

BLOND GODDESS A New Serial by Herbert Jensen

SYNOPSIS: Death by drowning seems to be the fate of a certain... Frank Graham, the explorer, has taken the great chance of his life in order to save the child, Justice King, the master star, whom Frank loved...

Chapter 43 DARK HORROR

Despite himself, Frank's teeth began to chatter. He had estimated eight to ten hours immersion; would his resistance bear it? Then suddenly the phosphorescent glow disappeared. The water seemed quiet; then apparently the current became a scarcely perceived flow.

He touched the side of the cave. His senses had not deceived him. The current had indeed dimmed. A sudden fear contracted his heart. He believed that he was at least halfway to the coast...

Supposing that from this point on, the current flowed sluggishly? A chill that was not from the water swept him. As he splashed forward, hoping to assist with the effort his down-

stream progress, he began to be aware that ahead of him there glowed a light that was not the greenish yellow of phosphorus. He could not let himself believe that grayish dimness that suffused the blackness ahead of him was the end of the cavern. His disappointment, he knew, would be too soon. The clumsy life belt impeded his progress; yet he dared not disperse with it lest some weakness overcome him, or some mishap occur.

A vagrant eddy caught him and hurried him forward. He was whirled dizzying for an instant. He bumped against a buttress of rock projecting into the channel. The stream made a twist to the left; then to the right. Suddenly he floated into daylight! Sudden pain stabbed his eyes. He shut them tightly for an instant; then slit them against the unaccustomed light.

He was in a cove. It was not so large as the one below the pyramid, nor so high-walled as the relative one where he had left Langton and Janice Kent. It seemed, however, deeper. The water flooded within it to a high level on the cliffs. At one edge the cliff had broken down; shrubbery and creepers grew upon it. With an ejaculation of hope he paddled toward it. Perhaps from here he could gain the level above.

Instantaneously the thought came to him that could he somehow get word to Billy and Janice that they could drift down to him on the raft and once above ground, could chop through the jungle to the coast.

He splashed into the shallows. As he did so there was a sluggish movement in the tangle of water plants between him and the slope ahead. Golden, black-slitted eyes observed him; a wide tooth-fringed maw gaped.

Alligator! He stood still. The reptile did not attack. Instead it slid to one side and away from him. A boiling of muddy water marked its disappearance into the cove. Graham repressed a slight shudder. He knew alligators; sometimes they attacked a man, but usually not. Although his knowledge was practical and jungle-bred and did not conform to popular belief, nevertheless the sight of the reptiles always gave him that aversive sensation of skin crawling upon his back.

With the footing firm beneath him he left the water and climbed upward to the edge of the cove. It was then that he realized that it was raining. Raining with the intensity steadily dropping that told him that the rainy season was indeed upon them. It would be only a matter of days now—perhaps hours—before the caverns and cenotes would be flooded.

He looked about him. The dim jungle pressed upon him from all sides. Only vaguely could he estimate the points of the compass. Swiftly he analyzed the alternatives confronting him.

He could attempt a return to Janice and Billy. But even with compass, supplies, machete, and firearms it would take him days to reach them, even supposing he might find their remote valley ready before the caverns and cenotes would be flooded.

To attempt the coast on foot would double end with more success—for himself. It might take him days to accomplish that; it would be too late, then, to rescue his companions supposing the rain continued and they were unable to get out of the valley.

A sudden thought struck him at this point: Langton hinted that the high priest knew a way to get out. Perhaps the abkin had been but hiding his time until he had had a crippled man and a helpless girl to put some sinister plan of his into operation.

Frank wiped the dripping rain from his face. He thought with a slight bitterness that it was a trick

Breaks Ski Record



John Eiverson, Portland, Ore., set a new amateur competitive record for the ski jump with a 250 foot leap at the winter sports carnival at Big Pine, Cal. (Associated Press)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS By Frederic J. Haskin

When troublesome questions arise, avail yourself of the service of this department. It costs you nothing—you have only to send three cents for postage on the personal letter you will receive in reply. Do not use postcards. Any question on any subject of fact will be answered. Address your letter of inquiry to the Capital Journal Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C.

Q. Tell something about the Gurkhas who live in the Himalaya mountains. J.A. A. The Gurkhas are of splendid physical development, are very courageous, faithful, and self-reliant, and are noted for their skilled marksmanship. They are among the best hill-fighters in the world. Besides being phenomenal riflemen, they are noted for their use of their national weapon, the khiri, a heavy knife which is used for every conceivable purpose including decapitation.

