

the dark ships

BY HULBERT FOOTNER

CLIPS: Neil, a young federal agent, finds his beloved Janet locked in a cabin on Prescott Fanning's yacht at Astoria Harbor. With her are a gun and Fanning's freshly shot body. Neil hides her nearby in a disused liner, then joins Mark Bonniger, keen local investigator, to keep tabs on developments. He thinks Janet shot the scoundrel until he learns a man was hiding on the yacht. Then he suspects queer little Eyster, who hated Fanning. Also in the picture are Kettering, a Baltimore lawyer down to fish, and Ira Buckless, a tough who trails Neil. A fisherman finds \$500 of Fanning's money that Neil threw away in anger.

Chapter 28

Searching The Ships

"WELL," continued Bonniger, "upon the supposition that the packet was thrown or dropped in the river last night, I started figuring the time of the tide and the rate of flow. And my calculations suggest that it had made a trip down the river and was on the way back again. If I am right, the fugitives are still in the neighborhood and they dropped this packet in the river at a point some distance north of where it was found. Well, what's up there? Nothing but the abandoned ships. I'm getting ready to search them."

Neil felt as if all the ground had suddenly been cut from under his feet. He had to say something, and quickly. "That's a job!"

"You're right. That's what I have brought in the police for. I'm going to take half a dozen of the steadiest

Kettering approached Neil. "I have any luck in town?"

"None whatever," said Neil.

Kettering lowered his voice. "Gosh! I certainly feel for you in this situation, Wheatley. The strain must be awful!"

This gave Neil a nasty start. So Kettering knew, too. How many spies were there around him? Keeping his face, he said: "I don't get you, Mr. Kettering."

"Oh, you don't have to keep that up with me," said Kettering. "I'm on your side. If there's any trick we could pull off together, you have only to say the word."

Neil silently cursed. "I don't know what you are driving at."

"Well, I am sorry you won't trust me," said Kettering. "I would help you if I could."

The men being posted, the leaders of the party went into Captain Bickel's cabin to study the plans of the ships. Bonniger said: "We'll start searching on this ship."

"Is it likely they would hide so close to me?" asked Bickel.

"The ladder is on this ship," said Bonniger. "How else could they get aboard or leave?"

Neil breathed easier. This gave him a little time.

Much Too Good A Plan

BONNIGER spread out the cabin plans of the Montpelier. In addition to her public rooms, she had a couple of hundred sleeping cabins strung along the five decks.

"We need 50 men to do this right," grumbled Wilson. "It's worse than mine at Astoria."

"We'll do with what we have," said Bonniger. "We'll start at the top and work down. Notice that there are five sets of stairways. A guard must be put on each so that while we are going down one stair-

way our couple can't be running up another. Wilson, Longcope and Wheatley and I will do the actual searching. On the lower decks we'll divide forces and one pair take the starboard cabins, the other port. As we finish each deck, I'll blow a whistle and everybody will move one flight down the stairways together. Thus if they are aboard this ship we are bound to trap them on the lowest deck."

Everybody approved this plan. It was much too good a plan to suit Neil; it quadrupled his difficulties. However, his mind had begun to work again, and a scheme was beginning to take shape. Before they left Bickel's cabin he took a look at the plan of the Abraham Lincoln. The little veranda of Janet's cabin, he saw, was under the twelfth window on the promenade deck, counting from the bow.

The Montpelier was searched from bridge to keel in the manner laid out by Bonniger. On the lower decks, Wilson and Neil were told off together. Wilson was a good police officer, not brainy but conscientious. No cupboard, no corner, no recess escaped his attention. He flashed his light under every bunk. Neil was bored and jumpy because the search dragged so. He thought: This cop would get a jolt if he knew the man he was looking for was helping him look!

When they finished with the Montpelier and passed over to the Montmorencie it was about nine o'clock and as dark as it would get. Neil kept looking at his watch in such a manner that Bonniger's attention was attracted.

"What are you worrying about the time for?" he asked.

Neil drew him aside from the others. "I'll have to leave you for awhile," he said. "I'm sorry. I saw my chief in Washington this afternoon. Some departmental business has come up, and he said he might have to call me at 9:30."

"Sorry to lose you," said Bonniger. "but it can't be helped. I'll take the man off the second gangway to put in your place."

