

# UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

By Charles Courtney

COPYRIGHT, 1948, 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 XI

An old safe in my window with an ingenious combination lock drew a Japanese student into my shop one afternoon in 1925. Mr. Kato, who was taking a post-graduate course at Columbia, told me that he was studying bank vault designing and that his father was connected with the Imperial Bank of Japan. The son expected to return and take up his father's business.

Kato told me that some safes and vaults in Tokyo which had been damaged by the earthquake two years earlier were still locked. So, when Kato returned to Japan at the end of the year, I went with him.

In the three weeks that I spent in Tokyo, I opened about twenty safes and, after repairing a few of them myself, saw that capable Japanese mechanics could finish them.

During my stay, Kato gave a dinner for me, inviting American engineers and those of his friends who had been educated in the United States. Although I felt that my legs were paralyzed from sitting tailwise on the floor and wondered if I would ever be able to walk again, I was interested in the banker on my right.

Toward the end of the evening, he said to me, "Mr. Courtney, I know I can trust your discretion. I have a safe for which I do not have the combination, and I need its contents. Will you open it for me?"

SEVERAL days later I dined with the banker and, after dinner, was taken to a small, decidedly feminine, richly furnished room. Moving a carved jade screen, he showed me an American safe of a good make, a model about 15 years old.

"This," he said, "is my wife's safe. When I gave it to her, I told her the combination and deliberately kept no record of it myself because I wanted her to feel that the contents of it were hers and could not be touched by anyone, not even me."

His wife, he told me, was a very beautiful woman. She loved jewelry, and he enjoyed giving them to her because he considered them a good investment. A year earlier, the wife had died in an automobile accident. Now the banker wanted to convert the jewels into securities and get his affairs in order for a nephew who had no interest in them.

I worked at the safe for an hour. Opening the door, I stood back and waited for my host to look at the contents. On a shelf was a package of letters with American postmarks but addressed in bold, precise Japanese brush strokes, and a carved rose carnation in a velvet case. Gently the banker lifted out the letters, yellowed envelopes with a faint and musty perfume.

"I brought her on my first trip to the United States after we were married. He put the envelope on a low table betwixt us. "Do you like gems, Mr. Courtney?" he asked. These at the finest in Japan. Pushing the box toward me, he opened the lid. The box was full of pretty little dried red berries that looked as if they might have come from a holly tree I glanced at my host, embarrassed, not knowing what to say. His face was paper-white and his eyes darted.

Slowly he tipped the box and poured out the red berries, letting them spill on the floor. In the bottom was a thin, folded bit of paper, a woman's letter paper with a spray of pink blossoms across the top. He spread out the paper and as he looked at the delicate characters, the color came back to his face.

"JAPANESE politics are too involved for me to tell you the details," the banker said, "but I'd like you to know what a splendid thing my wife did. Three years ago my business was on the verge of collapse. One of our directors, to whom we had lent an imprudent amount of money on the stock of his large and flourishing investment business, became involved in a political scandal, the

kind that ruins the confidence of investors, which was likely to make his stock practically worthless. If we called our loans, he would surely be ruined and couldn't pay anything. If we carried him, we would probably go down in the crash.

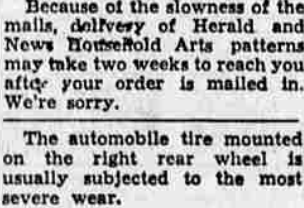
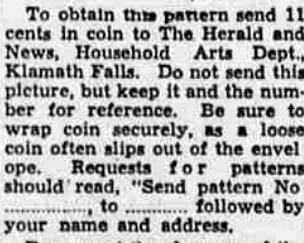
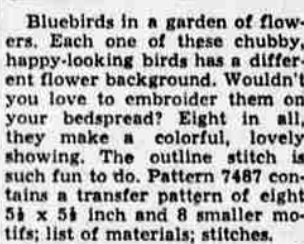
"Although I tried never to bring my business worries home, it was impossible to keep my state of mind from my wife. She knew that I was troubled for fear the whole business that I had inherited from my father would topple, and she knew that I breathed freely again when the threatened director was able, through some miracle, to raise cash, clear his loan at the bank, and ride out the storm.

"My wife was the miracle. She had faith in him, believed he would eventually repay her, and in any case, risked her private fortune to save me. These berries were her method of keeping accounts. Mr. Courtney, she was a remarkable woman. See for yourself."

The banker rose and went into another room, stepping carefully on the red berries, and returned in a few minutes with an ivory miniature. It was an exquisite, expressionless, doll-like face above a European evening gown. The painter had done the emeralds around the neck with more understanding than he had the woman.

