

HUNT FOR TINY CHILD GOES ON

Police Have Steadily Growing List of Theories, But Little Else

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20. (AP)—The fifth day of investigation into the mysterious disappearance of little Doris Virginia Smith-Murphy closed tonight and police had little to show for their work except an ever-increasing list of theories. Newspaper criticism of methods used in the search has grown general and federal postal officials and state narcotic investigators have joined hands with the city authorities.

Postal authorities gave the case their attention when several notes signed "K. K." and purporting to be from the kidnaper, were received by parents of the little girl. Narcotic agents began an investigation when new clues pointed to drug addicts as possible factors in the kidnapping. A letter was received by the child's parents today which, it was intimated, contained sensational information warranting immediate action by the narcotic bureau. The contents of the letter were not disclosed.

Late today Mrs. Helen Murphy, Doris' mother, addressed an appeal "to those who have taken my daughter." She asked all newspapers to publish it in what seemed to her a last desperate hope that the kidnaper may be moved to return her daughter.

"For God's sake, return her," the message said. "I cannot stand this grief much longer. Surely you realize how much I am suffering and grieving for her. Please, please phone police where my baby can be found."

"Mrs. Murphy."

STOCK PRICES SOAR BUT ACTIVITY LIGHT

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (AP)—Although the day's transactions fell below 3,000,000 shares for the first full session this year, prices surged higher on the stock market today, under the impetus of a number of favorable industrial developments. About a score of issues rose 5 to 15 points, with steel, merchandising, automotive and aeronautical issues making conspicuous progress.

The days news included a 100 per cent dividend by Western Aero; the filing of the Van Sweringen eastern railway consolidation plan, which conformed with the Baltimore and Ohio plan, filed yesterday; announcement of further improvement in freight car loadings in the week ended Feb. 9, and more favorable weekly steel trade reviews. Iron Age said steel production this month would probably equal, if not exceed that of January. American metal market pointed out that production is at 90 per cent of capacity, and that the 10 per cent of idle capacity is large in Bessemer plants and in plants remote from the area of heaviest pressure for deliveries.

HOOVER, COOLIDGE HOLD CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (AP)—Desiring of assuring continuity in the outgoing and the incoming administrations, President Hoover and Mr. Coolidge conferred at det-el-lect Hoover conferred at length at the White House today with President Coolidge on government problems. The interview was at Mr. Hoover's request but Mr. Coolidge fixed its hour.

Don't Neglect a Cold Now, is Doctor's Advice

Don't neglect any cold nowadays. Colds are so weakening; and in a weakened condition, you are so susceptible to more serious troubles.

Passed Up! THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO MADE MEN MAKE HER

READ THIS FIRST: Betty Brown tries to make her living dancing, as this is the only thing she knows when the death of her parents leaves her destitute. She attracts several men, only to be insulted by them. Her oldest friend, George Harris, asks her to stay away from his place of business after it is published that two men fought over her outside of a night club where she danced. Andy Adams, Harris' friend, has no other idea than to make a joke, although it cost her her position. She attends a party in her life. Andy takes her home from the party, and then out on his car the next night.

(NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY)

CHAPTER XXXI
"WHAT you suggest will never happen, Andy," said Betty, not unkindly. She was surprised she could discuss such a thing with a man.

"I am not so sure!" Andy returned, doggedly. "We are entitled to our happiness. Whose business is it who you do? You have been a good girl ever since you have been dancing, and what has it gotten you? One cheap theatrical manager dropped you off his list of attractions because you were good. A vaudeville comedian broke an arrangement to take you as a dancing partner because you were too particular. You lost your job at the Iron Door because you wouldn't take that Daubert as a sugar daddy!"

"What's it getting you?" he demanded, fiercely. "You know me and you like me. You have known me ever since I was a boy. You know darn well I wouldn't ditch you in time of trouble. You aren't to blame because you have no other way of making a living except by dancing. I'm not to blame because my people never let me work."

"That three thousand a year I can have as long as I live if I don't give the governor any trouble. Mother takes care of the car she gave me."

