

FLOID GIBBONS FAMOUS HEADLINE HUNTER ADVENTURERS CLUB Everybody

Strange Visitor

By FLOYD GIBBONS

YOU know, they say troubles never come singly—which is just another way of saying that Old Lady Adventure is never content with giving you just one sock in the jaw.

Hattie's big bout with Old Lady Adventure came in the Winter of 1917. There was trouble enough in the world then, without having the old girl with the thrill bag on your neck.

The flu epidemic struck the McLaughlin family in January. It brought down Hattie's dad and her three sisters, and that left Hattie and her mother to do all the chores around that big farm.

It was one of those days when everything seemed to go wrong. Mother had just come from upstairs to call the doctor. Dad and the three sick girls were worse.

Strange Man Came to the Door.

Already tired from her morning's work, Hattie struggled more than a mile through the snow to post that notice. She found two small children shivering in the cold, waiting for the school to open.

A strange man was out front. He said he was a telephone salesman from Clare, and wanted to know if he could come in and get warm.

While he was drinking his tea and eating a piece of corn bread, Hattie and her mother went on with their work. Nothing unusual happened until he had finished eating and drinking.

It was such an unusual movement that Hattie stopped to watch him. He backed up against the stove as if to warm himself, but Hattie saw one of his hands slide into his pocket and come out holding a tiny bottle.

He Poured Something Into the Beans.

There was a pot of beans boiling on the stove. Slowly, shielded by his body, the stranger's hand crept up and emptied the contents of the bottle into the pot of beans!

Her mother hadn't seen it, but Hattie was standing in such a position that she could see every move he made. She was startled—frightened. An older person might have said nothing, for fear of precipitating trouble.

Her mother turned to see what was the matter. At the same time, the stranger reached inside his coat, pulled out a long, thin-bladed knife, and slashed Hattie across the legs. Blood began to flow from a long deep cut.

Hattie Fought to Save Her Mother.

The man made no other move—said nothing. Hattie and her mother were too frightened to speak. They began to realize the fellow was stark mad. Hattie sat down, took off a stocking and tied it about her wound.

The man stood looking, first at her, then at her mother. He waited until she was finished tying up her bleeding leg, and then he walked across the room to where her mother was standing, breathless and paralyzed with fright.

And again Hattie acted impulsively. In an instant she was out of her chair and darting across the room. Reaching out quickly she grabbed the knife!

The man gave the knife a quick pull. It came out of Hattie's hand, cutting it clear to the bone at the base of the thumb. Crying out in pain, she grabbed at her wrist with her other hand.

For another moment Hattie stood dazed. The man fell on her mother, sat on her chest and began choking her. And at that, a sudden change came over Hattie. Before, she had been frightened—trembling. Now she became furious.

The Beans Were Poisoned.

The man rolled over and lay still. Hattie's wrist was still bleeding and her mother tied it up tightly to stop the flow. They got ropes and tied the man's hands behind his back and then—well—then Hattie keeled over in a dead faint.

When she came to, the doctor had been to the house. He had sewed up Hattie's wounds and she had never known a thing about it. The doctor also took the madman back to town and turned him over to the police.

And when they analyzed that pot of beans into which he had emptied that bottle, it was found that they were poisoned!

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Annie Laurie Home Held by the Family Since 1611

The home of the famous Annie Laurie, the heroine of the Scottish ballad sung in every corner of the world, is known as the estate of Maxwellton, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

Maxwellton House, originally a fortress of the Earls of Glencairn and known as Glencairn castle, has been in the hands of the Laurie family since 1611.

Seventy-one years later, in 1682, Anna was born, the daughter of Sir Robert Laurie. The first Baroness Douglas of Fingland, the author of the original words of the ballad, was her first sweetheart.

There are 4,000 acres in the property, which overlooks the Cairn river. In the house there are four reception rooms, two boudoirs, a sitting bed or dressing rooms, two bathrooms and servants' accommodations.

Brides of Granna Island Wear Queen's Headdress

Not orange blossoms but a crown intended for a queen is the wedding headdress of brides at Granna, Sweden, on the island of Visingso in Lake Vattern, one of Sweden's largest and finest lakes.

The girl, Ebba Brahe, was loved by Gustavus Adolphus and the crown was made for her wedding to him, but for reasons of state he was forced to give her up and marry a princess instead.

The castle built by the Brahe family was destroyed by fire in 1718 and became an imposing ruin over-run by vines. The family is also credited with founding Granna, called by travelers one of the loveliest towns in Sweden.

STAR DUST Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

JOAN BENNETT is so homesick for the stage that she has signed up to work with a Cape Cod stock company this summer for a few weeks.

Her infectious enthusiasm has sent half of Hollywood scurrying to their bosses to ask if they can't have leave of absence too.

Add one more picture to the current list of those you simply have to see. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Captains Courageous" is one of the finest pictures of all time.



Freddie Bartholomew

As soon as Ernst Lubitsch finishes directing Marlene Dietrich and Herbert Marshall in "Angel" he is going to turn actor for a few days.

Long ago when he was an actor in Germany, his great ambition was to play Napoleon, and just now it happens that Cecil De Mille is searching the highways and byways for a man to play Napoleon in "Buccaneer."

Executives at the Twentieth Century Fox studio are disappointed that the public hasn't made more of a fuss over Simone Simon, so they are going to put her in a comedy and see if she goes over better.

Motion picture studio officials always change the subject when anyone asks if their stars really sing or if some singer substitutes for them, but radio listeners can recognize their favorite voices under any circumstances.

