GREAT RICHES
by Mateel Howe Farnham

SYNOPSIS: Jane Stimson has taken a perverse pleasure in humiliating her young husband James Tris. She has given elaborate dinners, and allowed the guests to know that her wealthy father and not her husband, paid for them and she has complained so loudly that his visits to his Aunt Sarah who reared him have practically been abandoned. Now after their costly anniversary dinner James feels he must speak out.

Chapter 32
RECONCILED

WHEN they were alone, Jane came up to him and slipped an affectionate arm through his.

She looked so pretty in her gleaming satin and lace that James' irritation vanished and he could do nothing but agree that it had been a lovely dinner, and that he was glad they had given it.

Jane, when she chose, could still be very tender and alluring, and now, of course, she must be most carefully cherished and considered.

Perhaps after the baby came things would be different and Jane not so avid for excitement. James knew he must have more time for his work, more time for study. Jane wanted him to succeed, expected him to succeed, but some way she could not realize that she, as well as he, must pay a price for that success. It was natural enough that Jane should not understand.

He would have to teach her, lead her instead of taking always the easier course of letting her lead him. Very tenderly he drew her down on his lap beside an open window after switching off the lights: "Honey," he began, "I want to have a talk with you—" Jane yawned.

"I know that you are going to scold and I am so tired," she coaxed.

"I'm not going to scold, dear."

"Then you're going to preach. I feel it in my bones. Can't we be happy like this on our anniversary without thinking of anything but pleasant things?"

Naturally, James did not preach on this night; and it was the same on other nights. As the months passed Jane was far from well and she grew more and more irritable and less easy to please. James felt guiltily conscious that it was all his fault.

Jane impressed it upon him that the lot of women was a hard one and scarcely to be endured. Mrs. Northrup looked at him accusingly every time her daughter sighed or refused pudding at dinner, and Anna sniffed scornfully whenever she passed him his food.

Their Sundays were more awful than James had conceived possible. He finally had given up spending his free afternoons with his aunt after Jane cried and cried and almost had hysterics, claiming that he did not love her.

Damn it! the lot of husbands was not always a round of voluptuous enjoyment whatever Jane and her mother thought about it. Heaven knows he hadn't invented the method and manner of bringing children into the world. He had thought that women wanted children and pitied old maids because of their childless state.

PERHAPS it is an exaggeration to say that all of New Concord was somewhat relieved when it became common knowledge that Jane was "expecting." However, it is true that all those who had James' interest and welfare at heart were relieved.

For some time during the close of the second year of their marriage the belief had become general that things weren't going just as they should between this especially selected and uncommonly well-suited young couple.

It was not that James complained or Jane complained or that they quarreled in public or were seen less often together. It was hard indeed to define just what seemed to be the matter, but that there was a vague "something" everyone agreed. And it was felt or at least hoped, that whatever ripples there were were caused entirely by the state of Jane's health and would be smoothed out and forgotten "after the baby came."

Nappy was perhaps the first one to "suspicion" that James was not as happy as he should be and he, being worried, passed his uneasiness on to the Judge.

"It's Mister James' hair," he explained to Judge Holcomb. "It ain't been acting jest right, not for a long whiles."

"His what?" boomed the Judge impatiently. He was getting old and his hearing bothered him and he flew into rages for no reason whatever.

"His hair, the hair on his haid I can most generally tell the state of Mister James' sperrits by making note of how his hair acts. When he's raring round, feeling fitten to bust, you'll notice as how every hair on his haid is standing upon its hind laigs looking the world in the face and shouting 'howdy.'"

The Judge laughed. "Sounds like a Gorgon's head, the way you describe it."

"Yes, sir," said Nappy who had never heard of a Gorgon's head, but would not have admitted it for a hundred dollars. "It's one and the same thing to my way of believing."

"But what has James' hair been doing now to disturb you?"

"It ain't been doing nothing but lay down and play daid for weeks and weeks. That's as onnatural as for a lamb to lay down with a lion—and as sure a sign a trouble."

"Nonsense," said the Judge. "Jim's been putting some kind of grease on his head to make it lie flat. You're not as smart as I thought you were, going around making up trouble about nothing at all."

But though he dismissed Nappy and laughed at his diagnosis, he could not dismiss altogether the sneaking suspicion that perhaps Nappy was right and that James was not looking nor acting quite like himself.

He'd get him to knock off a few weeks, go down to Hot Springs or up to Chicago and take in a few shows. A vacation would put him right as a fiddle. He should have thought of it before.

