

ASK ADAM

WATKINS E. WRIGHT

SYNOPSIS

ADAM NOHTH, young bachelor who recently converted an old Linville hazy factory into a war plant, has a "bill-in" stand-by for the town's party givers, among them being...

SUSAN POTTER, whose husband, Bill, has lately been breaking even, dates to "negotiate" a real estate deal with...

ALICIA CARTER, a wily, flirtatious widow, Adam, unknown to her, is loved by his secretary...

RUTH MOOREHOUSE, who at present is having difficulty about the affections of...

JACK VINTON, a mechanic in the plant, Adam, not being aware of Ruth's feelings, is just becoming intrigued with...

BRENDA LEIGH, who is now enjoying an extended vacation in Linville, which she left several years ago to launch a journalistic career in New York City...

YESTERDAY: Adam is hurriedly summoned from an amateur play rehearsal to his war plant, where he is shown a note from the head...

CHAPTER FIFTEEN
THEN, SEPARATING, Adam and a crew of workers began a systematic and thorough search of the factory and the grounds for the bomb they thought might be hidden.

It took hours, since no crack or crevice was overlooked. The searchers were in and out of buildings up and down stairs—under sheds and outhouses, and on top of them. They had worked open their lockers and even their lunch boxes, meals they had brought with them to eat at midnight. They worked silently and determinedly, with workers asking few questions, but glancing at them with interest. There was a quiet tension, but no indication of panic or fear.

And when the search was over, nothing had been found. "There's always some person around," said Adam, when they had returned to his office, "who has an urge to send anonymous messages or letters. Just another type of pest folk have to put up with."

"You mean you think that's what it was?" said Jack. Adam nodded. "What else could it be? We didn't find anything, did we?"

"No sir." The foreman rubbed his chin and looked troubled. "Anyway, I think we should increase the guard around the factory," he said. "I trust the men, but still we can't be too cautious."

"And maybe we ought to have an FBI man on the job, too," said someone else. "Maybe you're right," Adam said thoughtfully. "I've an idea that the whole thing's a new kind of sabotage, purely psychological in its approach."

"I don't get you," the foreman said. "I mean," Adam explained, "that if it isn't just a craze at work, it may be someone who has no intention of planting a bomb, but only wants to create a sense of fear among the workers, thus slowing up work. A saboteur could work from that angle, you know—and do a heck of a lot of damage."

"Sure!" said Jack. "He could drop notes like the one found to-night—never knowing when the thing would turn out to be something besides the cry of 'wolf, wolf'—like in the fable."

"Exactly!" agreed Adam. "By the way," he said, addressing the foreman, "I didn't see Otto at work tonight."

"No, he had a day off coming to him, and asked if he could have it today. He wanted to go up to Richmond on a little trip."

"What sort of trip?" Adam asked. "I didn't question him," the foreman replied. "I don't like the guy, but he is a good worker when he can't pick on him just because his name is Otto and he speaks with a queer sort of accent."

"Of course not," said Adam. He remembered Otto's sullenness, his resentment over being questioned. "And yet," he added, "strange things happen during these hectic times. Maybe I'd better go over his papers more thoroughly, and—"

"And hand 'em over to an FBI man," said Jack. Adam smiled at the boy. "I'm afraid you've been seeing too many movies about saboteurs," he said. "You're a sort of FBI complex."

"Movies?" said Jack. "There's darned little time for seeing movies these days. And when I do go I take Ruth, and she won't see anything but romances and comedies. She says there's enough trouble in real life without watching it on the screen."

"She's darned right, too," said the foreman. Adam looked at his watch. "Good Lord!" he exclaimed. "It's 2 o'clock in the morning! You fellows can go now."

"You mean you suspect him, boss?" "I wouldn't go quite as far as that. And yet I think it would be a good idea to find out everything we possibly can."

"Sure," the foreman said. "But the fact that Otto is in Richmond sort of leaves him out of the picture, seems to me. I mean he wasn't here to drop the note or throw it over the fence."

"But he could have arranged for someone else to do it, couldn't he?" Adam asked. The foreman frowned. "I reckon you're right," he admitted. "He could be working with someone on the outside." He shook his head slowly. "Sherman was sure right."

