



FLOYD GIBBONS Adventurers' Club *Hello, Everybody!*

"The Clue That Spelled Death"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter.

WELL sir, we've got a detective story to tell today—and a real detective to tell it. He is Richard D. Smith, and he spins us a swell yarn of how he went out looking for clues—and found Adventure instead.

Or maybe I should say that Dick Smith found Adventure, too—for he found the clues he was looking for.

Dick says he's fifty-one, and feels just as fit as he ever did. He's a magician now—not a detective. Today he goes around to clubs and parties, giving other people mysteries to think over, instead of solving them himself. But not so many years ago he was one of the trusted operatives of an internationally known detective agency. And according to some of the newspaper clippings, Dick must have been a wonder.

Remember all those detective stories you've ever read? Most of them start off: "The telephone rang in the office of the detective bureau." Well, this one is no exception to that rule. The only difference is that this story is a true one—and the telephone rang in Dick's home, one night in August, 1923, while he sat there listening to the radio. Dick answered that phone. It was the office.

The office told Dick to take the night train for Ogdensburg, N. Y., way up on the St. Lawrence river, report to the general manager of the Rutland railroad, and see if he could find out anything about 300 bags of sugar that had been stolen from the railroad's warehouse on the waterfront.

This Was a Sweet Case—Looking for Stolen Sugar.

Dick arrived in Ogdensburg on the following day. He talked to the railroad cops and the local police—he looked the scene of the robbery over. The police knew nothing definite and the scene of the crime yielded no clues. Then Dick went and looked up a friend in the U. S. customs service whose job was to watch the river for smugglers trying to run liquor in from Canada.

Dick knew that the men of the underworld have very few secrets among themselves, and he had a notion that if he could get the customs men to co-operate by capturing a crew of rum-runners, he could learn something from those rum-runners about the sugar theft. The customs men fell in with his idea, and that same night, five of them—and Dick along with them—went out in a government launch and hid in a cove a little way up the river.

The first night they spent—well—just waiting. Nothing happened. But the second night they spied a dark object out in the middle of the river and



"It Turned and Rammed Us Directly in the Center."

waited until it had come across to the American side. Then they set out full speed ahead after their quarry, and the next 10 minutes were the most exciting of Dick's life.

First Blood in Battle of Boats.

Says Dick: "When the other boat saw it could not get away, it turned and rammed us directly in the center. The other boat was heavier than ours. Our boat was cut clean in two, and I, with my five friends, was thrown into the river. Then, not satisfied with having disabled us and thrown us in the water, the rum-runners came back—circled around us—trying to brain each of us as we were trying to get our bearings in the water."

There followed the fight of Dick's life. The customs men's guns were behind them in the wrecked boat. Dick was the only one who had a revolver on him. "I drew it out and tried to shoot it out with the rum-runners," he says, "but a piece of iron pipe came down from a boat and knocked the gun out of my hand."

"The man who was wielding that piece of pipe could work a lot faster than I could in the water. The blow that knocked the gun from my hand also broke the hand itself. The pipe went up and came down again, this time hitting me a hard clout on the head. I could feel my senses slipping away from me. Then, for once in my life, I thought my time had come."

Dick Learns Why It Pays to Buy Life Insurance.

"My last thought was the satisfying one that I had paid my life insurance premium for a month. I said to myself that the folks back home would have a house to live in, and a five thousand dollar insurance policy to live on. Then I felt myself going down under the surface of the water."

When Dick came to, they told him that he had gone down a second and was going down for the third time before help came to him. In the meantime an approaching boat had frightened off the rum-runners and one of the customs men managed to reach him with part of the wrecked boat. He held Dick up until the rest of the men could get there. Then, somehow, they all managed to get to the shore.

All that trouble for a clue—and still no clue in sight. But after Dick had spent a few days in bed resting up, he went out again with the same crew of men—and another boat. They were after rum-runners, and no fooling this time. They caught them—four of them—and Dick talked to them something like this. You're in a tough spot now—but it might be worse. Give me a tip on who copped that sugar, and—well—we'll forget we ever saw you. That's the way a lot of crimes are solved. And on the tip-off those birds gave him, Dick got the men he was after.

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Early Post Riders

On August 30, 1776, hardly more than a month after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the Continental congress passed a resolution providing (in part) that "the communication of intelligence with frequency and despatch, from one part to another of this extensive continent is essentially requisite to its safety; that, therefore, there shall be employed on the several post roads a rider for every 25 or 30 miles, whose business it shall be to proceed immediately through his stage three times each week, setting out immediately on receipt of the mail, and traveling with the same, by night and by day, without stopping, until he shall have delivered it to the next rider."

Ships Built of Mahogany

During the Nineteenth century, and before, some of the finest English ships were constructed almost entirely of mahogany. One of the reasons for this preference lay in the fact that this wood was about 15 per cent lighter on the average than a corresponding cubical amount of oak or other woods. Another was mahogany's reputation for strength and durability. Among numerous vessels built wholly or partially from mahogany during the Nineteenth century were the Dart, constructed in London by T. Potts in 1810; the Eliza, brigantine of 180 tons, made in 1818 at Honduras from mahogany cut in the vicinity, and the steam packet Comet, built in Woolwich by Oliver and in 1823.

Pond of Water Is Valuable on Farm

Fish Will Provide Supply of Meat; Water Plants Are in Demand.

By L. A. Whitford, Associate Professor of Botany, North Carolina State College.—WNU Service.

A good pond of water, adding beauty to the landscape and providing a source of profit and pleasure, is a valuable asset to almost any farm.

Nestled in a small hollow by a woodland, a pond may be made one of the most attractive places on the farm. If the pond is large enough, part of it may be used for boating and swimming. The overflow may be utilized to develop water power.

