be thankful for a miracle. The Chief of Police said. He warned that other bodies may yet be found although the wreckage has been fairly well combed. The four dead were all plant watchmen. In daytime the explosion would inevitably have taken hundreds of lives."

"Two other men are reported missing and may be dead. One is W. H. Delaney, a truck driver for the Metropolitan Transfer Company, and the other is a liquor store owner, M. M. Cragin."

"Cragin's establishment was near the apparent center of the explosion and was so completely destroyed that no trace of it has been found, only a great crater showing on that spot now (see second photo, page 1). Delaney's truck also is missing and so he may yet turn up safely, his company admitted, but he is so long overdue as to cause grave concern. . . ."

CAROLYN read and re-read. Then she found herself walking up a street. She had long since lost her friendly taxi driver, hadn't even thought of paying him. Presently she was on the edge of the big crowd of people and cars and found another taxi that could turn around and take her away.

She had herself driven directly to the Schoenfeld Laboratory, by

the time she arrived its main plant and its office building were bathed in dawn's sunshine, and the sheer beauty of that was a sort of spiritual lift. Moreover, she instantly saw Robert Hale. When she jumped from her cab, ordering it to wait, Dr. Hale ran to her. He couldn't talk for a moment. He just jabbed a finger at her awkwardly and swallowed. "It's all right! All right!" Carolyn murmured intently. He didn't look like a boss now. In truth, he was simply a young man half crazed with anxiety. "You were at the farmhouse when it happened," she said for him.

"Yes. I—I didn't come! The X-999. The—I heard the explosion. That's what I cannot understand, Carolyn. Why? Why did it explode?"

"We'll never know that, Bob." "And it's only part of what we have, Carolyn. My thought was to divide it in separate localities to guard against the possibility of tampering, but the first bit moved has caused this. It's appalling!" "Bob, you must not blame yourself! It's an unknown quantity. You took every precaution possible."

Carolyn spoke so vehemently that he was impressed and he squeezed her hand in gratitude. Leana Sorni had seen them; she came out of the office building walking fast. Her face was even more pale than normal, and strained.

"Robert, you must come home with me," she ordered, peremptorily, ignoring Carolyn. "We must be rational. Say nothing to any one. Nothing! You haven't slept for two days and nights. You will collapse!"

That muck was true, surely. Carolyn saw Miss Sorni take Bob's arm and literally force him toward her own taxi. When the driver began to explain that he was waiting on order, Carolyn hastened to pay and release him. But she stood watching, vaguely alarmed in an entirely new way, as the cab drove off with her employer and his efficient woman companion.

(To Be Continued)

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoople



Boots and Her Buddies



Freckles and His Friends



Red Ryder



Wash Tubbs



Alley Oop



Out Our Way



By Edgar Martin



Merrill Blosser



Fred Harman



By Leslie Turner



By V. T. Ha



Knitted Socks

5773



By MRS. ANNE CABOT

The handsome, vividly plaided "Argyles" beloved by college and high school girls are easier to knit than one would think! Use a dark basic color wool and "plaid" them with yellow. Very sporty indeed for the skirt-and-sweater set!

To obtain complete knitting instructions for the Argyle Socks (Pattern No. 5773) small, medium and large sizes included, send 15 cents in COIN, plus 1 cent postage, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS and the PATTERN NUMBER to Anne Cabot, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission Street, San Francisco, Calif.

Two Boys Driving Stolen Car Held For Investigation

Automobile reported stolen Sept. 20 from Alvin P. English of Salt Lake City, Utah, was recovered by state police near Elgin, it was announced today. In the car were Carl Wells, 17, and Virgil Henry Siddens, 19, both of Salt Lake City, who said they were going to Enterprise. The boys claimed they bought the car from Byron Baxter Maxfield, 28, who had "hitched" a ride with them to La Grande, after selling them the car. Maxfield was found in La Grande last night, and the three are now in the county jail awaiting investigation.

Donald F. Duncan Raised to Captain

The war department has announced, effective Sept. 7, the promotion of First Lt. Donald F. Duncan to the rank of captain. Duncan entered the army in July, 1942 at Fort Lewis, Wash., and was trained at Fort Knox, Ky., as an armored force officer. He specialized in tank gunnery and instructed in this subject for some time with various armored units. For the past year Captain Duncan has been assigned to the army ground force replacement depot at Fort Meade, Maryland. Recently he was assigned to the replacement depot at Camp Adair, Oregon, where he commands a company. Mrs. Duncan, the former Constance Ray, and daughter, Carla, are with Captain Duncan, making their home in Corvallis.

Building Permits

John Goethliuber, alter and repair one-story stucco church, 1612 Fourth street, \$1,500. H. A. Courtney, alter and repair one-story frame dwelling, 2201 Cedar street, \$300.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4 Midday
5 Doctor (ab.)
6 Mine entrance
7 Pit
8 Cloth measure
9 Minor
10 Swedish town
11 French town
12 Iterate
17 Accomplish
18 Atop
26 Footlike part
27 Man's name
28 24 hours
29 Turn right
30 Vase
31 Finish



Flattering



8923 34-48

By SUE BURNETT

Here is a simple, graceful all-occasion frock for the larger figure. Soft shoulder shirring and flattering gores skirt are details every woman likes.

Pattern No. 8923 is designed for sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48. Size 36, short sleeves, requires 3 1/2 yards of 35-inch fabric or 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch fabric.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in COIN, your name, address, size desired, and the PATTERN NUMBER and Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission Street, San Francisco, Calif.

The Fall and Winter 1945 Issue of FASHION is ready. Brimful of smart ideas for home sewers, 15 cents.

Laski Asks Britain, U. S. Ditch Franco

LONDON, Sept. 25 (UP)—Prof. Harold J. Laski, chairman of the British labor party, called on the United States and Britain today to withdraw recognition from the Franco government of Spain.

In a broadcast to the United States, Laski denounced the Franco government a product of Anglo-American non-intervention. He also attacked the Spanish monarchy. Don Juan has been negotiating indirectly with Franco to return.

Official Records

Water Turned Off, Sept. 24: Mrs. E. R. Faus, 2112 First Street, Finley Shuster, 410 Crook Street, C. M. Hummings, Mission Cemetery, E. B. Quinn, 1705 W. Avenue, O. J. Burnett, 1705 X Avenue.

Water Turned On: Orville Jordan, 410 Crook Street; H. J. Williams, 805 Lake Street.