

Outrageous Fortune

by Patricia Wentworth

SYNOPSIS: Jim Randall and Caroline Leigh are waiting in Caroline's car for Nests to leave her house and go to meet a woman. Jim believes the man is the real thief of the Van Berg diamonds, although evidence points to the fact that Jim himself stole them. He had Jim himself steal them. He had Jim himself steal them. He had Jim himself steal them.

Chapter 44 AT THE PRIORY

ABOUT ten minutes later Jim suddenly clutched Caroline and said, "Hush!" The front door of Haploot had opened and someone was coming out. The door shut again.

Jim spoke under his breath. "It's Tom!"

The light of the street-lamp showed overalls, a leather cap, and goggles.

"She's sending Tom," said Jim. They saw him go round the house into the shadow.

"Suppose it's a blind," said Caroline. Jim's hand tightened on her wrist. He said: "Look!"

Out of the shadow beside the house came the figure in overalls, pushing Tom's motor-bike.

"It isn't Tom—that's Nests! Get ready to start as soon as she's making enough noise not to notice us. What can you do?"

"Fifty," said Caroline. The chug-chugging of the motorcycle filled the quiet road. A corner of the blind above was lifted. Someone was watching Nests start. Jim thought Tom would probably hear all about that later on.

Caroline kept about thirty yards behind. There was very little traffic on the road, and it was now practically dark. They ran for five miles, and then the tail-light disappeared.

"Where's she gone?" said Jim in a puzzled voice. "Sandy Lane," said Caroline. "Is it drivable?"

"They've made a parking-ground in a field about a quarter of a mile along to the left. The road's all right as far as that, but I can get the car a good bit nearer the ruins. Do you think she's going there?"

They turned off, and saw the red spark again. Caroline switched off her lights and crawled forward over a horribly rough surface. The red spark drew away and then suddenly went out.

Jim whispered, "Has she turned off?" "Stopped, I think. We must too. I can't turn here—we shall have to back."

He opened the door and jumped out. "Caroline—will you do just what I say? Back down to the parking-place and turn, then stay there till I come. Get as much out of the way as you can."

He did not wait for an answer, but made off up the lane. He tried to fix in his mind the exact spot at which the red light had vanished. He must be getting near it now.

And then all of a sudden there was the motorcycle, jammed up against the hedge. A bare yard farther on he came on the wicket gate. The rule of St. Leonard's Priory is one of the sights of the county. It cannot be said to be easy of access, but in summer weather it is much in favor with school treats, sketching-parties, and lovers.

Jim followed the path until he could see the dark mass of the tower loom up between him and a sky which was not quite so dark. At intervals he stopped to listen. And then all at once he didn't hear, he saw.

HE WAS about a dozen yards from the tower, which was really only a shell, the hollow side towards him. The winding stair, which had once led to the top, had long since fallen, but the slits which had lighted it remained, piercing the outer wall at regular intervals. What Jim saw was the lowest of these slits, and he saw it because on the other side of the tower wall someone had struck a match.

As he approached the slit, he heard the murmur of voices. He laid a hand on the rough, damp wall of the tower, stooped to the slit, and from the other side of it heard Nests say: "I want to see them."

He listened eagerly for the man's voice. All that he knew of him up to the present was the feel of his agile twisting body and the sharpness of his teeth. He had not the slightest doubt that it was his burglar to whom Nests was speaking.

The voice was as familiar to him

Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 11.—(Sp.)—Those from here attending the all-day session of the Sunday school convention at Phoenix Tuesday were Mrs. Callie Sanden, Mrs. Floeste

Backus, Mrs. May Forbes and Mrs. Vivian Beach.

Rev. and Mrs. E. Johns entertained Wednesday with a dinner for Mrs. Cora Bixby of Jacksonville and Rev. and Mrs. E. Iverson of Medford. Mrs. Bixby is going east soon to make her home.

Mrs. H. E. Neuber of Portland is the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Hanna for a few weeks. Mrs. Neuber is Mrs. Hanna's sister-in-law.

Mrs. Ellen Sutton and daughter, Mrs. Ellen Mullin, and twin babies spent Tuesday visiting Mrs. Sutton's niece, Mrs. May Forbes, here.

Mrs. H. K. Hanna and Mrs. John Knight are among the ladies canvassing for the Community Chest here this week.

Mrs. May Forbes visited Mrs. Fred Lewis of Reese Creek November 8.

Ladies' Aid will hold an all-day social meeting with covered dish luncheon at noon November 18. It will be open to all ladies.

George Backus and Athel Dudley returned November 8 from San Francisco, where they delivered a truck load of beef cattle.

Ernest and Albert Olson were visiting their mother, Mrs. Fred Lewis, of Reese Creek, November 8.

Mrs. Vivian Beach had a letter Tuesday from her son, Joe, who has been confined to the Shiner's hospital in Portland, stating he had been released from the hospital and would soon be at home again. His classmates and teacher will be glad to welcome him after so long an absence.

Miss Carmen Dorothy was happily surprised by 24 of her friends November 8, the occasion being her birthday. She was presented a lovely cake and gifts.

