

• SERIAL STORY

OF BRIGHTNESS GONE

BY HOLLY WATTERSON

COPYRIGHT, 1942.
HRA SERVICE, INC.

UNCLE BRUCE AGAIN

CHAPTER XXIII

SHE found herself reluctant to see Peter and his father before she left. Peter had a trick, born probably of long association and understanding, of seeing through her; and she had a feeling that this Harper affair would not bear too much inspection, would not make her appear to advantage in his eyes.

She would make no mention of anything but the old lady, of course, and would trust to luck that he had never heard of the grandson or would attach no significance to his going along with them if he had; but she would have preferred not to have to say anything of it at all.

She rode a bus over to the modest little flat on Henley street with the neat sign in its front window, PETER FRAZIER, M. D., where Bruce now lived with Peter. After she rang the bell she could hear Bruce's footfall, first a firm step and then a dragging one that was the aftermath of the recent stroke that had partly paralyzed his left side.

Bruce opened the door wide. "Well, stranger!" he said, giving her a quick hug. "Where have you been keeping yourself?"

"On a case, as usual," Candace said, smiling. She followed her nose to the kitchen, sniffing hungrily. "Something smells awfully good. Am I invited to stay for lunch?"

"You sure are," Bruce said heartily. "Beef stew. I try to make things that will heat up in a hurry, just in case the boy ever does get a chance to come home for a bite to eat."

"How is Peter? Still working so hard?"

Bruce groaned. "That boy just about drives himself to death," he said. He looked worried but proud. "He doesn't talk, think or dream about anything but medicine. Seems to thrive on it, though. He's been trying to get in touch with you, by the way. Some case he wanted you on."

"No go," Candace said. "I'm already on one." She sat on a ladder-bench with her feet hooked over one of its rungs, munching a roll and watching Bruce as he went about, turning up the gas under a pot, setting the table. The limp was not too noticeable now, nor was the slight droop of his face. Sometimes, though, that droop gave rather a startling before-and-after effect; the drooping side simulated the discouraged mood he had labored under while he was involved in business troubles and smarting under Belle's displeasure; the other, brighter look had come after his release from both.

Belle had finally obtained a Florida divorce on the grounds of desertion. The reasons she gave for doing so had been odd enough. "You appear to be smarting," she wrote, "under the feeling that creditors will feel you're dishonest because I refuse to turn over everything to them. They can't think that now. They'll deduce, by my having divorced you, that I've simply run off and deserted you, now that you're in trouble."

CANDACE guessed that her action had really been a relief to Bruce. He had managed after ward, by dint of turning over life insurance and all other available funds, to satisfy all of his creditors; he had come out of the thing with honor, if with nothing else.

Father and son were alike as two peas in a pod, Candace thought with impatient admiration, Bruce giving up everything for the sake of a scruple, Peter slaving for no money and but little thanks. Impractical idealists, both of them. They needed someone to take care of them. Maybe this girl Peter was marrying would be the one to do it.

An uneasy thought struck her. Bruce was happy here, she knew, he felt himself to be needed and useful. What if this strange girl were to find him in the way? She knew that Peter himself looked on his father's stroke in the nature of a blessing, it was a lever he had made use of to pry Bruce loose from a hopeless situation, a losing fight against insurmountable odds; but what if his wife were to resent having him at a half-invalid who might at any time become a heavy burden?

Consumed with curiosity about the girl, Candace had planned to ask at the first opportunity, "What about this gal Peter's marrying? Will I be able to o. k. her?" Casually. As though it didn't matter. Now, she found, she could not. She was afraid that she might somehow convey her uneasiness to Bruce; and she didn't want to be the one to make him feel insecure, possibly unwanted.

SHE became anxious to leave before she herself might somehow blunder into the subject, or Bruce could bring it up. As soon after lunch as she decently could she said briskly, "I can't wait around any longer on the chance of seeing Peter, I'm afraid. I have an awful lot to do."

"He'll be disappointed he missed you," Bruce said. "Lord knows you get over here seldom enough."

ture that promised to be, if not dull, rather on the drab side. . . . She became aware with something like relief that for some minutes the doorbell had been pealing insistently in the back of the house downstairs; she heard the door open finally and a man's footsteps prowling about. She opened her door to investigate. (To Be Continued)

A small town manual designed to help communities find their place in the war production scene and build a better future has just been published by the department of commerce. It's free.

"Patent pending" and "patent applied for" inform the public that an application has been filed with the patent office, department of commerce, but the terms have no effect in law.

