

Two's Company

By MARGARET QUION HERZOG

The Characters

Nina, Junior League and ex-debutante, impulsively married David to escape her love for her stepfather.

Richard, the charming, well-tailored stepfather, is on a 5-month trip with his wife, after shamelessly talking love to Nina.

Honey, Nina's gay, youthful mother who is wild about Richard, is traveling on doctor's orders.

David, a bright young auto salesman, adores Nina and strives to make her happy on his small salary.

Chapter 36

The \$5-A-Day Business

AFTER a while, Nina looked back on that listless, standstill period, as one of extreme happiness, not as happy as the earlier part of the spring and summer, when she had discovered she could get along without Richard...

Things like this happened: David developed an impacted wisdom tooth and ran up a large dentist bill. Whenever he made more than \$50 a week, that went toward the doctor; so did the absurd "emergency" money; and whatever they could eke out of the day's stipend.

Three nights running David telephoned that he had to demonstrate cars, and wouldn't be home... after she had prepared the dinner.

Twice in one week, Gracie turned up, unexpectedly, with him. "I'm hanging round the office, to see if I can't get my old job back..."

Nina had never lost a beau, whom she hadn't meant to, deliberately; but she knew, for a certainty, that if she had, she never, never would have run after him the way Gracie was running after David now.

Perhaps the girl really did love him, poor soul; and very probably she did think she could make him a better wife than Nina... but this pursuing business! It was quite beyond her ken.

It was in only her most miserable moments that she was annoyed with David... she knew that he wasn't encouraging the girl; but she was getting pretty fed up with Gracie—her apparent friendliness, and her underhand methods.

David's Accusation
ONE evening, in the first part of September, David came home, and after greeting Nina with his customary, derisive enthusiasm...

He took up two \$1 bills that still lay in the girl's compartment. "He looked at them and then at Nina. After a minute, he put them back and closed the box."

He said: "Nina, I haven't been spying on you, but I've been watching the budget pretty closely..."

"Just—ever so little, David... just to help out."

"Have you been doing it right along?" "You have, haven't you, from the first?"

"Well, I don't remember exactly how it started, darling... Really, truly, it hasn't amounted to a thing..."

He said, gravely: "It amounts to the fact that you've gone back on our agreement, Nina. That's quite a lot, the way I figure things."

"He was right, of course, but Nina began to get angry, just the same. 'I'm sorry, David.' She couldn't seem to say any more."

"Oh, David! I haven't kept track! Don't be... don't be stupid about this thing, darling. You said I could spend my money on clothes and personal things, well, I haven't needed anything at all, practically..."

"That was all she could seem to bring herself to say. And David had finished, too, apparently. They had their dinner, and went for a walk, and then home and read for a while before going to bed; but there was a feeling of strain throughout the whole evening..."

bed; but there was a feeling of strain throughout the whole evening. Nina felt it dreadfully, because, in spite of heat, or fatigue, or discouragement, or anything, there had been only comradeship between them, before.

He had always been an angel of thoughtfulness and devotion. Even in her most depressed moments it had never occurred to Nina to blame him for the plight she was in...

Money... That was funny. Richard didn't seem to count so much any more, but money...

She thought: "Everyone knows that the first year of marriage is the hardest... needs concessions on both sides. If I can only stand the gaff now, everything is bound to be all right."

When the lights were out, he asked her again, gently, please to tell him how much she figured she had spent—on melons. He wanted to pay her back.

Perhaps he wasn't so unreasonable after all... Perhaps she hadn't played fair...

Fear Grips Nina
BUT things have a way of going in pairs... and the next disagreement about money was much more serious.

Every day, it seemed, the papers were coming out with headlines: hottest September such and such, in ten years; so many deaths; so many people prostrated...

She looked at the pictures of naked little boys enjoying their two weeks at some charity Fresh Air farm, and envied them...

Nina... the former Nina Stafford of East 74th street, Junior League, ex-debutante par excellence...

envying a lot of little undernourished news boys! She had to laugh. The \$5-a-day business ("No foolin' this time, Nina! 'No foolin' David!") was going very badly.

Was it possible that 10 or 15 dollars a week could make such a difference... or had she taken more? Or what?

Beside the food, there were so many stupid extras, every day... things that didn't show. Razor blades, soap, the window cleaner...

When the glass got so dirty you could hardly see through. Though she tried her best to press David's suits, every other time, there were frequent 50-cent pieces that went to the wash...

It was on one of her least cheery days, a close, muggy Tuesday, that McDuff called with a pair of newlyweds.

As luck would have it, the apartment had never looked sweeter. Everything was in order. David—having been taken to dinner the night before—had brought her some white roses, and a few sprays of blue delphinium...

The bride and groom loved a dim light. They adored noise. McDuff then remarked that of course the room was pretty high...

"Ninety a month, you say? M-m-m-m." "The vetee—best—I can do, sir," said McDuff gravely.

"Well, we'll think it over. Come on, darling." They went out, leaving Nina in a paralysis of fear. Oh, God! Supposing they took it!

