

SERIAL STORY

CONSCRIPT'S WIFE

BY BETTY WALLACE

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YESTERDAY: Martha sticks to her decision to return to work, leaves Helen's with little explanation. She finds her old room still vacant, returns but to the boarding kennel. But Air Transport may not want her back. She goes to the office and is overjoyed when the Chief gives her an uproarious welcome.

RUSH FLIGHT TO NEW YORK CHAPTER XXV

It was good to be back in the office. Good to see the sunlight in bars through the Venetian blinds. Good even to smile at the astonished expressions of the thin file clerk and the freckled office boy and the stout matron from the comptroller's office who happened to be there when the Chief led her triumphantly in.

Out of the corner of her eye, Martha saw that Paul's office was empty. She followed the Chief into his office. She listened patiently while he went through the list of woes.

"Three reports in hash—mine meat—on that desk of yours, somewhere. Two more down in Sales, kicking around until somebody gets time." He thrust a folder of correspondence at her. "This is unrush stuff, weeks old. You know how to answer it yourself, thank God. There's tons of other stuff—Paul's up to his ears—oh, by the way, he's in New York."

She sat back in her chair. Relief seeped through her. She had time to get into the groove, time to collect herself, and to be casual and normal before she had to meet Paul's wise eyes. "He left this morning. He typed a lot of his stuff last night in a hurry, and in a mess."

"Was it something important?" "Conference," the Chief said. "We've been overrun with automobile men, you know. Detroit's taking a whack at turning out plane parts. Paul's getting together with a bunch of automobile engineers and a vice-president or two. They're tooling up new plants, running into a lot of grief."

He turned back to his desk with a contented sigh. "For the first time in weeks, I can work without breaking my head about a lot of foolishness." He grinned, disarmingly. "Wonderful, how a man goes along for years never giving his secretary credit for anything but nice red hair—and then finds out there must have been something rather special underneath."

"Turn off the soft soap, Chief," she retorted. "You probably scared the wits out of those poor girls you fired. The only thing unique about me is, I talk back."

Sitting at her desk, the pyramided paper baskets piled high with bulging folders, Martha waded into her work happily. Deep contentment the contentment that had been so rapidly absent from her days in the bungalow—filled her. There was no time to think, to remember. The potent philter called "work" wrought its magic spell, and for hours while her fingers flew over the typewriter keys, Martha forgot Bill.

Perhaps it was not actually forgetting. But it was blessed amnesia, and at lunch she thought, with a wry smile, "Men have known this secret for centuries. But women who work are in on it, now, too. Without my job, I'd be crying my eyes out on the bed at Helen's."

She couldn't help wondering, then, why Bill had been unable to find in soldiering this same absorbing satisfaction, this same sweet release. "Perhaps he didn't try. Perhaps Bill didn't take his training in earnest. He did treat it rather like a whim of the government's."

The next morning, the pile of folders had dwindled considerably. The Chief was himself again, scowling at the file clerk, barking at Martha, roaring into telephones.

He was roaring so alarmingly when Martha brought in the completed reports of a wind tunnel test that she backed out involuntarily. She'd surely burst a blood vessel!

"You crossed-eyed waddling ox, you job-jam junky Jonah, don't stand there and tell me you forgot! How in the hell did you expect to instruct a bunch of auto men when you walk off and leave the most vital papers in your office? Paul Elliott, I'll break your neck for this!"

Martha jumped. Paul! The Chief was talking to Paul, in New York.

"Why in the name of cracking crimson crocuses didn't you discover this yesterday? We could have mailed them to you! Registered, air-mailed, double damned duty dumped insured hellicats! I know they're valuable. Well, what do you expect me to do."

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Around the County

Sutherlin

SUTHERLIN, Feb. 7.—Mrs. S. A. Schieman and Miss Bertha Sutherlin spent the week-end in Seattle, Washington, visiting friends. While there they drove out to the airport where they viewed 33 Boeing bombers lined up ready to be flown to England.

