

# Floyd Gibbons'

## ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



### "Fingers of Flame"

By FLOYD GIBBONS  
Famous Headline Hunter

#### HELLO EVERYBODY:

Arthur A. Guinan of Brooklyn, N. Y., is today's Distinguished Adventurer. Art says that although he is a veteran of the World War and saw plenty of service in France, he had to come back home to get in a mess of trouble.

And that, boys and girls, is the way a lot of these adventure yarns start out. They start with a peaceful family scene like the one Art describes in his own home on an evening early in November, 1923. It was a cold, rainy Friday night outside, but indoors, in the Guinan dining room, it was cheerful and bright.

It was a little early to be lighting the furnace. That's why the Guinans were all gathered in the dining room. They had a kerosene oil stove burning in there to—well—to sort of take the edge off the dampness.

Art's mother and dad and brother were there. His dad, who had recently been discharged from the hospital where he'd spent ten months with a badly broken leg, was sitting in an easy chair with his bum leg stretched out stiffly in front of him. He couldn't walk on that leg yet, and was practically an invalid.

#### Their Oil Stove Exploded.

Mother was peeling potatoes. Art's brother had stirred up a mess of plaster and was patching a crack in the ceiling. Art had gone out to the kitchen to grab a bite to eat. He was just finishing up when his dad said he didn't like the way the oil stove smelled. Mother said she'd noticed it too. It was warm enough in the room by that time, anyway. She looked up and saw Art, who had just finished eating and returned to the dining room, and asked him to put the stove out.

Art says he had a special way of putting out that stove. "We used to turn it down as low as it would go," he says, "and then pick it



His Dad Was Helpless in the Flaming Room.

up by the handle and give it a jerk to put out the last flicker of flame." But nowadays, Art realizes that that's no way to put out an oil stove.

On this particular night, though, he didn't realize it. He turned the wick down to the bottom, picked the stove up and gave it a jerk. It didn't go out, so Art gave it another jerk—harder, this time, than the first. The next thing he knew, he was holding onto something that looked and sounded like Vesuvius on a rampage.

That stove gave out a roar that could be heard a block away. A burst of flame six feet long shot across the room. Art's mother was sitting right in the path of it. In a split second she was flaming like a HUMAN TORCH!

#### Saved Mother but Forgot About Dad.

Art dropped the stove and ran to her. Her clothes were blazing in a dozen places. With his bare hands, he started tearing at her dress. "I was pulling that flame apart," he says. "Lord only knows how, but I kept pulling handfuls of burning cloth from her body. My brother started coming down from the ladder he was standing on. In the meantime my mother and I had worked our way into the kitchen and my brother joined me there."

Art and his brother were both pulling at those flames now, and they were making headway. At length they had torn away the last bit of burning cloth—beaten out the last spark. Then, suddenly, they thought of their dad!

Art says that right there he got the worst fright of his life. They had forgotten about dad in the rush to take care of mother, but now they realized that he was the one who really needed their assistance most. Dad was helpless—practically an invalid. He couldn't move out of his chair, and back there in the dining room, the whole place was blazing.

Art turned to run into the dining room. The door leading to it was a raging furnace. A curtain of flame covered its whole length and breadth. Art hesitated just a fraction of a second. Then he plunged right through the door, flames and all.

#### Flames Couldn't Stop Art.

There was a smoke-filled space in the center of the room where the flames had not yet spread. His dad was over at the other side of it. Art plunged across that space in nothing flat and gathered his father in his arms.

"His right shoe," Art says, "was almost burned from his foot. I started to carry him toward the back door, but about half way across the room I stumbled. Dad fell on top of me and knocked the wind out of me. I thought I'd never get it back again. Before I did, the flames had crept up on us."

It was about that time that Art felt a terrible pain in his right leg. When he looked at it he saw that the legs of his trousers were afire. But there was no time to lose. They had to get out of that room right away. Art picked his dad up again and dragged him toward the door with one arm while he was beating out the flames in his pants legs with the other.

