

UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

By Charles Courtney

COPYRIGHT, 1943, NEA SERVICE, INC.

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

CHAPTER IX

SOMETIMES I speculated about the treasures that were locked away with the 21,400,654 keys that New Yorkers carried about daily in their pockets and purses. Ten years ago we totaled 2,525,455 pounds of metal and, even so, these keys were but a fraction of the whole number that the city used to carry on its daily affairs. There were, in addition, the 12,755,371 keys that we left at home and the 6,708,368 that hung on the keyboards of hotels and institutions. Now we lose or leave at home or carry nearly twice that number.

Since we take the trouble to do such thorough locking up, you might conclude that we are lock-conscious and know how to take care of our valuables; on the contrary, keys lull us into a trance-like feeling of security. The front door is locked; we have the key; we feel safe even though the latch on the window can be forced with a penknife and a 10-year-old burglar can pick the cheap lock on the basement door.

Coming to the shop late one morning, I noticed a long brown roadster drawn up at the curb. An oldish, sandy-haired, impatient little man who might have been a banker was pacing back and forth in front of the door.

"Are you the locksmith?" he called to me. "I've been waiting a half hour. Will it take you long to unlock my front door?" Without waiting for an answer, he opened the car door. "Come, jump in."

"But I must get my tools," I protested. He followed me into the shop. "Can you identify yourself?" I asked him. "We don't open house doors unless we're sure the person is the owner." The man stuck his hands in his pockets and, with a sweeping, impatient gesture, spread out on my desk letters, car license, bank book, a tax receipt. "That will do," I assured him as he fished for more. We got into the car and he nervously hitched in and out of traffic like an erratic grasshopper.

WE turned into the east eighties and parked before one of a row of well-kept brownstone houses. The owner jumped out and ran up the steps.

"Here it is. Do you think it will take you long?" I followed him to the heavy blue door and looked at the lock.

"It might take a half hour, Mr. Larson," I told him. "You've got one of the finest made. How about the kitchen or basement door?" Without answering, he rang the bell of the house next door and spoke to the maid, who led us through the basement into a rear garden. There was a narrow gate in the high wooden fence. The man opened it and motioned me to come through.

On the other side was another garden, a trim square of lawn bordered with flower beds. The man was already rattling the handle of the back door "protected" by a cheap warded lock that I picked in a few seconds.

"What was wrong with the lock on that back door?" he snapped at me.

"Nothing. It was just a cheap one."

"Would it give a burglar any more trouble than it gave you?"

"It might take him five minutes with a piece of celluloid or a skeleton key."

"Then what in blazes is the use of my locking the front door with a fine brass lock—and it ought to be fine, I remember what it cost—when you can leap over a fence and come in the back way?" He glared at me as if I had sold him the lock.

"Don't ask me," I retorted, laughing at his fierceness. "I should be asking you."

"WHEN I think how much money I've put into it, to have you open the door in less than a minute makes my blood boil. The first thing is to get a new key for the front door. One will do. I have my name on the ring and I'm sure someone will return it. They always do."

"In that case," I suggested, "I'd better change the combination. It's a very simple job. I don't have to remove the lock, just the

cylinder. And when you have lost a key and want the combination changed, all you have to do is to loosen the set screw on the side of the lock and take the cylinder to a locksmith. Then no one can use the old key. You can't tell how many people have duplicates of yours by this time."

Mr. Larson looked at me sharply.

"In other words, you mean I'm an idiot to label my keys?" Yes, I did think so, but he was only one of thousands who practically invite robberies by this open-handed practice. Lost key cases and rings with names on them are like pennies from heaven to crooks. Even the least enterprising will return the keys, collect a reward and, some time afterward, use duplicates to rob you.

"By the way," he shot at me as we were leaving, "is there any such thing as 'burglarproof'?"

"Practically," I replied. And that is the essence of the matter. Theoretically, no lock is burglar-proof because what the ingenuity of one man has invented, the mind of another can solve. But practically, a lock may remain burglar-proof for a great many years. That's why safe or door locks that I cannot pick, but I have spent a quarter of a century studying them and not many crooks have taken that trouble.

(To Be Continued)

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

ROSES ON LINENS



7614



Almost everyone's favorite flower is the rose; have fun making these gorgeous sprays in colorful cotton in outline and single stitch on your sparkling white linens... your towels... your lunch cloths... your napkins. Best of all, get a few lovely gifts under way! Pattern 7614 contains a transfer pattern of 10 motifs from 4 x 4 1/2 to 7 x 8 inches; list of materials needed.

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. 7614, to _____, 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.

First auto to reach a two-mile-a-minute speed was a Stanley Steamer, in 1904. The car was thoroughly streamlined.

New Food Poster

PRODUCE AND CONSERVE SHARE AND PLAY SQUARE



Symbol of the government's new food campaign is this poster urging farmers and victory gardeners to produce all they can, asking everybody to eat and preserve foods and eliminate waste, and calling for ousting of black markets.



