

SERIAL STORY

CHRISTMAS RUSH

BY TOM HORNER

YESTERDAY Under the doctor's careful questioning, Mary admitted that she is in love with Jerry. But she cares too much for him to allow him to wreck his career. She tells Dr. Connelly she believes Valerie is sincerely in love with Jerry, but promises, if she ever discovers Valerie is making a fool of Jerry, to do all she can to break up the romance.

DR. CONNELLY'S SURPRISE

CHAPTER VI

HUGH CONNELLY found opportunity, at breakfast, to tell his wife of his conversation with Mary. It was no betrayal of Mary's confidence. He knew that the girl realized that Martha would know eventually, if she hadn't guessed already, that Mary loved Jerry. There could be no secrets from Martha.

"I don't know why he has to fail in love with this Valerie," Martha said for the fifth time. "If it were Mary, she'd have sense enough not to let him ruin his career."

"Let's not pass judgment on the girl before we see her," Hugh cautioned. "She may be everything Jerry says she is. Mary tells me she is sweet, decidedly attractive. We have to give the girl a chance."

"But if she really loves Jerry, she should be willing to wait. What's two years? I waited three for you."

"The situation was different then, my darling," her husband laughed. "You would have been awfully hungry, going practically without food those first years after I left medical school. Things are different now."

"These young people have an entirely new outlook on life, new problems to meet. We can't say what is right for us is right for them. Don't forget, too, that Valerie has money of her own."

"You don't think Jerry would ever—" Martha was angered at the thought.

"I hope my son will never live on his wife's money," Hugh agreed. "But that's up to Jerry. It is his life, and he has to live as he wants to. You and I are getting old, Martha. Our children are growing up. We can't run their lives for them forever. They have to stand on their own two feet."

"We've given them all we can in a home, in education, in training to be honest, good men and women. The rest of their lives is entirely up to each one of them."

He bent to kiss her goodbye. "I've got a busy day ahead of me, and so have you. Everything should be perfect for this 'announcement party' tonight. No dates for Sheila and Kathleen. We want Mary there, too. As Valerie's sorority sister, she has every right to be included."

"It's up to you, Martha, to keep the twins in line. Let's not condemn Valerie without giving her a chance. See you at dinner."

Martha finished her coffee slowly after the doctor had gone. Hugh was right, she knew. Hugh was always right.

True, she was inclined to be the center of attraction, she demanded attention and got it, anywhere she might be. But that, too, was her privilege, the just due of every strikingly beautiful girl.

Despite her determination to dislike the girl, Martha found herself half approving Jerry's choice. They would make a striking couple—this tall, smiling man-son of hers, so like the Hugh Connelly she had loved so many years, and this small, utterly feminine creature. But a single doubt lingered—could Valerie, would Valerie bear up under the trials which every doctor's wife must share?

The doctor seemed entirely won over. He had apparently accepted Valerie without reservation, welcoming her into her future place in the family circle. His voice came to Martha now, as the dinner ended.

"I think a toast to the future bride and groom is in order," Hugh was saying. "Then I have a surprise for you."

Martha sipped the wine without tasting it, her eyes roving around the table. She had expected Mary to ask to be left out of the party, but here she was, pushing Valerie into the spotlight at every opportunity, leading the conversation into channels where Valerie could shine—in small talk about new plays and books—giving Valerie every chance to show to best advantage. Martha wondered if she herself would have been as generous.

The twins had accepted Jerry's choice, too. As always, everything Big Brother Jerry did must be right, and if they bore any animosity toward the newcomer, they carefully concealed it.

"Let's have coffee around the fire," Martha heard herself saying. "Then we can hear about this big surprise your father has to tell us."

"It's really not as big a surprise as I may have made it sound," the doctor began. "You know, Valerie and Jerry, this decision of yours came rather sudden—Jerry leaving school and all that."

"To end the suspense, the surprise is just this—Jerry has a job. Not much of a job, of course, at first, but it will pay enough for you to live on here in town."

"I was telling John, down at the drug store, about you today, Jerry, and he wants you to go to work for him again. You'll be a clerk out in

front at first, of course, just as you were during the summers you worked for him before. But he'll pay you more now. Start at \$25 a week."

"What?" Valerie gasped. "Twenty-five?"

But Jerry cut her short. "That's swell, Dad. We can get by on that fine."

"John will give you a raise in a couple of months or so, as soon as you get into the swing of things. And he'll give you a chance to get in some time behind the case, too, so that you'll get better acquainted with drugs. With your knowledge of medicine, and all the things you've learned in school, you'll have no difficulty in passing the pharmacy board exams next fall. As a registered pharmacist you should be earning \$50 to \$60 a week here in no time."

"That's about three times as much as we had the first year we were married," Martha put in.

"That's perfect, Dad," Jerry was all smiles. "When do we start?"

Valerie was silent.

"You can go to work the Monday after New Year's," Hugh went on. "And that's only half—There's a little house over on Front street, an attractive place, even if it is small—I called the owner and he'll let you have it for \$25 a month. We'll all go over and see it tomorrow. . . . Well, Valerie, what do you think of it?"

