

Add years to

the life of your house

Sunk in the Pacific By R. RAY BAKER (Copyright, 1918, by the McClure paper Syndicate.)

If Inza Richardson had been less quick tempered she would have missed being the heroine of a story that starts in Sin Francisco and ends in

the South Pacific. She regretted it five minutes after the uttered the words that sent Arthur Westridge away from her home, and she would have called after him and pleaded with him to return if he had not walked so swiftly down the street and if she had been able to thrust her pride into the background. While she sitated he disappeared from view. "He'll never come back," she told herself, and she went to her room and shut herself in. When a friend called the next morning to take her motoring Inza had a severe headache and could not see her.

It all started over nothing noth-ing when the results were considered. Arthur was kept busy late one evening at the office of the Trans-Pacific ship office where he worked, and was half an hour behind time when he called to take inza to the theater. That was bad enough, Inza thought, but when it developed that he had failed to get tickets and she had to walt in the foyer while he stood in line before the box office, she felt that the limit had been reached.

When he had bought the tickets she made him tear them up and take her straight home, where a warm verbal battle, in which he took no part, occurred. It terminated when she took the engagement ring from her finger and handed it to him with the words: "Don't ever show up here again. The

idea of humiliating me as you did this evening! It shows how much you care for me. Good by." Arthur went, because he had a tem-

per of his own and was afraid he would unleash it if he remained. He felt she was unreasonable, because he had told her he was detained by business, but he complied with her wishes, or what she stated to be her wishes, and left her.

A week passed and Inza heard nothing from Arthur. By this time she was worrying. Her love for him could not be questioned, but there was her pride to consider. When that week terminated, however, with silence on the part of her erstwhile fiance, she crushed her pride ruthlessly under her heel and called up the office where he worked. It took a lot of bravery for her to ask for that number, but she did It. "Mr. Westridge is not employed here

any more," she was told over the wire. "He resigned his office position a week ago and took a berth as a sailor on the steamer John Richard, which started the next day for Australia." Inza was aghast at this intelligence.

"Why," she faltered, "why did he do that?" She knew very well why he did it, because she knew Arthur. However, she listened to the reply: "Said he was tired of being cooped

up in an office, and wanted to get out in the air and see some real life and some foreign country." Then a real cloud of despair settled

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the days passed. The ship tossed on glant waves and even the veteran ocean travelers were indis-

Finally a warning was issued by the officers for every passenger to keep a life preserver on, awake of asteep. The precaution was well founded, for that very night the big ship was driven off her course and in the darkness hurled itself on a rock. She clung to the obstruction for two hours, which

gave ample time for the lifeboats to launched. The sea was running so high, however, that many of these were swamped before they could get any distance from the wrecked vessel. Finally the steamer slipped from the rock, the sea poured into the hold through the hole that had been made, and one more craft joined the armada of sunken hulks on the bottom of the South Pacific. Just how she got there Inza never

knew, but she came out of a long period of unconsciousness to find her self lying high on a beach, whence she evidently had been cast by the waves. She was bedraggled and cold, her clothes having been drenched by the brine, while the life preserver about her was an oppressive weight. Nearby was a lifeboat, overturned, also high and dry on the shore.

Inza scanned the sea, which was almost calm. The sun was high in the heavens and the sky was clear. Look-ing back toward some low hills, her eyes caught a black speck which ap-peared to be moving. While she watched it grew larger and finally de-veloped into the shape of a man.

But such a man! His hair fell in a tangled mass over his shoulders and his beard was long and kinky, while his clothing was in tatters.

"Don't run away; I'm harmless. Let me welcome you to Crusoe island. I named it myself. How do you like it?" He came closer, and suddenly as he looked at her his eyes took a peculiar glitter. Wonder and astonishment shone from them, and he muttered in Wonder and astonishment coherently. She stood, held powerless by his gaze, until he was almost upon

"Inza!" he cried. "It can't—no, it can't be."

The voice sounded familiar. She scrutinized his face and slowly it took on some aspects that made him seem less like a stranger. A piercing blast shook the island

and a steamer rounded the shore a short distance out. But just then Inza and Arthur were too busily occupied with each other to notice that rescu was close at hand.

A Finished Product. "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched."

"No, suh," replied Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "De fack is, I don' pay no 'tention to 'em till dey's done growed several months."

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over the Richardson residence. Inza lost her usually healthy appetite, and although she had no flesh to spare she became as "thin as a fence rail," as her father put it. She held no one to blame but herself, but that did not as-

suage the pain in her heart. Inza watched the mail carrier every day from the time he came into sight around the corner until he either passed the Richardson home or mounted the porch; and he never found it nec-essary to use the mail box. Inza received what he had to offer, and always there was a feeling of deep disappointment gripping her when she entered the house,

The big crash came a month later, the crash that crumbled her spirit and sent her over the very brink of hope into the chasm through which flowed the river of sorrow. It was a headline that stared up at her from a news-

paper: "Steamer Richard Sinks in Storm; All Aboard Lost."

¹ It happened in the south seas, so the story went. The British steamer Thurston answered the Richard's wire-less S. O. S., and arrived on the scene just in time to see the distressed ves-sel go beheath the waves. That part of the ocean was searched as diligently as possible with the storm in progress,

as possible with the storm in progress, but not a survivor could be found. Inza broke down completely and the doctor warned that severe illness was ahend for her unless she experienced a radical change. Her father offered to finance a voyage to Europe, but she wild she enced multips for a visit on said she cared nothing for a visit on

"Make it Australia, and Fil go," she said; and Mr. Richardson consented to, this proposing that her mother should this proposing that her mother should accompany her. Inte demutred. "I want to go alone," she contended, and her father, after a few moments of silent debate with himself, said he would agree even to that, if only it would improve her health. How the he succeeded in arranging with the other passenger on the same ship to keep inthe miler close watch without her knowledge.

Feep man inter close which which her knowledge. Fair weather was enjoyed until the Hawaiian bilands were reached. Shortly after traversing that part of the sea the steamer encountered a se-vere storm, which arew more violest

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