

# Floyd Gibbons' ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



## "Through a Tropic Holocaust"

By FLOYD GIBBONS  
Famous Headline Hunter

### HELLO EVERYBODY:

Well, sir, fellow adventurers, people have all kinds of troubles in this bothersome old world of ours. You have your troubles and I have mine. Maybe the old spinning ball would be just TOO nice a place to live on if we didn't have our share of adversity to make the sweet seem sweeter and the bright seem brighter still. Anyhow, I have a letter here from Alberta L. Hitchins of New York City, who has had her troubles—plenty of 'em—but who doesn't let them bother her very much. No, sir. Because every time she begins to think her troubles are too much for her, she looks back on that horrible day in Kingston, Jamaica, in January, 1907, and realizes that what looks like troubles to her now don't really deserve the name of trouble at all.

On that fateful day Mrs. Hitchins was sitting in the office of J. Eustace Burke & Brothers, the firm for which she worked. She wasn't Mrs. Hitchins then—just Alberta, the assistant cashier. With her in the office was her boss, her sister—one or two other women who worked there, too. Outside, it was a clear, tropical, sunshiny day. From overhead came the rumble of machinery in a bottling plant on the floor above.

### When the Earthquake Struck.

At 3:30 in the afternoon, a distant, ominous, rumbling sound startled all Kingston. In the office where Alberta worked, however, nobody paid any attention to these sounds. The bottling plant on the floor above was always noisy. Rumbles were nothing new to the employees of Burke & Brothers. The first intimation that Alberta had that anything was wrong was when she happened to look up from her work and saw that the wall in front of her desk SEEMED TO BE BENDING OVER!

At the same time, she felt herself suddenly—inexplicably—slipping from her chair. She jumped to her feet. From overhead a shower of plaster fell, littering her desk. All at once, things seemed to be flying in all directions. Then, in a moment, all was quiet again.

In the office, there was a moment of tense silence. Then Alberta heard the voice of her boss saying: "My God! An earthquake! San Francisco all over again!" Alberta took a quick look around the of-



A Tottering Wall Fell With a Crash.

ice. There were five people in it. Miraculously, not one of them was injured. Alberta heaved a sigh of relief—too soon. At that moment the trembling started all over again.

From outside came the sound of a piercing shriek. A woman in the next building! Alberta started toward the door—felt someone grab her by the arm. It was her sister. "Don't go out there," her sister cried. A tottering wall fell with a crash. The woman's voice was stilled.

### Terrible Scenes in the Streets.

The boss started to gather up the company's books and put them in the safe. The girls turned to and helped. When that was finished, Alberta and her sister made their way out to the street and started to head for home, down by the waterfront.

The town was a shambles. Buildings were down everywhere. Walls were down—streets a mass of wreckage—debris strewn everywhere. Men, women, children—even animals—were stretched out on the pavement, dead or frightfully injured. Everywhere, cries for help. People pinned under falling buildings—half buried in the wreckage—shouted pathetic appeals for aid that almost drove Alberta and her sister mad with pity.

And to add to the horror, fire broke out—everywhere—and many who could otherwise have been saved had to be abandoned by the rescuers to a living death in the flames.

It was the most harrowing sight two girls had ever seen. They struggled home to find their mother and younger sister alive, but frightfully injured. They had just been dug out from under the wreckage of what had been their home.

Earthquake shocks were still coming at intervals. Alberta and her sister cast about for medical aid for their mother and the little girl. The hospital was miles away—and in ruins. The only safe place left was the sea. They took them aboard a vessel anchored in the harbor and put them in care of the ship's doctor.

There were hundreds of other people on that boat—hundreds of refugees from the stricken city. All afternoon they struggled aboard. Doctors—volunteer nurses came from the town. They turned that boat into a hospital ship for the care of the injured.

### Tragedies in a Night of Horrors.

Night came—a night that transformed the city into a red inferno rimmed by the cosmic blackness. Fire flamed up anew in a hundred different quarters. Buildings tottered. Walls crumbled. The shrieks of the victims continued all through the night. Dogs howled in the streets. Fanatics sang wildly. People went insane for no other reason than that which they had seen—and heard.

Terrible scenes were enacted in those grim hours. A father and son were trapped between two walls of a fallen building. Rescuers were striving to get to them. They were almost free, when flame shot through the building, driving the rescuers back. The trapped man's business partner had just time to pass his hand through a hole in the wall—give his friend a last handshake before the flames were upon him and he had to dash back, the cries of his associate and the boy still ringing in his ears.

In the heartrending scenes that went on through that terrible night, Alberta almost lost her mind. Long before it was over, she was a woman moving in a daze. Somehow she lived through it—somehow kept her sanity. And now—

Now Alberta is married. As the mother of three children she has responsibilities—sometimes troubles. But when she has troubles, she looks back at that awful January day in Kingston and wonders what the people who bled and died in that holocaust would think of her feeble little woes.