It was a hectic five minutes. At last he was through the door. He set his dad down in a chair in the yard back of the house and ran to turn in the fire alarm. "It wasn't until I reached for the alarm box," he says, "that I realized how badly I was burnt. My hands looked like a couple of beefsteaks, and my legs were worse. That peaceful little home of ours looked like a hospital for the next six months."

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#### Everybody Claims It

Members of the three religions regard Adam's peak, near Colombo, Ceylon, with reverence. It is famous for a footprint seven feet long. According to Buddhists the print was made by Buddha. Hindus, on the other hand, maintain that it was left by Siva, and Christians sometimes identify this region with the Garden of Eden, therefore holding that the footprint is that of none other than Adam.

#### Three Instruments Aid Gypsies

The Gypsy violin, cymbal, and the old Turkish pipe are the three instruments which have made the Gypsies of Hungary the national troubadours. The Tziganes were admitted to Hungary in 1419.

**Cecil J. Rhodes Born in England**  
Cecil John Rhodes, the South African statesman, who amassed a fortune in the diamond fields of Kimberley, was born at Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire, England, July 5, 1853.

#### Treasure House Among Marvels

At the Seraglio palace, Istanbul, there is a treasure house of gems that is among the marvels of the modern world. The collection has thousands of priceless diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, pearls of the first water, and the famed golden throne of the Sixteenth century sultan, Selim the Grim. The throne is made of beaten gold, and studded with rubies, turquoise and emeralds.

#### The Southern Capes

Cape Horn extends farther south than the Cape of Good Hope by more than 1,500 miles. The city of Cape Town, very near the southern end of the African continent, is in about the same latitude as Montevideo, Uruguay.

#### Word "Ritz" Misleading

The commonly accepted American definition of the coined word "ritz," as signifying something aloof and "high hat" is all wrong, according to an authority.

#### BOOKS IN BRIEF

## Ulysses Made Great Hero in Homer's Saga

By ELIZABETH C. JAMES

WE FORGET 70 per cent of all we have ever learned—so the scientists say. But fortunately, we never entirely forget anything. The path is still in the brain, though not plain enough for use. No doubt you remember Ulysses as a former acquaintance, but perhaps his story as told by the immortal Homer, is vague.

When Paris stole Helen of Troy from Greece, all the kings of Greece were held to their oaths to fight in her behalf.

Ulysses, noted for his wisdom, refused to go into such a war. His life was happy with Penelope, his beautiful wife, so he feigned madness and went about the countryside sowing seeds that had been cooked. The councilmen of Greece suspected cunning so they placed the young son of Ulysses in the path of his plow. When the "madman" reached the child he turned the plow aside, thus disclosing his sanity.

The ten years of siege at the walled city of Troy were tedious to Ulysses, who ever longed for Penelope and who feared for her safety after his long absence. In olden days a beautiful woman was none too safe without a husband to protect her. Glad was he indeed, when Troy fell into the hands of the Greeks after the trick of the wooden horse. With light heart he sailed away.

But ill winds beset him and Ulysses wandered over the whole sea, suffering disappointments and nar-



Elizabeth James

#### "GREATEST UNKNOWN"

Seven cities claim to be the birthplace of the Greek poet Homer. There is no accurate source for any definite information about the life of this man, yet he composed two of the greatest epics in all the centuries of mankind.

We do know that he lived sometime between the Sixth and Twelfth centuries before Christ was born, and we know that in old age Homer was blind. He made his living wandering from city to city entertaining the people with the stories of the Trojan war and of the wanderings of Ulysses. His "Iliad" and "Odyssey" are known round the world.

rowly escaping death on many occasions. It was even necessary for him to make a trip into Hades, land of departed souls.

Once he and his men found themselves on the island ruled by the one-eyed giants known as Cyclopes. They hid in a cave which they discovered to be the home of a giant, who gleefully shut them in his cave and killed two men each day for his dinner. While he slept one afternoon, Ulysses heated a staff and put out the eye of the giant, hoping then to escape. But the passage-way was narrow and the giant carefully felt each animal as he let his sheep out to pasture.

