

# THE BIG SHOT

by FRANK L. PACKARD -

Chapter 15

**BEHIND THE CURTAIN**  
 Cautiously Enid opened the door of her bedroom, inch by inch, and quietly stepped out into the dimly lighted hall.

She peered down the hall toward the front of the house. There was a door which was closed and nearer her was another, wide open and apparently dark as no gleam of light came from it.

Again she heard the sound of voices and concluded that they came from the further room but at the same time seemed to reach her through the open door.

Suspecting that they were connecting rooms, Enid stealthily made her way to the open doorway. Light filtered into the darkened room through portieres that separated the two. Standing well back, herself secure from observation, she could not only hear distinctly but, where the hangings fell a little apart, could see into the room beyond.

Izzy Myers! That was why the man's voice had sounded familiar. He had flung himself into a chair and was twisting a cigar around in his mouth. He looked flushed, excited, and ugly. She could not see Mrs. Kane so well but she caught a glimpse of angry black eyes and a clenched hand.

It was Mrs. Kane who was talking and there was no mistaking the passion in the woman's voice.

"... No, of course he don't believe her, but he don't think she's nutty or anything like that. He thinks she's straight and that she believes what she says, and that she looks like her brother; but, being only a kid when she saw him last, he thinks her mistake is natural enough."

"Sure!" grunted Izzy Myers. "Well that's all there is to it, ain't it?"

"No; it isn't!" said Mrs. Kane savagely. "I won't end there. She's dangerous! I'm afraid of her—and I'm afraid of her because I know she's straight. She is going to cling to Norry like a leech on that brother stuff, and what's going to happen, with Norry letting her hang around him if our honest little Sunday-school miss gets to know too much? I'm asking you, what's going to happen then—to you and me and all the rest of us? I'll tell you! Sing Sing! She's going to split because her baby conscience wouldn't let her do anything else! Does that register?"

Izzy Myers scowled. "Well, what's the answer?"

"Get rid of her!" snapped Mrs. Kane.

"Well, why don't you go ahead and do it, then? You've got her handy enough here, ain't you?"

"I can't do it while she's in this house, you fool!" retorted Mrs. Kane. "But once she leaves this house the less time that's lost the better. I guess it's up to you, isn't it? And I guess you don't need to be told how to get it across, either, do you, so that Norry won't get next?"

Enid shivered as she passed her hand across her eyes as she listened to them discuss her end.

"I get you!" said Izzy Myers, delecting his verdict with an unpleasant smile. "Leave it to me. I don't know what kind of an accident it'll be, but I'll fix it so Norry'll never tumble. Forget her then until you read about it in the papers."

"Now I've got to find the Big Shot," Myers continued. "I told you, didn't I, that Maloch got the spot, and that we've got that newspaper bird!"

"Yes, but you didn't tell me anything else about it. Who bumped Maloch off?"

Izzy Myers burst into a torrent of fervent blasphemy. "Who you think after last night! Twisty Morgau's crowd, of course! They plugged him in the back room of French Charlie's about half an hour ago."

Mrs. Kane drew in her breath sharply. "I don't like that!" she said. "That means trouble."

"You've said a mouthful!" he

snarled. "There's going to be a lot of hearsay gunning up the traffic for this, blast 'em!"

"I don't like it, I tell you! This will only end up in us or them getting wiped out."

"Yeh!" growled Izzy Myers. "That is what I said! That's what we're going to do to 'em—wipe 'em out."

Mrs. Kane stamped her foot. "You are fools!" she flung out furiously. "All of you! This gang-war stuff is mad! And what about this newspaper man? Butting in there, too, are you? Asking for more trouble! My God—the newspapers! What about this fellow Martin?"

"He's tied up and gaged down in the 'bird cage' on Eighty-third street, and Batty Rose is looking after him."

"You surely don't mean that same old place near Avenue A?" Mrs. Kane's voice rose accusingly, challengingly.

"Yes, that's what I do mean—and don't fly off the handle again if you can help it!" Izzy Myers laughed shortly. "What you need tonight is a dose of soothing syrup! I know all about not being able to get by with a 'To Let' sign forever, and that we've decided our time was up there, and that we'd make a shift at once; but it ain't so easy to find the right place, and it ain't so easy to fix up the deal, either. We ain't—"

Enid heard no more. Swiftly, silently, she gained the hall, entered her own room, and closed the door. He was alive! Phil was alive! And she knew where he was. He was alive—alive—alive—but there was no time to lose!

Her handbag—the unloaded automatic! She would need that, and it would not always be unloaded. She crossed the room in the darkness, secured the handbag, and, going then to the window, began to raise it cautiously.

A house "to let" on Eighty-third street near Avenue A. Pray God there was not more than one vacant house in that vicinity.

The window was up now. She swung herself quickly over the sill to the ground and the next instant was running across the yard toward the gate that opened on the lane.

(To Be Continued)

**WORKER IS ENRICHED BY WORLD WAR FEAT**  
 Purtschagen, Bavaria (AP)—A legacy of 35,000 marks has fallen to Franz Heine, a poor laborer, as a reward for aid to a wounded and enterprising officer in the world war.