(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.)



# Dismissal of OPA Enforcement Man Brings Charge

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 13 (AP)—Dismissal of John T. McTernan as chief regional enforcement attorney for the office of price administration brought from him today a charge that Regional Director Frank E. Marsh "has prevented the enforcement division from carrying out its duties."

McTernan issued a statement declaring "if you are paying more for groceries and meat and vegetables—and you are—and if restaurant prices still are soaring—and they are—you have Marsh to blame."

## Gigantic Coins

Stone money is used in the Caroline Islands of the South Pacific ocean. Some of these massive coins are 12 feet in diameter.



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

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

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

## THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



**THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY...**  
A CRACK IN THE EARTH'S SURFACE 4,000 MILES LONG!  
GEOGRAPHERS HAVE TRACED AN OPENING IN THE EARTH FROM THE JORDAN VALLEY, PALESTINE, THROUGH THE RED SEA, ABYSSINIA, AND EAST AFRICA, TO LAKE NYASA.



ROME. BEFORE THE WAR, HAD A HIGHER BIRTHRATE THAN ANY OTHER METROPOLIS IN EUROPE OR AMERICA... 22.4 PER THOUSAND.

BRITISH DIPLOMAT

**HORIZONTAL**

1, 5 Pictured British diplomat

11 Samarium (symbol)

13 Bit of news

14 He is an expert on foreign

16 Boy

17 Battlefield of World War I

18 Dance step

19 Exclamation

20 Anima's foot

21 Equity

23 Father

24 Rodent

25 Id est (abbr.)

26 Always

29 Believed

31 Print measure

33 Road (abbr.)

34 Be

36 Otherwise

38 Tantalum (symbol)

39 Inlet

40 Behold!

42 Democrat (abbr.)

45 Obtain

46 Mother

47 Frozen water

49 Believed

52 Twice (prefix)

53 He is a famous

55 Destroy

56 Toward

57 Make certain

58 Skills

**VERTICAL**

1 Distend

2 Western state

3 Federal (abbr.)

4 Frequency modulation (abbr.)

5 Ship's staff

6 Over (contr.)

7 Ancient

8 Man's name

9 Sicilian mountain

10 Rhode Island (abbr.)

11 Fastener

12 Attack

15 Opera (abbr.)

17 Tub

20 Standard of value

22 Be victorious

24 Send payment

26 Ahead of time

28 Annoy

29 Therefore

30 Hypothetical structural units

32 Near

34 Join army

35 Sorrowful

36 Dine

37 Eradicates

39 Place to sleep

41 Eight (prefix)

43 Paradise

44 Army meal (abbr.)

45 Suffix

46 Fox

48 Each (abbr.)

50 Australian bird

51 Spoil

52 Prevent

54 Palm lily

55 Egyptian sun god

## Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams

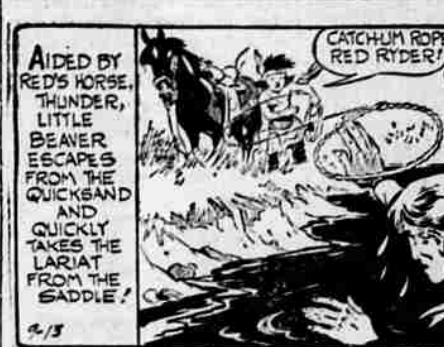


## HOLD EVERYTHING!



"They turned down my request for new tires—I don't know how I'll ever get used to being without a car!"

## Red Ryder



## Freckles and His Friends



## Wash Tubbs



## Boots and Her Buddies



## Allep Oop



## Little Orphan Annie



## Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopes



## Red Ryder



## Freckles and His Friends



## Wash Tubbs



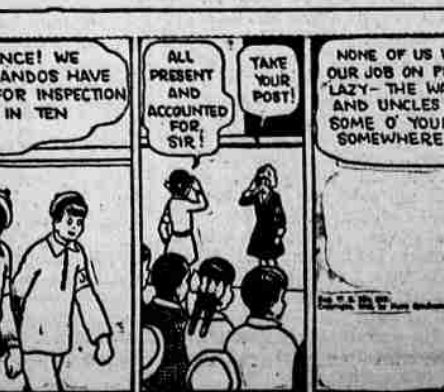
## Boots and Her Buddies



## Allep Oop



## Little Orphan Annie



# FUNNY BUSINESS



"What are you crabbing about? You said 50 cents, didn't you?"

# FUNNY BUSINESS



"What are you crabbing about? You said 50 cents, didn't you?"