

CURIOUS, the way in which an author gets his ideas for stories. J. Allan Dunn, author of "Goblin Trail" in this issue of ARGOSY, developed his tale out of the following news item:

Out of Anchorage, Alaska, last January, came the story of the "Wild Man of Nashagak," a vague terror who guarded a vast territory in the isolated district north of Bristol Bay. The story was brought back to civilization by a prospector who had returned from a season of gold hunting in this region, which on the maps is but an unexplored white patch. Trappers and prospectors had drawn a voluntary boundary to the terror's domain, and beyond that line they dared not go.

The wild man, probably crazed by loneliness, was several times reported seen, and was blamed for the mysterious disappearances of three or four men who ventured into the province.

LATE in June ARGOSY begins to print four serials in every issue, Mr. Cleland:

Northfield, Minn.

All my friends who are ARGOSY readers prefer more serials than the present two; and these acquaintances are spread all over the country—correspondents in New York, Pennsylvania, California, and Kansas. But perhaps that is because most of us first started reading ARGOSY when it ran four and five serials a week. It occurs to me also that the present policy may be forcing out some of the splendid authors who write nothing but serials.

Still ARGOSY always gives as much for a dime as any other magazine on the market, and I shall probably continue to buy it as I have in the past.

COURTNEY CLELAND.

A TOAST in *Frijole's* best prune juice:

New York City.

Like many ARGOSY fans of long standing, I've always resented strongly the invasion of the novellettes which crowd out my pet serials. ARGOSY used to mean book-length novels to me. Any shorter stories it contained weren't worth much consideration.

I'm still an advocate of the old style ARGOSY with the serial as king. Yet to show how funny

WHAT is *your* idea of the best story (of any length, from short story to serial) published in ARGOSY since January 1, 1935? For the twelve post cards or letters from readers which, in the opinion of the editors, give the best reasons why this or that story stands out above all others, the magazine will reward the letter-writers with twelve full, yearly subscriptions. We don't want mere praise; we are interested in finding out exactly what stories you like best. Nor do we care about your literary style or skill. If there is some story that you liked so much that it stands out in your memory above all others, that is the story we want you to tell us about. It isn't necessary for you to read every story published in ARGOSY. You will have just as good a chance to win one of those twelve subscriptions if you read six of the stories published as you would if you read them all. But we must know *why* you liked the story you choose as best.

Letters selected by the editors will be published from week to week, *but not all letters published will receive subscriptions.*

Make your comments as long or as short as you wish, for mere length will not be considered. Put down all your reasons, however. Then address your letter to The Editor, ARGOSY Magazine, 280 Broadway, New York City, so that it will reach us not later than August 1st, 1935.

we humans are, I nominate as the best story (or stories) so far this year not a serial, but a novelette. This novelette being any of those in which there appears W. C. Tuttle's nose-y *Henry*; ably abetted by *Oscar Johnson* of the musical soul; by the *Judge*, of enviable liquor capacity; by *Oscar's* friend and benefactor, the prune juice wizard *Mr. Frijole Bill*; by *Slim*, the sardonic one—or any of the other interesting people who live and laugh in Wild Horse Valley.

It's a tough old world, and a man gets few chances to enjoy life, these depressing days in which a smile is at a premium and a laugh something to cause amazement. Dull days and sour faces sink the spirit of the most optimistic. A tonic is needed to snap us out of the dumps and make us see tomorrow as a possible improvement on today. What better medicine than a good hearty laugh?

Any man who can create such priceless lunatics as Tuttle's characters deserves our sincerest gratitude. I've just finished the latest of *Henry's* adventures, "The Sherlock of Sageland," and as with all previous stories in this series I cackled all through the tale and ended up with peace in my soul and a big grin on my pan. Whatever the verdict as to best yarns, I'd like to join with all Tuttle fans and drink a toast (in *Frijole Bill's* best prune juice) to more and longer laughs.

EDWARD A. SANDS.

HE saves the installments and reads them all together:

Houston, Texas.

I had been so busy at the office working twelve to fourteen hours every day, and four Sundays in a row, that I had about ten ARGOSYS that I hadn't had time to glance at. When I was ordered to bed with flu, and when the fever left me—oh, boy! Did I make up for lost time!

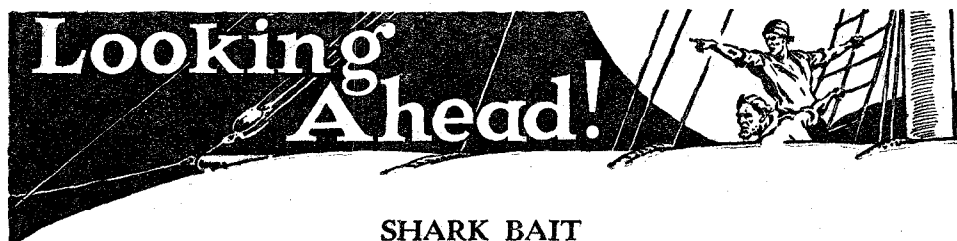
I have told you my system of reading. The shorts and complete novelettes first, and then, having placed the serial installments in rotation, I start one serial and complete it before starting another. That way I get *all* the good, without forgetting any of the story between parts.

I have about forty copies on hand, so now that our annual rush of business at the office is over for another year (I work in the County Auto Registration Department), I will soon need some new issues. I have been reading the ARGOSY only since Dec., 1897!

Concerning Roscoe's "War Declared!" you are darn right war is a racket! I have heard lots of ex-doughboys say the same thing, and that they will never volunteer to go over to another country to fight, though they would defend our homes with their last drop of blood.

Getting tired, so I'll sign off. Tell Tuttle to keep *Henry* and the *Judge* busy. *Adios* for another six months!

R. A. HOWARD.



SHARK BAIT

Further perilous adventures of that red-headed rolling stone, *Singapore Sammy*, the boy who solved the mystery of "The Monster of the Lagoon" in ARGOSY last February.—This time it's treasure, in a three-part serial by

GEORGE F. WORTS

BRAIN AND BRAWN

Tense and unusual is this tale of a Yankee's fight to sink a Latin-American oil well. A vivid novelette by

TOM CURRY

"STAND BY TO CRASH!"

The inside story of what happens when one of the Navy's costly dirigibles goes to smash.—You'll be held spellbound by this novelette by a famous author of air fiction:

GEORGE BRUCE

COMING TO YOU IN NEXT WEEK'S ARGOSY—JUNE 22nd

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