Let's put everything to work! Sell the articles you don't use through a classified ad.

Improve Your Radio Reception

With a New

Aerial

All Types, Including the New Vertical Antenna

UHLIG'S

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



AVIATORS
WHO GAIN ALTITUDE TOO RAPIDLY
GET THE "BENDS"
THE SAME AS A DEEP SEA DIVER
WHO IS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE TOO QUICKLY!

AN OLD PROVERB SAYS, "WHEN SQUIRRELS ARE SCARCE IN AUTUMN THE WINTER WILL BE SEVERE." SCIENTISTS SAY, "WHEN SQUIRRELS ARE SCARCE IN AUTUMN THE HUNTERS HAVE BEEN BUSY."

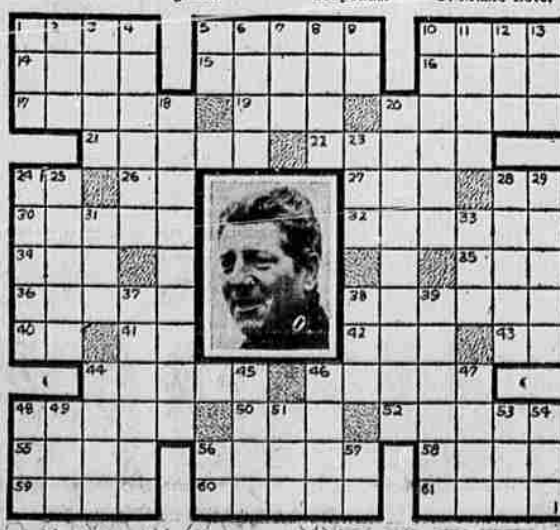


DOES SOUND TRAVEL FASTER THROUGH AIR OR IRON?

ANSWER: About 15 times faster through iron than through air.

MOVIE STAR

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| 15 Pictured French screen actor. | 16 He is a French. | 17 Ireland. | 18 Leaves out. | 19 Tendon. | 20 (comb. form). | 21 Plait of hair. | 22 Fish. | 23 Sultan. | 24 Decree. | 25 Remained standing. | 26 Drives. | 27 Rough lava. | 28 Louisiana (abbr.). | 29 Short-napped fabric. | 30 Symbol for stibium. | 31 Nap. | 32 Genus of herbs. | 33 Meat. | 34 Seine. | 35 Black vulture. | 36 Lyric poems. | 37 Ream (abbr.). | 38 Paid notice. | |
| 21 His first American-made picture stars him with | 22 Man's name. | 23 Chief deity of the Assyrian pantheon. | 24 Jeer. | 25 Nickname for Elizabeth. | 26 Bird. | 27 Indiana (abbr.). | 28 Flag. | 29 Sea eagle. | 30 Opening device. | 31 Grafted (her.). | 32 Wicked. | 33 Newspaper paragraph. | 34 Ascend. | 35 Companion. | 36 Compass point. | 37 Girl's name. | 38 Unit. | 39 Nickname for Edward. | 40 Pound (abbr.). | 41 Music note. | | | | |



Out Our Way THE AWFUL SUSPENSE By J. R. Williams 10-1



Red Ryder 10-1



Little Orphan Annie 10-1-42



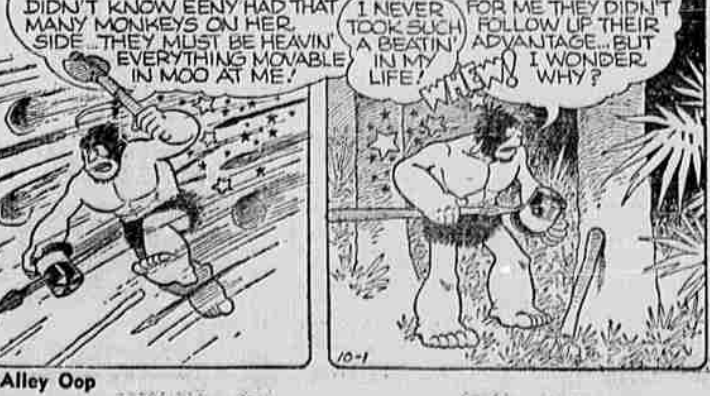
reckless and His Friends 10-1



Wash Tubbs 10-1



Boots and Her Buddies 10-1



Alley Oop 10-1



Our Boarding House With Major Hoochie 10-1



by Fred Harman 10-1



by Harold Gray 10-1



By Blosser 10-1



By Crane 10-1



By Martin 10-1



By V. T. Hamlin 10-1