\$25 CREDIT ONLY \$5 DOWN \$5 A MONTH

Don't wait till you have the money to buy the things you need. Get \$25 buying power in Purchase Coupons today and spend it when you need it for any number of articles which don't cost more than \$5 each. Or pay a little more down and get coupons that buy higher priced merchandise. Usual carrying charges.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



THREE BABIES WERE BORN TO THREE SISTERS IN THREE DAYS... TWO ARRIVING ON THE SAME HOUR OF THE SAME DAY... JUNE, 1943.

THE BABIES: JOAN MARY ANTONSON, WILLIAM KAY RASMUSSEN, ROBERT PALMER STEIN. ALL GRANDCHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. THEO. LOKKEN, Hattingen, North Dakota.

T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF. CORP. 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC.



NEW GUINEA WITCH DOCTORS WEAR TALL STRAW MASKS TO GIVE THEM SUPERIOR HEIGHT AND ADDED GROSSNESS.

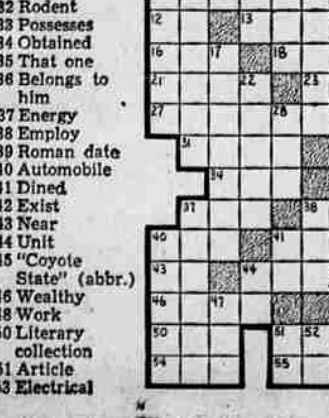
NEXT: The first channel crossing by air.

VETERAN BASEBALL MANAGER

HORIZONTAL

- 1 Pictured baseball team manager.
- 9 Flying mammal.
- 12 Isle of Man (abbr.).
- 13 Wood sorrel.
- 14 Negative word.
- 15 Ozone.
- 16 Jewel.
- 17 Discover.
- 20 Gaelic.
- 21 Expression of sorrow.
- 23 East Indies (abbr.).
- 24 Metal peg.
- 26 Music note.
- 27 Amount of rent.
- 29 Fowl.
- 30 Furniture for sleep.
- 31 Mountain lake.
- 32 Rodent.
- 33 Possesses.
- 34 Obtained.
- 35 That one.
- 36 Belongs to him.
- 37 Energy.
- 38 Employ.
- 39 Roman date.
- 40 Automobile.
- 41 Dined.
- 42 Exist.
- 43 Near.
- 44 Unit.
- 45 "Coyote State" (abbr.).
- 46 Wealthy.
- 48 Work.
- 50 Literary collection.
- 51 Article.
- 53 Electrical.

- Answer to Previous Puzzle
- 193.1416
- 20 Half an em.
- 22 Razor strap.
- 24 Fondle.
- 25 Within.
- 28 Insect.
- 29 Detest.
- 30 He is a ball.
- 31 veteran.
- 32 Ascend.
- 33 Concealed.
- 36 He.
- 37 Green rust.
- 38 Shoshone.
- 40 Gem weight.
- 41 Any.
- 44 Farewell (Fr.).
- 45 Exclamation.
- 47 Therefore.
- 48 Beverage.
- 49 Sheltered side.
- 51 Symbol for thallium.
- 52 Him.



Put down 'furlough' for cause of accident.

Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT A GUY DRESSING UP TO GO HOME FROM A SHOP-- BUT WHEN THEY GO TO DRESS UP AFTER THEY GET TO THE SHOP IT'S HECTIC!

WELL, AFTER 30 YEARS, YOU DASN'T SURELY START TH' BIG CHANGE AT HOME, IF YOU'VE GOT A WIFE!

OH, I'D DO IT TOO, BUT MY SISTER-IN-LAW WORKS HERE AND SHE'D SPILL TH' BEANS! NO, I WOULDN'T DARE PUT ON EVEN A TIE NOW!

I GOT THE HOTTEST NEWS SINCE THEN GAVE MUSSOLINI THE BUN'S RUSH!-- UNCLE BULGY IS A MOTORMAN-- TODAY HE GOT ON THE WRONG TRACK AND A LADY MOTORMAN MADE HIM BACK UP!

SO THE OLD GLOBE-TROTTER IS A TROLLEY ADMIRAL! HOW WILL A GUY WITH SO MUCH WILD GOOSE IN HIM EVER STAY ON THE BEAM?

THAT EXPLAINS THE STREET CAR WE SAW TODAY WITH OUT A JOCKEY-- HE MUST HAVE SPIED US AND SUBMERGED!

THEY'LL PULL OFF HIS TROLLEY TONIGHT!

BOOTLEG

J. R. WILLIAMS

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopla



THEY'LL PULL OFF HIS TROLLEY TONIGHT!

J. R. WILLIAMS

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon



RED RYDER

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



FRECKLES

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Wash Tubbs

By Crans



WASH TUBBS

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



BOOTS

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Allep Oop

By Martin



ALLEP OOP

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

9-10

Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

COPY, 1943 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

9-10