

**SERIAL STORY**  
**LADY BY REQUEST**  
 BY HELEN R. WOODWARD

THE STORY of how my inheritance of \$200,000 if I do not marry by the time I am 35, says handsome Stephen Curt, famous writer and commentator, to Diana Tucker, whose beauty and impulsiveness, as she told her employer Richard Thorpe to go to the devil, has captured his fancy. "Will you marry me for six months and \$10,000?" he asks, going on to explain that the woman he loves is married to another man. Diana is amused, finally considers his offer as a business proposition that will solve the problem of having a job so that she will not have to return to her dowry farm home. Curt asks her to come with him to meet his stepmother, Ellen Curt, who must pass judgment on her.

**A CHALLENGE TO ELLEN**  
 CHAPTER V

WHEN Stephen Curt ushered her into his stepmother's presence Diana thought, "This isn't real. It's a play. Old ladies like that are only on the screen. It's make-up that causes her to look like that!"

But when Ellen Curt spoke there was no mistaking her genuineness. "So, Stephen, you've come to your senses at last! I didn't think you'd let the money get away from you. Sit down, both of you, and tell me where you found this girl."

Diana sank into a small, ancient, overstuffed chair, but Stephen strode restlessly about. Mrs. Curt sat on a straight-backed sofa as if she scorned anything soft and yielding.

She was small and fat, but there was an alertness about her that contrasted in her little twinkling black eyes. Her hair was gray and curled neatly. Her gown was gray, too, of a stiff, rustling material, and on her tiny feet were pearl gray satin slippers.

"Well, begin, Stephen! Tucker, you say the girl's name is—who is she and where did she come from?"

Disconcerting, being discussed as if you weren't present, Diana didn't like that. She sat forward on her chair. "You'll let me tell you, won't you?"

Diana glanced at Stephen, saw him stop his pacing to watch her face. She hoped she wouldn't say too much, but she couldn't lie to this clear-eyed old woman.

"I've followed your stepson's work for a long time," she said slowly. "Both I and the members of my family have admired him greatly. We think he's a very great man."

"Of course he's a great man," Ellen Curt repeated, tapping her little gray slipper.

"Today I met him for the first time."

She thought the black eyes opened wider, and for a moment she expected an outburst of indignation, but after a short pause the old woman said imperiously, "Go on."

"Mr. Curt was in the office where I worked when I lost my job. I think he must have felt sorry for me. And so he explained the terms of his inheritance to me. He asked me to marry him. That's all. I see you're greatly surprised, but I don't see why you should be. After all, he's being forced into a marriage that means nothing to him. Do you think that's fair?"

OLD Mrs. Curt gasped. Could the girl have suspected that it was she, herself, who had persuaded her late husband to insert that clause in the will? Anything, she thought, was better than having him fall prey to some adventuress. Many brilliant men did, especially when the woman they loved had married someone else, and had their careers ruined thereby. Stephen would be saved that. She meant to choose his wife herself. But this girl whom he had brought for approval was something quite outside her experience.

"It's nothing to you, young lady, whether what I do is fair or not. It may not have occurred to you that I have a very good reason in wanting to secure Stephen's happiness. His father was concerned only with his welfare."

"But didn't think enough of his judgment to allow him to choose a wife for himself?"

"That's enough. Evidently you've agreed to the proposition, or you wouldn't have come here. 'Not at all,' Diana answered coolly. "Stephen said you wanted to look me over, and I certainly claim the same privilege. I have not made a decision one way or the other."

Stephen's eyes were dancing delightedly. Not in years, he knew, had anyone spoken to Ellen Curt in just such a way. He rather suspected that old Ellen was enjoying the tilt, too. From the way her eyes snapped, from the way the little gray satin slipper tapped the floor.

"Oh, I suppose then you'd have to approve of me?"

"Certainly. You wouldn't want someone in the family who wouldn't like you, would you?"

"Humph! Well, then—what do you think of me?"

Suddenly Diana smiled. She had seen beneath the forbidding exterior. "I think," she said, "you could be rather a darling if you'd let yourself."