Q. Is an illustration for a magazine made larger than it appears when published? D.O. A. It is usually prepared from six to eight times larger than it will be when reproduced.

Q. When selecting colored glasses, what color should the lenses be, so as to be most restful to the eyes? P.M.C. A. The public health service says that there is no widely applicable prescription for glasses to protect eyes from glare. The eye is most sensitive at a wave length of about 550 millimicrons, that is for greenish-yellow light. It has been found that glasses to protect the eyes from intense visible light should be yellowish-green in color and should not transmit more than 23 per cent of the incident light.

Q. What is the story connected with the Passion Flower? H.E.B. A. The name Passion Flower (for passion) arose from the supposed resemblance of its corona to the crown of thorns and of the other parts of the flower to the nails and wounds of Jesus Christ at His crucifixion, while the five sepals and five petals were taken to symbolize the ten Apostles; Peter, who denied and Judas who betrayed, being omitted. Passion is the term given to the sufferings of Christ during the last days of His life.

Q. How old is the National Archery association? C.C. A. It was established in 1879.

Q. For whom was Lord Byron named? M.A.G. A. The poet Byron was christened George Gordon after his maternal grandfather, who was descended from Sir William Gordon of Gight, grandson of James I of Scotland.

Q. What reason, if any, for the NRA blue eagle having ten points on one wing and seven on the other? Does it have any connection with the Book of Revelation? H.W. A. The design of the blue eagle has no connection with the Book of Revelation. It is merely an emblematic design, the only symbolism being the cogwheel standing for mechanical industry and the lightning bolts for energy.

Q. Who was the first president's widow to receive an annuity from the government? P.H. A. Mrs. John Tyler. Congress voted her an annuity of \$5000.

Q. How much silk thread is there in a pair of all-silk women's hose? A. The following is an estimate: 4-thread women's hose, 19,700 feet; 6-thread women's hose 9900 feet; 10-thread 6500 feet.

Q. Are there lotteries in Germany? C.H.A. A. In July the Nazis announced that a national lottery will be conducted with prizes totaling 1,500,000 marks for use in projects for reducing unemployment. The maximum individual prize will be 200,000 marks.

Q. When was Millet's 'Le Semeur' painted? E.H. A. The first Sower (1849) was laid aside by Millet because the canvas was too short and the present one was painted for the Salon in 1850.

Q. What islands in the Adriatic did Italy receive as a result of the World war? C.B. A. Italy obtained the Islands of Lagosta, south of the city of Split, Yugoslavia, and the Islands of Corto, Lucina, and other much smaller islands in the Gulf of Quarnero, south of the city of Fiume, which now belongs to Italy.

Q. When was the first voting machine used in the United States? E.H. A. The first voting machine in actual use in America was designed by Jacob A. Meyers, Lockport, N. Y., and used in 1892.

Labor Federation Official Is Guest

Eola—H. H. Perham, 78, well known in the world of organized labor, being at one time vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, president of the railroad employes' department and for 18 years president of the order of Railroad Telegraphers, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Mayhood last week. Mr. Perham aided in the matter of organizing Telegraph clubs in Seattle, Portland and Salem. Mayhood was with the Interstate commerce commission for over 22 years as safety appliance inspector and at the time that he became eligible for pension was service agent for the I. C. C. at Portland.

CHRISTENSONS HOSTS

Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. George Christenson entertained at Sunday dinner for Mrs. Christenson's cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Al Yoder and two sons, Nolan and Russell, of Yoder, and Miss Helen Wilson of Needy.

of life to give a man not two alternatives, but three or more.

He looked down at the pool of the cenote. He saw the break in the wall from whence he had floated. On the other side he observed that the roof of the continuing cavern was a scant three feet above the water level. Doubtless driftwood had dammed that exit causing the water in the pool to rise. However it would not be long before that dam would crack through and the whole system of the underground river would be poured with a turmoil of floating brush, logs and debris.

He descended to the pool and waded in. He gave no thought to the reptiles that might be lurking in its depths, nor to the possibility that the cavern might be choked at the farther end in which case he would never see daylight again. He had taken those chances deliberately that morning when he had left Janice; the situation had not been altered. He splashed toward the exit where the water swirled under the three foot arch.

Just before he made the plunge beneath the arch he saw the alligator again. He was lying on the bank, his malevolent little eyes fixed on Frank.

Then there was only darkness. (To be Continued)



Puffy's leaving his home 'cause he doesn't like cats; He needs a cub lion out looking for rats; Says Puff, "I am leaving these ligers behind; Let's strike out together, and see what we find."

AND JEFF

