HIS CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY ADELAIDE HAZELTINE

tract," Mr. Herrick hurried to tell

tract, Mr. Herrick nurried to tell him. "Of course, I'd want a slight salary increase." He emphasized the slight, "Then the will simply wouldn't appear. Nobody would be to blame. It'd be just one of those things. A case where a man was understood to have made a will but evidently didn't."

Andy give in now? Would he let Mr. Herrick have his way after the stand he had taken such a

short time ago? The stand his father would approve and which would guarantee his inheritance?

"You'll have to give me a little time," Carol heard Andy say. Her heart sank. He was weakening. "I'll let you know by Saturday."

Saturday! Delay meant he was seriously considering it. When he should have knocked Mr. Her-rick down for insulting him with

"Well, I'll draw up a contract,"
Mr. Herrick said confidently.
Sick with the knowledge that

Andy had failed again, Carol fled from the store. For a few brief moments Andy had shown a strong

moments Andy had shown a strong self. She had gloried in him. At last she had thought he was going to make his father proud of him. Only to be scared out of it by the fear he might lose the income which meant an easy life!

She could go to him and tell him the true contents of the will. That might give him courage to defy Mr. Herrick. But she wouldn't. You can't make a man

wouldn't. You can't make a man strong by removing temptation.

"That's fair, isn't it?" Mr. Her-

will but evidently didn't." Carol waited breathlessly. Would

rick urged.

THE STORY: The terms of Andrew Dearborn's will a specifying that his secretary Carol, and floor other employed, his playhoy son whether employed, his playhoy son whether employed, his playhoy son cording to his father's polley of "service to the presple," put Carol, who has loved Andy aince girl-hood, in a difficult spot, Her heart sinks when Andy, currently involved with sieck Linda Julian, turns mannigement over to unserupulous Mr. Herrick, whose only idea is to make money. Herrick hames employe Hill Rece for the toyland elevator accident though Nick and the clevator's conditional manning of the condition and was not to blame. Herrick halo takes credit for cash adjustments made in customers by Carol without his knowledge, in an effort to save the store's reputation. At the annual store party Andy kisses Carol, indicates he is through with Linda. Next day Carol finds the will be gone, in the vault, but the will a gone, herrick then fires her for writing a retirement check for an employed he has diminisard, although girls he was only Returning to the other control of the covered the trait from Nicky shout the elevator accident.

WHO HAS THE WILL?

WHO HAS THE WILL?

CHAPTER XV "IT'S not true, I tell you!" Mr.

"Herrick glared at Andy. "Bill didn't report that elevator."
"I'm going to be the judge of that," Andy snapped.
Carol's heart leaped. Andy was awake at last. Thank goodness for Nicky and his innocent repetition of their conversation at the hespital Christmas morning!
"You're forgetting that the store its making money," Mr. Herrick said levelly.
"Money?" Andy's laugh was a mockery. "If saving the cost of repairs is your idea of making money, I don't want any of it. I want some humanity in my store.
"And something else." Andy's voice was relentless. "Those refunds to Mrs. Milligan and Mrs.

rocke was reientiess. Indee re-funds to Mrs. Milligan and Mrs. Grover. You must have thought you were pretty smart to take credit for them. Well, Carol got mad last night—mad enough to give me a hint about those checks. I'd never have thought to look them up if she hadn't."

Andy had taken her hint about

the checks!

the checks!
"So what?" There was menace
in Mr. Herrick's words.
"So you're through. All through,
Herrick. From now on, I run
this store myself. The way my
father would want it run."

AN ominous silence followed this A declaration. Carol longed to be able to see defeat on Mr. Her-scrick's face. But his next words were like

"No, I'm not through, Andy Dearborn." He paused, continued, "In fact you're getting ready to give me a ten-year contract to manage this store as I see fit." Andy was aghast. "A ten-year contract?"

"Yes. I didn't intend to push
it just yet but you've called my
hand. You see there's the small
matter of a will. The will your
father left."

The will? What does Mr. Her-

thought frantically.

"I happen to know what that will contains," Mr. Herrick was saying. "I happen to know that it disinherits you, leaves every-thing to charity!"

Carol stifled a gasp. If Mr. Herrick had read the will he was

Herrick had read the will he was distorting the facts.

"It—what?" That was genuine surprise in Andy's voice.

"It suggests that you aren't capable of running the store, Andy. It orders the stock sold and the doors closed for good."

"How do you know that?" Andy demanded.

"I know the will has been

"I know the will has been "Found? You mean my father's

will has been found and not re-corded? Do you realize that is a criminal offense?" Found! Carol's thoughts echoed. Then it wasn't Andy at all who had taken the will from the ledger. It must have been Mr. Herrick

or someone Mr. Herrick knew. the store in a manner worthy of a Dearborn was real.

He was waiting for Mr. Herrick

to reply.
"I don't admit anyone is withholding it. I only say that a con-

tract for me would be, shall we say, a satisfactory reward for my failure to let the will turn up?"
"That's blackmail!" Andy accused him.

"Blackmail's an ugly word."
"No uglier than the conditions
you suggest!"
"I wouldn't call them that."

