

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

1912: Nicholas French, in pale, Molly O'Brien, Jerry...
 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. Gowland's frantic appeal was cut short by a shout from behind us.
 "What the dickens—here, come on!"
 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. Gowland doesn't like my appearance," I explained. "He set Fido on me, and now he's 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 distraught woman, who had again clutched me by the sleeve. "We can't leave you alone with a homicidal lunatic," I objected.

Chapter 27 DOG FIGHT

"Who are you?" Gowland 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 pitiously, "what's the good..."
 He turned on her with a scowl of fury. "Shut your mouth," he roared. "I heard what he said to you. A friend of Osborne's, is he? Well, I'll



teach him to show his dirty face here."
 He spun round unsteadily, and lurching across the yard, began to fumble at the door of one of the sheds.
 Mrs. Gowland made an imploring gesture. "Go—go at once," she gasped. "He's letting out the dog, and it will kill you if it finds you here."
 Whether I should have followed her advice or not I can't say; in any case it was too late. There was the rattle of a chain from inside the shed, and with a menacing growl the huge rough-coated brute that I had seen crouching on the bank that morning bounded out into the open.
 "At 'im, boy! Get your teeth into the..."
 Swift as light a bristling mass of black fury launched itself towards me. I sprang back, and as I did so, something silent and yellow flashed past me from behind. It cannoned full into my assailant in mid-air, and the next moment, amidst an ear-splitting clamor, two frantic writhing bodies were locked in a life and death battle.
 A foul oath burst from Gowland's lips, and stooping down he snatched up the broken handle of a pitchfork. Before he could properly straighten himself, however, I had leaped forward and gripped him by the wrist.
 "No, you don't, ducky," I said.

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 untrustworthy 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

UNIVERSITY THESPIANS WILL APPEAR AT SONS ON SATURDAY EVENING

A classic comedy entitled "The Amazons," 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 D. Seybolt, head of the university drama department, the play will be presented

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 enact "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-novas have been recorded by the ancient Chinese, and even found on astronomical photographic plates as recent as 1885, but never have they been studied through modern instruments.
 Dr. Zwicky believes any star may become a super-nova. The study of

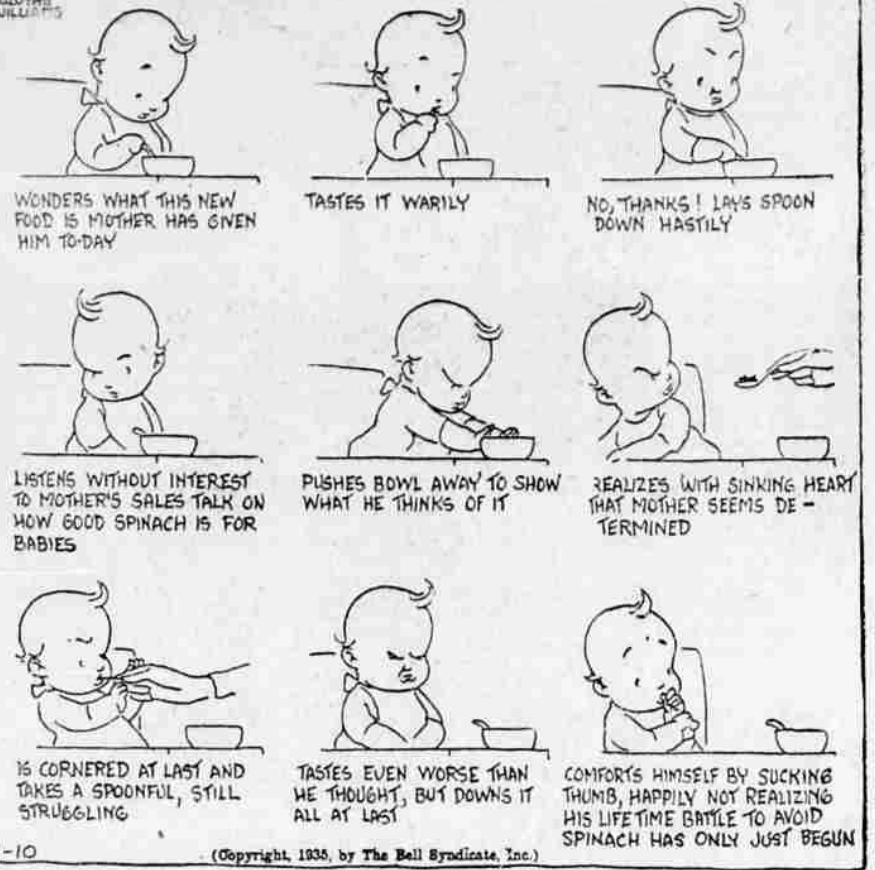
SUB-MARGIN LAND PURCHASE STARTS SOON IN OREGON

PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Within the next six months the federal government will spend more than \$1,250,000 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 100,000 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 booms, 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. Spelley 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

SALEM, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Governor Julius L. Meier yesterday issued a pardon to Lester Darby, sentenced to 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 Owe Millions.
 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 \$154 Federal Land bank loans, totaling \$19,963,976.62; 2,397 Farm Loan Commission loans, totaling \$3,959,984.84; and 1,457 State Land board loans totaling \$5,276,722.76.

THE FIRST SPINACH



8 MATTER POP



TAT'S IN TO



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—An Opening



THE NEBBES—The Gang



BRINGING UP FATHER

