















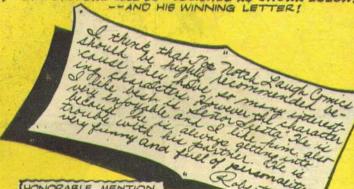
VERYBODY WINS! NOBODY LOSES! ENTER THIS UNUSUAL CONTEST RIGHT NOW! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND A SNAPSHOT OF YOURSELF AND A LETTER TELLING US WHICH CHARACTER YOU LIKE BEST IN TOP NOTCH LAUGH COMICS-AND WHY!

THE BEST LETTER WILL RECEIVE A LIFE-SIZE PORTRAIT AS SHOWN ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE!

ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO TOP NOTCH LAUGH COMICS 60 HUDSON ST. R.M. 315 N.Y.O. WIN OR LOSE, YOUR PICTURE WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SHOWN BELOW!



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THE FUTURE AND THE PAST

by HARRY ROSE

IT WAS a corpse, a shapeless mass huddled on the warm Tahitian sand. It lay a few feet off shore, black and shriveled, untouched by swells.

I ran to it, knelt, and took a brief glance. There was little doubt. Several days—perhaps a week it had lain there. I was a doctor and knew death when I saw it.

The body bore no external marks. The cold, discolored face was sunken, unrecognizable. Death, from all appearances, had resulted from

drowning.

Rising, I looked both ways along the beach. Back of me was the lazy curve of the shore line, my footprints, and in the distance the village. Before me was a lagoon, beyond it an arching cliff. But to the right, nestled in a thick foliage past the sand was a shack, charred and broken.

I stared at it, trying to assemble my thoughts. A body washed upon the shore, for days lying unnoticed on the dry, sunbeaten sand. And the cabin—it was inhabited, for as I watched the crude wooden door opened and a man emerged. He saw me and stood still, watching.

I looked down at the huddled form again, then turned for the shack. But I saw something in the sand and stopped short. It was a faint, misshapen scrawl, etched on the beach a few inches from the head of the corpse, and it said simply:

Don't go.

A message. Whether or not it was complete I couldn't tell,

Nor had I any notion of what it might mean. But it was there in the sand, and it said, "don't go."

Perplexed, I moved on up the beach to the shack, I was watched carefully by a tall, thin personage, white, shabbily dressed, and a little hawknosed.

He put his hands in his pockets and said: "You're from the village?"

I nodded, "I'm its one and only physician. I was strolling and came upon that corpse. Haven't you noticed it?"

"No. A corpse, eh?"

"You live here?"

He nodded.
"Don't you ever come out?"

"For air—yes." He breathed deeply and glanced at the sky. "May rain tonight." He turned his back and started for the door.

"Look," I said, following him, "there's been a body out there for almost a week and you haven't paid any attention to it. Doesn't that—"

"Had I known it was a corpse," he said drowsily, "I wouldn't have gone near it. That's something that weakens me."

I started to say something, but the words didn't come out. I was in the cabin doorway, my gaze frozen on a strange mechanism that all but filled the shack's interior. Such an affair as I had never seen before. Actually, it was indescribable, a twisted, perplexing heap of machinery.

"What's that?" I gasped,

The tall fellow turned and faced me. "In a way."

"But-if it isn't an invention-what is it?"

"A machine."

For a moment I was lost in bewilderment. "Who are you?" I asked, "and what is this—apparatus? What does it do?"

The other rolled a cigarette slowly, and lit it. Then he said: "I'm August Wharton—a scientist, so to speak. This is my work—my life devotion. It's a machine."

"I know-obviously it's a machine. But what's it for?"

He smiled. "I don't know yet. If it does what I think it will, its purpose could be for many things."

I stepped closer, trying to make sense out of the affair. But the thing wasn't to be understood by a doctor. To me, it was like a new language.

"Tahiti," I muttered, "is a funny place for this sort of thing. How long have you been—"

"Seven months. I'm finished now. Only a few experiments remain."

I stood there awhile, completely amazed.

Suddenly I remembered the corpse on the beach, and a few duties to perform. I hurried out, promising to return.

