



FLOYD GIBBONS

Adventurers' Club

Hello, Everybody!

"The Ghost of the Piano"
By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter.

YOU know, boys and girls, every time I make up my mind that there are no such things as ghosts, somebody comes along with a story that makes me just a bit doubtful.

Now it's Richard Bouker who throws the monkey wrench into my supernatural musings. Let's go along with Dick and see what happened to him that wet December night in 1932.

Dick was a member of the CCC—Civilian Conservation corps, camp 267, located at Speedwell, Tenn., when he had the greatest thrill of his life. He had been in town, 15 miles from camp, and had missed the camp truck and was faced with the necessity of walking the long, weary miles back to camp.

Now Dick says that taking a long hike with the stiff shoes the government issues to the workers is not so hot. But he had limped along about five miles of his way before things began to get serious. It was long after sundown and he was hungry, tired and sleepy and the dreary prospect of ten long, weary miles over the sloping hills of northeastern Tennessee was pretty discouraging.

Then it began to rain. Big drops fell at first, but before Dick had gone another half mile it came down in sheets. He looked around him for shelter. No friendly lights glimmered through the rain in this desolate stretch of country, but a little off the road Dick stumbled onto a deserted cabin and, pushing upon the sagging door, he went inside.

The Storm Almost Came In With Dick.

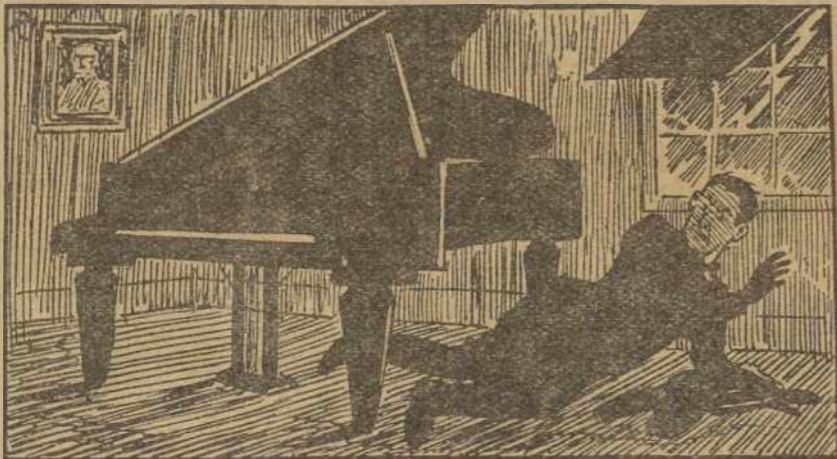
Dick says he just made the cabin in time because as he stepped inside, the storm broke in all its fury. A crash of thunder startled him with its ear-splitting suddenness and the flash of lightning that followed seemed to come right into the dust-ridden cabin after him.

But, at least, he had shelter and he started to look around him as well as he could. The cabin, though obviously deserted for years, still held some signs of human habitation. As he groped through the darkness, he bumped into a large piece of furniture that seemed to take up most of the room. He explored it with his hands and to his surprise found it to be—of all things—a grand piano!

In the flashes of lightning, Dick could see that the instrument was in a sorry condition. The ivory tops of the keys had long since disappeared, but otherwise it stood there like a silent sentinel guarding the spirit of that departed artistic soul who had brought such a fine instrument into this desolate country.

A New Kind of Canopy for the Weary Traveler.

But Dick was not in a mood to conjecture about what happened to the owner of the piano. His ideas were more practical. The roof was leaking



Strange, Eerie Music Came From the Old Piano.

steadily and the wide spread of the grand piano made an excellent cover for his tired body. He climbed under it and, exhausted as he was, was soon fast asleep.

Sleep! What a panacea for all our ills! Outside the storm howled, the rain beat a ceaseless tattoo against the grimy window panes, the wind shrieked through the trees and the thunder and lightning roared and flashed, as though furious at the loss of their human victim.

How long Dick slept he does not know, but he does know that the thing that awakened him was not a part of the storm. He opened his eyes slowly to the sound of strange, eerie music coming from the old piano!

Maybe It Was Pretty—but He Wasn't in the Mood.

Well, there's nothing that should frighten anyone in the sound of a piano and yet, as he lay there trying to pierce the darkness with his eyes, Dick says he could feel the hair on the back of his neck actually rise in horror. At first he thought he was dreaming, but the music—if you could call it that—was real.

