

# Heart of Liane

by MABEL McELLIOTT

**BEGIN HERE TODAY**

LIANE BARRETT, daughter of CASS BARRETT, an actress goes with her mother to the theatre for the summer. Her mother is playing in stock. At Willow Grove, CLESPAUGH, son of the wealthy patroness of the theatre, ELISE MINNIE, the ingenue, arrives for Elise's interest. Liane's impression has been caused by a handsome stranger who calls her by name one night at the theatre.

She meets him later at a party at the home of MURIEL LADD, deviants who share box office duties with her. His name is VAN ROBARD. Liane falls in love with him. Cass, hearing this, asks Liane never to see him again without giving a reason.

MRS. CLESPAUGH asks Liane to stay with her as her companion in the fall. CHUCK DESMOND, newspaper reporter, later, Liane's dancing one night and Mrs. Ladd sends her home. Liane, thinking they have eloped.

Liane goes with Robard and he makes love to her. One night, she discovers her mother's box office duties. She goes to the theatre box office. Elise tells Liane that Robard is attentive to Muriel's mother and the girl is crushed.

When Cass is packing Liane discovers a picture of Cass' dead sister Liane. Cass is Elise's dead sister. Liane goes to stay with Mrs. CLESPAUGH and finds that Elise and his mother do not get along.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

## CHAPTER TWELVE.

THE problem of Elise's attitude toward his mother remained for the moment unsolved. Liane went dutifully to lunch with the old lady on the day of the ruffing.

Outwardly there was no ruffling of the calm waters, but the young girl sensed a resentment so deep her patron could not bring herself to speak of it. And yet, she thought, Elise had been in the right. His mother had spoken to him as if he were the veriest schoolboy.

"She's kind," reflected the young girl shrewdly, "but she must have her own way." Perhaps Elise had been letting her have it for years in matters large and small and now, at 24, was coming to see that he could bear this state of affairs no longer.

"It doesn't matter to me," thought Liane rather wistfully. "I'm her guest, her protegee, and naturally I must respect all her wishes. But for a man grown to knuckle under and do exactly as she commands him—that would be shameful."

Yes, Liane respected Elise more now that she had seen him "stand up" to his mother.

If Mrs. CLESPAUGH's white head was held a trifle higher, if her tone was sharper and more autocratic, her manner toward Liane at least was not affected.

"I like her, but I see through her, too," thought Liane with affectionate amusement. She was a very proud old woman. She was what the girls at the convent had called "bossy."

Bossiness generally went to the head. The more one's underlings submitted to dictates the more one ordered them around.

"What a boy's no fool," decided Liane, thinking as Elise, and wondering why Elise had thought he was "He has a backbone." She liked him the better for it.

Liane saw little of the young man. Occasionally she had a glimpse of Elise in a turtle-necked sweater, in stained and worn brown riding breeches, galloping down the lane of a soft September morning.

He would nod to her in a friendly yet distant manner, swinging off his soft hat in salutation. She would tramp through the fallen pine needles, kicking the tiny acorns with her sturdy brown shoes, thinking how fortunate she was to live in such a beautiful and luxurious world, while her mother went wandering.

Liane was saving her money now. She was living quietly and demurely. The busy-busy, amusing life of town, of scrambled meals and hand-me-down frocks, became a sort of dim dream.

SOMETIMES at night when she had gone to bed early and could not sleep she would shut her eyes to keep out the pictures that came to her. She remembered, big in his blue uniform, his eyes shining sternly at her. Van Robard in his dinner clothes, bending over her hand. No, she would not think of Van!

She had heard Elise say over the telephone one day, "Van! Oh, he's at Burlington! I believe. Be back about Christmas time."

Nor did she catch glimpses of Muriel any more. Mrs. CLESPAUGH "thoroughly disapproved" of Muriel Ladd.

"Have you heard," she asked Liane in a shocked voice, "of her

lashed, to the older woman's. "I believe in lasting love, don't you?" Mrs. CLESPAUGH regarded her with fondness. She said very firmly, "I certainly do. Not a doubt to it."

Neither of the two had heard a light step on the threshold of the morning room where they sat with the accounts. A vibrant voice with an undercurrent of mirth in it interrupted.

"Interesting to hear two women talking of love in the early hours." Liane, startled, looked full into the deep-set eyes of Van Robard. She gave a startled movement, tumbling the check book and the sheet of bills.

Almost they fell into the fire from which the screen stood a little aside. Van stooped, still smiling, to retrieve them as Mrs. CLESPAUGH, not altogether pleased at the interruption, greeted him.

"Well, I must say—" she began rather crossly. "This is a great surprise for all of us."

