

VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren

**Chapter 48
LE SAGE'S PLAN**

"REALLY?" asked Ricco. "And with what force do you propose to do these wonderful things?"

"Ample, admirable and efficient—a half-dozen of legionnaires. And who could want anything better?" Le Sage smiled.

"You think they'll obey you, do you?"

"Certain of it. I'll tell you why. Do you remember an excellent orderly you had at Fort One—a man named Bombell, who, alas, deserted and was never heard of again? Yes, well—he's being heard of now and, in correct uniform and rank-badges, is putting the fear of God and sudden death into some of the poor rascals you corrupted and suborned, Major Ricco. Your Bombell, my good Major Ricco, is the famous Langeau himself. Yes, that's

that we were not alone; and the devil of it was that I'd said all sorts of dangerous things, given away all sorts of deadly secrets.

"Not only dangerous and deadly for me, but also for the noble Señor Pedro Mallign. We'd said enough between us, to send us both to the torture chamber," added Le Sage.

"Then obviously, my good Le Sage, Pedro Mallign was fooling you. He was giving you away to somebody who already knew Mallign's game, but didn't know yours."

"Anyhow, there it was. Someone was listening, and the game was up. If Pedro Mallign knew—then I was trapped. If he didn't know—then we were both trapped, and my one idea was to get out of the trap as quickly as possible. So I politely bade the noble Pedro to hold his tongue for a moment, because I wanted to think.

"I did. I also wanted to hear and to smell. For, among the few qualifications which I possess for this sort of work, are abnormally acute hearing and sense of smell."

Major Ricco yawned.

"You seem to have several attributes in common with the brute creation, Le Sage," he observed.

"I inhaled deeply, savoring the scent—as you say, like an animal

"I'd have fired into the bulge," declared Ricco.

a nasty shock for you, isn't it? Oh, your legionnaires will obey me and follow me, all right."

"All those who live longest will see most, Le Sage."

"You are absolutely right there, Major Ricco. They will."

"Yes, and it is you and Major Langeau who should feel anxiety. How did the fellow get there, by the way?"

"On a camel! And in the rôle of my servant. He takes his teeth out and turns his eyes in, you know. And his own mama wouldn't know him. At least, I hope not, for mama's sake."

"Well, I'll take his eyes out and put his teeth in—in the eye-sockets," promised Ricco.

"I doubt it," smiled Le Sage. "In fact, Major Ricco, I should advise you to think of your latter end. It draws near."

Major Ricco smiled and brushed this aside with a wave of his hand.

"Uninteresting, Le Sage. Boring. But there's one point that does interest me, I confess."

The door opened and Otho Beléme, saluting, announced that Sergeant-Major Vittorelli was in the hands of Major Langeau, also in the punishment cell.

"Good. And your three companions?"

"Present, sir."

"Good. You four will await me outside this door."

"Well, Major Ricco—the point of interest you mentioned?"

"Yes. It's this. Why exactly did you choose tonight for this—er—exhibition?"

"I'll tell you. I paid a visit to-day to the apartment of the Kald's Visier, Señor Pedro Mallign who, besides being the Kald's confidential adviser, is also my acconfidentially paid hireling."

"Now whether he was not only double-crossing, but triple-crossing, ma, I don't know. But after I had had his assurance that I could safely say what I'd got to say, I suddenly became aware that I wasn't so sure of this. I felt a



der Warthe, Germany, asked that the "lying campaign" in foreign newspapers alleging persecution of Jews in Germany be halted.

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WORK IN FORESTS BOON TO OREGON

PORTLAND, March 30.—(AP)—A program of 160,000 "man months" may be available in Oregon through improvements and construction in national forests of the state under the president's employment program, according to a special dispatch to the Journal today from its Washington correspondent.

"On the basis of a six-month working season," the article said, "this would give employment to approximately 28,700 men. This is for the national forests alone and does not include Indian lands, national parks or public lands, nor does it include work that might be arranged for with private timber land owners on some cooperative basis."

The estimate for California, the dispatch said, is 316,000 man-months, for Idaho, 167,000, and for Washington, 101,000 man-months in national forests.

counties will have no general regulation of the sale of legalized beer outside of municipalities, the commissioners of Multnomah county believe they have found one way to cope with the situation.

A regulation was being drafted today to forbid the sale of beer in any room or building where a public dance is being conducted in the county, except in a public eating

house where dinner dancing is permitted, and even in such places, bars will not be permitted.

The county is authorized by law to regulate dance halls.

Broken windows glazed by Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

Fender and body repairing. Prices right. Brill Sheet Metal Works.