Well stocked with fish, the pond should supply the farm home with a good meat supply the year around. Often the water plants may be gathered and sold to local fish and pet stores or for planting in garden pools and aquaria.

Under ideal conditions, a pond should produce as many pounds of fish per acre as a pasture will produce pounds of beef.

Although a water area cannot be "farmed" on as scientific a basis as land, due to the inadequacy of information now available regarding the care of fish and ponds, it can be made to produce a good supply of vegetation and fish.

Where fish are raised, the water should be kept at a fairly constant level, and there should be shallow places where the smaller fish can feed and breed. Aquatic plants in the shallows give additional food and protection to the young fish, Whitford stated.

Improved Rules Outlined for Measuring Hay Stack

New rules for measuring stacked hay, more accurate than those used in the past, have recently been worked out by the experiment stations in some states, co-operating with the United States Department of Agriculture. L. F. Garey of the division of agricultural economics, University farm, St. Paul, says these are the only rules based on research.

Three dimensions of the stack must be determined in feet; namely, the length, "L"; the width, "W"; and the over, "O". The over means the distance from the ground on one side, over the stack, and down to the ground on the other side. The average of several measurements should be taken for the over, if the stack is irregular. Knowing the above three measurements in feet, the volume of the stack in cubic feet should be computed according to one of the following methods:

Flat-topped stacks (0.56XO) — (0.55XW) X (WL).
High round-topped stacks (0.52XO) — (0.46XW) X (WL).
Low round-topped stacks (0.52XO) — (0.44XW) X (WL).

Here is an example that will make clear the use of the rule: A high round-topped stack is 50 feet long, 20 feet wide, and has an over of 45 feet. 0.52 X 45 = 23.4; 0.46 X 20 = 9.2; 23.4 — 9.2 = 14.2; 20 X 50 = 1,000; 14.2 X 1,000 = 14,200 cubic feet.

The number of cubic feet to allow per ton for hay stacked 90 days or more is as follows: alfalfa, 470; wild hay, 450; other hay, 625. If the stack in the example above were alfalfa hay, the 14,200 would be divided by 470, giving the amount as 30.2 tons.

The First Tile Drain

It is just a hundred years since the first tile drain was laid in this country by a canny Scotchman named John Johnston. Born in 1791, he had come to America at the age of thirty and bought a farm near Geneva, N. Y., which turned out to be rather poor and wet. Remembering lessons learned from a wise old grandfather, John Johnston sent back to Scotland in 1835 for some open horseshoe tile, with which he began drainage experiments. As usual with pioneers, the neighbors laughed, but the experiment worked out so well that by 1856 he had 56 miles of tile on his farm. His wheat yields jumped from 15 to over 30 bushels to the acre. In October of last year, says the Country Home, a group of agricultural engineers gathered at the old Johnston farmstead, overlooking beautiful Seneca lake, to dedicate a monument to the memory of John Johnston and to celebrate "one of the most significant events in the history of American agriculture."

Farm Cullings

Stable manure should not be applied to a good stand of pasture grasses and clover.

On eight out of every nine farms in the United States water is carried by hand.

Approximately a half million calves were marketed in Ohio in 1934 at an approximate market value of \$4,500,000.

All Around the House

Twine will tie bundles much tighter and will not slip when knots are made if it is dampened before using.

If fruit cake becomes very hard it can be wrapped in a cloth saturated with orange or spiced peach juice and stored in an air-tight box.

Place a hot water bottle in the clothes basket when hanging out and taking in clothes in cold weather. It will keep the hands warm.

Don't beat fudge as soon as it is taken from the fire. You will find it will be much creamier if first put into a cold bowl, and then beaten.

If woolen stockings shrink while washing, put them through the water again and while still wet put them on a stocking stretcher.

A few bright colored flower pots, with a narcissus bulb planted in each, set on the window sill in the living room will, when the bulbs blossom, give color and decoration to the room.

When maple sirup becomes cloudy set it over the fire until it boils, then take it off the fire and let cool.

If cake is very hard it can be made into a delicious pudding by steaming 30 minutes in double boiler, and serving hot with any desired sauce—hard, creamy, foamy or fruit.

Iodine stains may be removed from white cotton or linen if stains are soaked in a solution of ammonia and water, a teaspoon of ammonia to a pint of water.

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Smiles

A Careless One

He—You're good at conundrums, try this one.

She—Sure, go ahead.

He—Take away my first letter, take away my second letter, take away all my letters, and I am still the same. What am I?

She—That's easy. You're a mail-carrier.—Milwaukee Medical Times.

Can't Eat 'Em and Have 'Em

"Go on, Johnny, eat up your crusts. There may come a day when you'll be glad of them."

"O. K. Then I'll save 'em till then."

Skipped His Tub

Old Lady to Old Tar—Excuse me —do those tattoo marks wash off?
Old Tar—I can't say, lady.—Stray Stories Magazine.

So What's He to Do?

"Are you in the habit of speaking to girls you don't know?"
"Yes. The girls I do know won't speak to me."—Answers Magazine.

Dew Tell

Teacher—Who knows where dew comes from?

Boy—The earth turns so fast it perspires.

Prof Knew Doc

Doctor Guberpea—An awful lot of girls are stuck on me.

Professor Cornpone—They must be an awful lot.

In Other Words

Wife—You don't love me any more.
Husband—Why, dear, I certainly do.

Wife—You couldn't love a woman with such old clothes as I have been wearing.



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OPINION**

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WHAT PRICE LOSS



"What did father say when you told him you were going to take me away from him?"
"He seemed to feel his loss keenly at first, but I squared things with a good cigar."

There's the Alarm!

White—How's your insomnia?
Black—Terrible. I can't even sleep when it's time to get up.—Answers Magazine.