

SERIAL STORY

HIS CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY ADELAIDE HAZELTINE

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THE STORY: The terms of Andrew Dearborn's will specifying that his secretary Carol and five other employees, who will judge whether or not his playboy son Andy is running the business according to his father's policy of "service to the people," but Carol, who has loved Andy since girlhood, in a difficult spot. Although the will has not been found, Carol knows its terms, and her heart smites when Andy, currently involved with sleek Linda Julian, turns management over to unscrupulous Mr. Herrick, whose only idea is to make money. She knows that unless Andy shows more of the heart that has made him so kind to newboy Nicky and to a mongrel puppy he has adopted, he will lose the store to charity by vote of the strange "jury" his late father's will provided for. Peary-Herrick, Mr. Herrick turns down Bill Reece, an employee in love with Carol, on repairs for the toyland elevator. As Herrick's policies begin to take their toll, Carol makes every adjustment to several customers to uphold the store's reputation, knowing it will get her in trouble with Herrick but will stand Andy in good stead when the will is found. They before Christmas the toyland elevator falls, injuring new boy Nicky. Buck-passing Herrick pretends to blame Bill, fires him.

NICKY'S MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHAPTER IX

It wasn't a very Merry Christmas for Carol as she and Mary climbed into Bill's ancient car and headed for the hospital. Bill, in his Santa Claus suit, seemed less dejected than last night. He'd get another job, he assured them, and show Mr. Herrick that somebody else would trust him.

Mary, too, was lifting herself above her troubles. She had the promise of a job on January 1 and was happy about it.

And Nicky was going to be all right. The hospital had given her a favorable report just before they started.

It should have cheered Carol. But it didn't. Nothing could. Not as long as Dearborn's was being ruined by Mr. Herrick's mismanagement and Andy was sitting calmly by, unaware of the tragedy of it.

No, the sight of lighted trees and burning candles choked her. Wreaths of mistletoe left her unmoved. It was Christmas everywhere—except in Carol's heart.

She forced a smile to her lips when they entered the big, brick building of the hospital. She must be gay for Nicky's sake.

Quietly, Bill pushed open Nicky's door and peered in. "We're too late," he whispered.

He stood aside and they all stared at the darkened room lighted by the huge Christmas tree already decorated and sitting beside Nicky's bed.

Carol's surprised eyes moved to the figure bent to the floor near the tree. The figure straightened. It was Andy Dearborn. He was putting together the pieces of track for an electric train.

Andy said, "Hello, Carol. Hello, Mary. Merry Christmas." He nodded coolly to Bill.

He's blaming Bill, Carol thought miserably, and Bill's too proud to tell him the truth even if Andy would believe it.

"We—brought a tree, too," she managed to say. "We wanted Nicky—to have a Merry Christmas." She dropped her parcels on a chair and Bill leaned the small tree against the wall. Their gifts looked trivial beside Andy's lavish ones.

It was difficult for any of them to find something to say. Finally Carol gave Nicky their packages, but her good wishes stuck in her throat. She smiled and patted his hand.

"Jiminy-gee! Thanks!" The boy's expressive face told an appealing story. "What a Christmas this turned out to be!"

They watched him open the gifts. Then Carol went to stand above Andy. He was just starting the new train.

"The doctor says Nicky will make it now," he said aside to her. "I'm glad." She mustn't let his affection for the boy encourage her to forgive him. The whole affair, indirectly, was Andy's own fault. He should have been able to see through the sham of Mr. Herrick long ago. Yet even the accident hadn't opened his eyes.

WHEN Andy left, Carol turned rebelliously to Bill. "You see, Bill? He blames you, too. Mr. Herrick has seen to that. You ought to go to Andy yourself. Make him listen to your side of the story. He would remember when he came into the office that day you were arguing with Mr. Herrick. He could confront him with it and Mr. Herrick would have to admit you reported the elevator. It's not right for you to accept responsibility for something you didn't do."

