

PARADISE IS HERE

By Alma Sioux-Scarberry
WRITTEN FOR AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER ONE

Romya Halle, at the end of what she was determined should be the last idle summer of her young life, looked up from the radio magazine she was reading and saw that she was no longer passing through fields of corn and wheat.

At last, Chicago! Her amazing gray-green eyes with the black sweeping lashes were a little deeper and darker with her inner excitement. A faint tinge of pink touched the sun tan of her oval face.

In the suitcase beside her was her diploma from Indiana university, and in her purse five dollars. Aside from that, she told herself whimsically, her assets were nil. Unless you took into consideration the fact that she was beautiful and twenty.

Powdering her small, slender nose, and adding a little more red to full tender lips, Romya reached up and took down the dark green feathered pancake hat Aunt Ceceilia had sent from Paris. She sat it upon her sleek, jet black hair with a flourish. A silly but divine chap!

As she stood up in the closely fitting gray-green jacket and matching swing skirt that barely touched her knees, it could be seen that she was tall and slender, long limbed and graceful.

Stepping off the train, Romya selected her bag and hat box from the porter, waving away a redcap who reached for the luggage. She was certain she needed the few pennies more than he did, even if she didn't look it. The colored man gave her a disappointed look and shrugged, turning his attention to a fat man with two sample cases.

Down the platform Romya paused at the station door looking for the familiar face of her best friend and college room mate, Charlotte O'Neil. But Cholly did not seem to be there. At that moment her eyes fell upon a young man with a microphone who had stepped quickly forward and motioned to her.

She recognized him at once as Brent Nelson, announcer and master of ceremonies of the "Hello Stranger" program. Romya would have hurried away, but an assistant had his hand on her arm. There was no escape, without being rude, Nelson smiled, shaking her dark green gloved hand.

"Welcome, stranger! Will you say a few words for use?" Romya swallowed, quickly getting her bearings. Afraid of a microphone? Ridiculous! That was what she had come to Chicago for. The famous announcer was turning on the full power of his charm to put her at ease.

"Our first customer this evening, folk, is a beautiful young lady. Very, very beautiful. Jack, run home and get my book of superlatives! May we have your name, please?"

Romya found her voice. "Romya—Romya Halle." "Lovely name—Romya. Gypsy. And lovely black hair and a sun tan to go with it, too. A shame we haven't got television over here at the station. Where are you from, Romya?"

"Leeville, Indiana." "Nice little town. I've been through there. On your way to school somewhere, I'll bet."

"No, I graduated from Indiana university this spring." "Well, bless my old whiskers!" Nelson beamed and shook her hand again. "My old alma mater! I must have been taking it of Indiana U. just about the time you went in. You can take it from me, folk, we grow the most beautiful co-eds in the world out around Indiana. Why did you come to Chicago, Miss Halle? To visit?"

Romya by that time was feeling quite at home. She smiled, wrinkling her nose, and Brent Nelson's susceptible heart beat a little faster.

"You mustn't laugh at me," Romya lowered her voice, "and I'll tell you."

"Laugh! I should say not," Brent assured her. "Come on, tell us."

"Well," Romya confided, "I came to Chicago to get on the radio."

"The crowd roared." "I certainly didn't take you jones," Nelson chuckled. "Is this your first experience before a mike?"

"The very first."

"Well, Romya, we pause to predict right here that it won't be your last. You have a lovely speaking voice, poise, beauty — everything it takes, I should say, to break into radio."

There was applause from the audience. "Thank you," Romya sighed. "I hope you're right."

"What branch of radio are you interested in?" Romya looked a little self-conscious.

"I want to be a dramatic actress." "Fine! You'll make it," Nelson assured her. "I bet you got that yen playing in the dramatic club at Indiana."

"I'm afraid I did," she admitted. "So did I." The announcer laughed, and was interrupted by an alarm clock going off in a box beside him. Romya looking surprised, stepped back.

"The prize?" Nelson reached into his pocket and took out an envelope. "This is your lucky night, Miss Halle. You get the thirty-five dollars that Haller's Desserts presents on this program every Saturday evening."