Jerry answered for her. "Val and I are just tickled pink over it. Mighty good of you to go to all that trouble, Dad. We can get married Saturday and start living Monday, can't we, honey?"

Valerie forced a laugh. "You're not giving me much time, Jerry. I have to buy a trousseau, and Mother insists on a big wedding. But maybe it can be arranged."

"I'm dying to see the house," she went on, genuinely delighted now. We'll have to buy furniture, and see about a cook—"

"Hold on, here, to-be-Mrs. Jerry Connelly. You can't afford a cook on \$25 a week," Jerry bantered.

"I don't expect—" Valerie asked, incredulously. "Why, Jerry, \$25 won't even keep me in clothes!"

(To Be Continued)

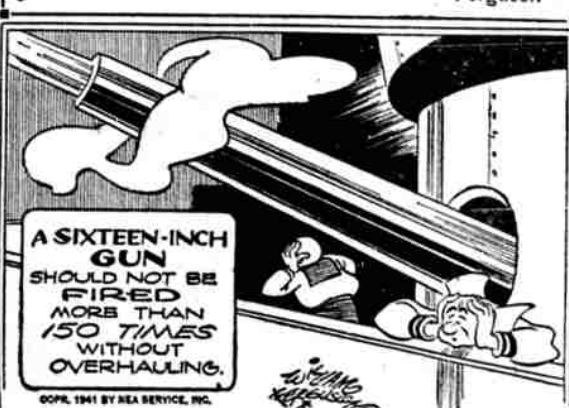
Nomura Speaks



Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura, newly appointed Japanese ambassador to the United States, addresses a luncheon meeting of the American Japan Society in Tokyo.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: Ice hockey; the most popular form of the sport, uses a six-man team. Field hockey uses 11 men.

FORMER PREMIER

HORIZONTAL

1 Great statesman and musician. Ignace—

12 Game played on horseback.

13 Silk fabric.

14 To gasp.

16 Above.

17 Reliance.

18 Officer's assistant.

19 Untruth.

20 Deserved.

22 Frost bite.

23 Neuter pronoun.

24 Pine tree.

25 Palm lily.

28 Drops of eye fluid.

30 Fabricated.

32 Bird's home.

33 Wrath.

34 Outer part of bread.

36 Shore.

38 Therefore.

39 Skirt edge.

41 Verb.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

12 He has been interested in all his life.

15 Lukewarmness.

20 Wrong step.

21 Deficiency of amount.

24 Opposite of stale.

26 Starchy tuber.

29 Delity of sky.

31 Parrot.

35 Florida ornamentation.

37 To make sorrowful.

40 Haze.

41 Bulblike stem.

46 Pain.

47 Close.

48 Wayside hotel.

49 To percolate.

50 Incarnation of Vishnu.

51 Varnish ingredient.

52 Fiber knot.

54 Low Sudra caste.

55 To complete.

VERTICAL

1 High explosive.

2 On the ice.

3 Neither.

4 Flower.

5 Black tern.

6 Toilet box.

7 To scratch.

8 Grafted.

9 Health resort.

10 Farm rent.

11 To write.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. WILLIAMS



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With MAJOR HOOPLE



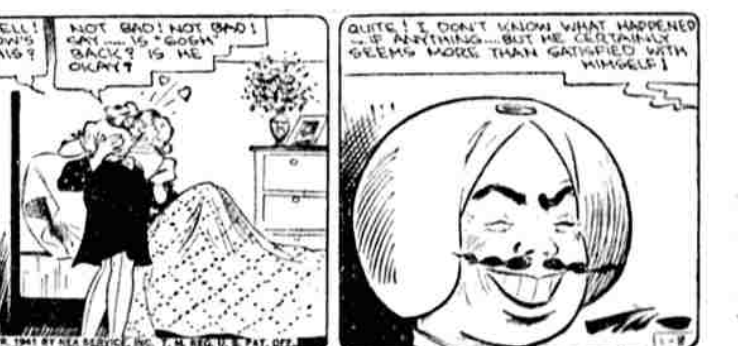
BY FRED HARMAN



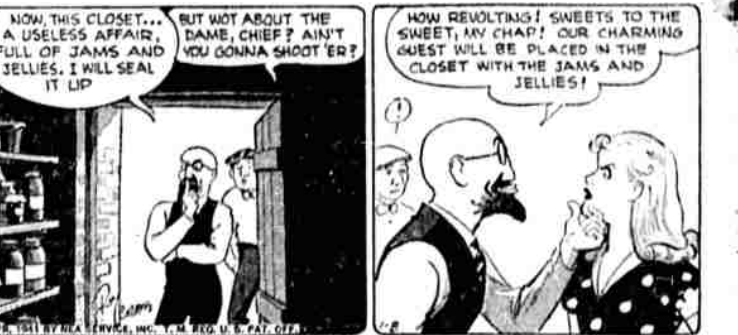
BY HAROLD GRAY



BY MARTIN



BY CRANE



BY BLOSSER



BY V. T. HAMLIN