Natives rowed the body upshore to the village. Forbes, an assistant of mine, provided transportation to my quarters, where we awaited the arrival of authorities.

I told Forbes the story, and included Wharton.

"The name is familiar," he mused. "I believe the natives mentioned him not so long

ago. Someone discovered the cabin and made an investigation. There was talk of this-

machine."

"I can't understand it," I said. "It's the strangest affair I've ever seen-yet it must

have some purpose. Wharton seems to know what he's doing, but doesn't care to discuss it. And the dead man-Wharton completely avoided

him." "Shut-ins get that way," said Forbes, "especially in Tahiti."

"Possibly. But I'm not satished with things. I'm going back. Care to come along?" "No. I want to be in on the

autopsy."

"That's an idea. Keep your

eyes open." The sun had disappeared behind clouds, veiling the shack and the winding shore line in a gray gloom. A swell formed and lapped across the

beach, seeping into the damp sand a few feet from where I stood.

I was looking down at the dim outline left by the corpse, and the simple, meaningless "don't go". I wondered for a moment about the message-

and the machine.

Then I turned and hurried to the cabin and flung the door back. I all but tripped in my amazement.

The shack was bare-the machine was gone and Wharton apparently had gone with it. All that remained was a battered chair, a desk, and a

notebook. Shaking a little, I took the

sand and began turning the dusty, half-torn pages. Here, perhaps, was the answer, or a clue.

notebook outside, knelt on the

I came upon a penciled script, and read at random:

"April 9. Framework completed. Must stop to await arrival of last shipment from Hawaii. Progress normal."

I turned a page.

"May 12. Storm receding. Progress slowed in view of exterior work necessary on cabin.

"May 21. Visitors last night. Natives, perhaps, whose curiosity overcame them. No harm to the apparatus, though future precaution may be of value," Another page.

"June 4. Final touches completed. Had another visitora white man-first to see the machine. In a few moments I shall experiment, before he returns. He discovered a corpse on the beach, and when he left I investigated. There was a strange scrawling in the sand which I did not understand. However, it is none of my concern . . ."

Running footsteps interrupted me. I looked up, and Forbes, puffing and wildeyed, came to a halt.

"The queerest," he panted, "case we've seen. At the autopsy-they took fingerprints -the corpse is Wharton!"

"Wharton! But I saw him in the cabin-at the same time!"

"I know-but the prints don't lie-the fellow is Whar-

"That's crazy," I growled. "One man can't be in two places-" I paused, remembering the script. "Wait. There's more to this diary."

We read the last entry: "Everything is in good or-

der. My only danger lies in

the rotation of the earth. If my theories are wrong, I may land in the ocean, If not, I will be transported safely seven days into the past . . .'

The same thought came to both of us. A time traveller! Suddenly it was clear.

Wharton had left for the past, had landed in the ocean, and had swum ashore. The corpse -had it been recognizable-I sat there in a stupor, un-

managed at length, "Wharton became the corpse after his time journey. You see, Forbes -the cabin is empty." I handed him the diary, and he read the last page.

able to move. "That's it," I

Then he stood there a moment, thinking. "My God!" he exclaimed. "I see it all now. The message in the sand. He was going to warn himself, but he didn't finish-don't you

"What are you babbling about?" I demanded.

"Look-the diary says Wharton saw the message before he left. So, when he swam ashore and fell exhausted on the beach, he began writing, but stopped because he remembered seeing the message before. It fits perfectly-"

"What fits? What do you mean?"

"That's right, I didn't tell you. Wharton's death wasn't caused by drowning or exhaustion. It was caused by the fact that after he had scrawled two words in the sand, he remembered that the message had ended there, and that he was going to become the corpse. The autopsy explains that. He died of heart attack."

Don Dean

SEEMS IN EACH MONTH'S STORY, SOMEBODY,
SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW IS ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO ANNIHILATE
LITTLE SERIOR SIESTA! WHEN THE CURTAIN ROLLED DOWN
LAST ISSUE, POOR SIESTA WAS TO BE THE INNOCENT VICTIM
OF A "NECKTIE" PARTY!



