

A Reader's Almanac:

April, May, June

VIRGINIA KIRKUS

April 1

William Faulkner, verbal marathon winner, goes back to the Snopes of his earlier work in his new novel, *The Hamlet*, and once again indulges in tortuous and tortured excesses. Not pleasant reading—but you can't ignore him. Eitel Dolbert, in *Convert to Freedom*, has a new story to tell—Hitler's Germany from the viewpoint of German youth, first an ardent advocate to Naziism, then a "convert to freedom."

April 5

Chad Hanna bids fair to take the lead on Spring lists, in the novel of that name by Walter Edmonds. From razorback to ringmaster, a grand tanbark yarn, and good Americana. Mr. Skeffington, by "Elizabeth," is a skillful psychological novel of a woman who cannot quite accept the fact that her amorous career is over. A good story with authentic background and a bit of social furbelows. At the other end of the social scale, *The Triumph of Willie Pond*, by Caroline Slade, might be defined as a social worker's case book on a family on relief, for the bitter tang of unsavory truth underlies the story of the Ponds. To those who knew Elizabeth Madox Roberts first as a poet, it is good news to learn of *Song in the Meadow*, a collection of poems revealing a rare talent and distinction.

April 8

Sally Salminen, in her second novel of the Aland Islands, *Mariana*, once again shares an intimate knowledge of the region and the people in a story of more drama and conflict than its predecessor. The problem of minorities forms the basis for a poignant story of the Tyrol, *The Valley of Exile*, by Loveday Prior. William McFee's new book, *Watch Below*, is a story of the heyday of the British merchant marine, life on a cargo steamer plying her trade in the waterways of the world.

April 11

Sharply etched character sketches, good adventure, local color—all this in Geoffrey Household's collection of short stories, *The Salvation of Pisco Gabar*. A significant biography, *George Washington*, by Nathaniel Stephenson and Waldo Dunn. Erika Mann presents a revealing picture of life in modern Germany through a group of sketches, true stories drawn from actual cases in city and village and country, in *The Lights Go Down*.

April 12

J. Hyatt Downing is doing good American regional fiction, and *Sioux City* is symbolic of an overgrown town expanding into a boom city, with the central character, a youth caught in the contagion of expansion and prosperity. In *Paris Gazette*, Lion Feuchtwanger gives a realistic picture of German exiles struggling for self expression and a new way of life. *Dark Memory* shows that Jonathan Latimer has more strings to his bow than thrillers, for here is a well-blended mixture of sentiment, adventure, romance, and hardhitting narrative. For a good mystery, read Kathleen Moore Knight's *Death Came Dancing*, murder and robbery against Panama carnival days. Don't miss the pictorial record of a city under attack, Warsaw in the fourteen days before the fall, *Siege* by Julien Bryan.

April 14

Symbolic metaphysical novel played out against the drama of catastrophe, *Titanic*, by Robert Precht.

April 15

King's Row is the title of Henry Bellaman's fine novel—and the town of King's Row is the villain of the piece, while a youth who becomes a psychiatrist is the hero. Louis Zara has given us first rate historical fiction in his new novel, *This Land Is Ours*.

April 16

And another grand yarn, which belongs in the panel with the Zara book, *Wolves Against the Moon*, by Julia Cooley Altrocchi. The period spans those treacherous years from 1794 to 1812, in the new American territories. For sharp contrast, Helen Thomas Flexner's *A Quaker Childhood*, a homespun autobiography.

April 17

Some new twists and more suspense than ever in the new *Blue Mask Strikes Again*, by Anthony Morton.

April 18

A biography of the staunchest defender of American rights, in *Mr. Pitt*, by John C. Long,—well-paced, informal and yet authentic.

