

BLOND GODDESS A New Serial By Herbert Jensen

SYNOPSIS: Frank Grahame, explorer and aviator, finds himself trying to solve the mystery of the disappearance of Janice Kent, movie star. He and his partner, Spin Winslow, another aviator, believe a Central American named Ortega is responsible. Ortega has been negotiating with Myberg, film executive, for a picture with Mexican backgrounds and Janice is to play the lead. Frank and Spin learn from Janice's maid that Ortega telephoned to see whether Janice was at home, and that he has checked out of his hotel and taken a cab to Central Airport. They are about to start out to the airport in Spin's roadster.

Chapter Nine

THE CHASE BEGINS

"COME on, Frank, let's go!" On the way down the stairs, Grahame said, "I feel like a fifth wheel. Spin, you've done everything. Thanks a lot. You know how I feel about Janice. I—"

Winslow paused and turned toward him. The expression in his eyes was veiled. He parted his lips to speak, paused, and said, "You're as complete a romanticist as Paula. Forget it. Kent's my bread and butter for the next six months—until the picture is done. I'm no altruist. I'm just—"

The dapper Mr. Greene bounded down the stairs behind them. A paper fluttered in his hand. He looked at Grahame with an expression of bewildered respect.

"Mr. Grahame," he said breathlessly, "you forgot your contract." "My contract?" asked Grahame, puzzled. He saw that the crumpled bit of paper was the one that Myberg had given him. Mechanically he took it in his hands.

Greene said, drawing himself erect importantly, "You'll be needing some publicity work done. If I may recommend my services to you—"

Winslow's long arm reached out. The palm of his hand pressed gently, inexorably against Greene's peary-gray chest. Mr. Green, perforce was pushed backward.

"Greene," said Winslow gently, "you got upstairs with Paula... and stay there!" He gave an abrupt shove. Greene stumbled backward up three or four stairs.

They passed out of the house and stepped into Winslow's blue roadster at the curb. The wheels spun; they lurch forward. They roared down to Santa Monica Boulevard, thence into Wilshire. Swinging right into San Vicente, they flashed by the lights of the Pico crossing. As they zig-zagged into Crenshaw and headed south, Grahame noticed that he still held Myberg's scrap of paper. He tore it across and held the pieces to the half-opened window. The wind snatched them.

He muttered, "What a hell of a time to think of business."

Winslow, intent over the wheel, chuckled dryly.

"That's a crack at me, I guess. Wait'll you're lived in this town as long as I have. That's a lot of money you're throwing away."

Grahame made an inarticulate noise. "You're hard-boiled, Spin."

"Am I? Yes, I guess so." For a minute he drove in silence, whereupon he said, in a curious tone, "You're no fifth-wheel, Frank. I'm glad you're along. Myberg sensed it. You get things done. I—"

Grahame said a little bitterly, "So do you, Spin—when your job's at stake."

"When my job's—Yes, I guess you're right."

THE blue roadster sild to a stop before a small building. Behind it a hangar bulked whitely against the dark sky.

Winslow called to an attendant, "Jeff here!"

"Went home at five. Anything I can—?" The roar of a motor from some hidden test block drowned the last of his words.

"Yeah," said Winslow. He heaved himself out from behind the wheel. "Anybody shove out of here in the last hour or two?"

"Uhuh. Closed job. Micky took 'em. Just about an hour ago."

"Micky who?"

"McGuire. Army kid."

"Don't know him. Who'd he take?"

"Whoopee party to Caliente. Two men and a woman. The girl was almost out."

Grahame parted his lips; Winslow squeezed his arm, coaxing him. Winslow snapped a light to a cigarette.

"Jeff own anything faster?"

"Not conditioned... there's a D. H.—an old crate—in hangar one, but I wouldn't fly her on a bet. I—"

"You wouldn't, but we will, Gassed and oiled?"

They had the motor chugging on its warm-up when the man came back. He said, "Jeff says it's all right. But he says don't wreck the ship unless you can kill each other doing it."

Winslow chuckled. The attendant said "That prop don't balance right. We only been using her for short pay hops."

"Thanks for the tip, grandma. Climb up, Frank. You want to peep?"

Grahame shook his head. He adjusted his chute-pack and got in the forward cockpit. He noticed that the plane was equipped with dual controls. Snapping on the safety belt, he folded his arms.

The motor roared. Behind him Winslow yelled, "The airman's day off... he goes flying—"

Frank did not smile. He experienced a flash of envy for Winslow who could joke in any situation. Once—long ago—he was that way too. Humor was simple to understand in those days; you laughed because you felt like it, or to keep up your courage.