STOP! STOP THIS HANGING AT DOS TRYING TO DO. 208 ME OF DRAFT BAIT.



























































































































SNOOP SO UNSTRUNG ! DROP IN NEXT MONTH FOR A BIG SHOCK !

















ANOTHER IDEA



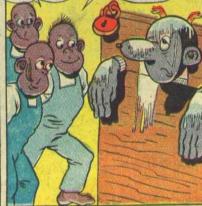








TO SEE A DOES THIS GENTLE-FELLA USE MAN INSIST ON HIS HEAD ... COVERING HIS WITH DON'T YOU!



GOLLY, WE SURE HOPE YOU HAD BETTER LUCK WITH THE PROBLEMS ON PAGE ONE THAN STUPIDMAN DID IN TRYING TO TAME THE 3 MONKEY-TEERS. ANYWAY ... THE ANSWERS 1 BY CONNECTING THE NUMBERS YOU'VE BUILT 2 NETS! HIDE IS TO COVER THE cow." 3 BY DRINKING IT THRU A STRAW! 4 YOU'D POUR HIM A SAUCER OF MILK! IT'S LIKE WATERING A HORSE

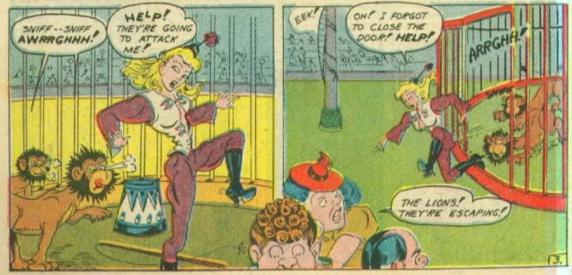
GBYE .. SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!













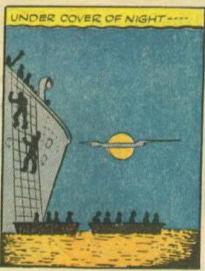
































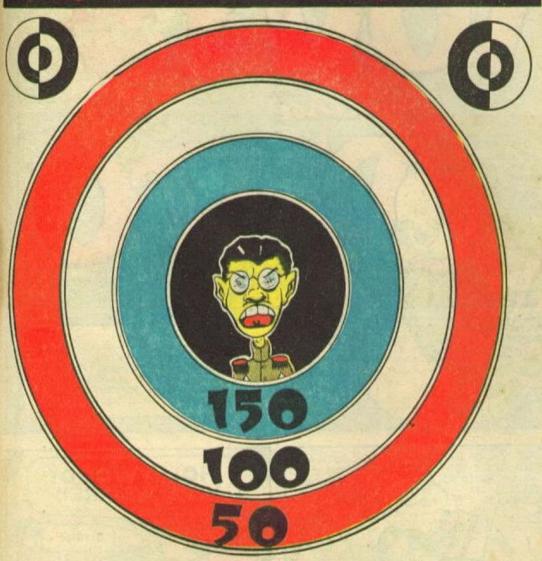






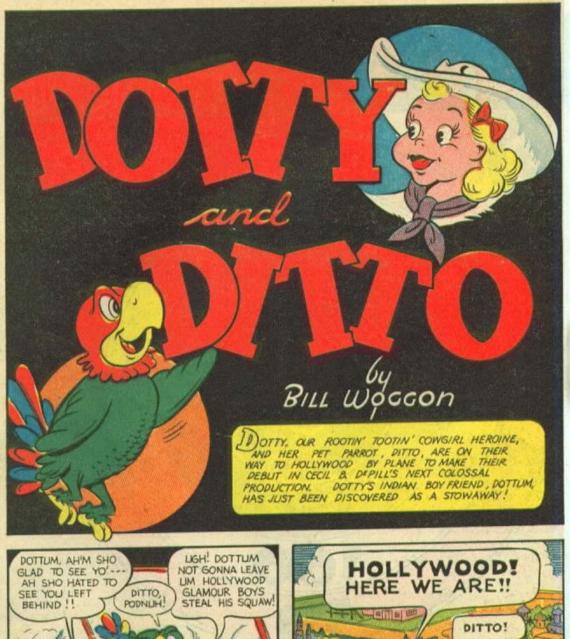


FUT FOR ALL And All For Fun



THEN FASHION THE PUTTY INTO SMALL BALLS, TINY ENOUGH TO BE BLOWN THRU THE STRAW! THEN CUT OUT THE GAME AND MOUNT IT ON CARDBOARD!!

