

SERIAL STORY

NEW YORK JUNGLE

BY WRAY WADE SEVERN

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YESTERDAY, Sidney Brantwood, attorney, and Maria Hempfield, actress, go to Adam Langdon's country home for the week-end. In love with Adam, Maria is puzzled by his failure to see her when he returns from an African game hunt. Sidney, too, is disturbed by the queer behavior of Adam and Maria. At the house, they find Adam out for a drive. When the butler, Togi, shows them to their rooms, Maria goes to the one she has occupied on previous visits. Togi explains that it is already occupied, by Adam's wife.

LOCKED IN THE JUNGLE

CHAPTER II

ADAM LANGDON MARRIED!

And not to Maria! Too disturbed for the consolation of a cigarette, Sidney paced his room, waiting for the dinner gong. He had advised Maria to leave at once, using the pretext of an imaginary telephone call. Maria had refused.

"I came for the week-end and I shall remain," she had said, pride flaming. And nothing he could say could change her decision.

Sidney understood her. If she remained, the other guests, all old friends, might assume that she and Adam had had an amiable break before he left for Africa. On that assumption, her presence would appear less bizarre, her pride undamaged; nor would Adam himself, realize how deep the barb had cut.

Well, since she had courage to play the part, Sidney would do all in his power to make it a success. As for Adam Langdon, his method of letting Maria discover his marriage was so out of character, Brantwood could scarcely credit his own senses.

At last the dinner gong! Still in the grip of incredulity, Sidney descended to the library where the guests always gathered.

A room of dark oak, old portraits and wide fireplace, it seemed with pleasant memories of Maria's charm and Langdon's ready wit. Broken lives had no place in it.

Yet, as he entered, the room seemed to have taken on a new character. A sense of uneasiness marked the manner of the five persons present.

Maria had not yet come down, but Adam Langdon—or what appeared to Sidney's shocked perception, the shell of his old friend—stood by the fireplace, talking to a smart young woman in an informal orange satin evening gown. A waxen pallor had replaced Langdon's usual ruddiness, his handsome, oval head moved restlessly, even jerkily, and his eyes had a fixedness oddly at variance with their blinking lids.

With visible effort Langdon seemed to collect himself as he greeted Brantwood. He presented the girl in orange.

"My wife."

"Am I a surprise?" Patricia Langdon smiled in lazy insolence. "Rather. How and when did it happen?" Sidney wanted to know.

"It happened to be visiting English cousins who own a ranch at the jumping off place for Adam's jungle. Adam became ill and remained there and so—"

Maria entered then. It was an excellent entrance. Sidney could find no trace of the emotion he knew must be agitating her, but he was sure from the quick surprise in Patricia Langdon's face that she had not expected another guest.

When Langdon introduced them, Maria was all sympathy with the romance of the situation. A great actress, Sidney thought. Her control is superb.

The other guests—Nella Langdon, the orphaned daughter of Adam's only brother; Hugh, his cousin; and Craig Gundrum, a young professor of psychology—fell back a little and covered their curiosity with talk.

"Ghastly," Nella's pale lips formed rather than spoke the word. "Did you ever know such a cockeyed party, Sidney? Pat was as good as engaged to Craig Gundrum before she left to visit those South African cousins. And to think that Maria should be here too!"

FOLLOWING an old custom, they had coffee in Adam's trophy room, which had been christened the "Jungle." Here Langdon kept his collection of modern and antique weapons and mounted specimens of prizes gathered in his hunting expeditions. Except for a short hall and a furnace and store room, the "Jungle" occupied the entire basement of the house.

Usually a flood of light streamed from the ceiling but tonight many of the globes had turned out. In the shadows and half light the animals looked larger than they actually were. The elephant might have been a mastodon, the orang-utang, lifting hairy arms near the door, a prehistoric man.

Immediately Adam became the showman. "What do you think of my new lioness?" He placed an affectionate hand on the beast's tawny neck. "Because of her sheathed grace, I've christened her 'Maria.'"

Pat Langdon's eyes narrowed as she glanced toward him. He was speaking directly to Maria Hempfield. His voice held the old tender note. Maria, standing beneath the great ape, met Pat's gaze without show of emotion. Nella covered the situation quickly by calling Pat's attention to an old Turkish sword, a gem in the collection.