Van, handsome in his traveling tweeds, leaned over and kissed her audaciously on the cheek.

"No very gracious, Eva, are you?" he inquired.

"I'm delighted to see you, naturally," protested Mrs. CLESPAUGH not too convincingly. "But why must you walk in unannounced? Why not use the telephone? You young people are so casual, so imperative."

Van appealed to Liane who, crimson and pale by turns, had resumed her place at the desk.

"She calls me a young person," he mocked. "And I'll never see 30 again. I'm deeply flattered."

But Liane refused to smile at him. She gathered up her papers to leave. "I'll get back to all this after luncheon," Mrs. CLESPAUGH said more firmly. Van stood at the door, holding it wide for Liane to pass. As she departed he said, so low no one else could hear:

"Sweet thing, I had to come back to see you."

LIANE dressed for dinner that evening in a fever of excitement. She had only two dinner dresses. One was a limp pink one (it had been Elise's) and the other was a demure white chiffon which, now denuded of the sleeves the good sisters had deemed modest, had been her "class day" dress.

After surveying the two distastefully, Liane chose the white. She had a string of artificial pearls and since Nora had left a cluster of red roses in a crystal vase on the old-fashioned dressing table, she decided to wear a knot of these on her shoulder.

She bathed in haste. Everything she picked up she clumsily dropped that night. "Fingers all thumbs," she grumbled in disgust.

She was terrifiedly nervous. Her hair didn't suit her. She let down the bronze-gold cloud three times and twisted it up again before it was done to her satisfaction.

"Maybe he won't even appear at dinner," she told herself. And, "if mother knew, she would want me to go away."

To her amazement she had discovered at luncheon that Robard was to be a house guest of Mrs. CLESPAUGH's. "He's a distant relative of mine," her hostess had explained. "His mother was my second cousin. We had the same great-grandmother. A charming race, he is. So good-looking and so unreluctant."

Liane had burned to ask in what Robard's unreliability had consisted, but had not dared to evince so much interest in the visitor.

"Maybe he won't be here for dinner at all," she reminded herself. "Probably he's invited to the Ladds." She thought of what Elise had said about Van Robard being Adele Ladd's admirer and winced at the remembrance.

THE old lady looked solemn. "It changes us all, my dear," she said with gravity. "One takes on dignity. Or rather, one should." She frowned as if in deep dissatisfaction tapping her morning newspaper. "Not that one would find in dignity after reading the list of divorce cases these days," she added bitterly.

"Marriage means less than nothing, apparently, to the daughters of my friends," Mrs. CLESPAUGH sighed sharply. "If Elise should ever make such a mess of his life—really, I don't know what I should do!"

She frowned again.

"But that's an unpleasant subject," she said, dismissing it. Looking at Liane shrewdly and kindly she went on:

"You're very young, my dear, but somehow I think you would take marriage in a most serious way than most of the girls of my acquaintance."

"Oh, if I loved," murmured Liane confusedly, "if I loved it would be at once and forever." She raised her shining eyes, deep and long

(To Be Continued)

### STICKERS

With six matches can you make four triangles, each side of each triangle being one whole match in length?

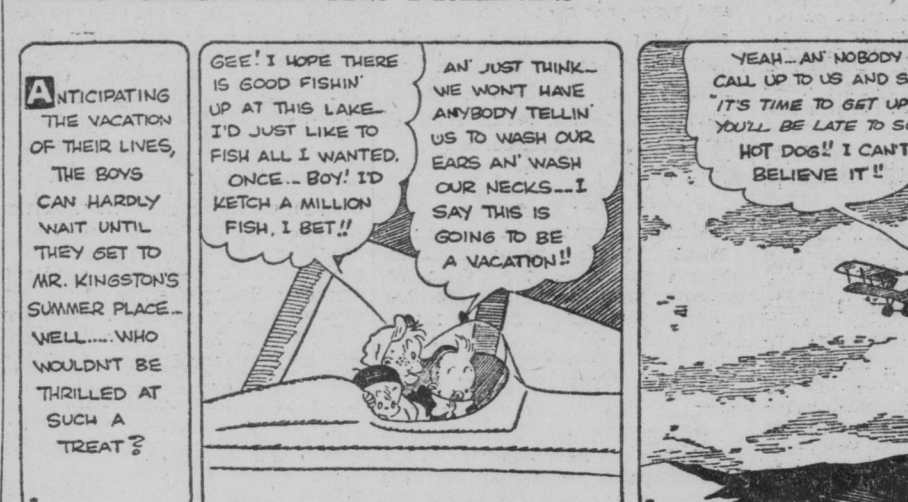
### Answer for Yesterday

To get the alphabetical order of A, B, C and D on the top line; E, F, G and H on the middle line and I, J, K and L on the bottom line, exchange the counters in the following manner: H-K, H-E, H-A, H-I, I-F, I-D, K-I, G-I, J-A, F-K, L-E, D-K, E-F, E-D, E-B and B-K.

