

MAD MARRIAGE

LAURA LOU BROOKMAN Author of "HEART HUNGRY," etc.

CHAPTER XXVIII

Little later when Matilda came into the room, she found the girl looking up and smiling.

"I had a long nap," she announced. "Is everything going all right down stairs, Matilda?"

"Yes, ma'am. I finished my baking and Cora's nearly through with the ironing. I've a cup of hot broth waiting in the kitchen for you. Will you have it now?"

Gypsy's throat was parched. "That would be fine," she agreed, "and will you get me a glass of cold water?"

"Are you feeling better now?" Matilda asked as she took the tray. Gypsy stifled a sneeze. "Much better," she said. "Has anyone telephoned?"

"No, ma'am."

"Mr. Wallace didn't send any message?"

Matilda said he had not. She departed a moment later, closing the door after her.

Gypsy stayed in bed drowsing until 5:30. Her head no longer ached and though her throat was feverish she felt much better than in the morning. She dressed in warm clothing and spent a painstaking half hour before the dressing table trying to cover up with rouge and powder the marks of illness.

Downstairs the front door slammed and she knew that Jim was home. A moment later she heard his footsteps on the stairs. Gypsy turned and left the room. He was half way up the flight when she reached the head of the stairs.

"Gypsy—do you think you should be up?"

"Oh, yes. I'm practically well now. Did anything happen today?" While she was speaking she knew that something had gone wrong. Jim's face was worn and gloomy. He had looked tired for days, but this was worse.

"What is it, Jim?" she asked.

"Come on downstairs," was all he answered. When they reached the living room he pulled a chair forward for her. Gypsy sat down, Jim paced across the room and then swung around. He drew a deep breath.

"Well," he said shortly. "It's all over now. They've licked me."

"But you can't mean that! Tell me what happened!"

"It's over," Jim repeated. "I'm glad you weren't there to hear it. After Bennett's performance today I wouldn't be surprised if she gets the chair."

"Oh, Jim—no!"

"He had three witnesses," Jim went on. "Technical experts—who testified that it couldn't have been a suicide. Tough brix to cross-examine. Of course Parker was there and he insists Fowler fired the gun. It's give-and-take as far as the evidence goes but the high-sounding titles these imported experts have impressed the jury. I watched them and I'm sure of it."

Dinner was a somber meal. Jim's shoulders seemed heavy with the consciousness of defeat. He said little. Gypsy had forgotten her aching throat, but she could not wipe from memory the vision of Nina Robert's frightened face. She thought of the letter locked away upstairs—the letter to Nina's sweetheart. Would she have to send it? Jim pushed away his chair after he had barely tasted the dessert. "Think I'll go to the library," he said. "You don't mind?"

The girl shook her head. After he had gone she sat for a while and then went into the living room. There were newspapers on the table with sensational headlines. Gypsy barely glanced at them and climbed the stairs to her room.

She changed her dress for a quilted, lemon-colored bathrobe. Then for a long time she sat and stared at the floor. At last she turned down the covers and slipped into bed.

Next morning Gypsy announced that though her cold was better she thought it would be unwise to visit the courtroom. Jim looked relieved. "Sensible idea," he said. "No use taking risks."

She stood beside him in the hall while he jammed on his hat. "Jim," Gypsy said in a low voice, "I do hope things will go better today."

"Hope so. If there's a verdict I'll telephone."

"Yes, do."

Twenty minutes later she was in a taxicab driving east. The cab halted before a low brick bungalow and Gypsy stepped to the sidewalk.

"Wait for me," she told the cab driver.

(To Be Continued)

