

"GREY FACE"

Jeffery Blackburn Sleuths Again

ANOTHER Max Afford detective serial, featuring (as they say) Jeffery Blackburn, the sleuth of "The Mysterious Mr. Lynch," is now under production by the NBS Drama Department, and will be released from National stations later in the year.

The success of "Mr. Lynch," which was produced by the NBS a year or so ago, created a demand for another detective thriller series, and "Grey Face" is the answer. Although it is not a sequel to "Mr. Lynch," it is along the same lines, was created by the same author, Max Afford, the Australian writer, and shows the same redoubtable Jeffery Blackburn, and of course his wife Elizabeth, in enough exciting adventures to please the most blasé.

Jeffery Blackburn had his beginnings in a ghost story 14 years ago. "That," says Mr. Afford in the *ABC Weekly*, "was back in the ear-phone and cat's-whisker days of radio. We had acquired a crystal set. One night I happened to be listening at home on my own, and I heard the announcer's request to 'turn down the lights and listen.' The ghost story that came through the ear-phones was, in manner of presentation, one of the most novel experiences I had ever had. A magazine commissioned me to write a series of 12 short stories, appearing monthly. The editor insisted that the hero be a 'gentleman detective.' And no school could have produced a more perfect example of courtliness than my Rupert Garland. Rupert was for ever quoting Latin phrases, smoking expensive Russian cigarettes, and flicking the ash nonchalantly about him. He was always faultlessly dressed and made all the airy deductions while other people did the dirty work of catching the criminals and hanging them. In short, Rupert Garland was a prig. After 12 episodes, I decided that I had finished with gentlemen detectives for life. Jeffery Blackburn was actually created on the rebound from the obnoxious Rupert. John Long, the London publishers, announced a prize of £100 for the best 'first detective novel.' I determined to enter for the competition. I had a good plot but wanted a character—not a gentleman detective, but a normal human individual who would make mistakes and persevere, and (since there are certain conventions in the detective story) would eventually foil the villain in the last chapter. He had to be as different from Rupert Garland as chalk from cheese. And it is as Jeffery Blackburn that he has appeared in three novels, in four radio serials, in two short plays and a number of short stories. In the novels Jeffery was single. His closest companion was Inspector Read. But when I wrote my first radio serial, "Fly By Night," it was necessary to inject a love interest. And so Elizabeth was born. At the end of that serial I married Jeffery quite happily to Elizabeth, believing that the man would be far too bowed down with domestic cares to worry any more about criminology. It was with genuine regret that I said goodbye to him. I'd got quite to like Jeffery. Thus, when I was commissioned to write a second Blackburn serial, "The Mysterious Mr. Lynch," I was in rather a quandary. . . . Elizabeth, I realised, was definitely wedded to my hero for the term of her literary life."

WIN £50! Enter Now in this

£1,000,000 HEART-TO-HEART APPEAL CROSSWORD-PUZZLE COMPETITION

HERE'S your chance to win a handsome Cash Prize of £50 and at the same time provide comforts for the boys overseas. All you have to do is to complete the Crossword Puzzle below and send in your solution.

This Competition is sponsored by the Film Industry Movie Queen Committee of the Wellington Victory Queen Carnival, and all profits go towards the £1,000,000 Heart-to-Heart Appeal.

A sealed solution and cheque for £50 prize money has been lodged with the Advertising Manager of the "Dominion" newspaper, Wellington.

PROCEEDS TO PROVIDE COMFORTS FOR THE BOYS OVERSEAS

ENTRIES only 1/- each

ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

A competent staff of adjudicators under the supervision of Mr. R. L. Grant, General Manager of Theatre Management Ltd., Wellington, will supervise the entries received. The result of this contest will be published in the "N.Z. Listener" on April 11th and the "Dominion" on Saturday, March 29.

Each entry must be accompanied by Postal Note to the value of one shilling (stamps will NOT be accepted).

CLOSING DATE — MARCH 26th

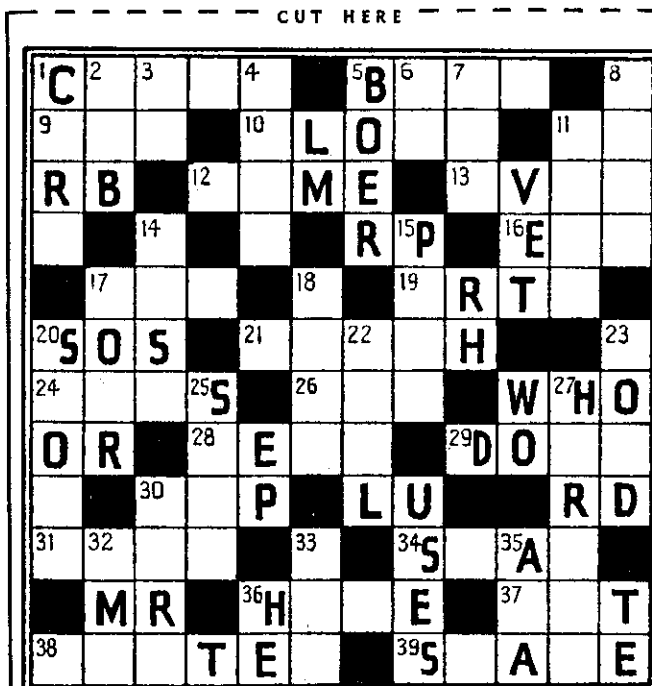
CLUES.

ACROSS

1. It may be difficult to see the true depth of this.
5. It may make a lot of noise.
9. Not at home.
10. By one's self.
11. Cry to attract attention.
12. This means money.
13. Wicked.
16. Slippery fish.
17. Surely this tickles you.
19. Branches of learning.
21. Referee must keep an eye on this.
24. Crude houses.
26. Tennis term.
28. Skin.
29. Entrance.
30. Sharp report.
31. Chair.
34. High-flying person may do this.
36. This may obscure a beautiful thing.
37. Obtained.
38. Is often used on a green.
39. To do this is often a kindly act.

DOWN

1. Extracting this may be quite a difficult task.
2. Nave of wheel.
3. Denotes presence.
4. Its service is of great benefit to us.
6. One.
7. Born.
8. Take life easily.
11. Hastens.
14. Is evidence of inattention.
15. Treaty.
17. Twice two.
18. Where a number of wallflowers may be seen.
20. You may find trees in them.
22. Inform.
23. Cross this—it may be a teaser.
25. Discolour.
27. Excessive fear.
30. Portion.
32. Running bird.
33. A good rower, perhaps.
35. Turkish Commander.



I agree to abide by the decision of the Competition Supervisor.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....N.Z.L.

--- CUT HERE ---

RULES.

1. Each entry will be carefully checked and a prize of £50 will be awarded to the competitor who submits the correct set of answers to the clues. In the event of a tie or ties the prize will be divided, but a winning competitor may only receive one share. In the event of no correct solution being received, the prize money will be awarded to the competitor or competitors with the least number of errors.
2. Entries must be completed in ink and enclosed in an envelope addressed to: "Crossword," Movie Queen Committee, Box 968, Wellington, and posted to arrive on or before Wednesday, March 26th. Readers may submit as many entries as they wish provided they are on the authorised printed forms.
3. No responsibility is accepted for entries lost, delayed or mislaid before or after delivery. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. Mutilated or altered forms will be disqualified.
4. The decision of the Adjudication Committee will be final. No correspondence can be entered into and no interviews granted.