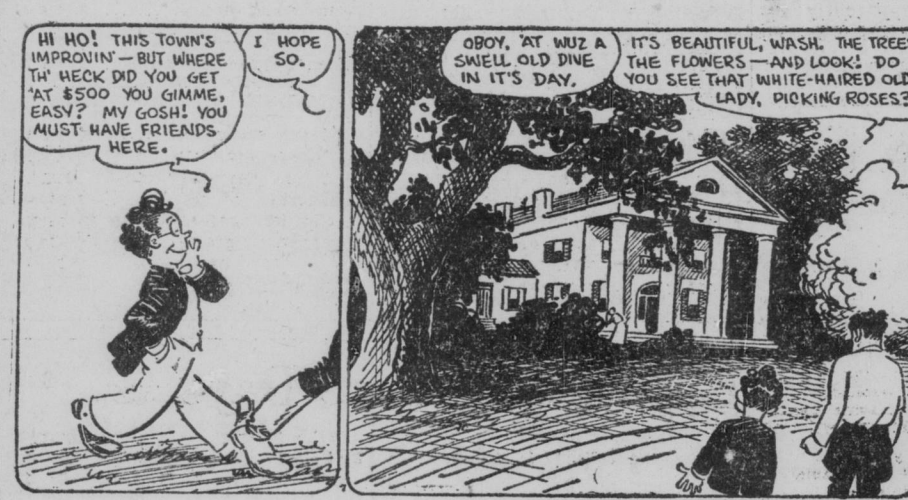
## OUR BOARDING HOUSE



## FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



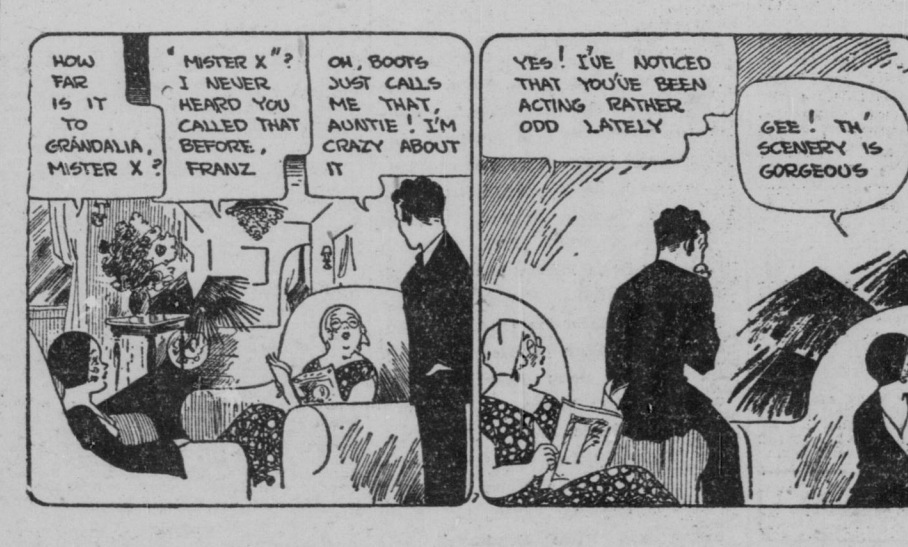
## WASHINGTON TUBBS II



## SALESMAN SAM



## BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



## TARZAN, LORD OF THE JUNGLE



## OUT OUR WAY



## STUMPED



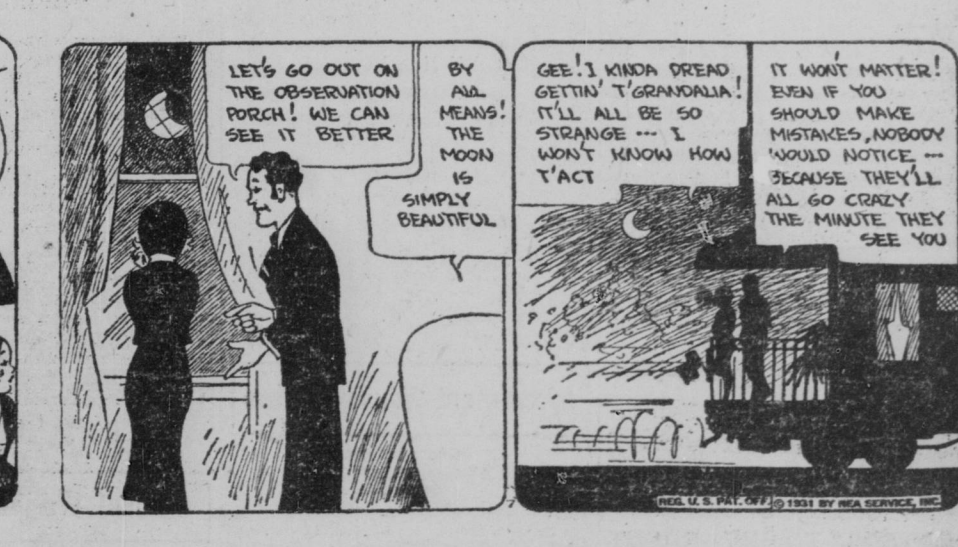
## By Crane



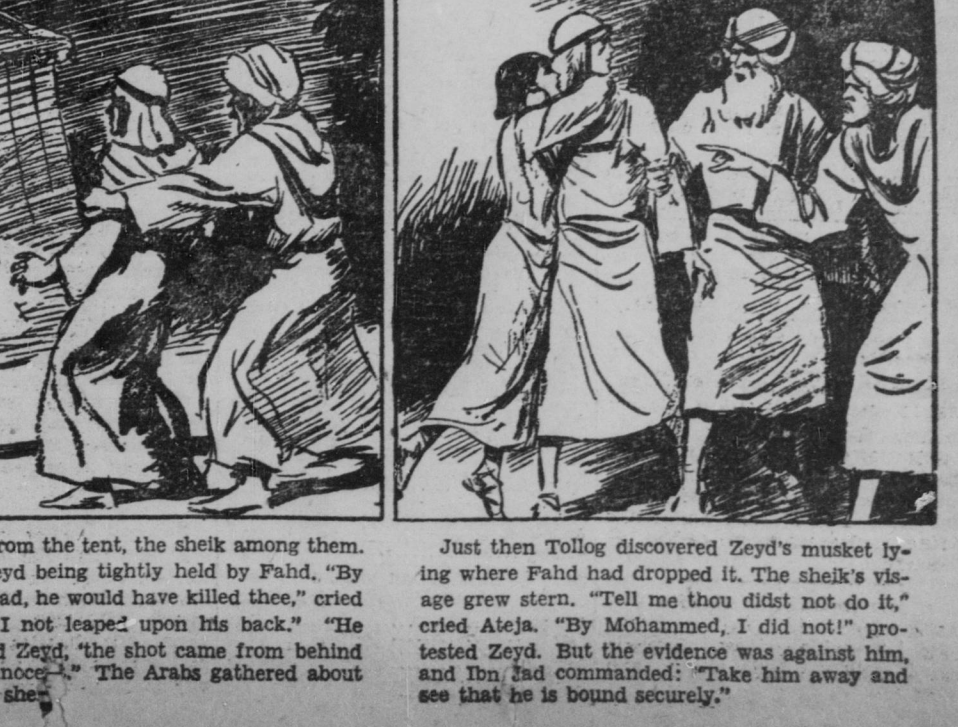
## By Small



## By Martin



## By Edgar Rice Burroughs



### HORIZONTAL

1 Who is the head of the submarine expedition to the North Pole?

6 Only state to show a decrease in population during last 10 years.

15 To estrange.

17 Fear.

18 Diminutive.

19 Mover's trucks.

21 To hesitate.

22 To devour.

23 Intellectual.

25 Ripped.

26 Road.

27 Minor note.

28 Satan.

30 Inlet.

31 Privation.

33 Servo-motor.

35 Senior.

36 Abolishes.

38 Valley bottom.

40 Credit.

41 At no time.

43 Fodder vat.

45 Fowl.

47 To repulse.

### VERTICAL

1 Sprinkles.

2 Famous Greek.

3 Cotton fiber.

4 Lock opener.

5 Within.

6 Hub.

7 To endure.

8 Exclamation.

10 To bow.

11 Weight allowance.

12 Coat of mail.

13 To furnish with machinery.

14 Balance over due.

16 To come in.

18 Southeast.

20 Prevents waste.

23 Second note.

24 Rhythmic swings.

27 Mortgage.

29 Pertaining to the gull family.

31 Pound.

32 To divide.

34 New Haven is the seat of—

35 University?

36 Saint.

37 Leaf of the cary.

38 Toward.

40 Famous pianist and composer.

42 Riotous feast.

44 Fork tines.

46 Trained attendant for the sick.

48 Marked.

50 Triple.

52 Collection of horses.

54 Close.

55 Concelled pre-emption.

57 Stazy fish.

59 To finish.

61 Southwest.