

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

Nicholas Trench, Molly O'Brien, Jerry Gowanland and Jimmy Fox, have come to Hambridge on Jerry's little boat to try to learn something about a missing formula, stolen some months before from Molly. The thief was John Osborne, and he had spent a month at Hambridge just before he was murdered. Peter Galt, unscrupulous Russian, also is trying to find the formula, which is worth millions. Nick is trying to question the women with whom Osborne boarded when her husband, furiously angry, appears.

Chapter 37 DOG FIGHT

"Who are you?" Gowanland demanded, "and what the blazes do you want here?"

I looked him up and down with intentional deliberation.

"I wanted some milk," I said, "a pint to be strictly accurate."

"Well, you've got it, haven't you?" He pointed toward the gate. "Now clear off, blast you!"

I could feel my temper beginning to rise. "Look here," I said, "you keep a civil tongue in your head when you're speaking to me."

"Tom, Tom," broke in his wife piteously, "what's the good..."

He turned on her with a scowl of fury. "Shut your nigh, he roared. "I heard what he said to you. A friend of Osborne's, is he? Well, I'll

suddenly on his heel, set off at a shambling run in the direction of the house.

"He's gone to get his gun. For God's sake..."

Mrs. Gowanland's frantic appeal was cut short by a shout from behind us.

"What the Dickens—here, come off!"

Racing into the yard, Jerry seized George by the collar, and releasing his hold the latter allowed himself to be pulled backwards. With blood streaming from his shoulder, the other dog retreated snarlingly against the wall.

"You got here just in time," I said, "at least George did. If he hadn't that brute would have chewed me to pulp."

Still keeping his grip on the collar, Jerry glanced inquiringly from one to the other of us.

"What's it all about?" he demanded.

"Mr. Gowanland doesn't like my appearance," I explained. "He set Fido on me, and now's he gone off to fetch a gun."

"Oh, don't stop here—don't waste time talking. Go quick, all of you, before he comes back."

I looked down at the half-draught woman, who had again caught me by the sleeve. "We can't leave you alone with a homicidal lunatic," I objected.



A bristling mass of fury launched itself towards me.

"He won't hurt me. Go-go, I implore you. It's the only thing that will stop murder."

From somewhere close at hand came the bang of a door.

"Sounds sensible to me," observed Jerry. "He'd probably shoot George and then there'd certainly be a massacre. Any objection to beating it?"

"None," I said.

And without further ado we bolted inkloringly through the gate.

I lay on my back, gazing up at the glass skylight, against which the rain was still fitfully driving.

"There's one thing dead certain," I repeated: "the man's as mad as a hatter. What's more, if I'm any judge, he's on the verge of D.T."

Jerry picked up his pot of beer from the cabin floor, and took a long gulp. "Pleasant for his wife! Good looking, too, in her way; bit of the gipsy about her, I should think."

"I wonder what made her marry him," I said. "He's old enough to be her father."

"Perhaps he didn't drink so much then. It's only quite lately that the place has gone to pieces like that. Last time I was here everything was as smart as paint."

"Well, there must be some reason for it," broke in Molly. "I believe Nick was right in what he suggested yesterday."

"You mean about Osborne?"

She nodded. "I've been thinking it over the whole morning. Of course, I haven't seen Mrs. Gowanland, but if she's as pretty as you say, it all fits together nicely. I expect she was triflingly poor, and married Gowanland because he had a farm. As soon as she found herself shut up in that dismal place with a man who was twice her age I imagine she began to feel a bit sorry."

"It might be mighty lonesome here in winter time, and you can't get much company out of cows and pigs. As I see it, the poor thing must have had a pretty dreary time, and then, just as she was feeling bored stiff, who should come along but Osborne."

Copyright, 1935, Fawcett Publishing Co.

Tomorrow, the group makes another attempt to interview Mrs. Gowanland.

WE swayed to and fro, straining and struggling, till with a savage wrench I tore the weapon from his hands. At the same instant his foot slipped and losing his balance he sat down heavily in the mud.

A little breathlessly I turned to see how matters were progressing elsewhere. I had just time to observe that George was on top, his teeth buried in his enemy's shoulder, when with another and equally unprintable observation, my own adversary struggled to his feet.

"Better leave 'em alone," I said pleasantly. "You may get hurt if you try to interfere."

For a second he stood facing me, a glare of murderous hatred in his half insane eyes; then he took a pace backward and swinging round

END OF WORLD TO BE PREVIEWED BY WATCHING 'VIRGO'

By WALTER B. CLAUSEN
Associated Press Staff Writer

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. 9.—(AP)—A preview of the end of the world is patiently awaited by astronomers.