For the life of him, Dick can't explain why he knew no living person was before that keyboard. But he says he did know it. He wanted to reach out and feel the feet that should be near the pedals. But he was afraid of what he might not find!

He lay there breathlessly instead—waiting for a lightning flash to prove—what he already knew. The lightning flash came and Dick's worst fears were realized.

He was alone in the room.

Curiosity Conquers Over Ghostly Fear.

And yet the music went on. It sounded, Dick says, as though a little child were practicing. Curiosity overcame his fear. He drew a lone match out of his pocket and struck it. As the tiny flame lit up the dim shadows the music suddenly ceased. The match flickered so in his shaking hands that it was hard to see but, even in that poor light, he saw something that made him drop the match in sudden terror.

A pair of eyes—a few feet from his face—stared fixedly at him! Wham! Dick went out that rickety door like a bat out of Hades! He forgot all about his sore feet and the rain and the storm and everything. All he wanted was camp and the company of something human.

Came the morning and a group of CCC workers to investigate the Ghost of the Piano. They were hard boiled in the bright sunshine and, by golly, they brought the ghost right back with them!

Yes, sir, that ghost me-owed when they found her so they brought her back to camp and made her the mascot and you just ought to see that ghost punish a dish of cream.

And that, boys and girls, is the story of how the "Ghost of the Piano" became another version of the "Kitten on the Keys."

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Elephant Good Worker

One job in which the elephant seems to have no equal is breaking up the jams of teak logs that occur every few miles in the Menan river of Siam. The hundreds of animals that are engaged in this work not only have the power to push or pull these giant pieces of timber out of tightly held positions, but they are often better than their mahouts in finding the key log that is holding the jam.—Collier's Weekly.

Arctic Climatic Changes

The evidence that climatic conditions have changed in the Arctic and Antarctic zones is mainly geologic. It is believed that tropical conditions existed as far north as Greenland between the glacial epochs. Remains of animal and vegetable life have been found in these regions which indicate that once the climate was warm enough to permit of their growth and existence.

SLAVE BADGES AN EXPENSE IN 1834, OLD LAWS REVEAL

A study of Charleston's tax laws shows that although Charlestonians in 1834 did not have to buy auto tags nor pay a gasoline tax, other means were employed by the tax gatherers to get their money. One of these was the sale of slave badges.

Badges or licenses for slaves had to be purchased from the city treasurer in January for the ensuing year and the penalty for hiring out slaves without badges was \$20.

The rates for slave badges were published in "A Digest of the Ordinances of the City Council of Charleston from the Year 1783 to October, 1844, to which are Annexed the Acts of the Legislature which Relate Exclusively to the City of Charleston," prepared under resolution of city council by George B. Eckard. Some of the rates were as follows:

Handicraft tradesmen, \$7; carter, trayman, porter or day laborer, \$4; fishermen, \$4; fisherwomen, \$2; house servants or washerwomen, \$2; seller of fruits, cake or "any article not prohibited," \$5.

Slaves who wore badges which did not belong to them or which did not specify the particular nature of their employment were to be committed to the workhouse and subject to such corporal punishment as the mayor directed unless the owner paid \$2 fine.—New York Times.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are best for liver, bowels and stomach. One little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.—Adv.

Find Ancient Trees

Trees believed to have been buried by dust storms thousands of years ago have been found by workers near Des Moines, Iowa.

80,000 IN WILD RACE

The largest and wildest foot race ever run took place in the diamond fields of Lichtenburg, South Africa, in 1927, when more than 80,000 prospectors, at a given signal, dashed to stake out claims.—Collier's.

LOVERS' LADDERS

In the Dolomites in Italy it is still the custom for a youth to set a ladder to a girl's window, mount it, tap, and talk with her—an ancient custom which Shakespeare utilized in "Romeo and Juliet."

If You Have "Acid Indigestion" ALKALIZE YOUR STOMACH THIS WAY



Alkalizes Disturbed Stomach Almost Instantly

YOU can relieve even the most annoying symptoms of acid stomach in almost as little time now as it takes to tell.

The answer is simple. You alkalize your stomach almost instantly this way:

Take—2 teaspoonfuls of Phillips' Milk of Magnesia 30 minutes after meals. OR—take 2 Phillips' Milk of Magnesia Tablets, the exact equivalent.

That's all you do! Relief comes in a few minutes. Your stomach is alkalized—soothed. Nausea, and upset distress quickly disappear... It's amazing.