Neil rejoins Janet, tomorrow, hoping to dodge the searchers.

officer, who is under three years' penitentiary sentence for accepting a bribe. All seven members of the court concurred in the opinion.

Coffey originally was convicted in the Marion county circuit court, and later appealed to the supreme court. The case was twice argued.

The state alleged that Coffey had received various sums of money from Ernest Brown in consideration of an agreement not to interfere with the operation of a slot machine in Brown's classroom.

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WINDOW GLASS. We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Ironbridge Cabinet Works.

Endowments of American colleges total more than \$1,500,000,000.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

FOOTBALL COMEBACK!
ALLEGHENY COLLEGE (Pa.) WAS DEFEATED 76 TO 0 BY WESTMINSTER IN 1904—THEN DEFEATED WESTMINSTER 6 TO 5 IN THE SAME SEASON



THE INSECT THAT HAS A PAIR OF WINGS THREE TIMES AS LONG AS ITS BODY!
(Nemopteridae)

HENRY COSGROVE—CHICAGO WPA WORKER! LOST A STEAM-ROLLER! SOMEBODY STOLE IT FROM THE CURB WHERE HE PARKED IT... —1937—

FAME IN A JUNK HEAP!
A NAVAL HERO OF 4 DIFFERENT NATIONS. JOHN PAUL JONES FOUGHT IN 48 BATTLES WITHOUT ONE DEFEAT... 116 YEARS AFTER HE DIED HIS REMAINS WERE DISCOVERED BURIED UNDER A JUNK PILE IN PARIS!



Hero in Trash Pile.

John Paul—who assumed the name "Jones" for an unknown reason—the Scotsman who became America's greatest naval hero in the Revolutionary war, the alleged pirate who served as a naval officer for four nations, unwittingly spent 113 years buried beneath a Paris trash dump, sharing space in tiny St. Louis cemetery with a number of deceased horses, dogs and alley-cats!

John Paul Jones became a sailor at the age of 12. At 19 he was chief mate on a slave ship and at 21 was captain of an English trader. On December 7, 1775, he received his first appointment in the new U. S. Continental navy as a lieutenant on

the Alfred. On this ship he raised, with his own hands, the first naval flag of an American squadron.

In all Jones' ensuing naval career he suffered not a single defeat, although he engaged in 48 sea fights. During the Revolution alone he engaged in 23 battles.

Besides his service with the U. S. navy and British merchant marine, Jones sailed under the French flag as a volunteer on the Triomphant, flag-ship of the Marquis de Vaudreuil during the closing days of the revolution. Later he served under Catherine of Russia, fighting four brilliant battles on the Black Sea in June and July, 1788.

West to Command.
PORTLAND, Oct. 6.—(AP)—Fred M. West, captain of the police traffic division and a veteran of the Mexican and World wars, will assume command of the 162nd infantry, succeeding the late Eugene Mosberger. West, a staff officer of the Oregon national guard, will receive the rank of colonel.

Many Buy Orchards.
THE DALLES, Oct. 6.—(AP)—Real estate activity from Hood River to Prairie City has reached a higher peak in the past few months than in the preceding decade, dealers said today, one of them reporting sale of orchard land aggregating \$250,000 since January 1.

Brings War Refugees.
PORTLAND, Oct. 5.—(AP)—The Norwegian motorship Bonneville was in quarantine in Portland harbor today after traveling direct from Hongkong, China, with 12 women and children war refugees. Inspection and disembarkation will be completed today.

Closing Time for Foo Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.



No cupboard or corner escaped attention.

men in the village also. Kettering will be with us. And I'm counting on you, of course."

Neil could not refuse to go. He drew a long breath to steady his voice. "It will soon be dark. You should wait until morning."

"It's dark anyhow inside the ships. We can search them as well by night as by day."

Neil could say nothing more.

Bonniger arranged to have his party of 16 men carried up the road in three cars at intervals of five minutes in order not to attract too much attention in the village. Bonniger himself and Neil went in the first car. Neil, taken by surprise and having no time to plan anything, rode like a man who had received a blow on the head.

All my own fault, he thought. If I had not pitched that money overboard, Janet would still be safe.

The Skiff Gone, Too

CAPTAIN BICKEL, who had been notified by telephone of their coming, was waiting on the shore. He said: "I borrowed an additional skiff from the farmer up the beach to save time."