When he had gone, Adam sat down and lit a cigaret. Sleep was impossible. He was far more disturbed about the words on the slip of paper than he would want anyone to know. He had heard and read too much about the various ways in which saboteurs worked to treat the matter of the anonymous note lightly. He blew a smoke ring and watched it float up against the ceiling, his thoughts troubled, confused.

Then suddenly he remembered Peter Platt's play—and the reading Brenda had given that evening. How in the devil was he going to find the time for rehearsing? Especially now that trouble seemed to be creeping nearer and nearer the factory? Maybe he ought to tell Mrs. Platt that he would have to withdraw from the cast, that she would have to get someone else. But he hated to do that. He knew how much the woman's play produced, and the proceeds turned over to the organization that was helping men like Peter to hold on to their morale. Besides, even in times of war people were supposed to live as normally as possible, because it helped to keep an element of cheerfulness in the business of daily existence.

He got up, walked to the cot and sat down upon its edge. There he took off his shoes, pondering this and pondering that. Finally he decided that he'd try to go on with his part in the play. It wouldn't be fair to Mrs. Platt and the others to back out. Besides, it might be fun to do something that would take his mind off the factory, although those love scenes with Susan Potter bothered him. He hoped Bill Potter would have sense enough to be broad-minded enough to realize it was only a play. Just that and nothing more. Only he thought as he stretched out, Susan Potter was a miserable sort of person, especially now that she was taking an interest in her personal appearance. He closed his eyes and began to drift off to sleep only to be haunted by dreams that just missed being nightmares. Dreams in which he spent a lot of time dodging Bill Potter and bombs.

(To Be Continued)

Dr. Clendening will answer questions of general interest only, and then only through his column.

cause it. It is an inflammation of the gums, especially near the tooth margin and beginning with redness and swelling and a little pus formation; it can go on to local gangrene and considerable tissue loss.

It is caused by two germs which are nearly always found together—one is a bacillus and one a long, curly spirillum. One of them or a combination of them is a natural gangrene producer and that is where the trouble begins.

When it is said that the condition is due to infection with these germs, the statement leaves out another factor, perhaps two that are really more important than the presence of the germs themselves. Because from everyone's mouth—no matter how clean and healthy—it is possible to culture some Vincent germs. They are on the surface of the gums or teeth and do no harm until they penetrate the tissues and this penetration is due to a lowering of bodily resistance, perhaps poor diet. The other possible factor is that you are used to your own Vincent germs, but if you happen to get someone else's in your mouth you are liable to trouble. Lowered bodily tone then and cross infection are the important factors in acquiring the disease.

Increase in Disease
It would be natural in view of these factors to suppose that at the present time there would be an increase in the amount of cases with Vincent's infection. Great numbers of the population are crowded together in war plants, they are living in cramped quarters, they are subject to fatigue, they get what kinds of food they can, they eat off plates and with knives, forks and spoons that are often not adequately cleaned after the last customer has served. Lowered bodily resistance and cross infection are present everywhere, just as they were in the trenches when the condition got its name of trench mouth.

If taken early when the gums are just beginning to be acutely red and swollen, it can be successfully stopped in four or five days by an experienced dentist. Later on when destructive changes have occurred, restoration is not so easy.

Rules for Treatment
A dentist connected with a large industrial plant has these rules for treatment:
1. Observe complete dish, glass and silverware isolation. Boil dishes for three to five minutes in soap and water.
2. Eat and drink only from paper dishes and cups in public restaurants.
3. Throw away toothbrush and do not brush teeth until told to do so.
4. Eat plenty of green leafy vegetables. Force fluids, juices and milk.
5. Use a mild, antiseptic mouth wash every hour.
6. Use a cathartic or an enema to keep the bowels regular.
7. Make regular visits to dental clinic.
8. Permit no girl with Vincent's infection to handle food or dishes in the kitchen.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
J. E. Y.—Is taking Epsom salts and lemon every day safe in reducing weight?
Answer: It is safe, but if that is all you do—if you do not keep to a diet—it will not reduce weight.

B. R. C.—I love raw garlic, but have been told it is not good for me. Is oatmeal harmful if eaten every morning?
Answer: Garlic is perfectly harmless. Oatmeal is a good, nutritious food and can be eaten every day with benefit.

M. G. F.—Is the iron content of beef, pork and lamb liver the same as calves' liver? If so, why the higher price for calves' liver?
Answer: There is very little iron in any kind of liver. You may be thinking of its use in anemia, but the good liver does in anemia is not due to the iron content.