With cunning, the Greeks killed all the sheep and skinned them. In the morning they walked out, holding the skins over them.

Other adventures beset the men. There was the island of the Sirens, the lovely women who sang divinely, luring men to their island where the men were then powerless. By stuffing cloth and wax into the ears of his men and having himself lashed securely to the mast, Ulysses passed the Sirens, being the first man to hear them and to escape their charm. Another adventure was the island where an enchantress turned men into animals, but Ulysses gained power over her and freed all the men whom she held.

#### Penelope's Troubles.

After wandering long and far, Ulysses reached Greece. He had heard of the suitors who had fastened themselves to the household of Penelope on the assumption that her husband had long been dead. They had stolen her substance until she had much ado to protect her husband's home. To evade them she had said that as soon as she completed the web which she was weaving, she would choose a husband. Each day she wove, and each night she unravelled, but now they had discovered her trickery and had forced her to set a date for choosing a husband from among them.

Disguised as a beggar, Ulysses went to the back of his home. The only living thing that recognized him was his dog and it died of joy. His old servant, now a swineherd, recognized a scar on Ulysses, and rejoicing and sorrowing together, told his master of the situation in his home. He praised Penelope's skill in handling the lecherous men. Ulysses sent for his son, now a man, and they two planned revenge.

As a beggar Ulysses went to the banquet. While the revelry was high, he removed the weapons from the hall, leaving the suitors without arms. The time came, and with his son, Ulysses killed the suitors.

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# WHAT to EAT and WHY

## C. Houston Goudiss Warns Against Food Fads and Fallacies

### Nationally Known Food Authority Explains How They May Endanger Health

By C. HOUSTON GOUDISS

6 East 39th St., New York City.

AS SCIENCE and civilization have progressed, painstaking investigators have sought to replace ignorance with knowledge, to substitute truth for superstition. But in spite of their efforts, our eating habits are still influenced by a multitude of food fads and fancies, which should have no place in this enlightened age.

Some of these are harmless; others may endanger health. And the homemaker must learn to distinguish between fact and fancy.

#### Fish Is Not a Brain Food

One of the most persistent fallacies is the notion that certain kinds of food are especially beneficial for certain parts of the body. Many people believe that fish is a brain food and celery a nerve tonic. Lettuce is thought to be a soporific. None of these things is true.

The idea regarding fish probably arose because fish contains phosphorus and the brain also contains phosphorus. How simple it would be if one could increase brain power merely by eating fish. Unfortunately, there is nothing to it! The brain, like other parts of the body, requires a balanced diet. No case has ever been reported of a man soothing the irritated nerves of his wife by feeding her celery. And as for lettuce, it is a fine source of minerals, vitamins and gentle roughage, but it does not contain any narcotic drug that induces sleep.

#### Not Necessary to Sip Milk

Another false idea is the widespread notion that milk must be sipped slowly or it will be difficult to digest. This has been refuted by a widely known investigator who made many tests. One day he fed a man a pint of milk in 10 seconds. The next day the same man was fed the same amount of milk in 10 minutes. On both occasions the contents of the stomach were examined a half hour later.

It was discovered that the milk which was drunk in 10 seconds had formed smaller curds than the milk which was sipped in 10 minutes. And in both cases, the curds

## Do You Want to Learn How to Plan a Laxative Diet?

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\* The bulletin is complete with a chart showing the calorie value of all the commonly used foods and contains sample menus that you can use as a guide to comfortable and beautiful weight reduction.

fat. Such foods as dried peas and beans and whole grain cereals contain a substantial percentage of both starch and protein.

#### Dangers of Fasting

Fasting is urged by some fadists as a means of "detoxifying" the body. Advocates of this practice claim that it is nature's method of housecleaning. As a matter of fact, fasting for any length of time may be dangerous to health, because it may result in the accumulation of incomplete oxidation products of fat, and the development of acidosis.

Homemakers must put aside superstitions, half-truths and food fallacies if they are to nourish their families properly.

Put your faith only in established food facts. Remember that upon your knowledge and breadth of vision depend, to a great degree, not only the health but the happiness of your family.

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