She recognized him at once as Brent Nelson

with excitement close by. Nelson extended his hand again: "We thank you very much, Miss Halle, for this Haller interview, and may we tell you we'll all be hoping your dreams come true in Chicago. If you're ever around the Interstate Broadcasting building, run in and say 'Hello,' and we'll talk about Indiana U. How's that?" "I'd love it — and thank you!" Romya smiled and hurried away to join Charlotte. "Cholly!" She held the envelope

out. "You look in it. I'm afraid it isn't real." Cholly embraced her excitedly. "Aren't you the lucky thing? I just can't believe it! And you were wonderful, Romya, really you were! I'd have choked to death. You were so natural." "Was I really?" Romya asked breathlessly. "Oh, I hope so! Isn't Brent Nelson wonderful? I'd no idea he was so handsome." (Continued on Page Eleven)

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
SEEDS OF THE CHALMOOGRA TREE, OF INDIA, ARE WORTH MORE THAN TEN TIMES THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD TO HUMANITY!
OIL EXTRACTED FROM THEM IS USED IN ARRESTING LEPROSY.



NAME A COUNTRY OR STATE THAT BEGINS, BUT DOES NOT END, WITH THE LETTER "A."

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. Seize
 5. On top
 9. Ireland
 10. Mother
 11. Asterisk
 12. Young herring
 13. Severe
 14. Unfasten
 16. Greek letter
 17. S-shaped worm
 19. Any powerful deity
 20. Extent
 23. Spines
 26. Fame
 28. Destiny
 29. Aristocrat
 31. Entreaty
 35. Wild sheep
 40. Pliant
 42. A rod
 43. Siberian river
 44. Girl's name
 46. At home
 47. Decorative ensemble
 50. Sharp teeth
 53. To defeat
 54. A fish
 55. Measure of length
 56. Talk wildly
 57. Deadly pale
 58. Epochs

- DOWN**
1. Gesticulate
 2. Ceremony
 3. Sandalwood tree
 4. Capital of Switzerland
 5. Waylay
 6. Mountain pool
 7. Leave out
 8. Long-suffering
 13. Submerged tree
 15. Otherwise
 18. Manager
 21. Half an em
 22. Near by
 24. From
 25. Sun god
 27. Music note
 30. Nay
 31. Trudge
 32. African republic
 33. Type measure
 34. Jewish month
 36. Overhead
 37. Achieve
 38. Dismounts
 39. Lairs
 41. Terrestrial
 45. Before
 48. Studies
 49. Jewel setting
 51. An armadillo
 52. Novel by Zola

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OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

