

UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

By Charles Courtney

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Charles Courtney is the world's highest paid legal Jimmy Valentine. This is the true story of his many adventures unlocking safes around the earth and under the sea.

CHAPTER VII

I WAS out of a job. A few months after the Armistice the dry docks were as dead as a graveyard. This seemed the time to go into my own business, but the money had been spent on my family that now included a daughter and a baby son. So I stood in the hiring line again, but there was no work in New York. Every week our bank balance dwindled. Finally we had to make a decision: should I take what was left and hunt in some other city, or should I risk everything and open my own shop on the chance that I could make a living at the work that I had always intended to do?

My wife voted for taking the chance. In that first shop I learned the business and I learned people. Locksmiths fit into the scheme of modern life somewhere between confidential lawyers, detectives, firemen, and police. We are called on missions to open safes or doors that more often than not are involved in dramatic conflicts in people's secret lives, jobs in which much depends on our trustworthiness and discretion. We must be ready to answer emergency calls with the speed of the police, because we can never be sure whether they are real emergencies—people suffocating in storage vaults—or only inconveniences—a key locked inside when some woman has taken the dog to walk. Both are likely to have the same urgency over the telephone.

SOMETIMES I panted from one emergency to another. A rush call came from a drugstore three blocks away: a man's agitated voice begged me to come quickly and save his children. While I was collecting my tools, the telephone rang again; a woman was locked out of her house and must get in immediately. They were both in the same direction so I went to the drugstore first. On the corner a policeman was keeping the people moving. There were no signs of an accident, but a man stood at the back of a closed sedan, picking nervously at the trunk with his fingers.

"Does somebody want a locksmith?" I asked the officer. He grabbed my arm and pushed me to the car.

"Here, open the back compartment." The man gripped his hands and pushed so close that I could hardly use my elbows.

"What's in here?" I asked. "What's the special rush?" "My babies are in there," he groaned. "They're dying and I've lost the key."

I attacked the lock with all the speed that I could muster, holding my breath, listening for any sound. "Keep cool," I kept telling myself. "Keep cool and you'll work faster." Every once in a while I would have to push back the father, who edged so close that I could feel his breathing on my neck. In a few minutes the lock gave. I threw up the top and there lay two babies, a boy and a girl, with their arms around each other, fast asleep.

Almost as limp as the father, I picked up my tools and went on to the second call, which was only a few blocks away. At the corner a fire engine shot by, followed by the hook and ladder and all the outfit. By the time I had reached the middle of the block the street was black with people and the police were clearing them away. The firemen were jumping down at my number. Pushing through the lines, I told a policeman that I had been called "rush" and he waved me along, so I ran up the steps behind the fireman who had already burst the door. A determined-looking woman led us through the hall toward the kitchen. She ran to the oven, opened it, and pulled out a roasting pan in which lay a goose done to a golden brown.

"Thank heaven," she gasped. "I was afraid it would burn. The fire department is so nice. I knew you would help me, and I couldn't wait for a locksmith. I thought he never would come."

SINCE time was my chief capital, I had to rely on my ingenuity to find short cuts. One of them

was a way of making keys for the most complicated locks without taking them apart. It could be done by looking into the keyway and gauging the tumblers with my eye. This was more difficult than memorizing a key at a glance and copying it without examination, a trick with which I often mystify my friends.

Clients occasionally brought me problems that could not be solved by locks and keys. My most ingenious device was contrived for the use of one lone customer, but my friends tell me that it has limitless possibilities. This man slept so well that a thief could take the very pillow under his head, so he was at a decided disadvantage when his wife rified his pockets. He had exhausted his own ingenuity; not even a white mouse in his pocket frightened her. I put clasps something like zippers in the pockets of three pairs of trousers and connected them with a small storage battery wired to a bell. When the clasp was opened, the bell rang, the man was awakened and could take what action he thought best. After several months his wife found a way to disconnect the bell. Next, I tried an invisible rubber band that, when it was stretched, pulled a wire. This must have been successful, for my client never returned.

(To Be Continued)

(From the book of the same name written in collaboration with Thomas M. Johnson and published by Whitlsey House, New York City.)

Classified Ads Bring Results.