After a search of many years the local notary office spotted Heine as one of three soldiers who, under murderous fire, dug a wounded major from the debris of a shelled dugout and carried him to a first aid station.

A few years later the major died, bequeathing 105,000 marks to his rescuers. Heine is the first to be identified.

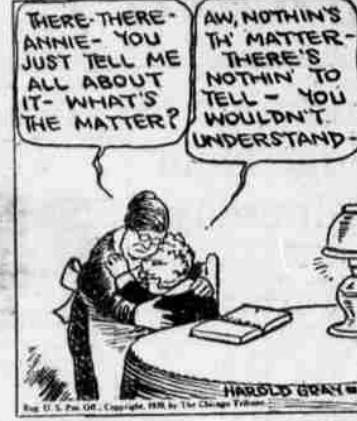
**FINED FOR SERVICE**  
 Kingman, Kas. (AP)—J. P. Cheat-up, who owns a string of gasoline service stations in this city, believes in giving the public what they want. Motorists asked his attendants if they had aspirin tablets for sale. When the demand increased he placed them on sale. State officers investigated and found he had no license to sell drugs. His fine was \$1,000.

**GOOSE GUARDS AUTO**  
 Martinsburg, Mo. (AP)—A giant gander, given to Dr. U. S. G. Arnold of this city 20 years ago as a part payment for his services, is his household pet and guardian of his automobile. The humble gray goose is rated with an unusual intelligence and protects the doctor's car from his perch next to the doctor on the front seat while he is busy making a round of calls.

Nearly 5,000 miles of roads have been constructed in Iraq since the World War.

## LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

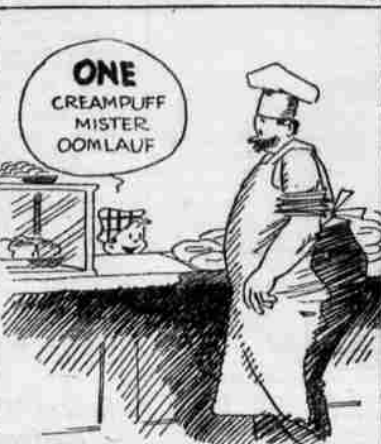
What's The Matter



By Harold Gray

## REG'LAR FELLERS

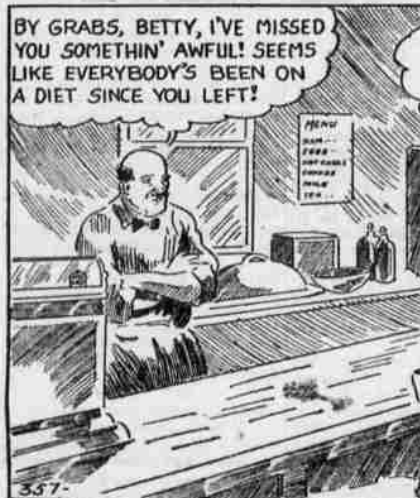
No Give To It



By Gene Byrnes

## TAILSPIN TOMMY

Business Is Booming



By Glenn Chaffin and Hal Forrest

## DUMB DORA

She Has Her Suspicions!



By Chick Young

## BRINGING UP FATHER

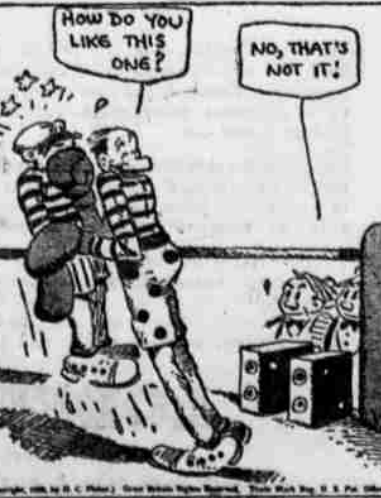
By George McManus



## MUTT AND JEFF

A Growl From An Animal Cracker

By Bud Fisher



**ACROSS**

1. Signal

4. American lawyer and railroad official

8. Head metonymically

12. Night before an event

13. Wings

14. County in Pennsylvania

15. Toss who do not pass their waders

17. Part of speech

18. Allowance for waste

19. Retarded

21. Bone

22. Thru who bring into the

24. Very man

25. Point suffix

26. Builder of the Ark; var.

27. Walk unsteadily

28. Church official

29. Palm leaf; var.

30. Vessel or duct

31. Odor

32. Dimer

33. Toward

42. Like

43. Front of legs

44. Mix

45. Evergreen shrub

46. New eagle

47. Mistle

48. Greek letter

49. Parakeet

50. Break suddenly

51. Chain

52. DWYM

53. Lizard

54. Above

55. Take out

56. Digest

57. Job of the cat

58. Put on a new bottom

59. Lucky number

60. Jester

61. Atmosphere

62. Bird's beak

63. Firmness

64. Broadest

65. Alters

66. Border knot

67. Disputed

68. On top

69. Pined or sunk alone

70. Passerine bird

71. Release by payment of money

72. Fruit of the oak tree

73. Furlong

74. Part of wheels

75. Tableland

76. Arabian city

77. Festival

78. Name

79. Slit

80. Three prolix

81. Poisonous serpent

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