"Carol's right," Mary added. "You ought to see Andy, Bill." They had forgotten Nicky. He said, his eyes thoughtful, "Aw, they don't think it's your fault, do they, Mr. Bill?" They all looked at the boy. Bill

shook his head. Carol said, "You aren't to worry about it, Nicky." Impetuously, Mary said, "Bill got fired for it, Nicky."

"Fired?" His eyes widened. "But, Jiminy-gee, Mr. Bill always took care of everybody! He wouldn't make an accident!"

"That's all right, Nicky," Bill assured him. "The only thing that matters is your getting well."

"We may tire him," Carol said. "We'd better go."

When they reached home, Mary led Carol and Bill together.

"Mary wants to go to the party Saturday night, Bill. Would you mind her going with us?"

"How do you know I'm going?" he said slowly. "Or have you forgotten I'm fired?"

"I haven't forgotten," she said steadily. "But you're going to the party. Just as if you still worked at Dearborn's. I won't let you turn and run when you know you're in the right."

SHE saw his jaw tighten. He could be stubborn when he chose. She felt obligated to see that he went Saturday night. It would be good for his self-confidence.

"Besides," she coaxed, "you can't let me miss it. When I've turned down a dozen dates for you." She smiled to lighten the exaggeration of the boast.

Bill smiled, too. "You know I can't, Carol. Yes, I'll go and we'll take Mary. She's a nice kid." He slanted a suspicious look at

Carol. "You're not trying to promote anything, are you?" She flushed. "You know how I feel, Bill." "Yes, I know." He looked away. "You're not in love with me. You're in love with somebody else. Somebody whose name is a secret. And there's nothing I can do about it!" "Look, Bill," she urged. "Why don't you get a new girl? You deserve someone else."

"Give you up to a fellow I've never seen?" he retorted. "Oh, no, Carol. Not me. I'm going to see what he looks like first!" (To Be Continued)

The Soviets may, under international law, strike at Japan if and when they so decide, without any prior warning.—Alexander N. Sack, international law authority.

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- No Carrying Charge
- No Red Tape
- As Long as 90 Days to Pay

KLAMATH'S CREDIT
Clothing

OREGON
WOOLEN STORE
8TH AND MAIN

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



The UNITED STATES IS SEPARATED FROM CENTRAL AMERICA ONLY BY A WHITE LINE DIVIDEMENT WHERE THE UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS IN THE CANAL ZONE TOUCHES PANAMA CITY, CAPITAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



"BLANK VERSE" CAN YOU FILL IN THE BLANK?

T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

ANSWER: "This is my own, my native land!"—Sir Walter Scott.

BRITISH CROWN COLONY

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Depicted British crown colony in Asia.
- 6 It is administered as part of British.
- 11 Mountain nymphs.
- 13 Companion.
- 14 Those who run.
- 16 Sprang.
- 17 Depress.
- 18 Hawaiian food.
- 19 Darlings.
- 20 About (prefix).
- 21 Pronoun.
- 22 Doctor of Theology (abbr.).
- 23 Division of geologic time (comb. form).
- 25 Symbol for tellurium.
- 28 The gods (Roman).
- 28 Born.
- 30 Writing implement.
- 31 An agent.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ELI | KIL | TOJO | ADAGE | 13 French (abbr.). |
| ECON | ABET | COMET | 15 Spain (abbr.). | |
| LEND | GIBST | 16 Jumbled type. | | |
| OUTS | TEAK P | 21 Its native capital is— | | |
| LAYER | TERM | 24 Poem. | | |
| ONE | ADR | 25 Golf mound. | | |
| CO | APOD | 27 Writing fluid. | | |
| ADIT | NAC | 29 Age. | | |
| LEM | H | 30 Italian river. | | |
| AN | W | 32 Symbol for ruthenium. | | |
| TOGO | HOLE | 33 Part of the head. | | |
| OWE | EDEN | 36 Common laborers. | | |
| ELSE | TEND | 37 Arabian garments. | | |