Germs Cause Trench Mouth

By LOGAN CLENDENING, M.D.

FOR A while it was called "trench mouth," and it may be called acute pyorrhea. Technically it is called Vincent's infection, after the French bacteriologist who discovered the germs which...

Dr. Clendening will answer questions of general interest only, and then only through his column.

cause it. It is an inflammation of the gums, especially near the tooth margin and beginning with redness and swelling and a little pus formation; it can go on to local gangrene and considerable tissue loss.

It is caused by two germs which are nearly always found together—one is a bacillus and one a long, curly spirillum. One of them or a combination of them is a natural gangrene producer and that is where the trouble begins.

When it is said that the condition is due to infection with these germs, the statement leaves out another factor, perhaps two that are really more important than the presence of the germs themselves. Because from everyone's mouth—no matter how clean and healthy—it is possible to culture some Vincent germs. They are on the surface of the gums or teeth and do no harm until they penetrate the tissues and this penetration is due to a lowering of bodily resistance, perhaps poor diet. The other possible factor is that you are used to your own Vincent germs, but if you happen to get someone else's in your mouth you are liable to trouble. Lowered bodily tone then and cross infection are the important factors in acquiring the disease.

Increase in Disease
It would be natural in view of these factors to suppose that at the present time there would be an increase in the amount of cases with Vincent's infection. Great numbers of the population are crowded together in war plants, they are living in cramped quarters, they are subject to fatigue, they get what kinds of food they can, they eat off plates and with knives, forks and spoons that are often not adequately cleaned after the last customer has served. Lowered bodily resistance and cross infection are present everywhere, just as they were in the trenches when the condition got its name of trench mouth.

If taken early when the gums are just beginning to be acutely red and swollen, it can be successfully stopped in four or five days by an experienced dentist. Later on when destructive changes have occurred, restoration is not so easy.

Rules for Treatment
A dentist connected with a large industrial plant has these rules for treatment:
1. Observe complete dish, glass and silverware isolation. Boil dishes for three to five minutes in soap and water.
2. Eat and drink only from paper dishes and cups in public restaurants.
3. Throw away toothbrush and do not brush teeth until told to do so.
4. Eat plenty of green leafy vegetables. Force fluids, juices and milk.
5. Use a mild, antiseptic mouth wash every hour.
6. Use a cathartic or an enema to keep the bowels regular.
7. Make regular visits to dental clinic.
8. Permit no girl with Vincent's infection to handle food or dishes in the kitchen.

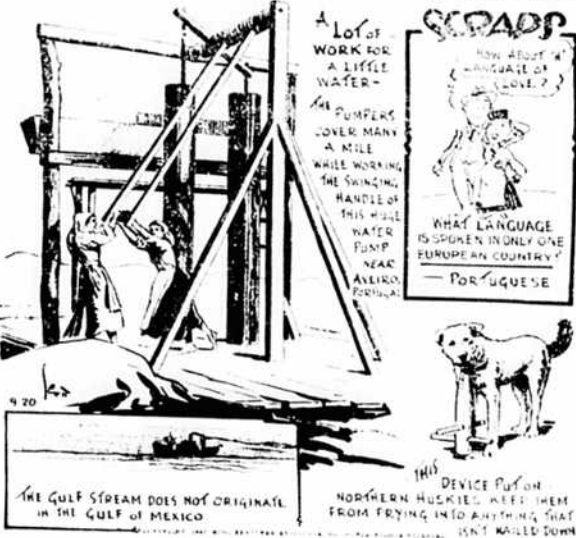
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
J. E. Y.—Is taking Epsom salts and lemon every day safe in reducing weight?
Answer: It is safe, but if that is all you do—if you do not keep to a diet—it will not reduce weight.

B. R. C.—I love raw garlic, but have been told it is not good for me. Is oatmeal harmful if eaten every morning?
Answer: Garlic is perfectly harmless. Oatmeal is a good, nutritious food and can be eaten every day with benefit.