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

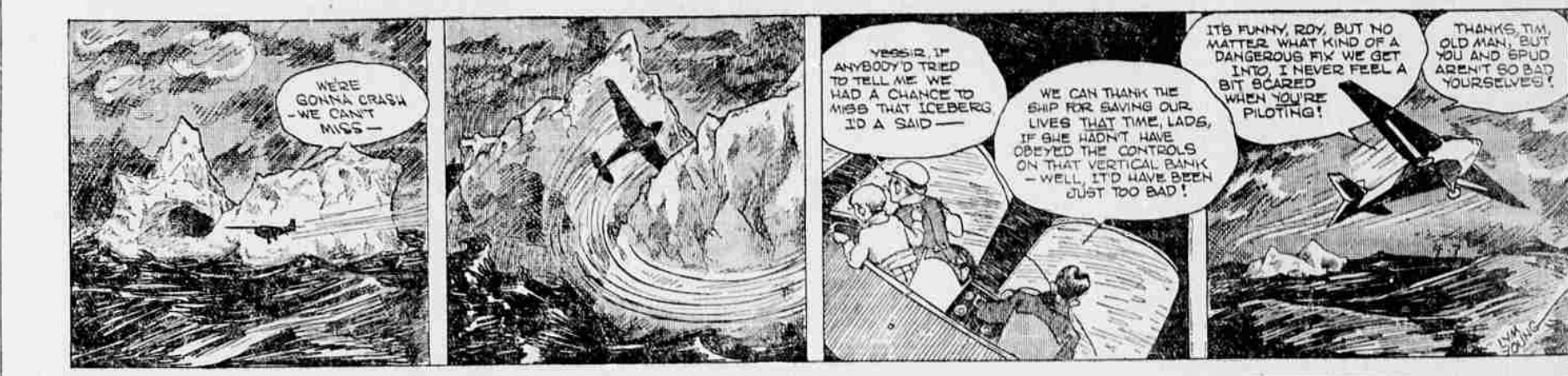
Gone, But Not Beyond Recall

By HAROLD GRAY



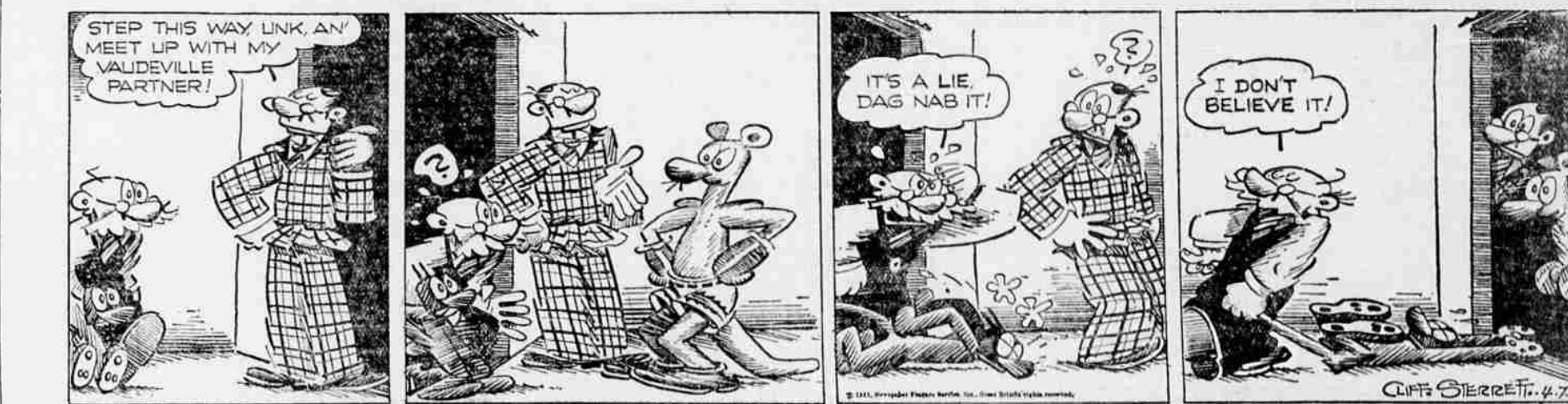
TIM TYLER'S FLYING LUCK

By LYNN YOUNG



POLLY AND HER PALS

By CLIFF STERRETT



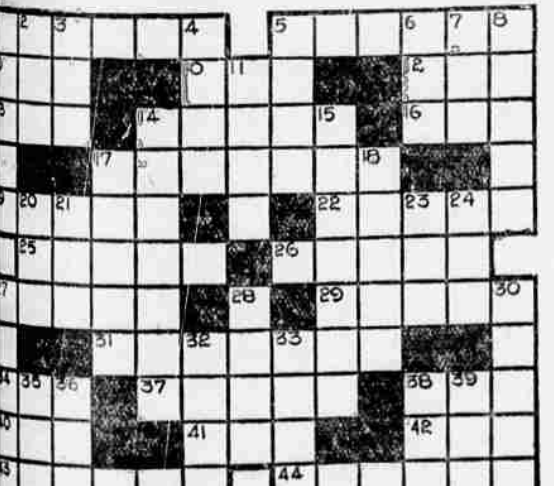
BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

Fours and Fives

By MARTIN



Diversified Questions



29 Clothing.
31 Run out.
34 Male sheep.
37 Values.
38 God of the sky.
40 To be indebted.
41 Hastened.
42 Biscuit.
43 To irritate.
44 One who rents property.
1 Ralph Emerson?
2 Inlet.
3 Little demon.
4 Weight.
5 Correspondence.
6 Knock.
7 Gold quart.
8 Salary.
11 Tense.
14 To jabber.
15 Optical effects.
17 Curly.
18 Eminent.
20 Seed bag.
21 Bird.
23 Ocean.
24 To sin.
27 Where is the U. S. Navy's new dirigible being built?
28 Boundary.
30 Check in growth.
32 Net weight of container.
33 To let.
35 Reverence.
36 Joined.
38 Fabric.
39 Convent worker.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
DEBAR MEALS
DELE AMALBITS
EVER FOR AVAL
ELIM STOE TIRE
ELIM STOE TIRE
ENAMELS
ERA ALIMA ALE
LEG DINED RID
SEALINER HONE
ALTORER HOMEN
SEWED CLEAN

BRINGING UP FATHER

By GEORGE McMANUS



MICKEY MICE

By WALT DISNEY

