## BEFORE THE BLITZKRIEG RUPERT GRAYSON

"Well, I'm afraid it's got to be got to take the plane and get happened.

a bit vague—so much depends on away."

When she a bit vague—so much depends on away.

Chance—on how things work out.

You know. But two things are of you know. But two things are of the control of the con imporance — somehow or other I gether delightedly. must get hold of the key of the arsenal. That's really the key po- tall order, my boy." sition on the island. If the worst sition on the island. If the worst, and we have tall orders before, in my time." happened. I don't exactly know what it is, but they've received a to fall back on the arsenal—well, Gun laughed softly. we shall have 'em beat for the suppose it's of the first imporsuppose it's of the first importance, really—is to get hold of the us, at the worst," Tommy grinned. can make Tommy talk tonight he's key of this gate, and smuggle us Gun said nothing, but inwardly going to try physical torture—he's key of this gate, and shuggle us out of here, I don't quite see how he thought: "That's just it—they got some fiendish plan he wants

Coral interrupted with a smile:

our way out.'

'All right—then I'll go out a lit- ance for Otto's jealousy. tle before that, and wait till they are asleep."

"But Otto and Co.'ll be listenyou don't get back. We won't want THEM interferring."

Anything may happen—and at any do—or, really, what Coral has to do, since the majority of the onus

Coral thought for a moment,

prepare a long monologue, in dramatic and unpleasant way. I'll ask if I can go upstairs. Or gate, and Gun exclaimed sharply: the outcome will be, Tommy, that you can insist that I come out in the garden for a little while. Oh, That's Coral's voice!" we'll find a way, somehow."

tening and her lips slightly part- ward the door with her usual ed. Gun surprised the expression graceful, rather languid walk, but in Tommy's eyes as he looked at

"All right," he agreed. "I suppose it's useless crossing bridges until we come to 'em-but I'd like to have a map of the route, all the same. Now, you'll have to make them think that you're progressing well with Tommy here. and that by tomorrow you'll have him just where you want him. And they must believe that tomorrow night is the climax-that by the time you come back Tommy will be ready to do all that you-and they-want him to do.'

Coral laughed. "They won't love ME, will they." Gun suddenly became grave. "That's what I don't like about

it-the danger to you." "Don't be ridiculous. Should I be working for X if I was worried about danger?"

"I didn't say YOU were worried-I said I was."

"Just don't worry, then. Now, Tommy, I want you to drift into the bungalow with me, so that they can hear an affecting farewell between us. I could wish you were a better actor. So long, Gun!"

"So long, Coral! And-good hunting." "Amen!"

Gun's lazy eyes followed the pair across the lawn to the bungalow. He had heard men say that women were no good in offices, and that they were not capable of holding down executive jobs, or doing men's work. Coral might not be any good in an office, but she certainly could hold down a man's job, when it came to it.

The time passed quickly in discussing various plans for dealing with the situation.

"The job," Gun remarked, "is plain enough. One, we've got to get out of here. Two, we've got to deal with Otto and Trent. Three, we've got to destroy all the planes but one-that we shall need to get ANSWER: Plug hat,

| away in. Four, we've got to blow | Gun sensed from the tensity of her "After we blow up the arsenal?" up the arsenal, and, if possible, figure that she was holding herdestroy the factory. Five, we've self in, and that something had

When she saw them she made a

"Something very awkward has

message of some sort-by radio,

Tommy whistled softly,

"That's torn it," he commented,

"Hell!" said Gun, briefly. He

"I'm ready!" cried Tommy.

"No doubt!" retorted Gun, dry-

"That's so," Coral agreed. "How

'Yes. It's on his key-ring."

(Continued on Page Eleven)

CAN YOU NAME FOUR

KINDS OF PLUGS 9

By William

Ferguson

"It may do-but it's a damned ried up to them.

"Dare say-but I've dealt with happened. I don't exactly know

"So have I, I suppose. But this I suppose. Anyway, it's upset we shall have em beat 10 are one seems a little different, or perond important thing—or, rather, I haps that's just my imagination." they've got to speed up their plans "They can't do more than kill and now Otto says that unless I

it's going to be done, but if you CAN, and if we fail they will." to try out on you, I believe, Tomcould lay your hand on a duplicate They discussed the matter ex- my-and if that doesn't work he's key, somehow—Trent has one, you haustively until dinner time, and going to shoot you both out of know—and then draw the guard made a dozen plans, only to re- hand. off for a moment while we slip ject them again, or to hold them

in reserve. During the meal Tommy was in in a low voice. 'I think I can manage that. I've high, spirits, and Gun had the got Trent's dope tablets-pretend- greatest difficulty in stopping him thought for a moment, and then ed I had insomnia; the idea struck from making some reference to went on: "Well, there's only one me all of a sudden. They work in the escape, which would almost thing for it—we must act tonight, about half an hour. I'll prepare a certainly be heard through the instead of tomorrow." flask of wine for the sentries, and microphone. He thanked the gods, give it to them before I come in. too, that Trent and Otto would put his cheerfulness down to the fact ly. "But the trouble is that Coral Then, when it works . . ."

his cheerfulness down to the fact ly. "But the trouble is that Cora "Fine!" Gun put in. "But if that he was making progress with isn't. It's she who needs the time." you're inside when the guard goes Coral. And this, Gun told himself. off to sleep, we've still got to break would be all to the good. But in on earth am I going to get hold thinking thus, he made no allow- of that arsenal key-tonight?"

> After dinner they went out into inquired, sharply. the garden.