JAMES dutifully took Jane and went to Chicago for a week, but when he came back Nappy reported that his hair was "laying" as flat as when he left home. A few weeks later when James confided Jane's condition to the Judge the old man was enormously relieved.

He patted James on the back, assured him cheerfully that there was nothing to worry about, reminded him of Jane's general health and of the billions of babies who came safely into the world without harm to their mothers.

Then the Judge very wisely set James to work on the very stiffest legal problem he had ever before had to handle and when he finished that immediately found him another. This last probably saved James from going all to pieces in the following months, for he was horribly frightened thinking of the fate of his own mother.

Nappy continued to accord to Mrs Stimson all the respect and deference due to the wife of his beloved "Mister" James, but he never again thoroughly approved of her. In his eyes any wife remained only a woman and a handicap to any real man.

But even Nappy forgave Jane one frosty morning in early December when James came stumping up the flight of stairs that led to the office and threw open the entrance door with a magnificent flourish.

His eyes flashed with their old fire, every single hair waved triumphantly aloft and his feet could scarcely keep themselves on the floor as he shouted out that there were twins at his house—a boy and a girl. As Nappy remarked, "Missus Stimson had more'n done herself proud."

The entire firm of Stimson and Holcomb stopped work then and there and made a triumphal progress up and down Commercial Street announcing the news, giving away five- and ten-cent cigars, receiving hilarious congratulations and having one very devil of a time.

When James went home he had a rocking horse under one arm, a doll under the other, a jeweler's box in his pocket and a bunch of flowers carried by a string in his hand.

Anna opened the door to James' ring and gave a contemptuous sniff when she saw the nature of his packages, but as usual she made no comment. The house was unnaturally quiet and James tiptoed cautiously upstairs.

The door to Jane's room was slightly ajar and he pushed it open with his foot and entered quietly. Mrs. Northrup, sitting by the window sewing, held up a warning finger, but Jane opened her eyes and welcomed him. "Silly boy," she said when she saw the hobby horse and doll.

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Tomorrow, James finds tragedy in a cradle.

KLAMATH POTATO CROP 5000 CARS; AVERAGED $1 SK.

KLAMATH FALLS, April 22.—(AP)—Five thousand carloads of potatoes have rolled out of the Klamath country to establish a new high for the "baby industry" of this section of Oregon.

The crop, gaining top position in the California markets, has brought to farmers of the basin approximately two million dollars.

Regulated marketing as well as quality, has been responsible for the success of Klamath potatoes this year, many agriculturists believe. In former years the crop has been shipped irregularly, glutting the market one day and leaving it empty the next. This season shipments have gone out of here in just the proportions to maintain an active demand.

The average price has been one dollar a sack. Right now the market in the south is at a peak with potatoes brining $2 per hundred weight.

Potato acreage has grown steadily here in the last few years. The new crop will cover about 15,000 acres, one thousand more than the old.

Freight Loadings Continue Increase

WASHINGTON, April 22.—(AP)—The Association of American Railroads announced today that loadings of revenue freight for the week ended April 15 were 587,685 cars, an increase of 42,058 cars above the preceding week, 7,704 above the corresponding week in 1934, and 80,503 above the corresponding week in 1933.

PREACHER FORGER GRANTED PAROLE

SALEM, April 22.—(AP)—A parole on condition that he pay back all the money he had obtained by writing worthless checks, amounting to approximately $500, was the lot of Rev. H. Richardson Tebbets, former Salem Unitarian minister, today.

He was first sentenced by Circuit Judge L. H. McMahan to two years in the state penitentiary after being convicted of obtaining money under false pretenses. Tebbets disappeared from Salem April 5 after writing a number of checks with no funds in the bank to cover them. He was arrested in TiaJuana, Mexico, and returned here.

STATE FIRE LOSS SHOWS DECREASE

SALEM, April 22.—(AP)—A. H. Averill, state fire marshal, released a report today revealing a drop in insured fire losses listed for the various counties of the state for 1934.

The report listed 4283 fires for the period as compared with 4620 fires in 1933. The actual loss sustained was $2,402,008 as compared with $2,173,360, and losses paid by insurance amounted to $2,067,733 against $2,266,275 in 1933.

During 1934 the percentage of fire loss to the value of property at risk for the entire state was 4.53 per cent, as compared with 3.44 per cent the previous year. In six counties—Baker, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah and Tillamook—the percentage of loss to value was less than the state average.