Old Ellen Curt actually looked embarrassed. It had been so very many years since anyone had called her a darling! She did not see a great many young people and Diana Tucker was like a breath of springtime. Pretty, the old woman thought, and like Stephen she recognized the strength of character in the girl's face. Stephen had been a fool for picking a girl at random like this—but surprisingly, it was going to

began to put some of her things into a suitcase. Then she called her landlady.

"I'm leaving tomorrow," she said. "I don't think I'll be back. But will you keep my trunk until I call for it?"

Why had she said that? she wondered. Had she already made up her mind?

(To Be Continued)

More than one-half of the world's rubber and from one-half to two-thirds of its tin comes from British Malaya.

The United States sends most of its exports to the United Kingdom, and most of its imports come from Canada.

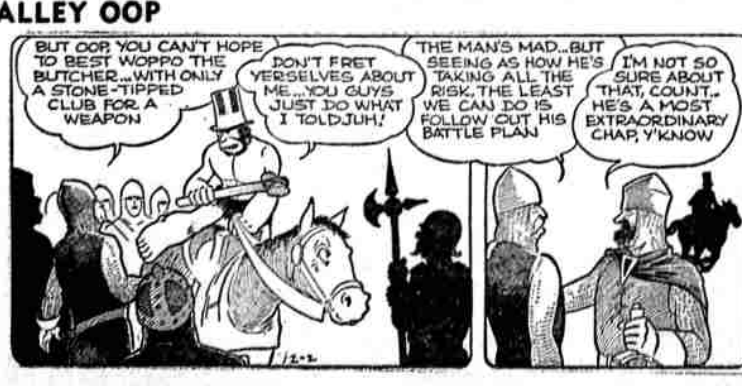
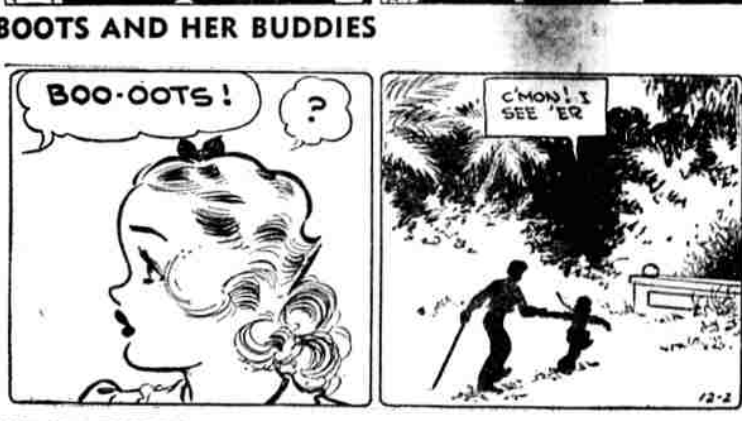
Miami Beach has banned strip-tease in burlesque shows. Oh, well, the bathing beaches will be open as usual.