This was another setback for Neil. If he was able to separate himself from the party, he counted on using that skiff himself.

Bonniger and Neil were rowed to the Montpelier. Gradually the whole party assembled on the forward deck. Virgil, leathery faced and bright eyed, was there chewing his cigar, also Kettering, going about and making up to everybody. It made Neil sore to see how all these men were enjoying the situation. As Virgil put it:

"A man-hunt is the greatest sport of all boys."

Bonniger proceeded to post his men at salient points about the ships. A guard was stationed on the forward bridge of each vessel and another on the after bridge. From these positions they overlooked the lower decks. He also placed a man on each of the three gangways that connected the vessels. Everybody was provided with a powerful flashlight. Bickel and his three men brought the force up to 25.

While they waited for Bonniger to complete these arrangements,

officer, who is under three years' penitentiary sentence for accepting a bribe. All seven members of the court concurred in the opinion.

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SCHOOL BUDGET RULES IN TEACHER SALARIES IS HIGH COURT RULING

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SALEM, Oct. 6.—(AP)—The board of directors of school district No. 1, Multnomah county, had no authority to adopt a resolution fixing the compensation of teachers in excess of the amount provided therefor in the school budget, the state supreme court held here today.

The opinion was written by Justice Bell and affirmed Judge Hall S. Laak of the Multnomah county circuit court.

The court affirmed the conviction of Orey G. Coffey, ex-Salem police

TAILSPIN TOMMY—A Warning for Bently



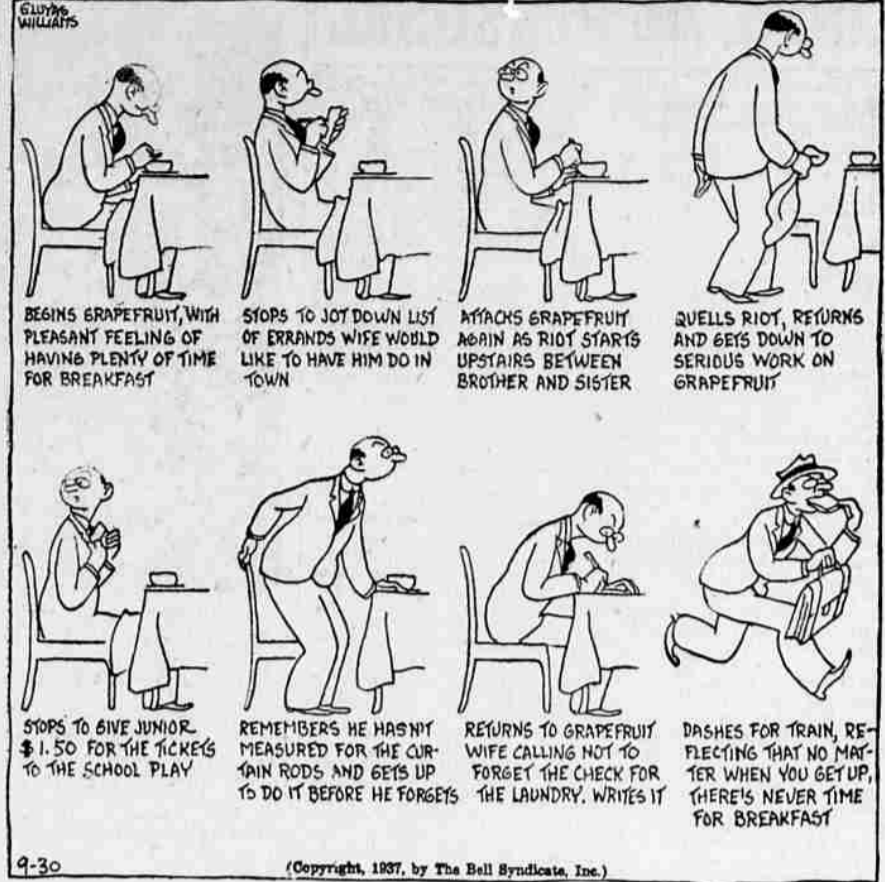
BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—One Friend, Anyway



THE NEBBS—Just As Expected



BREAKFAST TIME



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'MATTER PO



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By HAL FORREST



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS

