

SERIAL STORY
THE EDGE OF DARKNESS
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 BY WILLIAM WOODS

THE STORY: Little Kjerfod, who had argued the pastor's case, surprises the men who plot revolt against the Nazis by offering to undertake the dangerous trip to lead avenge Hammer to safety in neutral Sweden. The medics, Stensgard, and Dr. Stensgard walk with Gerd Hinnebusch to the hotel. Just as they reach it, they find themselves face to face with Major Ruck.

HELP IS COMING
CHAPTER XI

COMING from behind the trees, and seeing the tall, dark figure of Major Ruck gazing down at them, the doctor caught hold of Gerd's arm and turned to flee. They whirled in the darkness, and for a moment could not find the path. They heard the major cry out in a low voice behind them, "Stop. Stop." And then he was across the clearing and had his pistol in the doctor's back. Stensgard struck his arm against a tree, but did not feel the pain. He twisted and lashed out in cornered desperation. The major caught him by the shoulder and whispered, "Be quiet, you fool. Do you want them to hear you in the hotel?"

Gerd felt the breath catch in her throat. She looked up at the giant towering over them, saw him smile and thrust his shock of fair hair back with a free hand. "What do you want?" she whispered. "Who are you?" The doctor, pinned by the major's elbow against a branch, was still trembling beside her.

"Where's the guard? Don't they have one here at night?" Gerd nodded quickly and pointed. "At the back," she whispered. "He'll be around in a minute." Ruck glanced sharply about and up at the hotel windows. He let the doctor go, and beckoned to both of them with the pistol in his hand. Then he vanished, and they saw him a moment later, skirting the trees along the side of the hotel. Breathless, and still not quite knowing what had happened, they hurried after him.

When Ruck had gone far enough to get out of range of the windows, he turned to face them again. "Come, Sister Gerd," he said. "Now we can get down to business."

And the innkeeper, in spite of the fact that she had been watching Ruck carefully, could think only one thing: "I am undoubtedly older than he, but he called me 'sister.'" They called her "mother." Gerd down in the village, even the older men.

They had not gone more than 10 steps when the doctor caught them and tapped Ruck on the shoulder. "My dear sir," he said as importantly as he was able. "You must realize . . ."

"Got over your fright, my dear Stensgard?" "Eh?" The doctor drew himself up. "Eh?" "Wait." Ruck put a finger to his lips and listened ahead down the path. Then, seeming satisfied, he reached quickly into his pocket and brought out a small book which he pressed into Gerd's hand. "A dictionary," he said. "An Oslo edition, 1937. I give it to you now in case we have no opportunity later. Have you ever heard of the book code?" "The dictionary," said Gerd. "What about the dictionary?" "You are an intelligent woman," Ruck said slowly. "Yes, the dictionary. We chose this edition, English-Norwegian, because it is printed in single column. For every word we will flash two numbers. The first designates page number, the second, the number of the word on that page. So, 212-9 would mean the ninth word on page 212. Is that clear?"

soldiers, and was going on an inspection tour of the village. When Konig was in the canteen factory, with the foreman talking to him obsequiously, the two of them walking between rows of men at the clattering machines, a very unusual accident occurred. The catch slipped on a huge bucket of mackerel being lifted on a chain, and three hundred pounds of cooked fish chuted down over the machines, and onto a floor covered with a greasy sawdust. No one was hurt, but the fish were irretrievably spoiled. The captain thundered out that such carelessness was inexcusable, and made notes in a little red book he carried in his pocket.

Once outside, he dispatched the two soldiers who had accompanied him to the house of Sixtus Andresen, the schoolmaster, to give the old man official notification that his cottage, which was the last in the village on the road southward, was required for military purposes, and that he would be permitted 48 hours to leave the premises with all his personal effects.

For weeks a great and secret plan had taken all his thought. By day it was manifest in long drills and marches for the men, exercises in aiming and quick firing, guns placed in awkward positions where by all the rules of strategy they had no right to be. By night he spent long, lonely hours at his desk, working over this at first seemingly impossible scheme. Now, slowly, the secret that had seemed always just out of reach had broken wide open in front of him. "It will work," swelled up in his throat. "One blockhouse where the schoolmas-