Headquarters for  
**Bicycles**  
**Tricycles**  
**Wagons**  
**Lionel Trains**

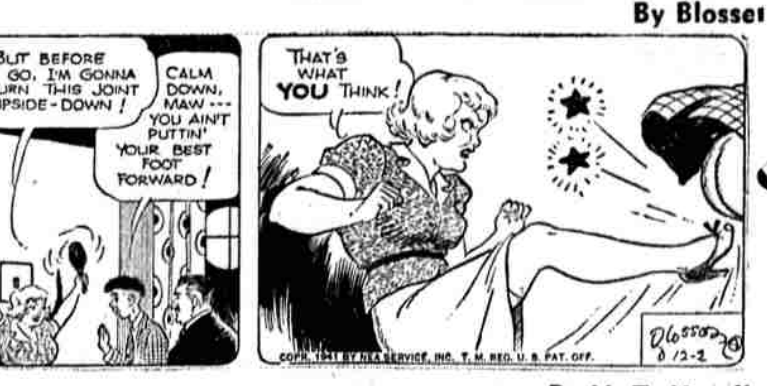
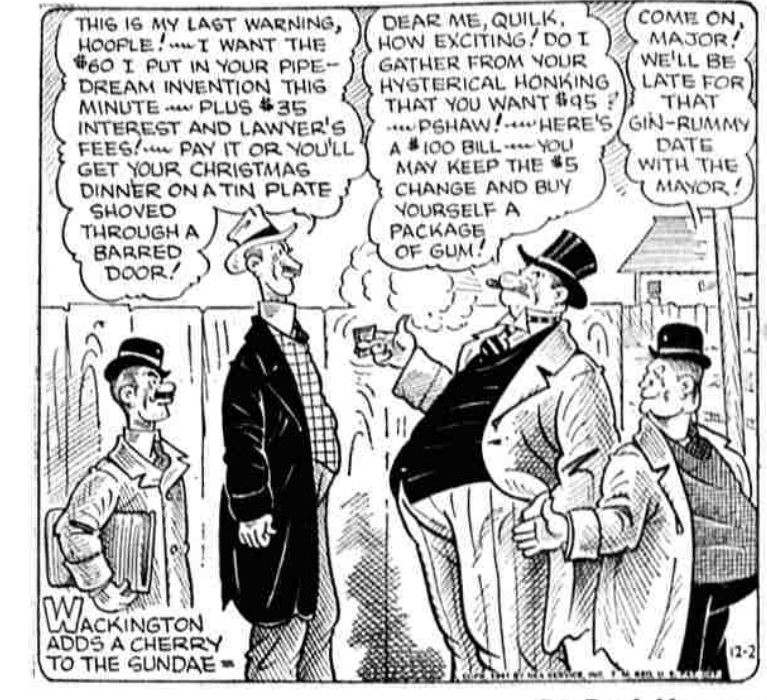
A Small Deposit Holds  
 Anything Until Christmas

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**OUT OUR WAY** By J. R. Williams



**OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople**



**THIS CURIOUS WORLD** By William Ferguson



ANSWER: Charles Pinckney, American statesman.  
 NEXT: Where did horse-chestnuts get their name?

**SCENIC WONDER**

- HORIZONTAL**
- 1 Pictured U.S. national monument in Wyoming.
  - 11 Mollify.
  - 12 Saw for perforating the skull (surg.).
  - 14 Excessive tension.
  - 16 Aid.
  - 18 Feminine name.
  - 19 Encountered.
  - 21 Bushy clump.
  - 22 Incursion.
  - 24 Artificial positions.
  - 26 Boundary.
  - 28 Gallon (abbr.).
  - 29 Tissue (anat.).
  - 31 Division (abbr.).
  - 32 Eject.
  - 33 Camel's hair cloth.
  - 36 Verse.
  - 37 Indisposed.
  - 39 Neither.
  - 40 Compass point.
- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
- SEMYON BUDENNY**  
**IN HIS CAR SWAIN**  
**TO GENERAL TARRANT**  
**HIT SEMYON ANTON RE**  
**S BUDENNY ANANCOROUS**  
**S EIDERS**  
**ANCHOR N AEGIS**  
**BE RECALLS IS**  
**ASH DEMOS GAP**  
**TSUGA LEN INANE**  
**E HAVEL GENIE O**  
**ALLEGORICALLY**
- VERTICAL**
- 1 Run off the rails.
  - 2 Antelope.
  - 3 Lode.
  - 4 Wayside hotel (abbr.).
  - 5 Lieutenant (abbr.).
  - 6 Size of shot.
  - 7 Money of account.
  - 8 Opposite of east.
  - 9 Kind of salt.
  - 10 Invaded.
  - 11 Right (abbr.).
  - 13 Nova Scotia (abbr.).
  - 15 It is well known to —.
  - 17 Journeyed.
  - 19 Volume.
  - 20 Prolific.
  - 23 Lava.
  - 25 Viscous mud.
  - 27 Palm lily.
  - 30 Consumed.
  - 34 Exclamation.
  - 35 Measure of area.
  - 37 Four (Roman).
  - 38 Musical note.
  - 41 Species of poplar.
  - 43 Wriggling.
  - 45 Tantalum (symbol).
  - 46 Recede.
  - 47 Make a mistake.
  - 48 Boy's name.
  - 49 Baglike part.
  - 50 Color.
  - 51 Males.
  - 52 Editor (abbr.).
  - 54 From.
  - 55 Calcium (symbol).



By Fred Harman

By Harold Gray

By Martin

By Crane

By Blosser

By V. T. Hamlin