From their choice seats behind the world's largest telescope they expect to see the curtain rise some time in the next two years, says Dr. Fritz Zwicky, astrophysicist of California Institute of Technology.

The stage, he thinks, will be in the direction of Virgo star cluster, some 42,000,000,000,000,000 miles away.

From among Virgo's 500 galaxies, Dr. Zwicky said today, one of the stars will probably step forth in the stellar role of a super-nova and set "the end of the world" quite harmlessly for the astronomers who watch.

The play will be fatal to the star for it will explode with a brilliance perhaps equal to that of a hundred million suns.

There have been such colossal scenes before, but modern astronomy has yet to study one. These super-novae have been recorded by the ancient Chinese, and even found on astronomical photographic plates as recent as 1865, but never have they been studied through modern instruments.

Dr. Zwicky believes any star may become a super-nova. The study of

SUB-MARGIN LAND PURCHASE STARTS SOON IN OREGON

By WALTER B. CLAUSEN
Associated Press Staff Writer

PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Within the next six months the federal government will spend more than \$1,200,000 in Oregon buying up about 250,000 acres of sub-marginal land and relocating families which are to be removed from land of poor productivity.

The announcement was made by Rex E. Willard, agricultural adjustment administration representative.

About 150,000 acres of land will be purchased by the government in Central Oregon, and 100,000 acres will be taken up in western Oregon.

The central Oregon land bought by the government will be turned over largely to grazing. That in western Oregon will go into national and state forests. Fearful of price boosts, the federal agents made no mention whatever of particular districts in which the work will be carried out.

Willard said a staff of 15 persons will start work next week on appraisals. Purchases must be made before next June 30. All options must be approved by the AAA.

The purchase of the unproductive land will fit in closely with the work of the Oregon rehabilitation committee in placing on good lands those families removed from sub-marginal land.

George S. Shelley of Eugene will direct the land purchases in western Oregon and E. M. Peck of Redmond will have charge of this work in the central part of the state.

TWO GET PARDON FROM GOVERNOR

By WALTER B. CLAUSEN
Associated Press Staff Writer

SALEM, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Governor Julius L. Meier yesterday issued pardon to Lester Darby, sentenced to serve a one-year term in the Multnomah county jail for larceny. He was committed October 8, 1934.

A second pardon was issued to Raymond Johnson, serving nine months in the Multnomah county jail for larceny. He was received November 17, 1934.

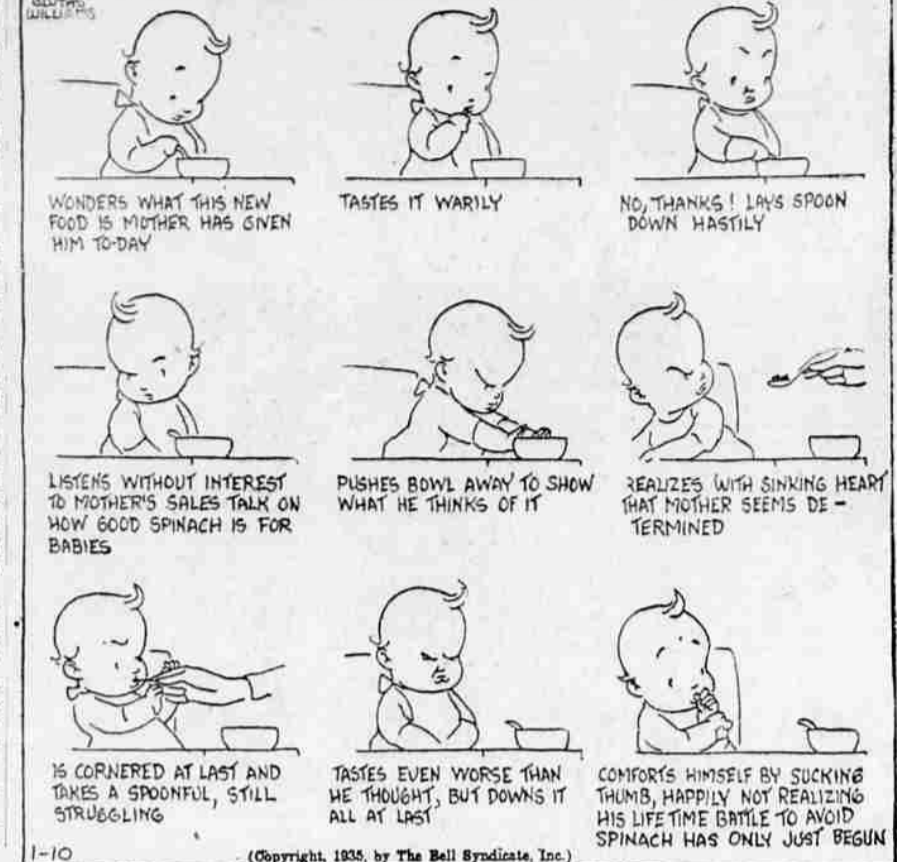
The governor also issued an order reinstating the driver's license of Eugene D. Hermann, stating it was necessary for Hermann to have his license in order to support his family.