M. G. F.—Is the iron content of beef, pork and lamb liver the same as calves' liver? If so, why the higher price for calves' liver?
Answer: There is very little iron in any kind of liver. You may be thinking of its use in anemia, but the good liver does in anemia is not due to the iron content.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

By R. J. SCOTT

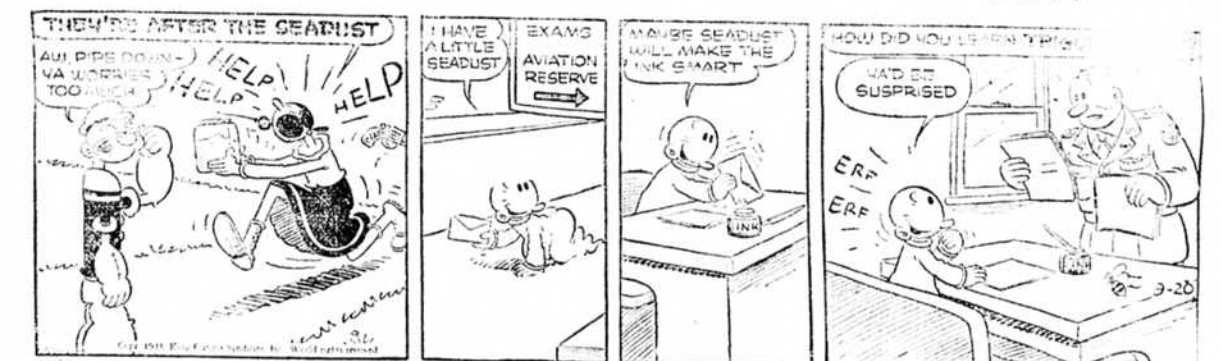


THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



THIMBLE THEATRE—Starring Popeye



BLONDIE—(Registered U. S. Patent Office)

A Dried Cheese On Curled Rye!

By Chic Young



ETA KETT

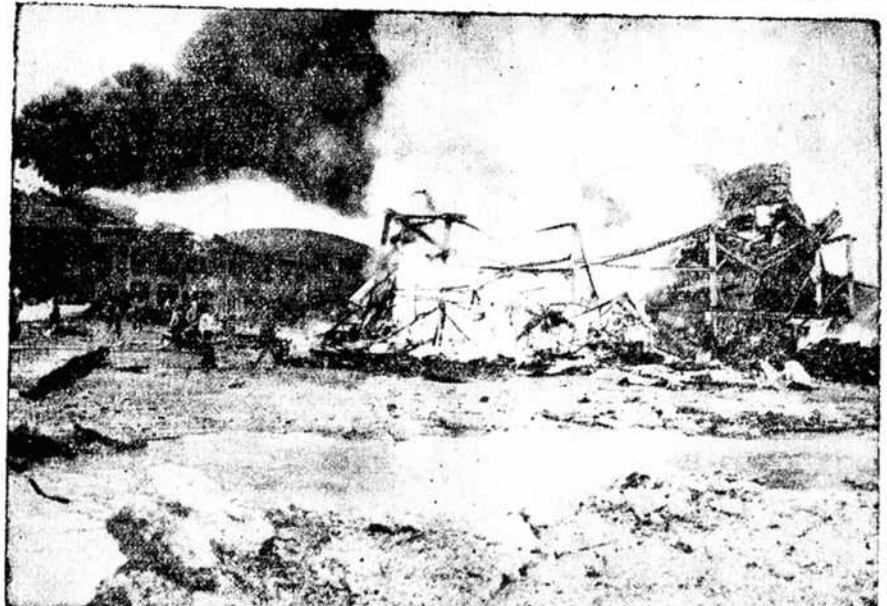
By PAUL ROBINSON



THE GUMPS—KNIGHT ERRAND



NORFOLK AIR STATION BLAST IN WHICH 17 DIED



Twisted wreckage of hangars at the Norfolk Naval Air Station was still burning and rescue workers had hardly begun their task when this picture was made of the disaster scene in Virginia. Ammunition in transit was the source of the original explosion. Naval authorities estimated that about seventeen persons were killed and some 257 injured. Damage was caused to a number of buildings. (International Soundphoto.)

YANKS SET STAGE FOR PARATROOPS AT LAE



WHILE GEN. MacARTHUR WATCHES from a Flying Fortress above, a Boston bomber lays one of the many smokecreens that protected Allied paratroopers taking part in the action which cut off 20,000 Japs at Lae, New Guinea. Almost before the Japs knew what was happening, the 'chutists had landed and attacked. This Army Air Force photo is one of the first pictures of the fighting at Lae. (International)