Mrs. Othol Cook and Mrs. "Bud" Holm went to Portland last Friday where they attended the Young Peoples' Volunteer society convention. They returned here Sunday.

Little Miss Donna Carol Hoodenpyle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oral Hoodenpyle of Creswell, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Loyal Goff, this week.

Ben Fennel suffered a fractured knee cap when hit by a pole last Thursday while at work at the Bonanza mine.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilsan Mardin and daughters, are leaving Wednesday for San Diego, California, to visit with relatives for the next two months. Mr. Mardin's grandmother, Mrs. A. B. Ridge-way, is in poor health.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Horner and son, James Benjamin, motorist to Eugene last Sunday where Mrs. Horner remained to visit for a week with her mother, Mrs. J. F. Brown. Mr. Brown accompanied Mr. Horner home for a week's visit here.

Mrs. Mary Mitcham is confined to her home by illness. Mrs. Don Wichter and children returned here Saturday from Creswell where they had been visiting.

Miss Elvira Wofford, Franklyn Wofford, Jerry Rickel, Herbert Northcraft of Sutherlin and Miss Frances Pounds of Roseburg were among those who attended the benefit fights in Portland last Wednesday night.

Art Hansen, local contractor, has a crew at work this week plastering and painting the interior of Robertson's drug store. The work is a great improvement and gives much pleasure to the owners, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Robertson.

A. D. Klinger of Roseburg has rented the east side of the building occupied by Ben's cafe from Ed Larsen, owner, and plans to start work the end of the week preparing the building for a fruit and vegetable market.

Miss Elvira Wofford spent the week-end in Roseburg visiting friends.

Word has been received here of the death of Mrs. Carsen, mother of Seely Carsen, at her home in

(To be continued)

With Major Hoopie

Country Club Chat

The largest number of golfers so far this year took advantage of good weather Sunday to enjoy play at the Roseburg Country club course and some fine scores were turned in.

Jack Rodgers took first place in the first division of the handicapped tournament with a net score of 73. Kenneth Quine was consolation winner. K. D. Lytle was first in the second division with a net 75. Verdon Boucock won consolation.

A blind bogey tournament will be held next Sunday for all local players.

Dr. Endicott of Eugene, who is visiting at the R. D. Bridges home at Oakland, played a round with Mr. Bridges and local golfers Sunday.

The stag party held Jan. 31 proved a very enjoyable affair and members are now looking forward to the Valentine party to be held Feb. 15. Members will have the privilege of inviting guests for the informal entertainment.

Wilbur

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Chief Hallstrom, of the Cherokee Indians of the Oklahoma reservation, entertained the students of the Wilbur school on Feb. 4th.

Students of Lookingglass high school were the guests of Wilbur high school in the playing of two conference games on Friday, Jan. 31st.

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Eugene during the last two weeks but word has been received that he is on the road to recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Marsh entertained with a Spanish dinner at their home last Sunday, Feb. 2nd, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Von Farrell and their daughters, Yvonne, Lorna and Norma.

Mrs. B. B. Irving and daughter, Frances, of Roseburg were visiting friends in Wilbur Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith and family and Miss Virginia Smith of Marshfield were week-end guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Smith.

Wilma LaRaut is now back in school after a speedy recovery from an emergency appendectomy.

Craig Short left Sunday for Los Angeles to enter the Anderson school of aeronautics. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Short of Wilbur.

Alfred Hill and Mrs. Alice Barker were married at Toledo on the 24th day of Jan. They are making their home in Wilbur.

Mr. Newton from Tibet, China, was a visitor of Mr. and Mrs.

Harry Baird Friday, Jan. 31st. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Brown and family spent Sunday in Roseburg as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Quine.

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Trucks and Commercial 1940 Ford Logging Truck, 1939 International Panel \$495, 1937 Dodge Panel 395, 1939 Ford Pickup 495, 1938 Ford Pickup 395, 1937 Chevrolet Truck 375, 1935 Dodge Truck 275

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