Results come so fast because Phillips' Milk of Magnesia is a potent natural alkali. Everywhere people—urged to keep

their stomach alkalized— are finding this out.

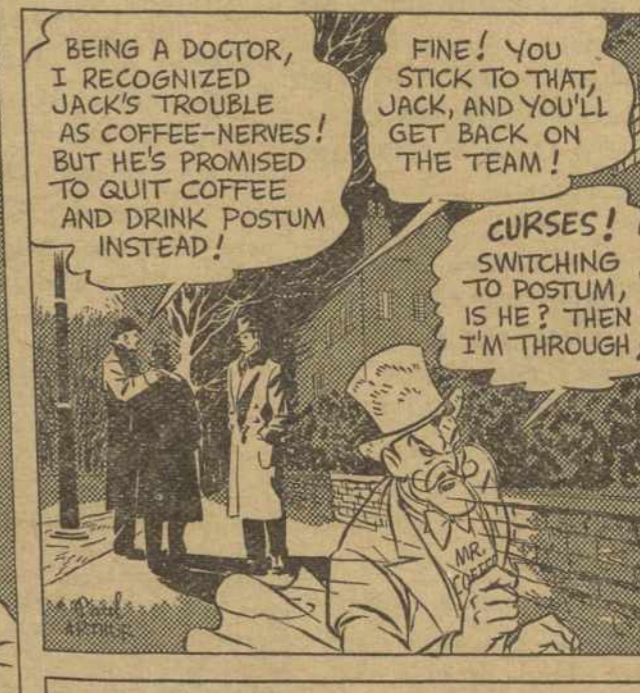
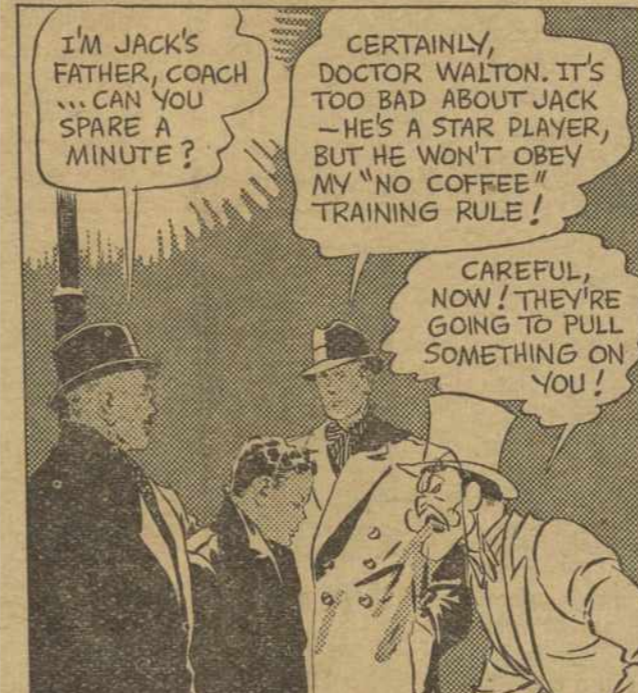
Try it. Get a bottle of the liquid Phillips' for home use. Only 25¢ for a big box of Phillips' Tablets to carry with you. Watch out that any bottle or box you accept is clearly marked "Phillips' Milk of Magnesia."

SIGNS WHICH OFTEN INDICATE "ACID STOMACH"

- PAIN AFTER EATING
- SLEEPLESSNESS
- FEELING OF WEAKNESS
- INDIGESTION
- NAUSEA
- MOUTH ACIDITY
- LOSS OF APETITE
- SOUR STOMACH
- FREQUENT HEADACHES

PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA

DAD GIVES A GOOD TIP



OF COURSE, you know that children should never drink coffee. But do you realize that the caffeine in coffee disagrees with many grown-ups, too?

If you are bothered by headaches or indigestion, or find it difficult to sleep soundly... caffeine may be to blame.

Isn't it worth while to try Postum for 30 days? Postum contains no caffeine. It is simply whole wheat and bran, roasted and slightly sweetened. It is easy to make, and costs less than one-half cent a cup. It's a delicious drink, too... and may prove a real help. A product of General Foods.

FREE—let us send you your first week's supply of Postum free! Simply mail the coupon.

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GENERAL FOODS, Battle Creek, Mich. W. N. U.—3-7-36
Send me, without obligation, a week's supply of Postum.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____

Fill in completely, print name and address. If you live in Canada, address: General Foods, Ltd., Cobourg, Ont. (Offer expires Dec. 31, 1936.)