April 19

Sophisticated clowning in Virginia Faulkner's new novel, *My Hey-Day*. A "now it can be told" on the part of the British Ambassador to Berlin, Sir Neville Henderson,—*Fail-*

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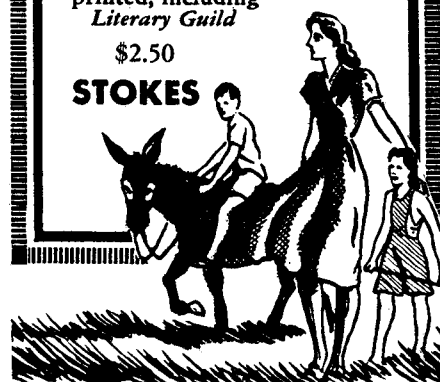
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STOKES



ure of a Mission. ☞An unorthodox autobiography by a man with few inhibitions,—*The Wind of Circumstance*, by Harold Dearden.

April 22

☞Title, author, and illustrator tell the story—*Fields for President*, by W. C. Fields, with illustrations by O. Soglow.

April 25

☞There's a wealth of information in *The Triumph of American Capitalism*, by Louis M. Hacker. A good economic history of the United States with roots in Europe.

April 26

☞*Broken Pledges*, by Philip Gibbs, is the love story of an American journalist and an English daughter of the aristocracy. ☞Stewart Edward White shifts scene to the Northwest, in a story of youth with the call of new places in the blood,—*Wild Geese Calling*. ☞An unusual, brilliant, and somewhat esoteric first novel by a poet, Rayner Heppenstall, *The Blaze of Noon*. ☞Two recommendations for escape reading,—*Red Clark for Luck*, by Gordon Young, and *Murder on the Face of It*, by Emma Lou Fetta. ☞A. P. Herbert's new book, *General Cargo*, is a random collection,—bits of verse, critical commentary, social satire, etc. ☞And Harold Lamb once more shows that history can always provide new inspiration for the good story teller, in *The March of the Barbarians*, a story of Asia in the days when men on horseback swayed empires.

April 29

☞Folk tales, anecdotes, and human interest stories, built around the

people she knows so well,—*When the Whippoorwill*, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. She is a many faceted writer. ☞*Spring Offensive*, by Herbert Clyde Lewis, is a trick book, convincingly handled—a man's life in flashbacks. ☞Mystery-novel, rather than straight whodunit,—*Head Over Heels in Murder*, by Ione Sandberg Shriber.

April 30

☞Jonathan Daniels, after exploring his own southland, penetrates the fastnesses of New England in *A Southerner Discovers New England*.

☞Chester Valley, Pennsylvania, is the protagonist of a modern novel of a passing era in *Shadows on the Valley*, by Barbara Webster. ☞James Truslow Adams continues his history of the British Empire in *Empire on the Seven Seas*. It covers momentous years, from the end of the American Revolution to the accession of George VI. ☞Vol. II of Nicholas Murray Butler's autobiography, *Across the Busy Years*, tallies closely with the first volume in its impersonality. It deals with his work as unofficial ambassador of good will, the official side of his activities. ☞Michael Strange tells a glamorous story of her own life in *Who Tells Me True*.

"EARLY IN MAY"

☞We reported the de Savitch book last time under an earlier date and a different title, but what we said still holds true "early in May" for *In Search of Complications*!

May 6

☞There's Louis Paul's new book, *A Passion for Privacy*, light-hearted romantic farce, for Spring hammock reading. ☞And there's a story built around a figure familiar to many, the

door-to-door salesperson, in *Doorbells*, by Barbara Black. ☞Two books bring nature close in different ways,—*Look at Life*, by Linwood Chace, a beautiful photographic book of the animal life around us; and *Down to Earth*, by Alan Devoe, in which a naturalist who is a philosopher as well, makes his observations of the world of nature around him enchanting reading.

May 7

☞Stewart H. Holbrook, in *Ethan Allen*, gives Vermont's hero flesh and blood reality. ☞Robert R. R. Brooks uses steel as his "proving ground" for the study of unionism in a basic industry, *As Steel Goes*.

