

UNLOCKING ADVENTURE

By Charles Courtney

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 XVII

I SAILED for Germany in the spring of 1932. When ship's news reporters asked whose fortune I was unlocking on this trip, I could honestly say that I didn't know. They thought I was being mysterious, but it was not until we were well at sea that I was given a sealed envelope of instructions, and even when I read them I knew little more than I had before. A single line directed me to the address of an engineer in Bremen.

When we docked, the customs officials looked suspiciously at my burglar tools, but as my credentials were in order they let me through. At the home of the engineer, one of the outstanding men in his profession, I learned that my job was to be opening the safes on the French liner Egypt, that had sunk in the Bay of Biscay in 1922.

I knew about the Egypt and the jinx that had dogged the salvagers who had tried to bring up her \$5,000,000 of gold and silver bullion. The French ship that discovered her was nearly wrecked by storms; the second, an Italian ship, was badly damaged; and the crew of the third had been so eager for the gold that they had not moved her off far enough when a charge of dynamite boiled up under the water and tore her to bits.

They did not expect me to go down, but they wanted me to give long-distance instructions for opening the chests that remained under water. Knowing the position of the safes and their make, I studied their blueprints and after 24 hours had drawn up plans.

The engineer flew to Brest with my instructions. While he was away, his son, who was himself studying engineering, told me about the new diving methods and apparatus that the company employed.

"The grandest thing is that you don't have to decompress," he told me, "and you don't have to be an experienced diver. Anyone can go down safely and stay as long as his oxygen holds out. It's a rigid steel suit with movable arms and legs, all capable of resisting such great pressure that the air on the inside remains at the normal atmospheric pressure. No more bends. No more iron doctor. The whole breathing apparatus is in the suit. Through a mask over the mouth and nose, you inhale a small amount of fresh oxygen from a bottle in the suit, and exhale the carbon dioxide into a little respirator that can be exchanged when the air gets too foul without coming to the surface."

After a few days the engineer returned with the news that two of the safes had been opened without difficulty, but there had been no luck with the others. We flew back to Brest and went out to the Artiglio II, the salvage ship that was anchored over the wreck. It was a dirty ship with a gang of 30 or 40 divers in addition to the crew. They took great risks for miserable wages and the hope of a share in the booty. In the ordinary rubber diving suits they were going to dangerous depths, and every few days there were accidents and fatalities. But human life was cheap and the lure of gold was strong. The armored suits cost \$20,000 each, they told me, so there were only three of them for expert divers.

ON deck was one of the chests that had been ripped from the floor and drilled so full of holes that it looked like a sieve. This gave little trouble but there remained another, the large purser's safe at a depth of 380 feet. They decided to open this on the bottom. When I examined the armored suit I broke my resolve never to go down again.

The suit was good if I didn't slip or lose my balance, but so clumsy that I had the horrible feeling of being caged in an iron tube.

BACK on deck I instructed the carpenter to build an enormous blackboard, as large as the front of the chest. On it I made a diagram of the exact dimensions of the safe marked it off in squares

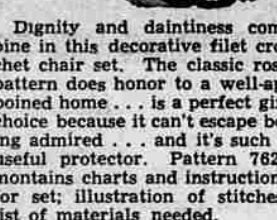
and indicated with accuracy where the men should drill to release the lock.

For a week I stayed on board directing the work. Although I did not go down again, I watched this crew of untrained fishermen divers bawling, fighting, stabbing one minute, and crying like children the next. Naturally emotional they were working under almost unbearable tension now that they actually handled the treasure. Every morning before breakfast, the captain rumbled through morning prayers, and again as each stage went down. At night there was wine for all, and the relief of escaping another day of peril made the men either quarrelsome or melancholy. Twice during that week, a diver climbed up to the pilot house and jumped into the sea that he could fight no longer.

At last we finished hauling up the gold coins, jewels, and stacks of rupee notes. With the tension removed, the reward so near, the men went wild. All the grudges and vendettas that had smoldered while they knew that they must work together flared up with such violence that the captain had hard work to keep them from slaughtering each other. All over the deck, rupee notes were spread out to dry, and it was difficult to move without walking on money.

(To Be Continued)

USEFUL DECORATION



Dignity and daintiness combine in this decorative fillet crocheted chair set. The classic rose pattern does honor to a well-appointed home... is a perfect gift choice because it can't escape being admired... and it's such a useful protector. Pattern 7625 contains charts and instructions for set; illustration of stitches; 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. _____, 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.

Two smokestacks at Anaconda, Mont., are said to be the tallest in the world. They are 585 feet high.

DECLINING

The tuberculosis death rate for the state of Washington was 39.8 per 100,000 of the population during 1938, as compared with 43.1 per 100,000 of the population in 1938.

BEES AS SPIES

Bees can be used as spies. They carry messages by means of carrying colors painted on their backs, and they have strong homing instincts.

PALM WARBLERS

Palm warblers of Labrador winter in Louisiana, while those of northwestern Canada spend their winters in the Greater Antilles.