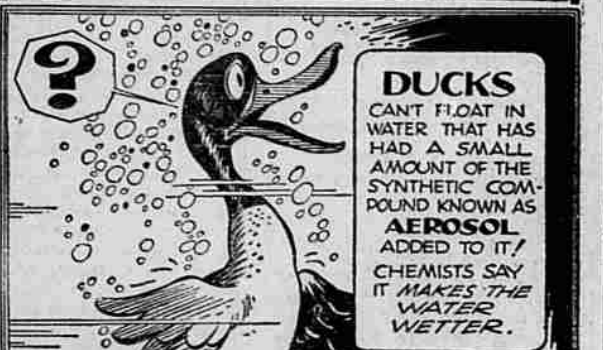
ter's cottage is—besides what I've already done—and it will work." Half an hour later the men reported to him at the hotel that they had found the old man in a black suit and a black bow tie, surrounded by books in his study. He had taken the order very calmly, said that he was thankful for the 48 hours, and with a great deal of old-fashioned courtesy, even invited them to sit down for tea.

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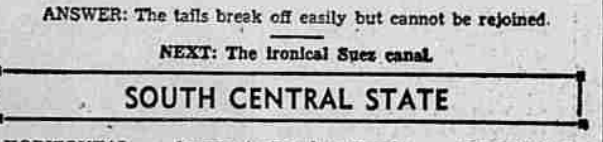
THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson



DUCKS
 CAN'T FLOAT IN WATER THAT HAS HAD A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE SYNTHETIC COMPOUND KNOWN AS AEROSOL ADDED TO IT! CHEMISTS SAY IT MAKES THE WATER WETTER.



TREE BUDS
 ARE OF THREE KINDS: LEAF BUDS, FLOWER BUDS, AND NAKED BUDS.



RIGHTERONG?
 THE TAILS OF LIZARDS BREAK OFF EASILY, BUT CAN BE REJOINED TO THE LIZARD AT WILL.

ANSWER: The tails break off easily but cannot be rejoined.
 NEXT: The Ironical Suez canal.

SOUTH CENTRAL STATE

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Dictated state.
- 8 It is known as the "State."
- 14 Motives.
- 15 Liken.
- 16 Reprove.
- 17 Moccasin.
- 18 Silkworm.
- 19 Mineral spring.
- 20 Persian fairy.
- 21 Bamboo-like grass.
- 22 Parent.
- 24 Choral compositions.
- 26 Gun part.
- 29 Long cut.
- 30 Elts English (abbr.).
- 32 Visionary.
- 33 Narrow valley on the moon.
- 35 Nova Scotia (abbr.).
- 36 Shakespearean villain.
- 39 Triumph.
- 41 Its leading petroleum.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

VERTICAL

- 1 Globes.
- 2 Retain.
- 3 City in Wyoming.
- 4 King of Judah (Bib.).
- 5 Not cold.
- 6 Unit.
- 7 Manuscript (abbr.).
- 8 Socialie.
- 9 Mystic.
- 10 Working.
- 11 Nostrils.
- 12 Great Lake.
- 13 Peruse.
- 15 Type of two-wheeled vehicle (pl.).
- 17 Writing tool.
- 20 Golf term.
- 23 Once more.
- 24 Symbol for cerium.
- 25 Weary.
- 26 Important metal.
- 27 Roads (abbr.).
- 28 Pleased.
- 30 Yale.
- 31 Snaky fish.
- 34 Of the side.
- 37 Philippine forest.
- 38 Siouan Indian.
- 39 Priority (prefix).
- 40 Railway (abbr.).
- 42 Town (Cornish prefix).
- 46 Narrow way.
- 47 Footless.
- 49 Soak in.
- 50 Animal.
- 51 Malayan tin coin.
- 53 Compass point.

CROSSWORD

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NO, NOT QUITE ALL YEAR! IT ONLY BLOWS ELEVEN MONTHS A YEAR—SO WHEN YOU'RE TALKIN' GET UPWIND AN' WHEN LISTENIN' TO A GUY, GET DOWN-WINDY!

NO, NO! I ASKED IF PLAYIN' CARDS AN' TAKIN' WALKS WAS ALL TH' FUN YOU HAVE HERE! WAIT'LL I GET UPWIND OF YOU!

BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

Out Our Way
 By J. R. Williams

REMEMBER—RYDER'S A DONNELLY SPY! GET HIM BEFORE . . .

THAT SKUNK! LISTEN! HE'S WARNIN' DONNELLY WERE LAYIN' FOR HIM!

Red Ryder

GREAT SCOTT! I HADN'T HEARD ABOUT WARBUCKS! YOU POOR KID! BUT WE WON'T BELIEVE IT—NOT YET WE WON'T!