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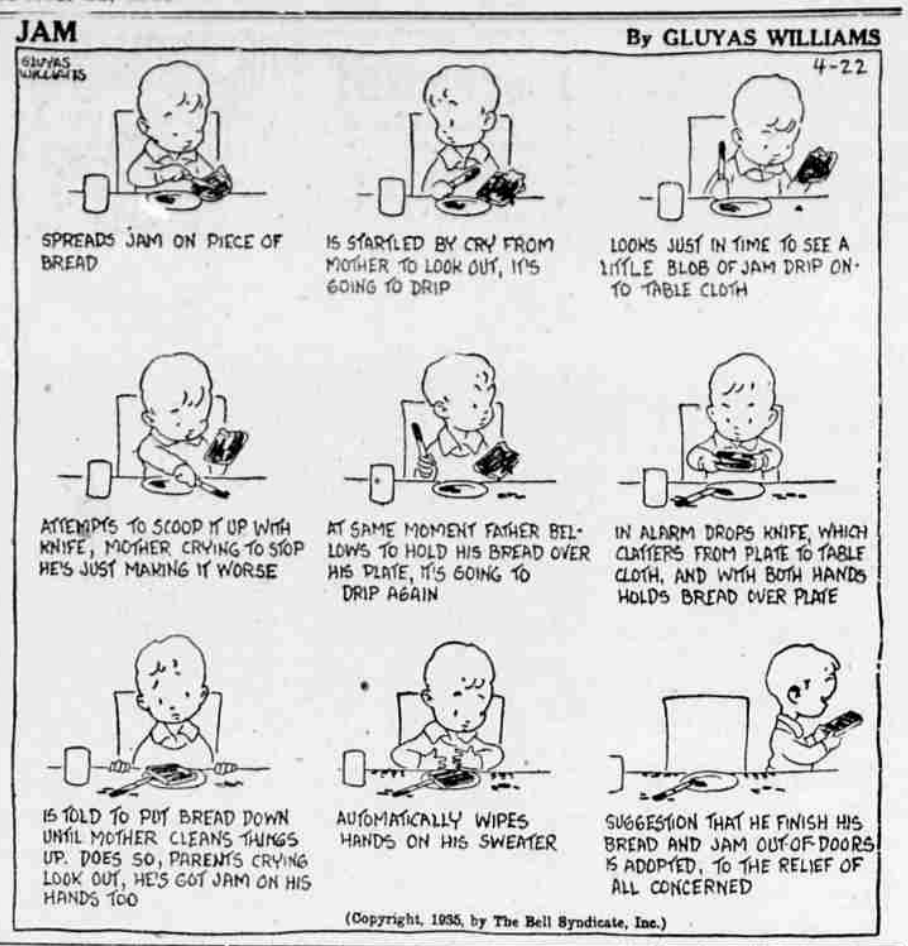

By C. M. Payne

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Stock No. 2! By Edwin Alger

THE NEBBS—A Gentle Reminder By Sol Hess

BRINGING UP FATHER By George McManus

TOT SANS GULLET LEAVES HOSPITAL

NEWBURGH, N. Y., April 22.—(AP)—Tiny Robert Linsig—the only child in recent medical history to live more than two weeks without an esophagus—leaves St. Luke's hospital today for his parents' home in nearby Marlboro.

Robert, born two months and two days ago, weights eight and one-half pounds and has been kept alive by forced feeding through a tube inserted in his stomach.

Dr. W. Barton Harris, the Linsig family physician, said today the child would have to have all his food through the stomach for the next seven years.

When Robert is seven years old, physicians plan to construct an artificial esophagus, running from the throat to the stomach, so that he can be fed normally.

WINDOW GLASS—We [illegible] glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

BEAVERTON WINS ORATORY HONORS

BEAVERTON, Ore., April 22.—(AP)—Beaverton high school, by defeating the Grants Pass debating team 3 to 0 Friday night, won the western championship of the Oregon High School Debating league and the right to meet Chiloquin high school, eastern district champions, for the state title.

The state final will be held at Corvallis on Saturday, May 4. The question under discussion is whether the federal government should, by direct grant, subsidize education.

Delbert Burte and Mildred Twohy, Beaverton representatives, won Friday night over Florence Havard and Billie Bromley of Grants Pass.

Pendleton Water Paid For

PENDLETON, Ore., April 22.—(AP)—A warrant for [illegible] by the Pendleton water commission today [illegible] the city of all [illegible] on its $1,033,000 [illegible]. This [illegible] of a $600,000 [illegible] 14 years ago.