Warner Brothers have arranged to borrow Miriam Hopkins for two pictures and it looks as if it would keep the entire studio busy for weeks finding stories to which she won't raise a violent objection.

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WHY DID THE HINDENBURG CRASH?

Cause Is Still Uncertain, Though Use of Helium Would Have Prevented It. But Uncle Sam Owns All the Helium!

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

"THERE must be no more flying with hydrogen. We must make an about face. We must use helium."

Thus spoke Dr. Hugo Eckener, he who is known as the world's greatest authority on lighter-than-air craft, after being informed that Germany's proud Hindenburg had crashed spectacularly upon completing her maiden 1937 Atlantic crossing at Lakehurst, N. J.

There have been several theories advanced as possible causes of the disaster, but no one is yet sure which is the correct one, and it is doubtful if anyone ever will be.

Sabotage was suggested, merely that no possibility be overlooked, and immediately rejected.

It might have been static electricity which set off the highly explosive hydrogen gas. All aircraft are apt to accumulate it, especially when flying through or near a thunderstorm.

Spontaneous Combustion? Another theory, more complicated than the others, was that of Prof. Otto Stern, of Carnegie Institute of Technology, and formerly connected with the Zeppelin works in Germany.

The hydrogen proton, he explained, is charged with positive electricity, which is offset by a charge of negative electricity in the electron, which covers the proton like a shell.

So rapidly did the flames engulf the ship, the versions of witnesses as to the cause were varied (fire swept from one end of the Hindenburg to the other in 32 seconds). Several insisted, however, the rear port engine was throwing sparks from its exhaust as the ship came to the mooring mast.

Whether one of the conditions cited in this brief review was the cause of the explosion, or whether the true cause has not yet even been suggested, one thing is certain: An explosion of the highly inflammable hydrogen gas wrecked the airship.

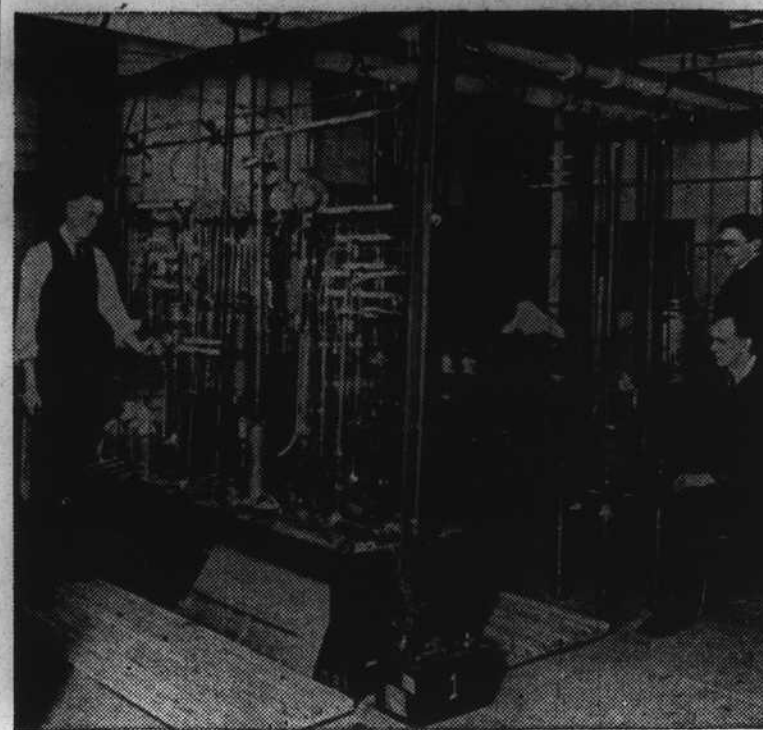
The Germans are the only nation which has continued to make progress with lighter-than-air craft. The United States abandoned it when a series of dirigible crashes culminated in the loss of the Macon off Point Sur, California, February 12, 1934.

Interior of the compression building of Uncle Sam's helium plant at Amarillo, Texas. Each of the cylinders in the foreground holds about 1 1/2 cubic feet.

any element then known. He suggested the name for the element, which is taken from "helios," the Greek word for sun.

U. S. Owns All Helium. But the Hindenburg accident has convinced the Germans that they can no longer operate their ships with hydrogen.

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Employees of the United States bureau of mines at work in the cryogenic laboratory, where research data necessary for helium production and purification are developed.

On the present basis our government is not permitting other nations to buy its helium, despite the fact that our navy is without airships to use it.

Hydrogen, the lightest gas known, is the most practical for airships, except for the fact that it is also one of the most explosive things on



Dr. Hugo Eckener, Zeppelin expert, who says all airships must now be inflated with helium.

earth when mixed with air in the right proportion. Helium has not quite the lift of hydrogen, but it is safe.

"He 4," as helium is known by its chemical formula, is described as "an inert, non-oxidizable, colorless, gaseous element of density 1.98."

The first war-time helium plant was at Petrolia, Texas, but the compressors and other apparatus for extraction were later moved to Amarillo, a better location.

Nazis Never Enthusiastic. In addition, the sighted Uncle Sam has established helium reserves in just the way that he has oil reserves.

In the past steps have been taken to permit the sale of Uncle Sam's helium to Nazi Germany, to insure the safety of airship flight, but Germany had never been so anxious or insistent.

According to Watson, director of Science Service, the writer is indebted for much of his information.

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