Farmers One Million.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah.—(UP)—Utah farmers had \$25,000,000 outstanding against them in Federal Land bank and State Land board loans on December 1. Reports disclosed 6,154 Federal Land bank loans, totaling \$19,963,976.92; 2,397 Farm Loan Commission loans, totaling \$3,935,936.84; and 1,457 State Land board loans totaling \$3,276,722.78.

THE FIRST SPINACH

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



SMATTER POP

By C. M. Payne



TALKS IN TO

By Hal Forrest



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—An Opening

By EDWIN ALGER



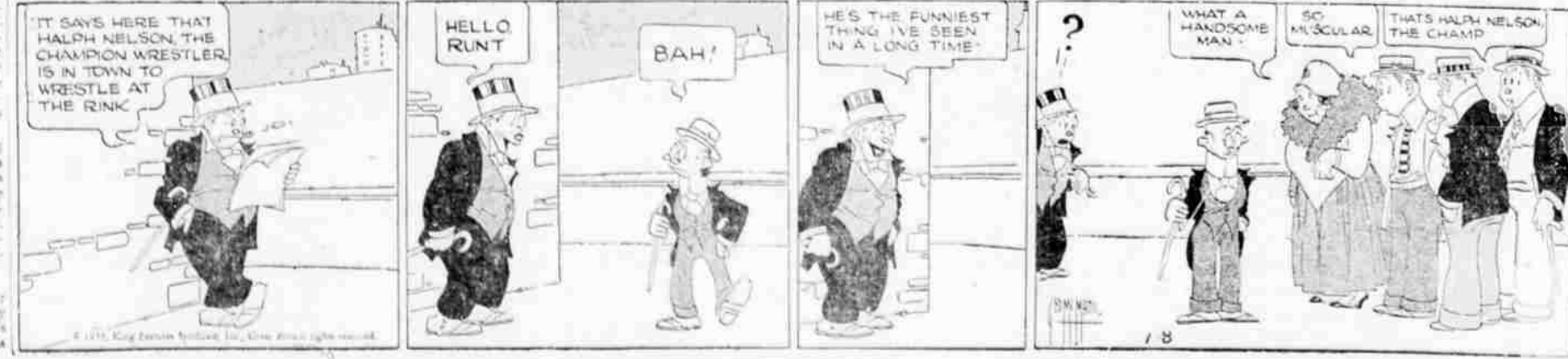
THE NEBBES—The Gang

By Sol Hess



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



UNIVERSITY THESPIANS WILL APPEAR AT SONS ON SATURDAY EVENING

A classic comedy entitled "The Amateurs" by Sir Arthur Pinero, famous British dramatist of the late 19th century, will be presented at Ashland January 12, by the University theater of the University of Oregon dramatic department. The Ashland appearance of the student cast will be the second of two in southern Oregon, the first to be at Roseburg, January 11.

Under the direction of Otis T. Seybold, head of the university drama department, the play will be presented in the same light, rollicking mood with which it met with much success originally staged, and in a revival at New York, season before last. It is the story of a mother who, bitterly regretting that her girls are not boys, brings them up as such. The complications resulting when the girls, dressed in masculine attire, acquire suitors, provide an hilarious performance.

Members of the cast include Bill Costello of Ashland, Ted Karafotas of Portland, Horace Robinson, drama instructor and designer of the stage settings, Dorothy Parks, Helen Venable, Belesnowe Gullison, Mary Bennett, Dan Clark, Jr., Robert Winstead, Edgar Wilson, Louis Stewart and Richard Koken, all of Eugene.

Suspended, also known as yucca or bear grass, which thrives in dry season in the Texas Panhandle, is being used for forage during a feed shortage.