VERTICAL

- 1 Northeast wind prevail- ing over the Adriatic Sea.
- 2 Black vulture.
- 3 Name again, fabric.
- 4 Supplies with men.
- 5 Revoke a legacy (law).
- 6 Sultan's decree.
- 8 Five and four.
- 8 Decennium.
- 9 Indolent.
- 10 Appends.
- 12 Senior (abbr.).
- 33 Therefore.
- 34 Article.
- 35 Upon.
- 37 Alternating current (abbr.).
- 39 Repulse.
- 43 East Indies (abbr.).
- 45 It exports large quantities of its capital is
- 48 Its capital is
- 51 Places in line.
- 52 Longs.
- 53 Disunite.
- 54 Loan of money.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-54.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



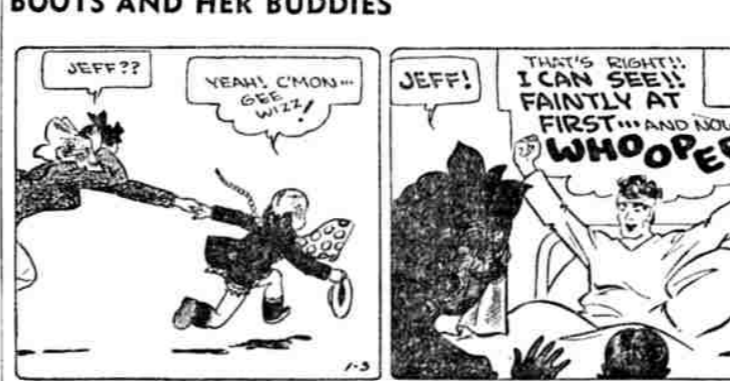
RED RYDER



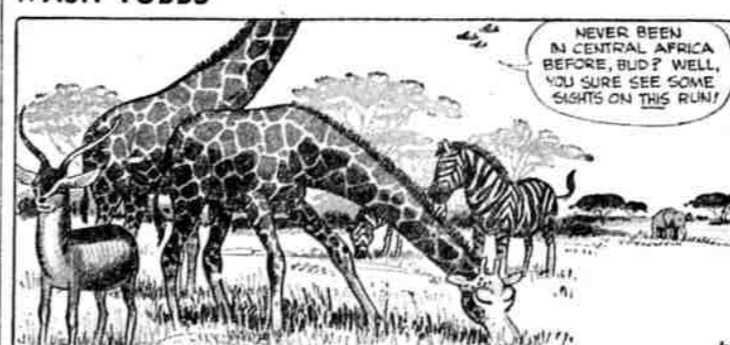
LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



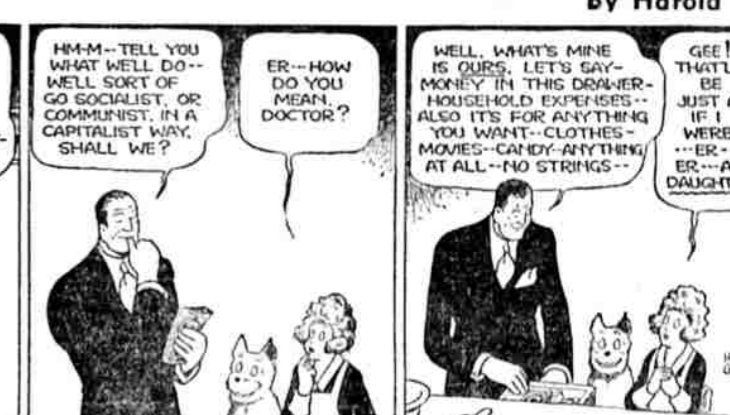
OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



By Fred Harman



By Harold Gray



By Martin



By Crane



By Blosser



By V. T. Hamlin

