

The Wall Flower

By MARION RUBINCAM

A GRADUAL CHANGE

Chapter 88

"Pan will always be liked," George said once, "because she's so adaptable. She's always ready to believe the other person is as wonderful as he thinks himself."

"You're quite wrong," Gloria contradicted. "She doesn't say much, but she sees pretty clearly into the other fellow's faults, only she forgives him for them in advance."

So Pan, who had never trusted her judgment before, now felt a little sure of herself in estimating people when she met them. She liked the five other guests that Mrs. Clarke had invited.

Pan, the neglected and snubbed, was a guest of honor. Moreover, these five nice young people considered it quite a special privilege to meet her—she found that out as soon as the first girl, a great, awkward, blonde creature with a skin like cream and roses, told her:

"Aunt Belle has done nothing but talk about you since she's met you, thinks you're the loveliest thing she's met. We've been jolly anxious to see you, too."

Pan blushed a little at the broad compliment, murmured something about "disappointment always follows great expectations," which she vaguely remembered hearing Gloria say once, and turned to meet the next guest.

Both girls were good-looking, in spite of thick waists and badly dressed hair. Pan, who had acquired a sense of clothes from Gloria, longed to put them into suitable frocks. She admired Mrs. Clarke and all Mrs.

Clarke's type, for that supreme disregard of fashion, or even of becomingness in clothing. But these girls evidently were trying to "look smart" and didn't know how.

"You Americans always dress so beautifully," one girl said a little wistfully, glancing from her much too voluminous satin to the airy fluff of tulle and silver braid that emphasized Pan's slenderness. "You look like Queen Titania in that dress, or some little elf full of dewdrops."

"That's the sort of thing I should have said," a large voice boomed over her shoulder, and she turned to meet Mr. Clarke, a man of 50 odd with a gray "walrus" moustache and a long chin, ruddy cheeks and a lot of gray hair. Mr. Clarke had been bred a country squire, he knew a lot about hunting, fishing and managing an estate. When an accident prevented him from riding, he took to books, and these days he spent most of his time between what his wife called his "study" and the front window of his club.

There were the three young men too, one was a captain in some regiment of "guards" and was looked up to by the others; one was back from India and tanned dark from the sun; the third was running in some small district for M. P. and was teased about the coming election.

"They'll talk politics—for the benefit of the Member of Parliament, and the colonies because of that brown one, and the army on account of the captain—dear me, what shall I do? I don't know a thing about any of those subjects!" Pan thought with distress.

And for a moment she felt as badly as when she was about to enter the "parlor" at the farm house in Norris City, where Gladys held court and the talk was personalities about people she scarcely knew or saw.

But these people, like Gloria's friends, included her tactfully in the talk, sensing her excusable ignorance of some subjects and explaining as they went along. So at no time was she out of it, and her self-consciousness and shyness vanished.

"Now I want to hear about America. We're going there some day, I hope," Mrs. Clarke's voice came after a long political discussion in which the present government (which always seems the least popular one) had been quite demolished and a whole new one set up. "Are the buildings really as high as we hear they are?"

"Higher," Pan answered smiling, and readily talked about her beloved city of New York. Mrs. Clarke, always the perfect hostess, managed it so she had several moments when she was the center of the party. Mr. Clarke, who adored young people, devoted himself in turn to each of the young women.

Ned, it appeared, was the captain

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—though he didn't seem very busy at it, Pan thought: his talk was of everything but military matters. Ned took her home, and Ned was most charming—

"It's been splendid meeting you," he assured her at the hotel door. "Do you mind if I turn up at Aunt Belle's next time you're there?"

A new way of saying he wanted to see her! Pan was amused and flattered as she went up the stairs to the apartment.

It had been, from Gloria's point of view, a tame and perhaps uninspiring party. But to Pan it was the event of her life, her party, her new friends—she felt as though she had created them all herself.

"If George had been there—" she thought as she went to sleep.

Next day she wrote him a long and enthusiastic account of it.

"Frankie and I are to go to the Clarke's for the week end in the country. Ned will be there too," she

wrote a few days later. "And I've progressed enough to dare give a luncheon at the hotel—"

George sat down at once to answer this letter.

Tomorrow—Country Days.

Unfilled Tonnage Report For June Shows Decrease

(U. P. Leased Wire to The Bend Bulletin) NEW YORK, July 10. — The United States Steel Corporation's unfilled tonnage report for June shows a decrease of 339,342 tons.

The unfilled tonnage on June 30 was 3,710,468 tons, against 4,049,800 on May 31 and 4,446,568 on April 30, 1925, and 3,262,505 on June 30, 1924.

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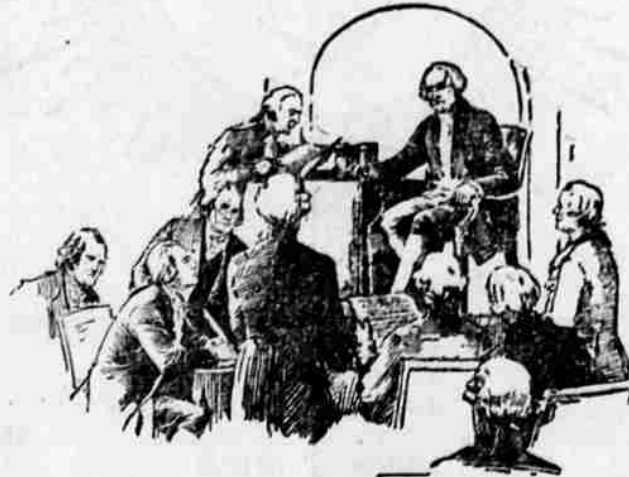
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"TO form a more perfect union" was the animating thought of the statesmen who met to draft America's constitution. Their problem was to weld the sections they represented into a political entity that would function most efficiently and enduringly in the service of the people.

A similar problem was presented nearly a century later to the organizers of America's telephone service. Licenses under the first patents were being granted to isolated companies that were

forming to introduce local service. "A more perfect union" of these companies seemed, from the beginning of the telephone's adoption by the people, to be essential, and so the structure of the Bell System was planned.

This organization exists today substantially as it was then conceived—a group of companies, each preserving its individuality and applying local knowledge to local needs, but all federated into a single cohesive union in order that nation-wide, universal service may be provided.



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Detective, Nurse Killed While On Night Auto Ride

RUMSON, N. J., July 10.—William D. Walling, Jr., a detective sergeant of the Long Branch police force, and Miss May Linzmayer, 19, graduate

nurse of the Monmouth Memorial hospital, were found early today dead from bullet wounds, on the rear seat of Walling's sedan. The automobile was parked at the intersection of two roads.

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