May 8

☞George Arliss tells of his *Ten Years in the Studios*, with characteristic understatement of his own real contribution. An engaging book.

May 9

☞The tale of a remote castle in Austria, at the turn of the century, *A Castle in Carinthia*, by Johan Fabricius, and of developments up to and through the first world war. ☞Amusing and entertaining deviation from usual Western fare in *Man on Horseback*, by B. M. Bower. ☞For wealth of background material on the real West, read Erna Fergusson's *Our Southwest*. Good history and good travel information. ☞Swinging West and North—there is *Alaska Holiday*, by Barrett Willoughby,—a personal record of two women on "Alaska holiday," and a pot-pourri of stories and sketches on the country and the people. ☞Crusader against plagues, the world around, Hans Zinsser, writes what sounds suspiciously like autobiography in *As I Remember Him*. He knows how to spin a tale.

May 10

☞Leads off with the astounding "forbidden classic" of Chinese literature, *Chin Ping Mei*, the adventurous history of Hsi Men and his Six Wives. It is a veritable Casanova legend. ☞With fluent wit and discerning candor, Sir John Lavery tells his story, *The Life of a Painter*. ☞Then a new Wodehouse, *Eggs, Beans and Crumpets*, short stories of Wodehouse familiars and newcomers and their economic, financial, and romantic adventures. ☞Dual Crime Club selection in Rufus King's *Holiday Homicide*, and in a spinster-sleuth yarn, *The Lady Wept Alone*, by Carolyn Byrd Dawson. ☞Lastly, Hugh Walpole's random reminiscences of Rome, *Roman Fountain*. From the funeral of Pius XI, which took him there in 1939, his mental wanderings carry him back to various experiences and the thoughts to which they gave rise.

May 13

☞Scheduled for this date, Elizabeth Goudge's *The Bird in the Tree*. ☞And Katharine Brush, popular novelist and short story writer, writes an honest

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and revealing autobiography, *This Is On Me*.

May 14

☞The Pasquier Chronicles are continued in *Cecile Pasquier*, by Georges Duhamel, thus bringing the cycle down to 1914.

May 17

☞Upton Sinclair has a faculty for spinning a good yarn out of topical material and in *World's End*, the armament industry of the world is "his pigeon."

May 20

☞A section of the country which teems with adventurous history is drained by the Arkansas River and the next title in the River Series is Clyde Brion Davis's *The Arkansas*.

May 25

☞A frontier figure forms the central character in Cecile Hulse Matschat's first novel, *Preacher on Horseback*.

May 29

☞F. Van Wyck Mason has painted a broad canvas, with the colonies, the Bahamas, and war on land and sea in his new historical novel of the American Revolution, *Stars on the Sea*.

AND JUST A FORETASTE OF JUNE

June 1

☞Angela Thirkell, whose deftness with trivia is assuredly popular, has a new novel, *Before Lunch*.

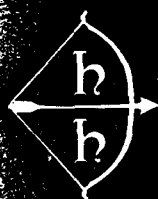
June 4

☞A small Southern mill town and a group of characters closely linked by relations to the central character, work out their pattern in a powerful story, *Heart of Silence*, by Carson McCullers. ☞Romantic drama, set in the period when the French and the British were in conflict over possession of Acadia,—*Quietly My Captain Waits*, by Evelyn Eaton. ☞Ribald, and yet in good taste—*Cabbage Holiday*, by Anthony Thorne.

June 5

☞Readers of *The New Yorker* will look forward to a collection of John C. Mosher's sketches in *Celibate at Twilight*. ☞Romance, in popular key, *Kind Are Her Answers*, by Mary Renault.

And with a new R. C. Hutchinson, *The Fire and the Wood*, coming on the 17th; Neil Swanson's *The Silent Drum* promised for the 10th; and on that same date Helen Hull's *Through the House Door*, scheduled with the much-heralded James Gould Cozzens, *Ask Me Tomorrow*, Van Loon's *Story of the Pacific* and other tempting fare in the offing, it looks like a good month for book-lovers. Watch for the June Postscript.