"You've lied about other things.
How do I know you aren't lying about the will?"
"I thought you'd wonder. Well,

"I thought you'd wonder. Well,
the party who found the will took
the precaution to leave its envelope behind, right where the
will was found in the inventory
record for 1940."

"In the inventory record?"

"Yes. Your father was a stickler

for exactness, Andy. He put the will where you would be certain to find it. Only someone else happened to look there first. For-

rick," he said after a pause. "I can prosecute you for this."

"Oh, don't take that attitude, Andy." His tone was conciliatory. "If the will should be found, you stion't think I'd be fool enough to Hon't think I'd be fool enough to let myself become involved. Your prosecution wouldn't touch met On the other hand you don't like the store. You never have. You can turn it over to me and forget it. Take the income and enjoy yourself. That's not asking much of you. That's doing you a favor." "What's your proposition?" Was Andy's voice less angry?

"You give me a ten-year con-

If he were saved, he would have to save himself. Now, more than ever, she was

burning with the desire to find the will herself, show up the whole miserable scheme and revel in the part she would have to take

in disinheriting Andy.

It was a resolution that brought her little comfort on New Year's Day.

(To Be Continued)

JINX CALL

CHICAGO (P)- An alarm sounded in quarters of fire en-

gine company 85.

Fireman Thomas Ryan slid down the pole too quickly and offered a leg fracture and pos-

truck was damaged a few inutes later when it collided with an automobile,

The fire was a small one.

FRIENDLY

ON ALL PURCHASES OF MEN'S WEAR

No Interest

 No Carrying Charge • No Red Tape

OREGON **WOOLEN STORE** 8TH AND MAIN

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: Hardware dealer, cowboy, barrel mak-

NEXT: Keeping the earth in balance.

STAR ON ICE

Answer to Previous Puzzle 1,6 Pictured expert ice skater. 11 Mountain nymphs. 13 Type of cap (pl.). 14 Small

firearms.
16 Tasteless red
crystalline substance. 17 Drunkards.

HORIZONTAL

18 Pleasure boat.
19 Foot covering.
20 Compass point 37 Biting to the 23 Half an em. 24 To fall in

drops. 27 Paving material. 29 She is an expert skater

50 To wind again 30 Erbium (symbol). 31 Not closed. 32 Thing (law). 34 Land measure. 1 Dips in a

35 Chinese

HER2HEY 3 Put into a taste. 39 Prattle. nest. 4 Members of 43 Top of the head. an important Hindu caste, 45 Produced. 5 Bustle. 47 Respire. 49 Monitor.

8 Lower. 51 Ether 9 Noun suffix. compound. 52 Liquid mortar 10 Domestic VERTICAL

slave. 12 Cunning. 13 Nocturnal liquid. 2 Constellation.

Cupid.

21 Cubed. A 22 Sever DR 25 Tear. 22 Severe. TOO 25 Writing implement.

28 Exist. 31 Far East. 33 She is one of the world's

15 Symbol for

16 Chinese

34 160 square rods (pl.). 36 Not the same. 37 Highest point. 38 Desert fruit. 39 Through. 40 Road (abbr.).

41 Tuberculosis (abbr.). 43 Kind of

rubber. 44 Wriggling. 46 A jutting rock 48 Snaky fish.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



RED RYDER



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople

EGAD, JAKE! IF I MUST GAY IT, THE

RAMIDS ARE MERE DUST SPECKS

BESIDE YOUR GARGANTUAN NERVE!

--- ROBBING JULIET OF \$10 LIKE A

MEADOW!

ROAD AGENT! AND NOW YOU

PAJAMAS! FATHER WAS PROPHETIC WHEN HE LIKENED

YOU TO A THISTLE IN THE

BOLDLY COMMANDEER MY BEST

WELL, FOLKS, SEE THE NICE BIG LILY FLOATING ON THE

POND! YOU'RE NOT FOOL

ING ANYBODY, YOU FROM! YOU'RE JUG' GREEN-EYED

BECAUGE YOU DIDN'T THINK

OF HITTING JULIET FIRST!

HANDSOMER THAN

YOU!

WHEN YOU REELIZE I'M BRAVER, SMARTER AN'

By Harold Gray

NEXT,

ALL-OUT WAR

FOR THE COVERS:

By Fred Harman



THAT'S TOO BAD WHAT DOES THE DOCTOR SAY IS THE MATTER? ER-WELL, SHE DOESN'T HAVE TH' DOCTOR ANY MORE-SHE HAD LOTS O DOCTORS FOR





I KNOW JUST
HOW SHE FEELSLOTS OF FOLKS
I DONT CARE TO
SEE, EITHERBUT I'M GOING
TO SEE YOUR
MAMA-SHE-SHE
DOESN'T LET
ANYBOOY IN --SHE-SHE
HIDES IF THEY
KNOCK-I DON'T
KNOW IF---

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



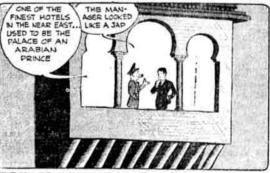








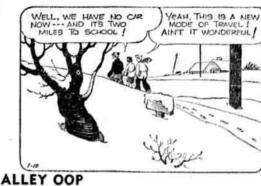
WASH TUBBS







FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS









By V. T. Ham!in