'The truth of the matter is,' ing in, no doubt, and they'll get Gun said, "that it's quite impossi- work, of course, but it's just a suspicious if they don't hear your ble to make any cut-and-dried chance. Here's what we've got to voice—or if they hear you go, and plan. It's all a matter of chance. do—or, really, what Coral has to

And just about that space of bungalow, and have a general time after he had spoken, the truth talk. Then I'll tactfully suggest "Very well. Then you'll have to of his words was proved in a very going up to bed, and leaving you prepare a long monologue, in dramatic and unpleasant way.
which I shan't have to speak. Or
There were sounds from the your stuff—stage your show. And

you will give in, and tell Coral They turned back to the bunga- they bring the money over with to inform Otto and Trent that if

She was excited, her eyes glis- low to meet her. She walked to- them in the morning, you're pre-

FARE

OF ONLY

ONE CENT

IT WOULD

TWENTY-SIX

BILLION DOLLARS

TO TRAVEL

NEAREST

NOTCHES

ON THE BEAK

FALCON

ENABLE IT TO

INSTEAD OF

TEARING IT!

CUT ITS MEAT

TO THE

A MILE,

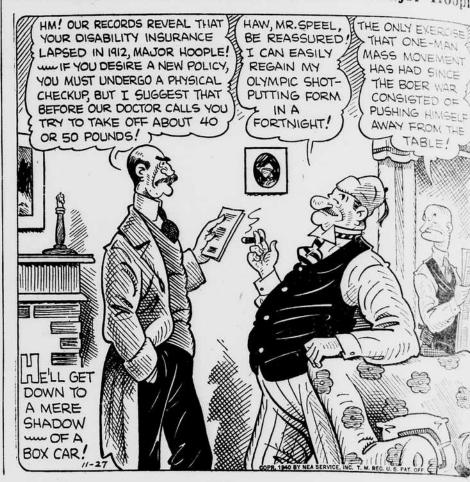
THIS CURIOUS WORLD

COPR. 1940 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OF

OUT OUR WAY

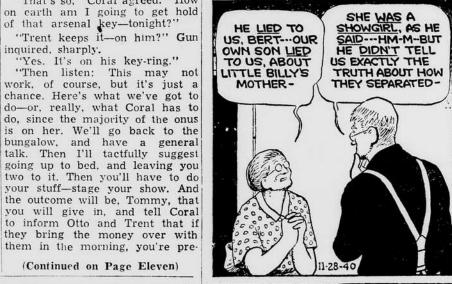


By J. R. Williams OUR BOARDING HOUSE . . with . . . Major Hoople

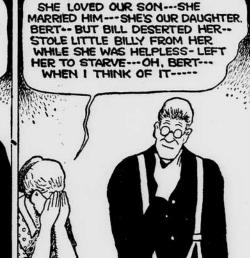


LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

Through No Fault Of Their Own



NO! AND NOBODY ELSE! OH, YOU AND I DIDN'T MEAN HELD BEING YOUR TALK ABOUT SHOWGIRLS"! DID A SHOWGIRL YOU EVER SEE A FINER, SWEETER GIRL THAN PEG IS?



THERE, THERE, BESS --- IT --- IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SUCH A THING OF OUR BOY--- BUT--- BUT WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT UP TO PEG---ALL WE CAN --- SHE IS OUR DAUGHTER. FAR BETTER THAN WE DESERVE-AFTER-AFTER THE WAY WE SEEM TO HAVE FAILED WITH BILL-

WASH TUBBS



I'LL SAY! A NATIONAL SCANDAL! DISTRUST! CONFUSION! PERSONALLY MR. DRINKWATER, I'M INCLINED TO BELIEVE YOU'RE NEITHER TRAITOR NOR A MURDERER, BU THE INNOCENT VICTIM OF A CLEVER AND SINISTER PLOT

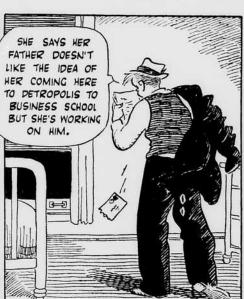


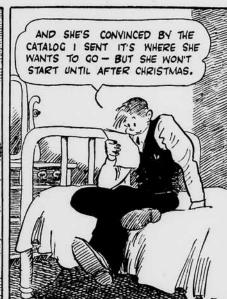
By Roy Crane IF AN UNFRIENDLY POWER WISHED TO THROW A MONKEY WRENCH IN OUR PRODUCT

SCHEDULE THEY'D RESORT TO FOUL METHODS. REALIZING THIS, EASY AND I INTEND GIVING YOU EVERY CHANC TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE

GASOLINE ALLEY

WHEE! A LETTER FROM NINA!



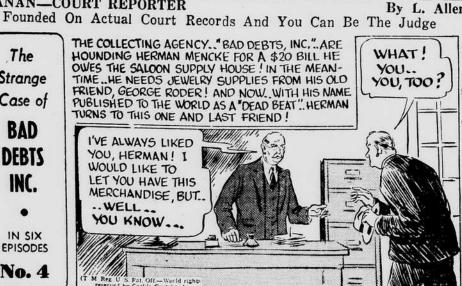




BELA LANAN—COURT REPORTER

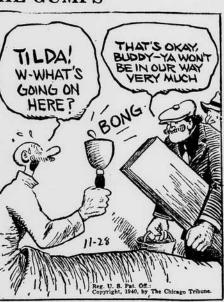
By L. Allen Heine

The Strange Case of BAD DEBTS INC. IN SIX **EPISODES** No. 4



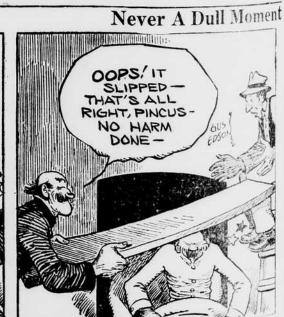


THE GUMPS









BRICK BRADFORD-Seeks the Diamond Doll