"Careful, Pat," Gundrum warned. "That curved point is like a razor." He took the scimitar from her and, rather than ask her to move to let him replace it on the wall, he crossed to the

new lioness and slipped the cord with which the sword had been suspended over the beast's neck so that the curved point protruded beyond the tawny head.

"Careful," he warned. "The lioness is armed."

A joke in poor taste, Sidney thought. Why had Gundrum come? As Nella had said, this was a cockeyed party.

IMPATIENT at the dimness, Langdon rang for Togi and ordered fresh bulbs. No one paid any attention as the valet mounted a ladder to his task. Nella, Gundrum, Hugh and Sidney had gathered about the coffee table, cups in hand. Maria and Adam remained chatting near the ape, when suddenly Nella said:

"There is someone in the hall." "You imagine it," Pat glanced at the closed door. "I sent the chauffeur into the village for groceries half an hour ago. There is no one else in the house."

"I certainly heard footsteps in the hall," Nella persisted. With characteristic Langdon stubbornness, she crossed to the door to prove herself right.

It was a heavy oaken door studded with nails. For 80 years it had hung where it was. At best, it moved ponderously. Now, when Nella turned the knob, it did not move at all.

"It must be stuck," Hugh Langdon said. "Those hinges need oiling."

He joined the others and gave the door a mighty heave. There was no yielding. Then he knelt,

lighted a match and peered through the keyhole.

"There is no key on the other side," he announced in a startled voice, "but it looks as though we are locked in."

(To Be Continued)

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REUNION

INDIANAPOLIS, (AP) — Come Columbus day, 1950, three men who were boys together in Noblesville high school will meet at noon in front of the Columbia club on Indianapolis monument circle.

That is, if they keep their 1940 pledge as well as one made 10 years back.

Joseph Gillaspay of Fayette, Arnold Thom of Noblesville and Charles Smithbur of Monticello met outside the club Saturday in fulfillment of a vow taken in 1930 when they were in school.

In the 10 years, all had married, two had become fathers and two had gone to college. One had put on a lot of weight.

TIP BOOMERANGS

ELKHART, Ind., (AP) — "Prof." Harry Best, self-styled "knower of the unknown," advised a client to "act promptly on your first impression in business affairs" and predicted the client soon would get a promotion.

Whereupon Thomas J. Danforth acted with dispatch and produced a policeman's badge from under his coat. Best, alias Clark J. Somers, paid a fine and costs of \$20 for fortune telling.

Danforth awaits the promotion.

Looking for barman? Turn to the Classified page.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

THERE ARE ABOUT TWO MILLION PAIRS OF TWINS IN THE UNITED STATES.



WHY CAN PENGUINS AFFORD TO BE FLIGHTLESS?



ANSWER: Because there are no predaceous land mammals in the Antarctic.

IN IOWA, MORE THAN A MILLION GALLONS OF CREOSOTE WERE USED THIS YEAR IN FIGHTING GRASSHOPPERS.



RELIGIOUS LEADER

HORIZONTAL

1 Founder of Mohammedanism.

8 A true believer of his faith.

13 Class of birds.

14 To make a speech.

16 Existed.

17 Drone bee.

18 Groves.

20 Tanner's vessel.

21 Ambassador.

23 Retards.

25 Measure.

28 Malt drink.

29 Noun termination.

30 Potato.

31 Before.

33 Heavy cords.

34 Extreme terror.

35 Branches of learning.

37 Conclusive event.

38 Northeast (abbr.).

Answer to Previous Puzzle

1. RICE
2. AMADOU
3. DEED
4. MOIST
5. DEEP
6. REAP
7. WARE
8. SORT
9. FORCE
10. AGE
11. SANITATION
12. TRY
13. PATENTS
14. CLINICAL
15. LITERATURE
16. CREATORS
17. SCIENTISTS
18. HADY
19. BOES
20. MAY
21. LEMON
22. CROOK
23. FEEL
24. SATIN
25. LOST
26. ON
27. RISEN
28. PEDUPE
29. STARTS
30. ORIENTAL

40 Coterie.
41 Right (abbr.).
42 South America (abbr.).
43 Mister (abbr.).
45 Ebbs.
50 South Carolina (abbr.).
51 Black.
53 Maxim.
54 Discharged a gun.
56 praises.
58 Edge.
59 Moon goddess.