"I'd be a lot better off, and happier, and drink less, if I had you to spend my time with. You'd be a lot better off if you had me to play around with and all that. What's the difference between spending ten dollars sitting round a rotten night club with you, and sipping up a lot of booze, and giving you the ten dollars to pay rent on a nice little flat, where we can sit around evenings and lay off the booze?"

"Now, wait a minute! You love me, don't you?" He held her close to him and kissed the wrinkles which had come into her brow. "You know I love you like the very devil. I'm never so happy as when I'm with you. Couldn't we have wonderful times, spending every day just like we have spent today? Just drive around in the car and enjoy the breeze. Slip off into quiet little places to go bathing or fishing. Pack a lunch and picnic! You'll have lots of time to practice your dancing, and then you'll show me all the new steps when I come."

"Plenty of dresses and plenty of kisses! A nice little place of your own, with a world of love shut in and a world of strife shut out! Why, honey, it would be just heaven! The reason I didn't want you to drink tonight was because I wanted you to decide when you were yourself!"

"Oh, Andy, I mustn't!"

"Who is there to say you must not? Who cares a darn whether you do or not, but me! Who cares a darn whether you starve or freeze, but me? It is just an old-fashioned inhibition you inherited from some of your ancestors who would have been equally shocked if they had seen you in a dancing costume."

"Things are changing, Betty. We are living in a new world, with new standards. Let's snatch our happiness while we can, little sweetheart."

"But, Andy, it's wrong! For three men to demand everything you had in exchange for giving you a chance to make a living?"

"But, Andy, I'm not that kind of a girl!" she exclaimed. "Oh, I know how that sounds, but I just can't say anything else. There are that kind of girls, and other girls who aren't that kind! I couldn't live like that!"

"Don't decide too hastily." He spoke a bit coldly. "You haven't got enough friends to afford to lose any."

"But, Andy, don't you see that if that is the price you put on your friendship, you put yourself in the same class with those other men?"

"I'm not a bit like them, or I would have got you drunk last night," he cried, heatedly. "I won't have you putting me in the class with those cheap libertines!"

"Oh, Andy, please don't get mad! I hardly know what I'm saying. Of course you aren't a bit like them. I love you!" She put her arms around his neck and kissed him.

"That's the girl! I knew you didn't mean that. And you haven't meant one-half the things you said before. I'm going with you tomorrow and find a nice little apartment, all furnished real cute. You are going to move there and live like a little darling and let me carry one of the keys."

"If you want to pretend propriety, you can get some kind of part-time job, or one assisting some dancing teacher. We will be happy as two bugs in the same rug."

He did not wait for her answer, but put his arms around her and kissed her wildly. She struggled a bit, and tried to protest, but each time he kissed her. At last, he sat with his lips an inch from hers, and each time her lips parted for a word he silenced her with kisses.

He sat thus until the tension was broken by both of them laughing at the absurdity. Betty had not consented to his plan. She had

been smothered with words and kisses until she was too confused to know her own mind. This man had been kinder to her than any man she had ever met, except possibly George Harris, who had asked her not to come to his restaurant again. She had been ordered out of her room. The whole world seemed to be conspiring to make her unhappy, except this one man.

Had he asked her to marry him, Betty would have consented in an instant; but this was different. Yet she loved him so much she alternately clutched at what seemed to promise happiness, and then drew hastily away from it.

Andy broke in on her meditations. "I promised not to take another drink tonight, and I won't if you insist, but I think we are entitled to celebrate! Let's have another!"

"Oh, I don't care what happens!" exclaimed Betty, desperately.

"That's the ticket! That's my sweetheart!" He kissed her and poured a drink into the cup which formed the lower part of his flask. "Now drink it all at one swallow. When it's down, breathe through your nose for a moment, and it won't choke you!"

Betty followed his directions. A moment later she opened her mouth and the fiery liquor burned her throat and mouth. She spluttered and shuddered, but Andy did not notice, as he drank his own.

"Hurray for the new family! Hurray for happiness for two lonesome people!" He held her close, and covered her lips and face with kisses.

"But, Andy, I haven't consented!" protested Betty, feebly.

"Oh, what difference does it make?" cried Betty. "Who cares what I do? Who has any interest in me, anyway?"

"I do!" Andy kissed her again. "Now, let's get home, and tomorrow these two birds will start hunting a nest."

Betty realized he was hurrying home lest she give him a positive refusal. She had half-way committed herself to his plan, but she was reckless. She could decide after she was safely at home, and tell him in the morning! She did not give her own consent to his plan, by any means, but did not want to start the argument all over again. Andy seemed so boyishly happy that she was loath to disappoint him.

They turned toward the main highway again, and were soon speeding down it. The hour was so late that there was almost no traffic, and the wind sang in their ears till conversation was impossible.

Betty rested her head on his shoulder and watched the road

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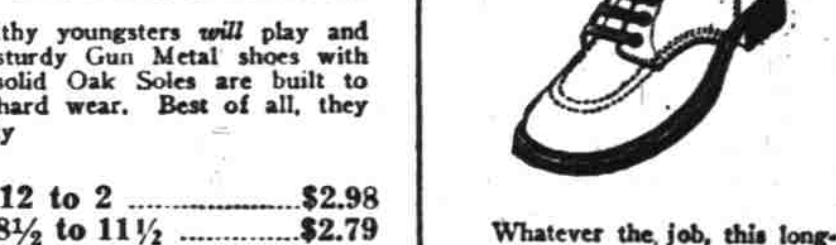
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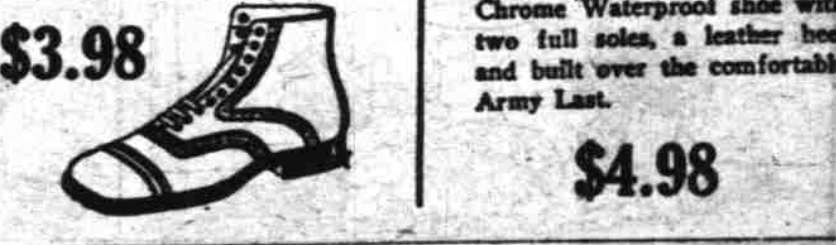
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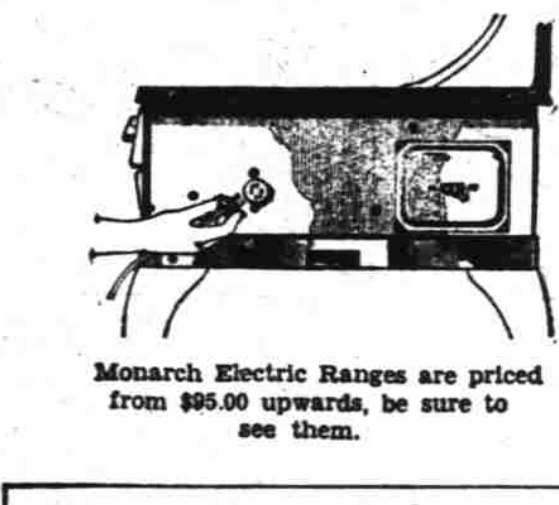
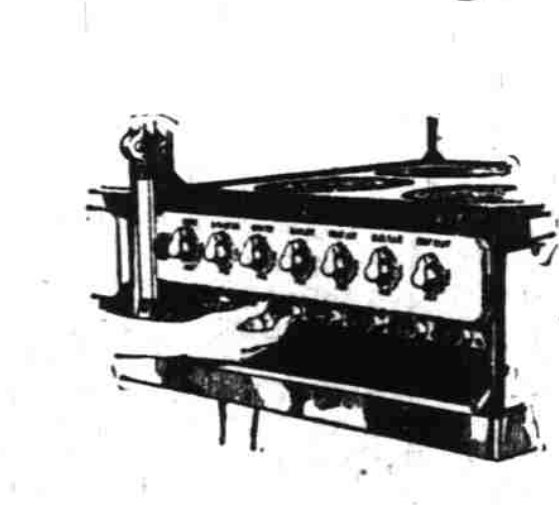


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