NEWEST SPREADS



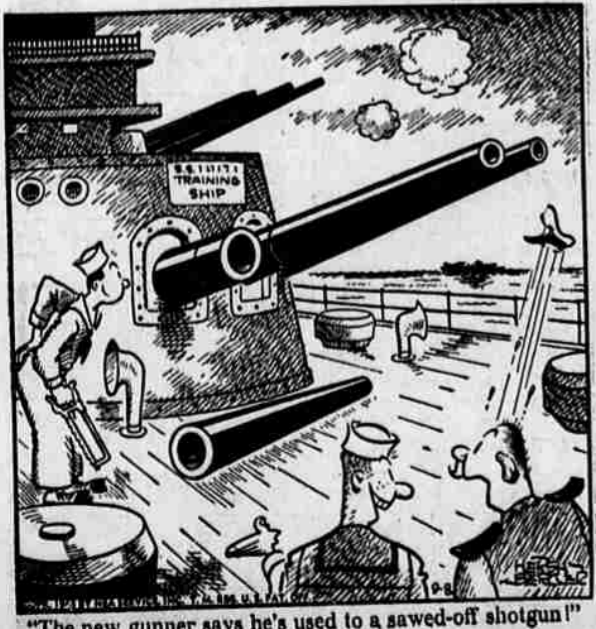
7620

Start the new season with your bedroom looking fresh and "spruced up." It's easy with this entirely new collection of smart bedspreads and dressing-table skirts. Variety to suit every taste! And right up to the minute in style. The popular pillows for your bed so much in vogue are included. Instructions 7620 contain directions for spreads and accessories.

To obtain this pattern send 11 cents in coin to The Herald and News, Household Arts Dept., Klamath Falls. Do not send this picture, but keep it and the number for reference. Be sure to wrap coin securely, as a loose coin often slips out of the envelope. Requests for patterns should read, "Send pattern No. _____ followed by your name and address."

Because of the slowness of the mails, delivery of Herald and News Household Arts patterns may take two weeks to reach you after your order is mailed in. We're sorry.

FUNNY BUSINESS



"The new gunner he's used to a sawed-off shotgun!"

Happy Nazi



This German Afrika Korps officer used to run with Rommel, but he didn't run fast enough and got caught. Brought to the U. S. for internment, he doesn't seem too unhappy about it all.

Our Out Way



Dairy

Friends extend their deepest sympathy to Olive Fraley and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fraley of Dairy in the loss of their husband and son, Claud Lee Fraley, who passed away at the family residence in Dairy on Wednesday afternoon, September 1. Claude received a medical discharge from the naval reserve corp last January and has been in ill health since that time.

Mrs. Lena Heim and son, Erwin, of Klamath Falls were visiting relatives and friends on Wednesday afternoon, September 1. Erwin left for Portland Thursday where he left by train for Virginia to take his Seabee basic training. Erwin's brother, Theodore, is stationed in the South Pacific on active duty.

HOLD EVERYTHING!



"I think it's some sort of a car pool."

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



The ROMANS BELIEVED THAT THE COMET OF 44 B.C. WAS SENT TO CONVEY THE SOUL OF JULIUS CAESAR TO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE.



BANANAS CAME TO MARKET WRAPPED IN TINFOIL... SACK IN THE LATTER PART OF THE LAST CENTURY.



QUOTING ODDS EVEN THOUGH RUBBER IS RATIONED YOU CAN STILL GET TIRED, Says JOSEPH L. LARKIN, Ottawa, Ontario.

ARCTIC ISLAND

Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 Depleted Arctic island
6 U. S. — have shelled it
13 Bury
14 Level
15 Perish
16 Cravings (slang)
18 And (Latin)
19 Belongs to me
20 Symbol for aluminum
22 Loose egg
23 Mordant dye
24 Rested
28 Company (abbr.)
27 Proceed
28 Inexpensive
30 Charm
32 Type measure
33 International language
34 Piercing
37 Sprite
39 Toward
40 Nor
44 Receptacle
46 Passage
47 At any time
49 Negative
50 Exists
51 Court (abbr.)
53 Prince
55 Crimson
57 Biblical pronoun
59 Articles
61 It is in the Islands
62 Indian's tent

5 Genus of herbs
6 Us
7 Hall
8 Steep in water
9 Symbol for stannum
10 Pastoral poem
11 3.1416

12 Book of six-leaved sheets
17 Halt
19 Polynesian language
21 Varnish ingredient
25 At that time
27 Government Issue (abbr.)

29 Makes corrections
31 It is a target for U. S. planes
34 Therefore
35 Hawaiian
36 Genus of Chinese trees
38 Metal fastener
39 Crown
41 Him
42 Night before
43 Send back
45 Rope loop
46 Assistant
48 Religious act
52 Beverage
54 Corded fabric
56 Cloth measure
57 Trinity term (abbr.)
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By J. R. Williams

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopla



Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon



Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



Wash Tubbs

By Crane



Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



Allep Oop

By Martin



Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray