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### Monument to the Sea Gull

In Salt Lake City a granite column about sixteen feet high stands on a granite pedestal in a basin thirty feet in diameter. The column supports a granite ball upon which two bronze-gilt gulls are represented as alighting gently. The monument commemorates the saving by gulls of the pioneers of Utah, in 1848, from hordes of grasshoppers that threatened to devour every leaf and blade of their fields. The monument bears the inscription: "Sea Gull Monument. Erected in Grateful Remembrance of the Mercy of God to the Mormon Pioneers."

### Why It Is a "Bridewell"

Long ago a hospital was built in London on the site of a former royal palace over a medicinal spring known as St. Bride's Water. This was contracted to Bridewell. After the Reformation, according to London Answers Magazine, King Edward VI chartered the London hospitals to different work. Christ's hospital was devoted to the education of the young, St. Thomas' to the cure of the sick, and Bridewell was turned into a penitentiary for unruly apprentices and vagrants. Thus "Bridewell" gradually slipped into use as a general name for prisons.

# What Irwin S. Cobb Thinks about

Minding Your Business.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—A society is forming in England for the defense of the former Edward VIII, now the duke of Windsor and honorary citizen of all places in this country named for the Simpson family.

This society does not hope to restore the duke to the throne. That would not only annoy the archbishop of Canterbury, he already having things to annoy him, such as Americans, but would seriously upset Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who upsets so easily that it seems strange the British never have thought of calling him Reversible Stan. Besides, the throne would be quite crowded if the duke tried to snuggle in there along with the present occupants.

What some of us over here think—and that goes for many Canadians, too—is that England has a crying need for a society dedicated to the broad general principle of minding its own business and suffering the duke and his wife to mind theirs. We have a rough idea that both of them can better endure long-distance snubs than officious meddling in their private affairs. Just being an ex-king is a hard enough job—even if you can get it to do.

### Political Afterthoughts.

MASTER ROLLO, aged seven, and city raised, was visiting relatives in the country. On his first morning he came in wearing a worried cast of countenance. "Mother," he said, "I've been out under the mulberry trees."

"Yes."

"Mother, do mulberries have hard backs and six legs and crawl around on the ground?"

"Why, certainly not."

"Then, Mother," said Rollo in stricken tones, "I feel I have made a dreadful mistake."

What's the point? Oh nothing, only I got to imagining what the brooding regrets of some members of the administration and a majority of the members of the senate must be when they recall the alacrity with which they moved to fill a certain recent vacancy in a certain very high court—in fact, the highest one we've got.

### Hirsut Villity.

PARISIAN boulevardiers believe a dense arboreal effect of whiskers is proof that the wearer is indeed a man, without, in all cases, being absolutely convincing about it.

We haven't gone that far yet, but I would like to know whence comes this notion of appraising masculine vigor by the amount of hair along the breast-bone? Morbid, I call it.

Two distinguished authors battle when one intimates the other is scantily adorned in that regard, forgetting that, in the immature summer peltage of his kind, an author has but a scanty growth as compared with the richer winter coat. And then prying reporters ask the new glamor prince of the movies whether he has any fleece at all upon his chest, their tone indicating they rather expected to find trailing arbutus there, or at least some shy anemone.

Years ago in the hospital, when I was being shorn for an operation I remember remarking to myself that here was the only barber who'd ever worked on me without trying to sell me a bottle of hair tonic.

### Miss America—1937.

AT LAST some rational excuse—in moral values, anyhow—has been found for a so-called national beauty contest.

The seventeen-year-old New Jersey girl chosen as "Miss America of 1937" is not going into vaudeville, is not going to make any personal appearances, is not coming to Hollywood for a screen test, is not going to accept a radio contract, is not even going to write her life story for publication. She will return to school and to the normal home life of a well-raised normal girl—that is, unless she changes her mind about it all.

If she shouldn't change her mind, she stands out as probably the sanest young person of her age at present residing on this continent, or, should we say, this planet.

If she should change her mind—well, the American populace has been fooled many a time and oft before. Our grandfathers didn't believe human beings ever could fly. Our fathers didn't believe anybody would ever lick John L. Sullivan. Only the other day our United States senators didn't believe their fellow-statesman, Mr. Black of Alabama, could be a Klansman. They thought that low but persistent sound of "Ku-Klux, Ku-Klux" was but the voice of a modest hen.

IRVIN S. COBB.

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# Ask Me? Another

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

1. What American statesman was the grandson of a king?
2. How much does a single inch of rain over an acre weigh? Over a square mile?
3. How many wars have there been since the signing of the Armistice in 1918?
4. Do Chinese surnames precede or follow the given names?
5. Who was the author of "Give me men to match my mountains"?
6. Name some famous musicians who had the gift of absolute pitch.
7. How many cabinet members were there in the first President's cabinet?
8. What is the usual order of business for general meetings of clubs and similar organizations?
9. What caused a farm to "sink" in Idaho?
10. How many words are there in the English language?

### Answers

1. Charles Bonaparte, a member of Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet.
2. A single inch of rain weighs 113 tons an acre, or 72,300 tons a square mile.