COUNTY TO CURB BEER FARM IDEA

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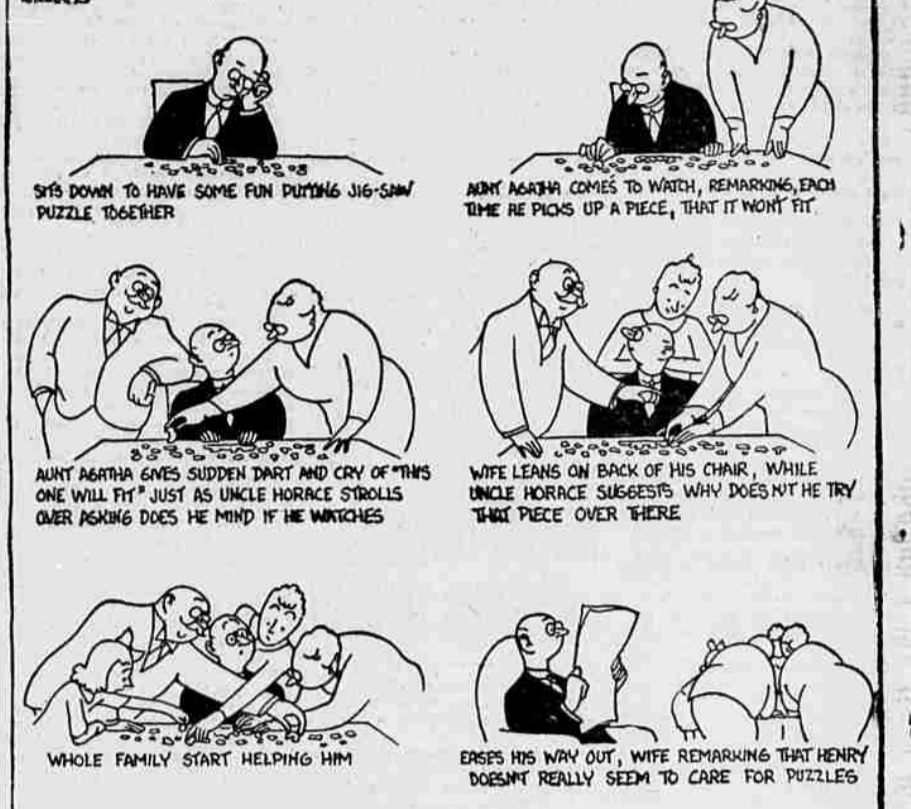
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By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



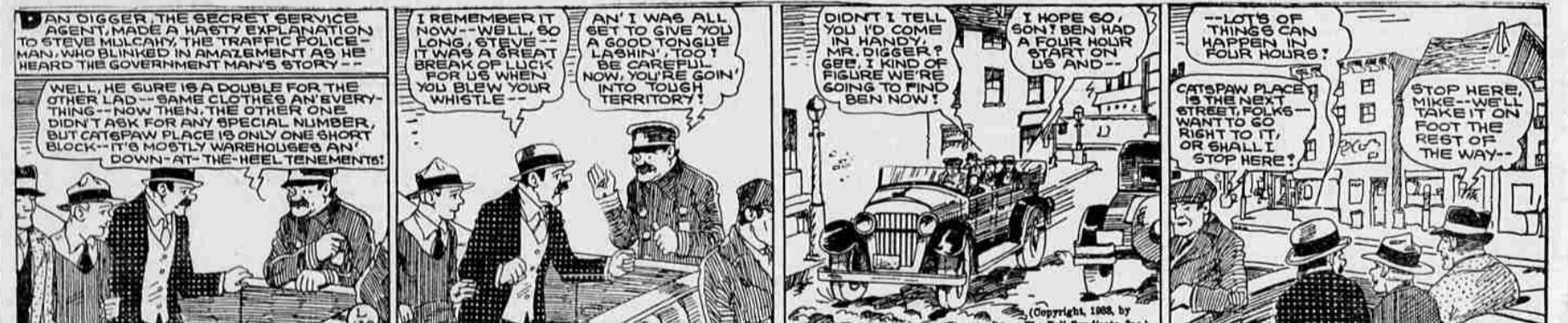
TAILSPIN TOMMY—Survival Of The "Fightin'est"

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



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By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—Kid Silver Tongue

By SOL HESS



BRINGING UP FATHER

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JEW'S PLEAD FOR HALT IN 'LYING CAMPAIGN'

NEW YORK, Mar. 30.—(AP)—A message received here today from the Jewish community of Schwerin am

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