The motor thundered, the plane lurched, Grahame strained against his belt as the wheels left the ground and Winslow arched in a steep bank out of the field.

San Pedro below and to the right; Long Beach to the left and ahead. They were over the water; the air was less bumpy. Curious how at night the long line of surf stood out like broken white ribbons floating in an abyss of darkness.

Frank glanced at the illuminated instrument board. Although the plane vibrated excessively—the unbalanced prop—he estimated that they were doing considerably better than a hundred; they should be at Caliente field within the hour.

Reflectively he stared at the town lights that swung behind them on the left. He reconstructed the events that had culminated with Winslow and him in a plane headed for the Mexican border. He calculated the chances for and against their finding Janice Kent at the end of their journey. He discovered that his mind could not definitely arrange and clearly the facts that he knew. They did not make exact sense.

An automobile accident had been arranged, he was convinced, by the man Ortega. The fact that he had arrived at the scene of this accident almost simultaneously with its occurrence doubtlessly had prevented Ortega from bringing his plan to completion.

BUT what was that plan? Janice Kent's subsequent disappearance from her home threw no light on the matter. Her maid, Paula, had told them that it was because Ortega loved her mistress, convincing the present situation with a romantic objective. Miss Kent, she had said, had promised to marry Ortega, her contract would be broken if she married, therefore Ortega had accomplished an abduction.

Frank was assured that the maid believed this, but he was equally sure that Ortega—although he did not know the man—would have taken no such bold steps to accomplish his end. It was possible, of course, but rather incredible.

In the first place, Ortega was reputedly wealthy. Would he, then, take such elaborate, and melodramatic measures to engineer an elopement which when consummated would relieve Janice Kent permanently of the necessity of making her own living? Why then should there be any pretense of making it appear that Janice broke her contract with the Consolidated not of her own free will? Considering his own regard for her, this method of reasoning gave Frank a glow of satisfaction.

It brought him moreover, with equal logic, to the conclusion that she had been taken against her will. But for what purpose? There could be but three reasons why a girl would be abducted who was beautiful, rich, and a public personage. A man might love her insanely; be greedy for a ransom, or he could hate her savagely. The last motive seemed remote, and the second illogical; the first as he had proved to himself was impractical. These were not medieval days, when abductions were fashionable.

Frank muttered impatiently. It was a merry-go-round of reasoning that brought him nowhere. There was but one fact glaringly important, Janice must be found.

They roared over a crescent of light that was San Diego, Tia Juana appeared below whereupon the engine's crescendo broke into a staccato of backfires and tempered explosions that told Frank that they were gliding to a landing.

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Tomorrow, there is a crash, and danger.

change has been as great as twenty degrees. Pilots of United Air Lines departing from Chicago on a day recently went from a ground temperature of ten degrees above zero to one of forty degrees at 4500 feet. On the same day pilots leaving an eight degree temperature at Cheyenne, Wyo., airport found a 36-degree temperature at 9,000 feet.

Asked by information supplied by pilots via radiophone from planes flying over the various routes, the weather division of United Air Lines is making a close study of upper air climatic conditions.

FRENCH FIND GERMAN ARMS

LAON, France (AP)—Workmen repairing the floor of the grand salon of the local prefecture discovered under the planking a dozen bombs, cartridges, rifles and bayonets placed there during the German occupation.

F. R.'S POLICIES OF RECOVERY TO GET BALLOT TEST

By Byron Price Chief of Bureau, The Associated Press, Washington

Amid the encircling uncertainties of the new year, there is one serious certainty for the politicians: 1934 is another campaign year.

Come what may, every member of the house must face his constituents and open his record for inspection if he wants to remain a member. One-third of the senators, too, come up for reelection, and the Roosevelt administration, itself, will learn at the polls in November whether it is to escape that off-year overturn of the legislative balance which has overtaken so many of its predecessors.

Roosevelt The Issue Mr. Roosevelt and his policies of recovery, by common consent, are becoming the issue, insofar as there is any national issue. The Republican organization is, after some hesitation, against Mr. Roosevelt and his policies; but that is not saying that individual Democrats and Republicans will be for those policies or against them.

It is not at all impossible that the real division, down in the congressional districts, will be a "pro-Roosevelt" and an "anti-Roosevelt" division rather than anything like a straight contest between Democrats and Republicans.

Unlike Other Years It would be hard to recall any other mid-administration campaign year which began with the actual physical setup of the opposing organizations in such a state of uncertainty.