3. There have been 17 wars since November 11, 1918.
4. They precede.
5. Samuel Foss.
6. Among them are Mozart, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Von Bulow and Max Reger.
7. Three: secretaries of state, at first called foreign affairs; treasury and war. The attorney general and postmaster general were not at first given cabinet rank.
8. Reading of the minutes; reports of boards and standing committees; reports of special (select) committees; special orders; unfinished business; general orders; new business.
9. The geological survey terms this a landslip. The Salmon Falls river undercuts its canyon walls until some of the land overhead breaks away, causing cracks or other land adjustments at some distance from the rim.
10. According to the World Almanac the reputable English language contains approximately 700,000 words. Possibly 300,000 more terms may be stigmatized as nonce, obsolete, vulgar, low, etc., and therefore seldom or never sought in dictionaries.



**It's No Use**  
"Every time I look at you, Maggie, I think of Ginger Rogers."  
"Do you, David?"  
"Yes, but a chap like me has to be content."

**"Wooden-headed drivers are best,"** says a golf expert. Not on the road.

**Two Sides to It**  
"She thinks no man is good enough for her."  
"Well, she may be right."  
"She may be. But she may be left, too."

**Resourceful:** The man who promised his wife a circular tour—and took her on a merry-go-round.

**Should Help**  
Mrs. Browne—What I say to you never seems to bear any fruit.  
Mr. Browne—Try pruning it a little.

# 87 SPEED RECORDS BROKEN TO MAKE TIRES SAFER FOR YOU

Never Before Have Tires Been Put to Such Gruelling Torture

AT SPEEDS as high as 180 miles an hour—with the hot, coarse, abrasive salt grinding, tearing, scorching his tires—Ab Jenkins' special racer, weighing nearly three tons, pounded over the Bonneville Salt Beds at such terrific speed that it caused the surface to break up. Before the end of the run the track was so pitted and rough that it was almost impossible to hold the car on its course. Yet Jenkins set 87 new World, International and American speed records on Firestone Tires.

Building tires capable of establishing such records is made possible by patented Firestone manufacturing processes. These exclusive features enable Firestone to provide car owners with extra safe tires.

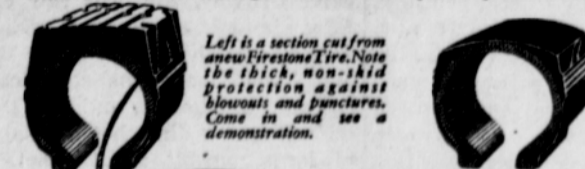
For the greatest protection equip your car with Firestone TRIPLE-SAFE Tires. By TRIPLE-SAFE we mean—

- 1 PROTECTION AGAINST SKIDDING —The scientific tread design stops your car up to 25% quicker.
- 2 PROTECTION AGAINST BLOWOUTS —The Firestone patented Gum-Dipping process counteracts internal friction and heat that ordinarily cause blowouts.
- 3 PROTECTION AGAINST PUNCTURES —Two extra layers of Gum-Dipped cords under the tread give extra protection against punctures.

Make your car tire-safe for fall and winter driving. Join the Firestone SAVE A LIFE Campaign today by letting your Firestone Dealer or Firestone Auto Supply and Service Store equip your car with a set of new FIRESTONE TRIPLE-SAFE Tires—the safest tires that money can buy!

## YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO DRIVE WITHOUT FIRESTONE TRIPLE-SAFE TIRES

Last year highway accidents cost the lives of more than 38,000 men, women and children and a million more were injured! More than 40,000 of these deaths and injuries were caused directly by punctures, blowouts and skidding due to smooth, worn, unsafe tires!



Left is a section cut from a smooth, worn tire, with non-skid protection worn off. Tires in this condition are liable to punctures, blowouts and skidding.

Right is a section cut from a Firestone Triple-Safe tire. Note the thick, non-skid protection against blowouts and punctures. Come in and see a demonstration.

# JOIN THE FIRESTONE Save a Life CAMPAIGN TODAY!

# Firestone TRIPLE-SAFE TIRES

Listen to the Voice of Firestone featuring Margaret Speaks Monday evenings over Nationwide N. B. C. Red Network

Ab Jenkins, World's Safest Driver, Establishes 87 New Records for Safety, Speed, Mileage and Endurance... He Drove 3,774 Miles in 24 Hours on the Sharp Granite-like Surface of the Bonneville Salt Beds at Average Speed of 157.27 Miles an Hour

### Firestone HIGH SPEED TIRE

3.75-18.....	\$ 7.85
4.50-21.....	10.05
4.75-19.....	10.60
5.00-19.....	11.40
5.25-17.....	12.25
5.25-18.....	12.70
5.50-16.....	13.75
5.50-17.....	13.95
5.50-18.....	14.30
6.00-16.....	15.55

Other Sizes Proportionately Low

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\$19.95 Custom Fit Ductwork Available For Popular Cars