YOU SLOW THE CLAY AT THE TARGET .. IF YOUR PIECE OF CLAY LANDS ON THE JAP'S FACE, YOU GET 200 POINTS! THE PERSON WITH THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF POINTS, WINS!!













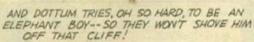




AND WHILE DOTTY IS DRIVING MR. ULAC FRANTIC WE FIND DITTO TRYING TO LEARN A NEW LINGO ----



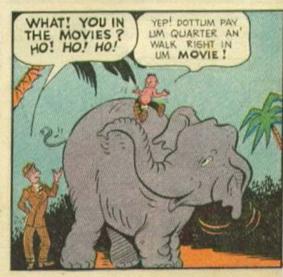




















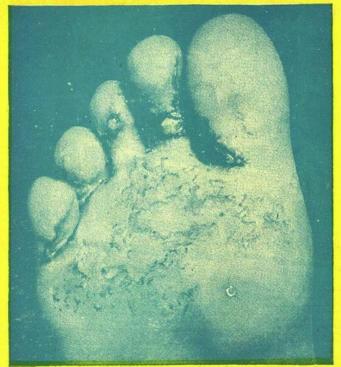


LET'S HOPE C.B. DON'T HAVE A NERVOUS COLLAPSE BEFORE THE PICTURE IS STARTED!! BE ON THE SET WITH DOTTY AND DITTO NEXT ISSUE! AND DON'T FORSET! BUY WAR BONDS!!!



FOOT TCH WHY TAKE CHAN The germ that causes to

ATHLETE'S FOOT



PAY NOTHING TILL RELIEVED

Send Coupon

At least 50% of the adult population of the United States are being attacked by the disease known as Athlete's Foot.

Usually the disease starts between the toes. Little watery blisters form, and the skin cracks and peels. After a while the itching becomes intense, and you feel as though you would like to scratch off all the skin.

Often the disease travels all over the bottom of the feet. The soles of your feet become red and swollen. The skin also cracks and peels, and the itching becomes worse and worse.

Get relief from this disease as quickly as possible, because it is very contagious, and it may go to your hands or even to the under arm or crotch of the legs.

The germ that causes the disease is known as Tinea Trichophyton. It buries itself deep in the tissues of the skin and is very hard to kill. A test made shows it takes 15 minutes of hoiling to destroy the germ, whereas, upon contact, laboratory tests show that H. F. will kill the germ Tinea Trichophyton within 15 seconds.

H. F. was developed solely for the purpose of relieving Athlete's foot. It is a liquid that penetrates and dries quickly. You just paint the affected parts. H. F. gently peels the skin, which enables it to get to parasites which exist under the outer cuticle.

As soon as you apply H. F. you may rind that the itching is relieved. You should paint the infected part with H. F. night and morning until your feet are better. Usually this takes from three to ten days.

H. F. should leave the skin soft and smooth. You may marvel at the quick way it brings you relief. It costs you nothing to try, so if you are, troubled with the test of the try, and the try are the try wait a day longer. Athlete's Foot why wait a day longer.

Sign and mail the coupon, and a bottle of H. F. will

be mailed you immediately. Don't send any money and don't pay the postman any money; don't pay anything any time unless H. F. is helping you. If it does help you, we know you will be glad to send us \$1 for the bottle at the end of ten days. That's how much faith we have in H. F. Read, sign and mail the coupon



GORE PRODUCTS, Inc. 810 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.

Please send me immediately a bottle of H. F. for foot trouble as described above. I agree to use it according to directions. If at the end of 10 days my feet are getting better, I will send you \$1. If I am not entirely satisfied, I will return the unused portion of the

bottle to you within 15 days from th	e time I receive it
NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE