

# WE FLEW Without GUNS

This is a true story of the men who by the "hump" flying line passengers and cargo over the high Himalayas between India and China. It's one of the toughest airline routes in the world.

## PIN-UP GIRL

WE didn't have much to read at the cottage at Dinjan, so every time we returned from Calcutta we brought back some magazines or sometimes a book or two. I don't know who it was that brought in the January 17 issue of *Peek*, but whoever it was I love him as a brother. One of the pictures in that magazine had a profound effect on my life.

She was blonde, the girl in this picture. Blonde and blue-eyed and built like—well, like only one girl in all the world, Gerry Ewing. That was her name. She was pictured with a group of other girls who danced with her at Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe in New York. They all wore little-girl costumes with short puffed sleeves, big sashes around their waists and colored bows in their hair. Gerry was sitting on the floor reading a book at a kid party, and I sat there in the lounge of our cottage on the other side of the world moaning softly to myself.

Her pilots began to gather around to see what was bothering me. When they saw that picture of the girl in them came to the surface with a chorus of low whistles, deep sighs and smacking lips. Petach in a frenzy grabbed the magazine out of my hands; Bob Robertson snatched it away from him; I leaped on Robertson, but too late. Lane had it by then, his eyes bulging as he devoured the beauty of that page. I was in agony for fear the sheet would be torn—and then Gingsis, Solomon-like, saved the day. He picked up a chair, balancing it over Skippy's head.

"Put that picture down, Brother Lane," he said. "We'll settle this thing in gentlemanly fashion, before someone gets killed."

Skippy obliged under the threat of the raised chair and Gingsis explained his plan.

"That girl is definitely a prize, boys," Gingsis said. "She has everything—and when I say everything, I mean to include that gorgeous soft white thigh which some of you may not have noticed—like hell! But we can't all have that girl. We can't all even dream of having her. Only one of us can be that lucky. We'll draw lots, and the lucky winner will get the picture all for himself; he'll be permitted to dream about her all he wants; he may even write her a letter. In fact, I think that ought to be one of the conditions. The winner will have to write her a letter, and if she replies he'll have to read her letter aloud to all of us. He'll have to read us his letter, too, before he sends it."

I was given the privilege of drawing the first card. Gingsis shuffled them and at least four of the wolves cut them to make sure they weren't stacked. I picked up the top card, turned it over. It was the ace of spades.

My letter to Gerry Ewing was a masterpiece in many ways, but I still don't know why she never answered it. Even to this day she has never given me a good explanation for that little bit of rudeness.

TWO of the boys who took part in the brief melee over Gerry's picture that night were Joe Robertson and "Ridge" Hammel, both of Pennsylvania. Joe had been a Flying Tiger before signing on with C. N. A. C. and Ridge had only recently joined us, having transferred from Pan-American's African branch. Ridge hadn't checked out yet as a flight captain on the Himalaya run and was flying as a co-pilot, usually with Rosbert. They were scheduled to take off the morning following the discussion over the picture a half an hour after me on the run to Kunming. The weather was mean even on the ground that day; the monsoon season was well begun, and rain had been lashing the field all night. It was still pouring down as I waded through the muck from the flight office to my plane.

The first plane out every morning always took about a half-hour start on the others and radioed back information about the weather and any Jap activity noticed along the way. In view of the Zeros Petach and I had run into on the southern route the day before, I took the northern route this time, even though I realized, because of the drop in temperature overnight, that I would probably be heading into an ice storm.

ABOUT an hour out of the base I decided to head south. The plane was so loaded with ice I couldn't get it above 17,000 feet—not high enough to go over the Hump on the northern route—so I had either to go back to Dinjan or take a chance on getting far enough south to melt off the ice.

The ice storm was moving west, apparently, because Rosbert ran into it a shorter distance out of Dinjan than I had 25 or 30 minutes before. When I told him over the phones that I was going to head south I also told him why. "If I tried to get back to the base I'd take on a double load, Joe, and I'm too heavy right now to risk it."

"Okay, Gen," Rosbert replied. "But I'm not as far out as you are. I think I'll head back and wait for it to clear up..."

That was the last we heard of Joe Robertson and Ridge Hammel until 49 days later when they came rumbling out of the jungle on a British Army truck in what was probably the most remarkable return from the unknown world of Lower Tibet that any white man has ever made.

