

Co-Ed Wife

By EUGENIA MACKERNAN

CHAPTER XII

The glance which followed Professor Maxwell's words hung heavy and... over the six people in the room. He seemed willing to break it. David spoke, addressing him-... Maxwell and President Norton. "Coral and I kept our... a secret knowing that the... would disapprove of it, and... ask Coral to leave school. We... receiving her degree. We ex-... to announce it. Until Coral... coming commencing. In the evening that... earlier in the evening that... had discovered the marriage... shortly after we were mar-... I had no idea that anyone be-... Maxwell and Hort Marquis... anything about it.

When we discovered the... Maxwell's words in the matter, I... able to see how our mar-... provides the motive for the... of the process. Even if I were... to leave Elton, I feel positive... I should be able to gain another posi-... which would enable me to sup-... my wife. He glanced proudly... Coral and held her hand tighter... the money gained from selling the... to a chemical manufacturer... without the permission of my two col-... would be in no way necessary... is. Besides, to the best of my... no attempt has been made... all the process."

Professor Bendoff spoke quietly... I have said nothing about this to... since the letter only arrived... afternoon, but I received a letter... from the Allen Chemical Manufactur-... company in Chicago, signed by... president who is Donna Allen's... sister, saying that he had received a... from someone at Elton signing... DAVID CRANDALL, offer-... the process for sale. Mr. Allen... had heard of the discovery through... daughter and felt sure that the... was in some way spurious... that both Maxwell and... were also instrumental in the... The price asked for the... was \$15,000. He pulled the... from his vest pocket and hand-... it to President Norton. "David... is of course, a not very in-... combination of the names of... two culprits."

Coral and David were too stunned... to answer by even a ges-... of denial the accusing looks of... Bendoff and President Norton. Pro-... Maxwell sat at the desk, his... in his hands, too deeply shocked... this last revelation to act further.

Then Donna spoke. "I can clear... the matter of why they needed... money. Coral's father owes \$10,000... to the father of Hort Marquis... who she's tried to drag into... affair with me. He and Coral... been engaged for a long time, and... she tried to get out of it after... David, he threatened to have... father call in Mr. Crandall's loan... the day Coral graduated. Hoyt... me this himself, and Coral con-... fided. Obviously, if Coral could... the money she could save her... from financial ruin. The ex-... \$10,000," she glanced at Coral nar-... rowly, "would just about pay for... the line honeymoon trip around... world until the storm blows over."

These words stung Coral out of the... lethargy of despair into which... had sunk. She rose to her feet... know that all those things piled... upon seem to point to our guilt... I tell you it isn't so, that we are... innocent. Don't condemn us without... chance. Let me talk to Donna... here before all of you, with no... interruptions except from David. Give... 15 minutes. If, by the end of that... I haven't proved our innocence, I... what you like."

President Norton looked uneasy... Bendoff scornful, but Professor Max-... lifted his head hopefully. "Gen-... man, I think that Coral's request... and granted. If these two young... are not guilty, we would be... granting a far greater crime than... at which they are suspected, by... allowing them. Go ahead, Coral."

Coral looked questioningly at Pres-... Bendoff and President Norton... After a long moment each nod-... ded his assent. With that she went... and sat down on the hassock... which stood beside Donna's chair... Donna, her blue eyes almost black... fear and distrust, crouched faith-... back into the corner of her chair... Coral began to speak.

"Donna," she said, "I thought at... that you took the process, but... that you to know that I don't be-... lieve any longer. I am convinced... from what you told me when... asked to sit in our room, that... that's true."

"It is not," Donna's voice was... Coral went on, imperceptibly... Donna, isn't it true that I left... that Friday afternoon, you took... into the lab? Didn't you tell him... the process as you walked over... and got him interested in talk-... to David about it?"

Donna did not answer, but her face... pale and her hands clutched the... of the chair. Coral continued... didn't you hope that David would... not some of the details of the... process and that you could relay them... your father as your own discovery... making up to him for the trouble... given into lately?"

"Suppose I did," answered Donna... low voice. "That doesn't prove... anything. The process was stolen... Bendoff, and David Armstrong lent... to be sure so that you could get... the lab and take it."

"That's not true, Donna, and you... know. I'll tell you what happened... was in the lab on Thursday... process was not stolen till Fri-... day and Hoyt went to the lab... and when the door was open and... when you showed Hoyt around... that for him, showed him the sec-... drawer in David's desk which you... saw at some time when you... were in the lab. You didn't... that the paper on which the... was written was in the draw-... of Hoyt while your back was... turned, he pulled it out and... it, and was putting it in his

pocket when you turned around and... saw him. Isn't that true?"

"No! No!" Donna cried hysteri-... cally. "It's all lies."

"Let me finish," said Coral. "Just... then, David came back to the lab... and you didn't have time to say anything... to Hoyt. Later, when you had left... the lab, you accused him of taking it. He... probably denied it at first, but... when you kept at him, I think he... must have admitted it and told you... he was going to use it against me. For... instance, put the theft on David. If I... refused to marry him in spite of his... other three marriages, then, that was... then, that was married. You agreed... to keep quiet about it and nothing... more happened until the next morning... when you had breakfast with him."

At that moment, David interrupted... "Unless I miss my guess, after Coral... told Hoyt at the prom that we were... married, he decided that the best kind... of revenge would be to get me fired... from my position here, branded as a... thief. How about it, Donna? Am I... right?"