OH, IT'S PROBABLY TRUE—EVEN DADDY EXPECTED IT—

AND THEY LET MEN LIKE THAT GO TO THEIR DEATH IN SOME STINKIN' JUNGLE! BUT IT'S MEN LIKE THAT WHO WIN OUR WARS—WHO GIVE US ALL A FEW MORE YEARS OF SAFETY—PEACE—FREEDOM—

Little Orphan Annie

YOUR UNCLE WAS ECCENTRIC, MR. GRUBBLE! AS YOU KNOW, HE GAVE AWAY MILLIONS BEFORE HIS DEATH!

EVEN IN HIS WILL, HE HAD HIS 'LITTLE JOKE'—HE WAGERED THAT A CERTAIN THING WOULD HAPPEN! HE WAS A BETTING MAN, YOU KNOW!

Freckles and His Friends

HEADS UP! BOTH MOTORS ARE GONE! IT'S A CRASH LANDING!

Wash Tubbs

THERE IT IS! GRAB THE BLUE-PRINTS QUICK!

SHHH

!! SOMEONE IS COMING!!

Boots and Her Buddies

NOZZIR, OOP, THAT DEFENSE MAN AIN'T DOWN HERE UNDER TH' TABLE!

THEN, BY GUM, SOMEBODY'S COME IN HERE AN' STOLE IT!

BUT HOW COULD ANYBODY HAVE GOT IT? THERE AIN'T BEEN NOBODY IN HERE BUT US. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

THERE AIN'T NUTHIN' IMPOSSIBLE ANY MORE!

Alley Oop

EGAD, BAXTER! WE PROBABLY SHALL BE LEAVIN' THIS SHODDY NEIGHBORHOOD SHORTLY FOR A MORE REFINED LOCALE! THE DULL ATMOSPHERE HEREABOUTS HARDLY WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE DIGNIFIED POST I EXPECT TO ASSUME AS A TEACHER! HMP! AS I FILL IN FOR ONE OF THE MANY DRAFTED INSTRUCTORS!

WELL, THAT OUGHT TO PUT THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE IN A TOTAL BLACKOUT!—JUST WHAT THE NATION'S YOUTH NEEDS—A SLEEPWALKER LIKE YOU TO TEACH 'EM HOW TO SNORE IN THREE LANGUAGES!

BUY WAR BONDS

CHECKING THE PROFESSOR

Our Boarding House
 With Major Hoople

DAD! GHOOTS! THEY'RE LAYIN' IN WAIT FOR US ACROSS THE RIVER!

BANG BANG BANG!

SOMEBODY TIPPED 'EM OFF! IT MUST'VE BEEN RYDER!

By Fred Harman

LITTLE CONNING, SQUIRMING MEN AVOID DANGER—DOGE THE FIGHTING—LIVE ON—TO ENJOY THE BLESSINGS BRAVE MEN HAVE DIED FOR—BUT DO SLACKERS EVER REALLY KNOW THOSE BLESSINGS?

DON'T SUCH MEN ALWAYS WALK WITH FEAR, SLEEP WITH IT? DO THEY EVER REALLY KNOW SAFETY—PEACE? IS FREEDOM REALLY WORTH ANYTHING, EXCEPT TO THOSE WHO'LL FIGHT FOR IT, AT THE DROP OF A HAT?

Harold Gray

WHAT DID HE BET WOULD HAPPEN?

HE BET THAT YOUR HAIR WOULD STAND STRAIGHT UP WHEN YOU LEARNED HOW MUCH MONEY HE'D LEFT YOU!

HERE'S HOW MUCH YOU'RE GOING TO RECEIVE! BZ-ZZ-ZZ!

AND LOOK AT YOUR HAIR!

By Blosser

INFLATE YOUR MAE WEISTS! THIS OLD KITE HAS MORE HOLES THAN A MINNOW BUCKET. SHE WON'T STAY AFLOAT LONG!

By Crane

HELP

THIS WAY!! BRING THE LOVING CUP AND ALL! WE'LL DISPOSE OF THE BRAT LATER!

By Martin

IF SOME MOODY SPY HAS GOT HIS PLANS ON OUR MINDS—OOW!!

HE'LL DANG SOON FIND OUT THAT GITTIN' HIS MITTS ON 'EM WAS ONE THING BUT GITTIN' AWAY WITH 'EM IS SUMPIN' ELSE AL TOGETHER!

MUNITIONS WORKER, WOO STAND EHY OKAY GOOLY, STILL NEXT, SHIP FITTER DOPE

NOPE! NUTHIN' ON THIS GUY!

By V. T. Hamlin