For the Democrats, extremely important organizational decisions are ahead. What effort is to be made to include in the administration campaign staff those western Republican insurgents who bolted to Roosevelt in 1932? What is to be done, from an organizational viewpoint, in states where Roosevelt Republicans are running for reelection to congress? No attempt has been made yet to answer these questions.

The Republicans thus far do not know either what their organization will be, or who will do the organizing. An internal dispute of proportions is in progress over the national chairmanship.

Does The Past Hold True? In this situation it is doubtful how much reliance can be placed on the universally accepted laws which in the past have governed political trends.

One of these laws is that in the off-year, between presidential elections, there is a normal shift of greater or less degree away from the party in power, toward the party out of power.

Another long established tradition says that if this shift is great enough the return a congressional majority hostile to the administration, that administration is likely to be defeated two years later in the presidential campaign.

Normally, too, on the basis of past performance, the Roosevelt party will be expected to advertise itself as the "progressive" or "liberal" party, and the anti-Roosevelt organization will be expected to claim the title of "conservative."

The normal tendency of the Roosevelt managers, as established in the pre-convention campaign of 1933 and adhered to since, is toward political union of west and south, against the east.

So far, so good. It would be a bold prognosticator who at this stage, would go further than to recall these "normalities" for what they may be worth.

TEXAS COLLEGE FOOTBALL HAS ITS OWN 'RAMBLERS'

AMARILLO, Tex. (AP)—The Amarillo college Badgers, state junior college gridiron champions, really covered some ground in playing their 1933 schedule.

For seven games away from home the Badgers traveled an average of more than 800 miles—a mileage total comparable to that covered by the Columbia Lions in going across the continent to the Rose Bowl and back to New York.

The round trip to Bennington to play Lamar college in the semi-finals totaled 1,466 miles. The Badgers added 1,170 miles more to play Marshall college for the championship.

"Man wants but little here below," unless it's from the government.

Hamm Kidnaped Again--By Cupid

William Hamm, Jr., wealthy St. Paul brewer, victim in one of the most sensational kidnappings of 1933, is a "prisoner" again—but this time a willing one, bound by the ties of romance.

Hamm was married secretly in St. Paul to Mrs. Marie Hershey Carroll, above, of his home city and they now are on their honeymoon.

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Heiresses Out For a Stroll

Two heiresses, whose fathers are internationally famous in the business world, are shown here as they step out for a stroll on the Harvey Firestone estate at Miami, Fla.



At the left is Helcy Lee Doherty, daughter of Henry L. Doherty, utilities magnate, and at the right, Elizabeth Firestone, daughter of the tire manufacturer.

ONLY ONE LOCK TO BE NECESSARY AT BONNEVILLE

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A saving of about \$1,000,000 in construction of the Bonneville power and navigation dam on the Columbia river has been made possible by discovery of an extensive rock formation at the site of the navigation locks, engineers at the dam have revealed.

This rock formation, it was said by army engineers and by C. I. Grimm chief civilian engineer, will make possible a notable engineering feat never before undertaken in the United States.

It has been found possible, the engineers said, to build only one navigation lock instead of two originally planned. Estimates on the original plans indicated a cost of \$2,500,000, but the change will reduce this to about \$1,500,000.

The presence of the large and deep rock foundation will facilitate construction of the lock which will have a lift of 62 feet, an unusual height for one of its length and breadth. It will be the highest ever constructed by the army engineers. To make such a lift possible, the lower gates will be 89 feet high, the equivalent of an average nine-story building.

As recently approved by the chief of engineers at Washington, D. C., the lock will be 76 feet wide and will have an inside clearance length of 360 feet.

SINGLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ENTIRE BUTLER QUINTEZ

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Though Butler university is located here in the very heart of the Indiana "cradle of basketball" and has had unusually strong teams for over a decade, this year's varsity quintet is composed of five boys from the same Indianapolis high school.

Bert Davis, Frank Reissner, Gene Deannary, Ben Parrish and Frank Baird all won their spurs at Arsenal Technical high here, all but Deannary being graduated the same year.

COUGHS Don't let them get a strangle hold. Fight germs quickly. Creomulsion combines 7 major helps in one. Powerful but harmless. Pleasant to take. No narcotics. Your own druggist is authorized to refund your money on the spot if your cough or cold is not relieved by Creomulsion. —Adv.

Warm Air Often Rests on Cold Wave of Ground

It may be winter on the ground but summer — or at least early spring — may be found at a few thousand feet skyward.

So says a bulletin just released by United Air Lines which reports that, in a two-year study of the subject, inversions of temperature have been found relatively common during winter months. Such inversions cause warm air layers over cold surface temperatures, thus enabling pilots to get away from cold waves.