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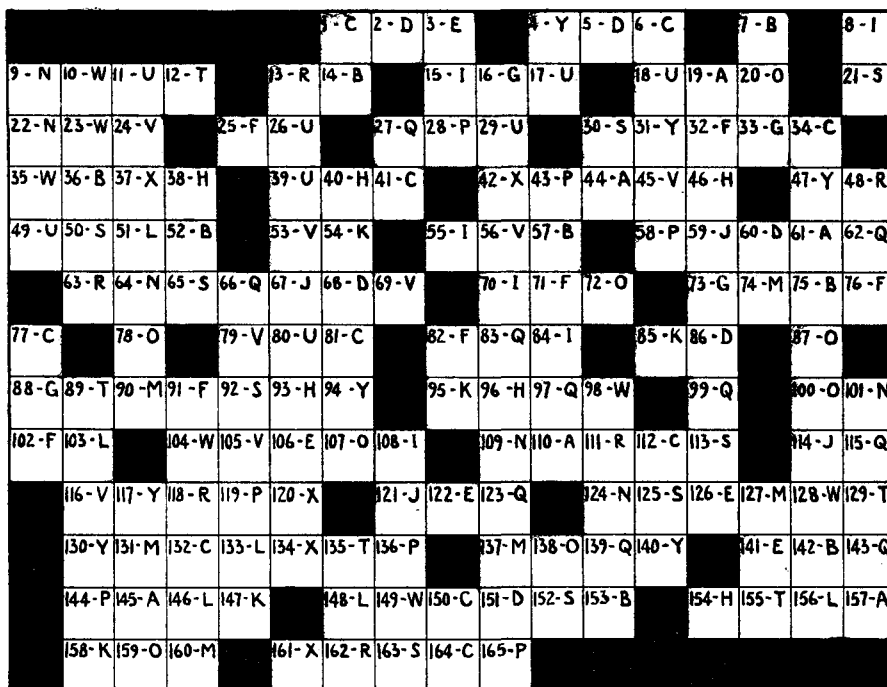
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Double-Crostics: No. 315

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DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-five words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square on the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Reading up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; therefore words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (1938 edition).

The solution of last week's Double Crostic will be found on page 10 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- Pet canine (2 wds.)
- Stupid; like a goose.
- Not accompanied.
- Full of wrinkles.
- Harbor of Solomon's Ophir fleet.
- Dukedom of Thomas Mowbray ("Richard II").
- Intimations.
- Observing narrowly.
- Small poodle with long curly hair.
- Greek letter.
- Mogul viceroy.
- Jaundiced.
- Character in "King Lear."
- European maple in U. S.
- Hook-shaped.
- Contrivance (slang).
- Novel by Cooper.
- Fame, note.
- Railed bitterly.
- Out of sorts (colloq.).
- Satellite of Jupiter.
- Foolishly diffident.
- Externally manifest.
- Equine cry.
- Hideous; deathlike.

WORDS

145	19	44	157	110	61				
7	142	52	57	36	14	75	153		
150	1	132	6	41	164	112	77	81	34
68	60	151	2	86	5				
106	126	141	3	122					
71	25	91	82	102	76	32			
73	16	33	88						
40	46	38	96	93	154				
15	70	84	8	108	55				
114	59	121	67						
54	158	147	85	95					
133	51	148	156	146	103				
74	137	131	90	127	160				
101	9	64	124	22	109				
87	159	100	20	107	138	78	72		
144	28	119	58	43	165	136			
66	83	27	62	139	99	115	143	123	97
162	118	63	111	13	48				
92	30	50	65	125	113	152	163	21	
135	155	12	89	129					
11	49	26	39	18	80	17	29		
79	56	24	69	45	53	116	105		
128	10	35	104	149	23	98			
120	37	134	161	42					
94	117	31	130	140	47	4			