

# WE FLEW WITH GUNS

This is a true story of the men who flew the "Chanel" carrying passengers and cargo over the high Himalayas between India and China. It's called the toughest airline route in the world.

## TONY'S CHANEL NUMBER 5 VI

AL GINGISS and I managed to get our first relief visit to Calcutta at the same time, and it was on that trip that we met "the Great White Trader of the East," Tony Mercede, of Blue Island, Ill.

How Tony came by his impressive title was a mystery for a little less than 10 minutes, at which point, as we stood at the bar of the 300 Club on Wood Street, he turvily pulled a tiny package from his trousers' pocket. With thick but amazingly deft fingers the 240-pound, black-haired little giant opened the package and revealed a sparkling bottle of Chanel Number 5, a female luxury which we later found was about as rare in Calcutta as a snowdrift.

"With this little prize, boys," Tony said, "you can make a hit with any girl in all of India. It's yours for 100 bucks."

Gingiss and I stared at the man. Then Gingiss turned to me. "He's crazy," Al said.

"Crazy as a loon," I agreed.

"Crazy like a fox," Tony said, laughing boisterously.

His laugh attracted the startled attention of the tall and dignified Englishman standing next to him. And then, as Tony much less turvily started to put the perfume back in his pocket, the Britisher touched him on the arm. "I beg your pardon," the fellow said, "but is that a bottle of Chanel Number 5 that I—ahh—saw in your hand?" The man's face was flushed, but his eagerness overrode his embarrassment. "Rude of me, I know," he said, "but—well, after all, sir—Chanel Number 5!"

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rubble as far north as Lashio on the Chinese border. After that he still worked to keep the road clear and traffic moving between Lashio and Kunming and on up to Chungking, and for many months before he returned to the States with Gingiss and me in the summer of 1943 he was in charge of a construction gang on the new Ledo Road—more commonly called the "Road to Tokyo."

TONY wasn't the only trinket trader among the American lads in China and India, but he was by far the most famous of them. Most of the trading among our officers and engineers and ground crews and pilots was done haphazardly. A fellow newly arrived would have an extra cigarette lighter in his baggage, and he would soon find a purchaser willing to pay 10 times its original cost because cigarette lighters are unobtainable. Another would have some fancy lipstick, or a bottle of perfume, or a pair of nylon stockings. Such stuff would be brought along for very obvious reasons, but when the boys discovered there was a good cash market for it, they would try to sell their little prizes.

At that point, Tony would usually be on hand. And because his job took him all around the country—from Chungking in the north all the way to Calcutta in the south—he could usually find a market for anything he picked up. He would take along a bag full of female trinkets when he went to Calcutta and sell them—as he did the Chanel Number 5—to some anxious swain in the city of high-priced romance. Then he would shop around among the native stores and shops, picking up some liquor or tobacco or knives to take back with him.

He was a gambler of great ability and infinite nerve. He got into a 10-day poker game at Kunming on one occasion with a bunch of Flying Tigers and was over \$5000 in the hole when his luck changed on the last day. He lost 16 pounds during that session, but when the game was over and the chips were counted Tony was \$12,000 ahead.

(To Be Continued)

### Our Boarding House



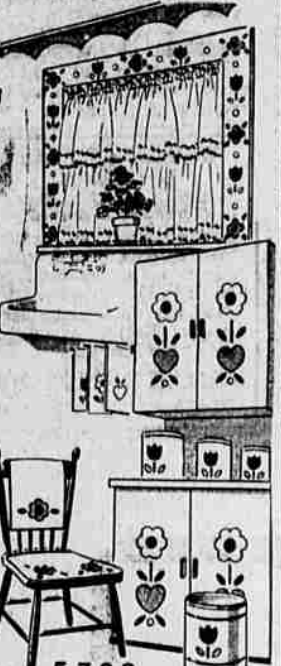
### With Major Hoople Out Our Way



### Boots and Her Buddies



### Decorate Kitchen!



By MRS. ANNE CAMOT

If the kitchen is beginning to get on your nerves because of its soiled and worn paint just "get ambitious" and give it an overhauling. There are any number of inexpensive, quick-drying paints on the market which you can use. Then make it a real decorator's job by using gay, colorful flowers and peasant motifs on cupboards, chairs, tables. The motifs can also be used as appliques on cloths, towels, chair seats.