10 To assess.

11 To obliterate.

12 Encountered.

13 To scatter.

18 Support of a rail.

19 Those who slumber.

22 Clams.

24 Unmitigated.

25 His Bible.

28 His place of birth.

30 Health spring.

32 Finish.

36 Stalk.

39 To shut in.

42 Griddle cake.

44 Instrument.

46 Seed of a cereal grass.

47 Silkworm.

48 Moist.

49 Ell.

50 Persian ruler.

51 Age.

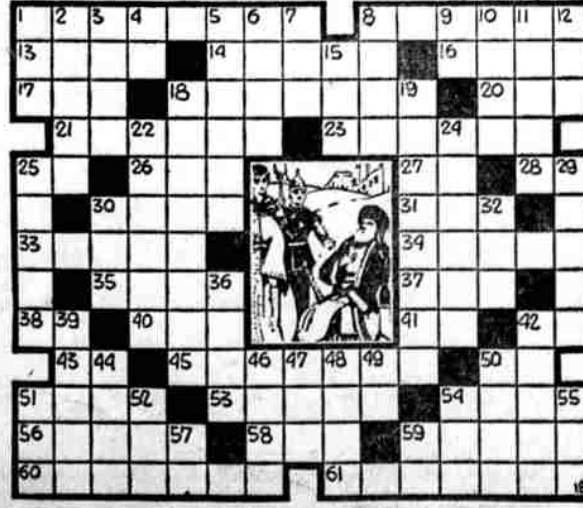
52 The tip.

54 To drink slowly.

55 To make lace.

57 Musical note.

59 To suffice.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. WILLIAMS



RED RYDER



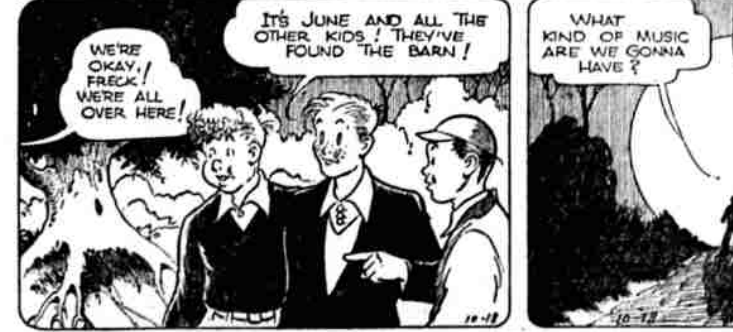
LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



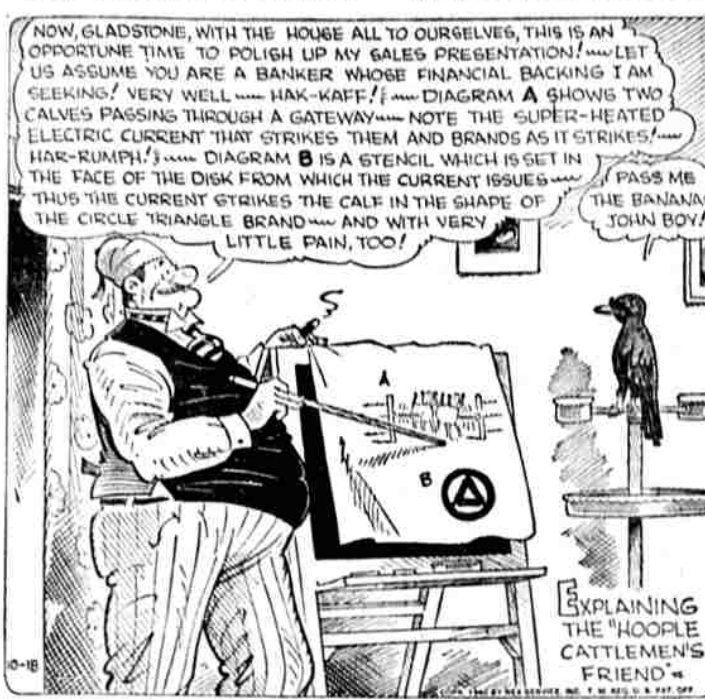
BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE With MAJOR HOOPLE



EXPLAINING THE "HOOPLE CATTLEMAN'S FRIEND"



BY FRED HARMAN



BY HAROLD GRAY



BY CRANE



BY BLOSSER



BY MARTIN



BY V. T. HAMLIN