According to weather bureau officials, it is sometimes ten degrees warmer at altitudes on the Pacific Northwest airways than on the ground and on rare occasions the

PREDICTS JAPAN WILL SEIZE NEW TERRITORY SOON

WASHINGTON (AP)—A prediction that Japan, because of a growing population, will seize new territory in the far east was made by Warren S. Thompson, of the Scripps Foundation for research in population problems, before a gathering of birth control advocates here.

In an address delivered before the American conference on birth control and national recovery, Thompson named parts of the Philippines and British and Dutch colonies in the western Pacific as likely Japanese goals.

Mrs. Margaret Sanger as chairman of the national committee on federal legislation for birth control opened the conference.

Thompson, who also is on the faculty of Miami university likewise named Italy and Germany as possible trouble spots due to a need for territorial expansion.

"Even though war may result in an easing of population pressure in some lands for a while," he said, "its benefits can be only temporary as measured by the life of nations. The ultimate solution of overpopulation must be found in man's control of his numbers, not in seizing larger resources."

Japan's seizure of Manchuria was well timed," he asserted, but added that "it seems highly probable that the expansion of the Japanese empire has only begun."

"As to when Japan will strike out in a new direction," he continued,

"all that can be said with reasonable certainty is that she will wait until world affairs are in such a state that the success of her efforts seem reasonably assured. A general war in Europe, for example, would offer her an unsurpassed opportunity to extend her sway in the western Pacific by seizing some of the Dutch and British colonies."

"There is a feeling in Italy and Germany that they are entitled to a larger share of the world's resources... Certainly Germany and Japan have shown that they are willing to take a chance at the enhancement of their economic welfare from war and there is no reason to believe that other strong powers will not feel the same way."

OOSTERBAAN'S WING MATE TO COACH JERSEY SCHOOL

MONTCLAIR, N. J. (AP)—Ernie McCoy, who played end on the Univer-

sity of Michigan football team which had Bennie Oosterbaan at the other wing, has been named head coach of football at Montclair high school.

McCoy, graduated from Michigan in 1929, also starred in basketball and baseball for the Wolverines and now plays professional basketball with the Newark team of the American professional league.

TEACH SKIING IN SCHOOLS

MUNICHEN, Bavaria (AP)—Skiing has been made a regular part of the curriculum in all Bavarian schools by a decree of the ministry of education and culture. Training courses will begin in schools where the teacher is an experienced skier, with the first school year and include both boys and girls.

E. J. Cook of Holdenville, Okla., caught a snapping turtle weighing 87 pounds on an ordinary hook and line.

Advertisement for Schilling Drip Coffee. Title: "How to make good coffee everytime". Includes an illustration of a drip coffee maker and a can of Schilling Drip Coffee. Text: "Only 3 things are necessary—a drip coffee maker in which boiling water drips through a specially prepared coffee and a filter paper. That's all! And it never fails! Delicious every time! Always crystal clear! In a Drip Maker, the water drips through the coffee but one time, not many times as in a Percolator. At that one time, all the rich fragrant flavor is extracted from a coffee specially prepared for the process. Coffee prepared for the slow percolator process will not do. (Schilling DRIP Coffee is specially blended, roasted and ground—with filter papers enclosed). A filter paper rests below the coffee to let through nothing but the delicious amber drops. Real drip coffee cannot be made otherwise. Try it! You'll join the millions who have turned to drip coffee." Special \$1.20 Offer. Special model Drip Coffee Maker and 1 pound Schilling Drip Coffee \$1.20 at your grocer's. If he cannot supply you, send his name and \$1.20 to A Schilling & Company, San Francisco. Moneyback in either case if not satisfied.

Advertisement for PERSONAL furniture. Title: "PERSONAL --to a lady". Text: "THIS evening when your husband comes home, what would he think if you greeted him in the wedding dress you wore a good many years ago? One thing sure — he'd silently wonder how you could have seemed so lovely then in an outfit that looks so old-fashioned now." "We wonder if your husband realizes there has been as much change in furniture as in wedding dresses? (Remember what you told him the other day, "Most of the furniture in this house was bought right after we were married.")" "There is no better time than now to greet him in that wedding dress — and then show him the furniture advertisements in the newspaper! Today you can read about and see pre-views of the furniture shows that will be held next month, so close at hand. And it will probably surprise you to learn he is as interested as you are. Men don't like to go through the stores to shop. But it's quite easy to get them to read over the advertisements in the quiet of your home." "Wouldn't today be a good time to get him to say "yes" about that new furniture you've been wanting?"

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