To obtain instructions for the decorators kitchen tricks (pattern

No. 5763) motifs and explanations on how to use, send 15 cents in coin, plus 1 cent postage, your name, address and the pattern number to Anne Cabot, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

### City News In Brief

J. H. Peare returned today from Albany and Portland where he attended the state Elks convention, and a state board of watchmakers session as an examiner.

The La Grande fire department was called at 8:20 o'clock last evening to the New Foley building where an awning was ablaze. Damage was confined to the awning.

Alfred Edgar McManus, transient, was arrested last night on a charge of being drunk and was placed in the city jail pending a hearing in the municipal court.

### Official Records

Water turned off, June 18: Mrs. Kenneth Zollman, 2106 Fir street; Clay Rinehart, west end M avenue; Mrs. Carl R. Stoop, 2403 Birch street; Mrs. Edith Hulse, 2907 Fourth street.

Water turned on: George Deeds, 902 C avenue; Mrs. Kenneth Zollman, 2812 Fourth street; Millie Schomann, 2007 Oak street; M. J. Dutton, 1223 U avenue; A. E. Roe, 1501 W avenue.

Building permits: Imogene Russell, repair two-story frame dwelling, 1802 Third street; \$500. R. F. Tyler, alter and repair one-story brick building, 1113 Washington street; \$300.

### Party Dress



8856 2-6 yrs.

By SUE BURNETT

She'll look as sweet and dainty as an bee in this adorable little button-shoulder frock with panties to match. Use soft summery fabrics and trim with bright ric-rac.

Pattern No. 8856 is designed for sizes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 3, dress, requires 1 1/4 yards of 35 or 39-inch material; panties, 3/4 yard.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coins, your name, address, size desired and the pattern number to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

Send for your copy of the new spring issue of Fashion—just off the press. Book full of smart, up-to-the-minute styles, 15 cents.

### Former Oregonian Dies

PORTLAND, June 19 (UP)—Charles E. Newton, 67, former Oregon state geologist and dean of the Oregon State college school of mines from 1919 to 1928, died recently in Cooperstown, N. Y., it was learned today.

### Hold Everything



### Freckles and His Friends



### Red Ryder



### Wash Tubbs



### Alley Oop



### U. S. Naval Leader

**HORIZONTAL**

- 1 Pictured U. S. naval leader.
- 2 Gems (Bib.).
- 3 Flower.
- 4 Subtlety.
- 5 Electrical unit.
- 6 Color.
- 7 Entreaty.
- 8 Bronze.
- 9 Company (ab.).
- 10 Put in.
- 11 Command.
- 12 Peruvian.
- 13 Tax.
- 14 Within.
- 15 Period of (symbol).
- 16 Greek letters.
- 17 Calcium (symbol).
- 18 Elixir.
- 19 Currency.
- 20 Book of maps.
- 21 Consumed.
- 22 Man's name.
- 23 Observed.
- 24 Mode free.
- 25 Parent.
- 26 Concerning.
- 27 Rescued.
- 28 Note of state.
- 29 Mohammedan officers.
- 30 Affirm.
- 31 Otherwise.
- 32 Hippical.
- 33 Remit.
- 34 Take note of.
- 35 Came in.
- 36 Conveyed by deed.

**VERTICAL**

- 1 Strip.
- 2 Gems (Bib.).
- 3 Flower.
- 4 Subtlety.
- 5 Electrical unit.
- 6 Color.
- 7 Entreaty.
- 8 Bronze.
- 9 Company (ab.).
- 10 Put in.
- 11 Command.
- 12 Peruvian.
- 13 Tax.
- 14 Within.
- 15 Period of (symbol).
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### By Edgar Martin



### Merrill Blosser



### Ered Harman



### By Leslie Turner



### By V. T. Hamlin