Donna still kept her terrified sil-... ence and Coral went on. "The next... morning, he outlined all his plans to... you and you promised to keep the... process for him. You didn't hide it... in a very good place, and tonight I... found it." She drew a long breath... "Can you deny that, Donna? Isn't... that just about as it happened? Don't... look away, Donna. It's true, isn't it? Answer me!" She caught both Don-... na's hands. "Don't be afraid, Donna. If it's true, it's Hoyt, not you, who... will bear most of the blame. Why... don't you admit that what you told me... before, and what I've said just now... is true in general, even if I have... misguessed some of the details?" Coral... was close to tears as she pleaded with... her. "It means so much to us, Donna. Please tell the truth!"

Donna burst into a storm of tears... "All right, I'll tell the truth. It is... true. Hoyt did take it. It was just... about like Coral said. She and David... didn't have anything to do with it. That's the truth. I swear it is!"

There was no sound in the room... for several moments except for Don-... na's stormy weeping. Coral returned... to her place beside David, and ob-... servations of the others, he kissed her... "You little brat!" he murmured... Then lower still, "I love you."

Before Coral could reply in kind... President Norton spoke. "First of all... you and David must accept our apolo-... gies, Coral. We regret all that you... have been through very deeply." Then... he turned to Donna. He spoke to her... gently. "We realize that you are not... entirely to blame, Miss Allen. Try to... stop crying. You have nothing to... fear, and there are some details which... are not quite clear. Will you tell us... the details which Coral did not guess... correctly or omitted to give?"

Donna controlled her weeping with... an effort and replied. "It was all... about as Coral said. The reason I... wrote the letter to my father was... this. Hoyt told me he had some gam-... bling debts which had to be paid soon. They came to about \$8000. He told... me that if I'd write the letter to my... father offering to sell the process, he'd... give me the extra money. I said I... would, because I wanted to get away... . . . travel . . . and I knew... Dad wouldn't give me the money be-... cause I hadn't worked here this year... and had gotten into trouble with the... dean, besides." She began to cry... again. "I don't know what Dad'll do... to me when he hears about this!"

"You should have about this!"... "You should have thought of that... before," Professor Bendoff said sternly. He turned to Coral and David... "I feel that I owe you both a... very special apology, for after I re-... ceived that letter I was convinced... of your guilt. Please forgive me."

David sprang to his feet. "Don't... be silly, sir," he laughed. "Anyone... would have been convinced by that. It wasn't your fault."

Coral went over to Donna and... slipped her arm around her shoulders... "Please don't be too hard on Donna,"... she begged them. "It wasn't really... her fault."

President Norton smiled at her... "You're a remarkable girl, Coral. As... for Donna's punishment . . . we'll de-... cide that later."

(To Be Concluded)

Honor Dan Dugan On Father's Day

MOSBY CREEK, June 22—(Spe-... cial)—Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dugan at-... tended the Father's day dinner Sun-... day honoring Dan Dugan at the John... Dugan home at Latham.

Mr. and Mrs. Len Henderson and... children of Oswell settled Sunday at... the Butte Moore home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kirk and... children of Goshen spent the week-... end at the Bert Meeks home.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gault have... moved into the Leo Spandenburg... house.

Mrs. Noah Cagle of Portland visit-... ed last week with her cousin, Mrs. Bert Lancaster.

Attend Sower

A large crowd attended the bridal... shower for Mrs. Art Jenkins Thurs-... day afternoon at the Fred Overton... home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tucker of Cor-... vallis Grace called Sunday at the Doc... Pitcher home.

Guests Sunday at the Roy Ken-... nedy home were Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Addison and children Peter and... Walter of Marshfield, Mr. and Mrs. John Sealf of Walden and Mrs. A. Weberill of Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor were... week-end guests in Springfield at... the William Gault home.

De Kal Plus Legit Diete, Holstein-... Friesian cow, produced 33,464 pounds... of milk and 124-9 pounds of butter-... fat in one year.

For Clothes You're Proud to Wear
JOE RICHARDS
MEN'S STORE
673 Williamette

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

Make a Little Yearn a Lot

The Best
of the Nation's
"Human-est" and
Funniest Comics
On This Page
Daily



THIMBLE THEATRE

Starring POPEYE

NOW SHOWING: "A HUNDRED TO ONE SHOT"

TOMORROW: "GOING — GOING —"

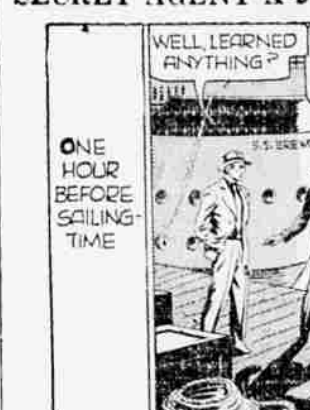
By E. C. SEGAR



SECRET AGENT X-9

The G-Man Stops a Bird in Its Flight

By ALEX RAYMOND



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

Of All Things

By MARTIN



WASH TUBBS

"Step Into My Parlor—"

BY CRANE



OUT OUR WAY

By WILLIAMS

OUR BOARDING HOUSE . . . with . . . Major Hoople



For Clothes You're Proud to Wear
JOE RICHARDS
MEN'S STORE
673 Williamette