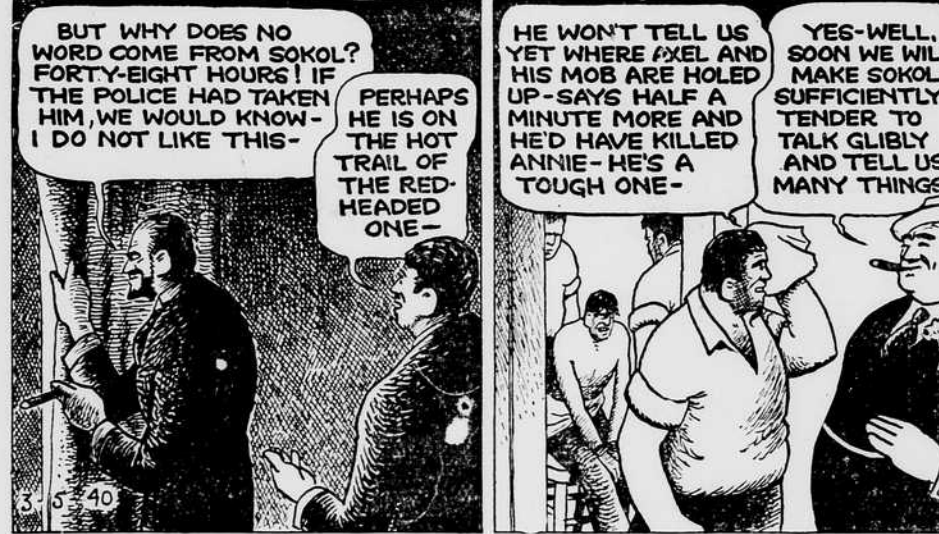


BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

OUR BOARDING HOUSE . . . with . . . Major Hoop



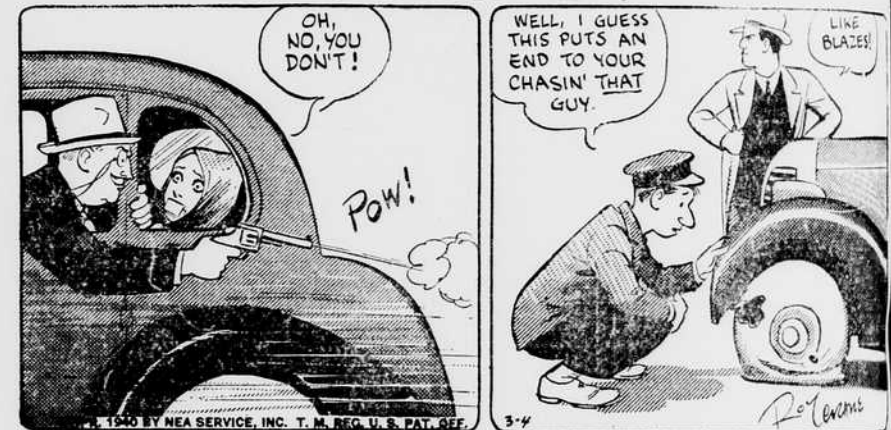
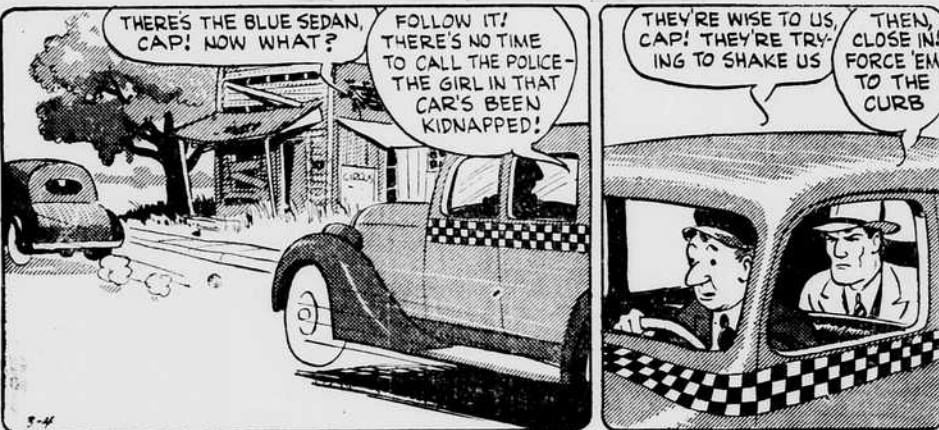
LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



WASH TUBBS

It's Only The Beginning

By Roy Crane



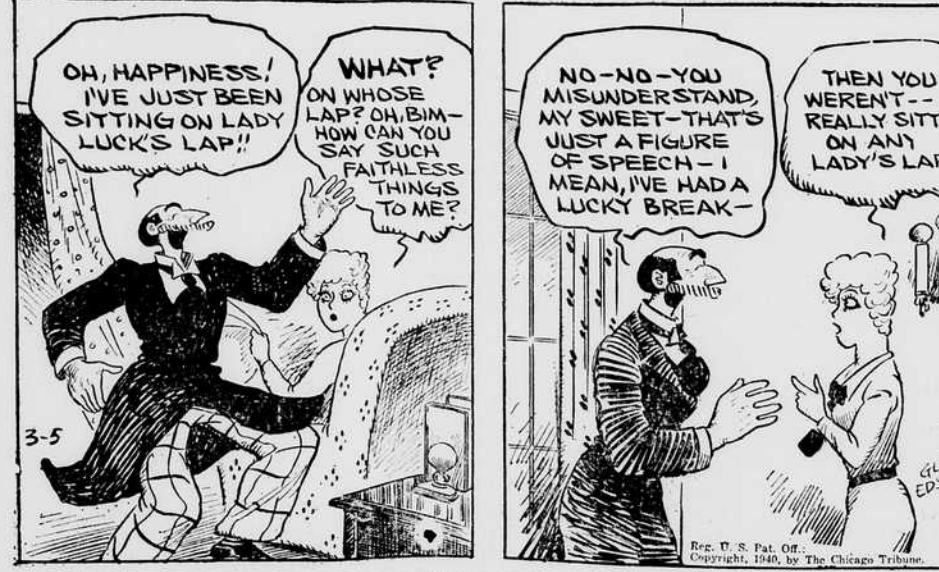
GASOLINE ALLEY

Why Bring That Up



THE GUMPS

The Happiness Boy



BRICK BRADFORD—And the Metal Monster

By William Ritt and Clarence Gray