(To Be Continued)

### Our Boarding House

### With Major Hoople

### Out Our Way

### J. K. Williams



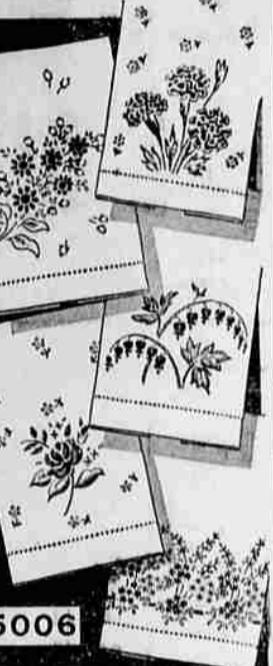
### Boots and Her Buddies



### By Edgar Martin



### Kitchen Set



By MRS. ANNE CABOT

The gay red and white crocheted dishcloth, two potholders with practical loops by which to hang them, the two red and white window shade pulls are certain to give your kitchen a gay note of cheerfulness. If your kitchen is done in another color scheme just combine the main color with white so that the proper note of color is kept. Easy to crochet and they make a nice gift for the shower gift!

To obtain complete crocheting instructions for the four piece kitchen set (pattern No. 5027) send 15 cents in coin, plus 1 cent postage, your name, address and

### City News In Brief

Automobiles owned by Jennie Ricks and W. S. Daugherty, both of La Grande, collided yesterday at Fir and Jefferson streets, according to police reports.

Thomas Franklin O'Brien, Seattle, was arrested shortly after midnight on charges of being drunk and disturbing the peace. He was cited to appear in city court.

Carl Gilson is leaving for Portland, where he will attend a state-wide conference of Young Democratic clubs tomorrow in the Multnomah hotel. Principal speakers will be Justice William O. Douglas of the United States supreme court, and James A. Farley, former postmaster general. Gilson is state vice-president of the organization.

### County 4-H Group Returns from School

Forty-four delegates from Union county have returned from Corvallis, where they attended the 39th annual 4-H club summer school. Approximately 1,100 club members from Oregon attended the school. Chapetones for the La Grande delegation were Ruth Hagey and Phyllis Cochran.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE SET

A memorial service for Lt. Donald K. Browning, who was killed in Germany May 6, will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow in St. Peter's Episcopal church. Bishop William P. Remington, Pendleton, will preach the sermon.

The pattern number to Anne Cabot, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

### Shirtwaist Frock



By SUE BURNETT

Indispensable in your summer wardrobe—this good looking shirtwaist that's ready for any occasion. Easy to make—and wear!

Pattern No. 8797 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20, 42 and 44. Size 16, short sleeves, requires 4 yards of 35-inch material.

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.

### Official Records

Water turned off, June 29: J. L. Ingerson, 808 N. avenue. Water turned on: J. L. Ingerson, 2403 Birch street, R. R. Schloth, 808 Second street, A. J. Hill, 1608 First street.

### Hold Everything



### Freckles and His Friends



### Red Ryder



### Merrill Blosser



### Fred Harman



### U. S. Senator

- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| HORIZONTAL                           | 2 Crawled           |
| 1 Pictured U. S. Senator, Kenneth D. | 3 Joint             |
| 4 Deserve                            | 5 Pound (ab.)       |
| 6 Bend                               | 7 Scrutinize        |
| 8 accounts                           | 9 Right (ab.)       |
| 10 Tragic                            | 11 Vessels          |
| 12 Laughter                          | 13 Monster          |
| 14 sound                             | 15 On the ocean     |
| 16 Turkish title                     | 17 Toward the stern |
| 18 Enclosure                         | 19 Doctrine         |
| 20 Blomish                           | 21 Friday (ab.)     |
| 22 Vegetable                         | 23 Far (prefix)     |
| 24 Czar                              | 25 Fold             |
| 26 He represents (ab.)               | 27 Tree             |
| 28 Male                              | 29 Portuguese coin  |
| 30 Leave                             | 31 Sainte (ab.)     |
| 32 I have (contr.)                   | 33 From (prefix)    |
| 34 Area measure                      | 35 John (Gaelic)    |
| 36 Tellurium (symbol)                | 37 Lonely           |
| 38 Scans                             | 39 Greek letter     |

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### Wash Tubbs



### By Leslie Turner



### Alley Oop



### By V. T. Hamlin