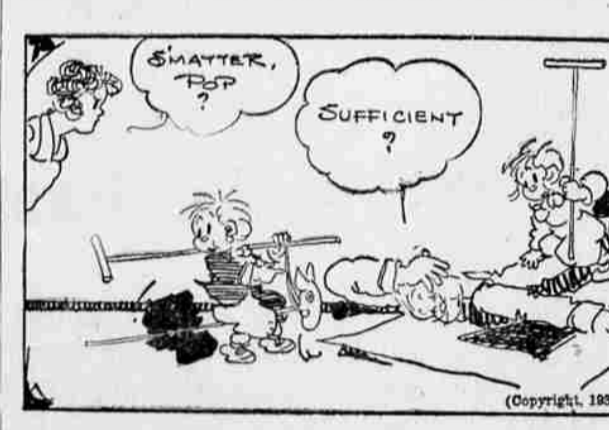
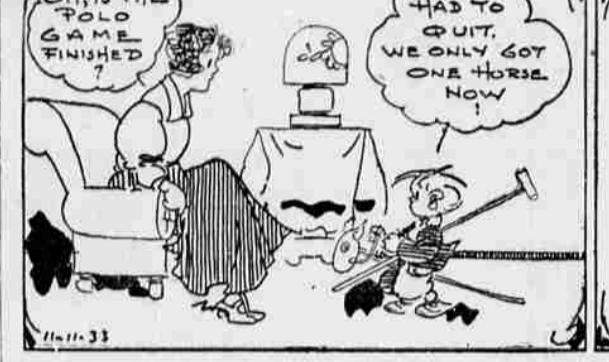
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For Fuel Oil Delivery call 315. Pump and haul hose. E.O.C.

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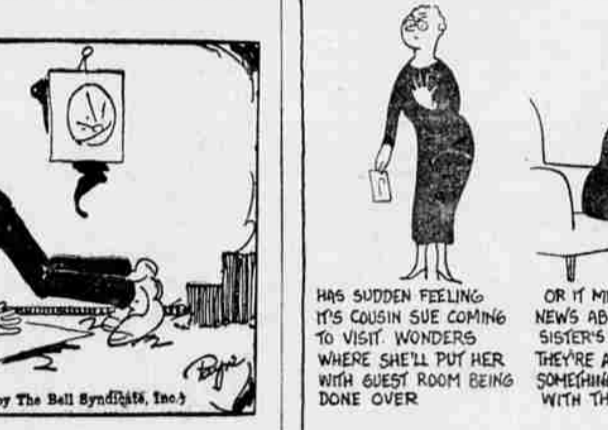
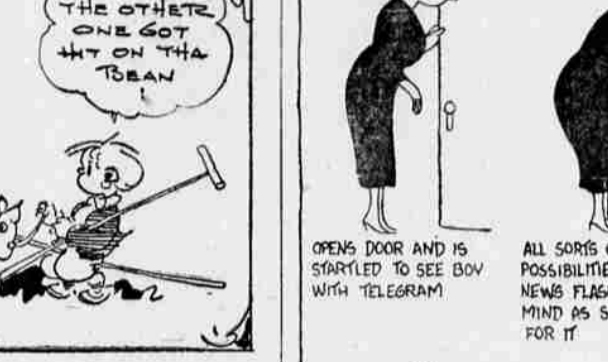
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THE TELEGRAM

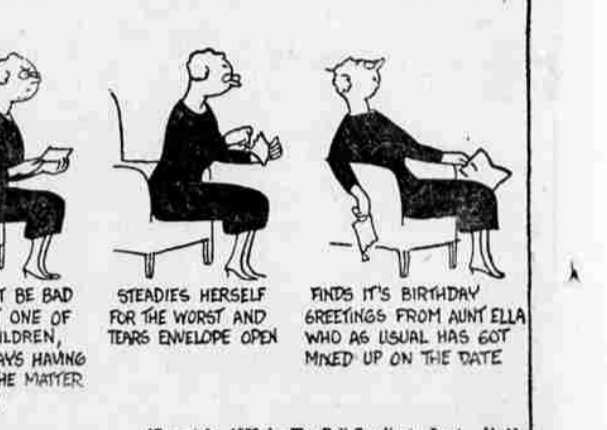
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TAILSPIN TOMMY—One Of Those "Unaccountable" Accidents!

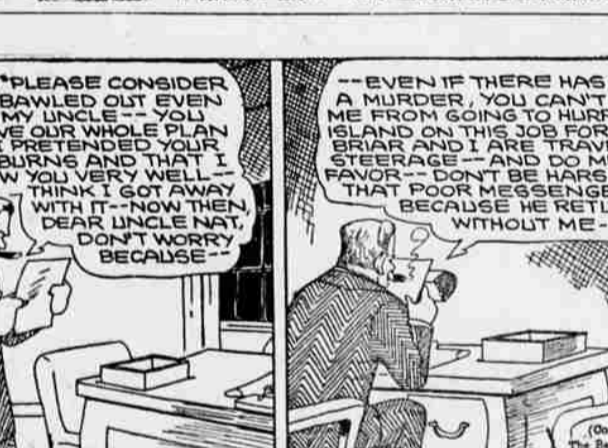
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TRUCK OWNERS MEET MONDAY AT TALENT

A mass meeting of all truck owners, truck gardeners and producers in Jackson county will be held in the

Talent city hall tomorrow evening, November 13 at 8 o'clock. George S. Barton of Medford and C. Thomas Gillen of Roseburg, chairman of the seven southern Oregon counties in the Oregon Truck association will be the principal speakers. Those in charge of the meeting have requested that all interested parties attend, as this will be the last meeting before the legislature meets November 20.

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