If the place had never looked better, it had certainly never seemed dearer to Nina, either. In her new fright, she realized how lucky she had been to have a cool sweet place like this, to come home to. She grew frantic at the thought of having to move away.

She confided her fears to David that night, who became quite as alarmed as she.

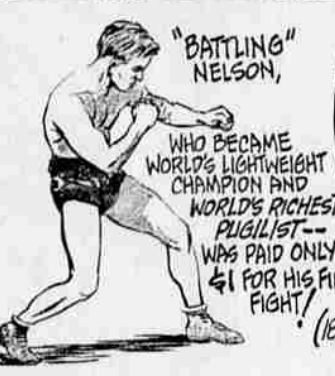
A tense moment in the Days' married life occurs Monday.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



"... AND THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN WERE OPENED" ... GENESIS III THE STORY OF A "GREAT FLOOD" IS CONTAINED IN THE TRADITIONS OF MORE THAN A DOZEN PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!



THE LOWEST RECORDED TEMPERATURE AT WASHINGTON, D. C. IS 0.9 DEGREES COLDER THAN THAT OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA! (AND WASHINGTON'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IS 0.9 HOTTER THAN KETCHIKAN'S!)

Story of the Flood "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered."

Genesis VI-IX thus unfolds dramatically a Biblical story of flood and disaster which, strange as it seems, is repeated in the traditions of most of the world's nations!

Numerous traditions resembling the Genesis story have been found in Babylonia, the best-known forming the 11th tablet of the Gilgamesh Epic which recounts the experiences of "Utnapishtim," the Babylonian "Noah." The Icelandic flood story is remarkable because its deluge is caused by blood flowing from a wounded giant.

Pacific Telephone Announces Dividend
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4.—(AP)—Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company will pay the \$2 dividend on common stock December 21 to stockholders of record December 10, and the preferred \$1.50 quarterly dividend January 15 on records of December 31.

Tails Spin Tommy—Now Betty Lou Is Angry!
MISTER BLURTZ, YOU'RE GETTING EXCITED OVER NOTHING.



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Stranger
MR. JORDAN, BEN AN' JULIE KEPT SERVICE GOIN' ON THIS LINE AN'—



THE NEBBS—Not Me
SAY, FLINT, EVERYBODY IS BLAMING ME FOR THAT BOND ROBBERY. EVEN MY WIFE IS SKEPTICAL... COME... FESS UP... YOU DID IT... DIDN'T YOU?



THE FAMILY ALBUM—MAN'S WORK

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS 11-27



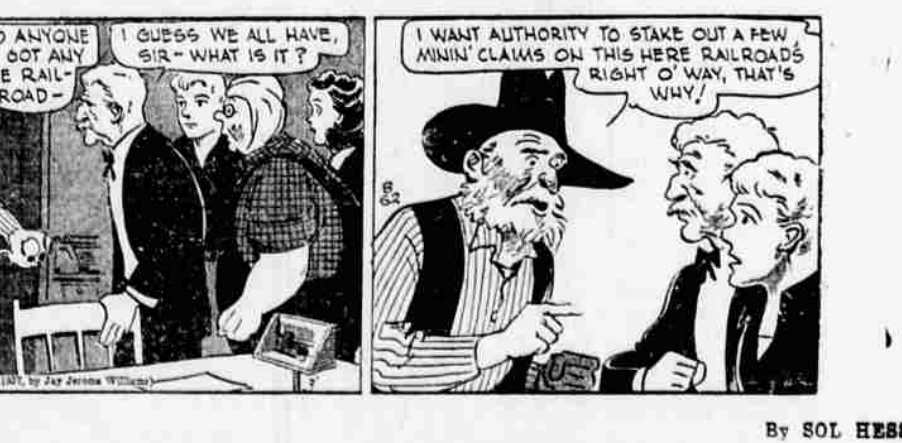
S MATTER POI By C. M. PAYNE



By HAL FOREST



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS



MOVIES, BOWLING HELD EVIL WAYS

ZION, Ill., Dec. 4.—(AP)—Movies and bowling, long banned as "agents of evil," were issues in Zion's referendum today. Those forms of diversion, along with smoking, pool playing, and drinking, were classed as harmful influences when Dr. John Alexander Dowie and his religious flock founded the city as a bulwark against wickedness. Wilbur Glenn Voliva, overseer of the Christian Catholic church, and one-time dictator of the city, warned the faithful they would "lose the bitter tears" if they voted to legalize movies. Voliva, who controlled city affairs for 23 years and persists in a belief that the world is fast, said he had no objection to movies, if they are shown by a Christian man, but opposed their operation by those "who know only one god, the almighty dollar."

Blast In Building Held Strike Phase

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 4.—(AP)—A powerful blast shattered more than 200 windows today at the Business Men's Assurance building where a service strike, marked by slugging and other violence, has been in progress. No one was reported injured by the blast which police believed was caused by a dynamite bomb. It occurred at 2:35 a. m. For six weeks many employees slept and ate in the building rather than go home. Use Mail Tribune want ads.