ELEPHANTS CATCH COLD

Boiling vinegar is used to treat elephants suffering from colds. A large bag is slipped over the trunk and the elephant made to inhale the vinegar.

If it's a "frozen" article you need, advertise for a used one in the classified.



YOU DON'T NEED CASH AT SEARS-USE PURCHASE COUPONS

You go to the Credit Office just once to get a book full of coupons... then you spend the coupons just like cash all through the store. There's no fuss or formality, no signing sales slips. Small down payment and monthly repayments. Usual carrying charge.

GET YOURS TODAY AT Your SEARS CREDIT Office

Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



Our Boarding House

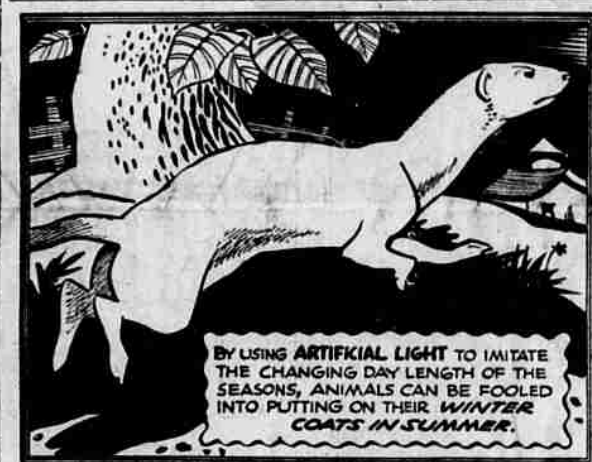
With Major Hoople



New U. S. rubber boss is Col. Bradley Dewey, named to succeed director William Jeffers, who resigned.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



SOME STARS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE INTERIOR TEMPERATURES OF 1,800,000 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT!



NEXT: Do meteors bury themselves striking the earth?

FLYING FIGHTING MAN

HORIZONTAL

1 Pictured warrior is a

10 Within

12 Any

13 Horse's gait

14 Avenue (abbr.)

15 Perform

16 Steep in water

18 Idle

20 Writing instrument

21 Two

23 Carried forward (abbr.)

24 Clamor

26 Animals

28 Tribe

29 Nickname for Harold

31 Pertaining to stars

34 Abstract being

37 Half an em

38 Lily genus

39 Exclamation

40 Hearing organ

42 Frozen rains

44 Pig pen

45 On the sheltered side

47 And (Latin)

48 He lands behind enemy

50 Olive drab (abbr.)

52 Age

53 Water course

56 Therefore

57 Australian bird

58 Nothing (prefix)

59 Symbol for antinum

60 These soldiers

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SOUTH DAKOTA

PARSEE ORISONS

ERA PENMAN PSI

NIRED BKSA AX

BEES SETA

SOUTH DAKOTA

MARS DENIM

ADOE WIRE

PAWN MILAN

NR ONE

TIMBARR

IRK BE

ARARETSTIAN

BISCUIT EELERS

SKINNY ALONE

train at Fort

VERTICAL

1 Section

2 Afresh

3 Near

4 African jails

5 Decay

6 Pertaining to ear

7 Dance step

8 Uniformly

9 Music note

10 Roman date

11 Not any

12 Chinese

13 money of account

14 From

15 Tree

16 Illustrated (abbr.)

25 On account (abbr.)

27 Not fresh

28 Nazis used this type of soldier to take

29 Reckless

30 Literary collection

32 Beverage

33 Male deer

35 Negative word

36 Bashful

41 Genus of frogs

42 East Indian plant

43 Powerful

46 French article

49 Metal

50 Either

51 Ceylonese vessel

54 Race

55 Yonder

57 Symbol for erbium

Red Ryder

By Fred Harman



Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



Wash Tubbs

By Crane



Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



Allep Oop

By Martin

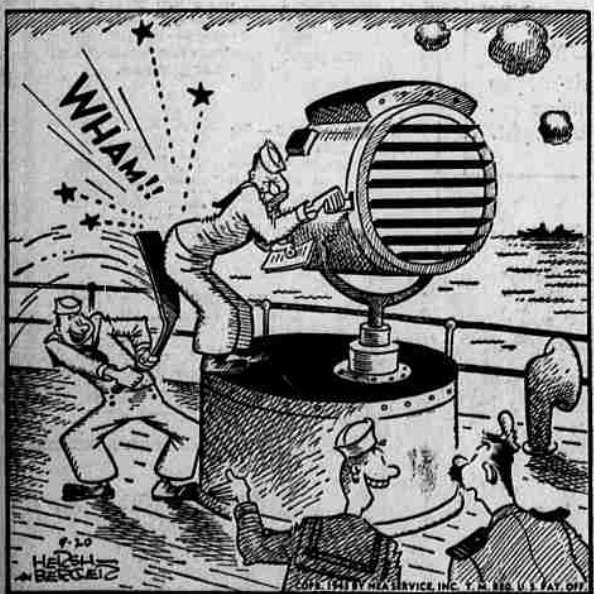


Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray



FUNNY BUSINESS



"We're trying to break him of splitting infinitives in his messages!"