BURNED FINGERS

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

CHAPTER 27

"Poor old lady . . . but you can't buy me!" Jennifer mused smilingly as the elevator doors noiselessly closed. She turned about, still smiling, and found herself facing Sidney Borrows.

A glaze of horror and something like fright came over Jennifer.

"Hello, Jennifer," Sidney said.

"Oh—hello," she said slowly, dizzied by a sudden sharp pain between her eyes.

"Well, you don't have to look so terrified about it!" Sidney said, laughing. "What's new with you?"

"That I'm going to be married tomorrow," she said, swallowing.

"You're going to be married tomorrow? Tell me about it. Who's the lucky man?"

"Captain James Lippincott; he's a doctor in the Medical Corps." Oh, this was all so sickening—so incredibly dreadful.

"Look," he said, "am I going to see you sometime?"

"You know I don't want to see you, Sid. Not ever."

He said, "can't you forget what I've entirely forgotten? We were young; I was a consummate fool. I'm still a fool, always will be or I wouldn't have let you down as I did. My brother was sick and my mother had other plans for me that I didn't know. I say I was just a fool. That's past, Jennifer, no use dragging it up. I don't want to and you don's want to. You're beautiful—you always were easy on the eyes—but now you're a knockout and you're going to marry your soldier and be, I hope, the happiest person in the world! You're luckier than I am, if that's any consolation to you. I've never met anyone I liked as well as you—that's God's truth."

She stood stunned and silent, not because of anything he was saying, but because of the smoldering storm that was rising in her heart.

He said, "Why can't you and I be friends? Why can't we see each other now and then? You aren't coming back here, is that it? But you will let me know where you are, won't you? Call me up. I'm still with my uncle. It seems I did something to my knee playing polo years ago and they won't take me in the Navy—worse luck! But my uncle says he can get me into the Air Corps. Good-bye, Jennifer, and keep your chin up!"

She said nothing. She went back into the bustling confusion of the frock shop. Jennifer found a chair and sat down on it sidewise, her hand hanging over the back, her eyes on space.

It was a surging confusion of thoughhts that was suffocating her. It was the pitful futility of the attempt to bury the past and leave it safe in its grave. There was no grave for it; it lived and walked, here beside her; the decision and choice of the girl of eighteen was still to rule the life of the woman of twenty-five.

Vogelsang's closed and Jennifer was out in the street.

Her wedding day! Tomorrow couldn't be that. She knew that now. She would confess to Jim, of course, be generously, almost gruffly and impatiently, forgiven. That might do for him; it would not do for her. What the solution, what the future must be she did not know, but it did not lie here. It did not lie in telling Jim Lippincott everything on the eve of their wedding.

That night was very quiet, but he told her when he delivered her to the Flood house at an early ten that he had never known her to be so sweet.

"It seems to me I've never known you as you've been tonight, darling."

"Maybe I'm a little tired and maybe a little excited."

"I don't know. But as we sat there at Mollie's table and I looked across at you tonight I thought—people couldn't be as happy as we are," Jim said in a low tone, his arms locked about her.

He was gone in a few minutes, his last words echoing in her ears: "See you tomorrow!"

Jennifer watched him to the corner, then she went inside to the little parlor.

"You get to bed. You'll look like a wreck tomorrow," Mary said.

"I have—a few—letters to write," Jennifer answered hesitantly.

Alone, Jennifer started her letters. She was going away, but she did not know where.

"Dearest Jim," shew rote, "because of something that happened long ago I can't marry you tomorrow . . ."

She tore it up.

"Dearest Jim, I can't marry you tomorrow. With all my love, Jennifer." It was not wholly satisfactory. It was the best she could do. She wrote a similar line to Mary, adding "My heart is broken."

She had less than ten dollars. On Monday she could get more from the bank.

In her bedroom she quietly packed a small bag; she put the two letters in the middle of the kitchen table, and crept out into the black night. A light rain was falling.

At the Mole she got out of the bus. Near her a middle-aged woman and a girl were talking in low tones. Jennifer could sense from their expressions that the woman was placating and anxious; the girl, on the contrary, was almost sullen in her manner.

"Stupid to miss that train," the woman said pleasantly.

"I wish you wouldn't, wait, Mother. Forty minutes more, and you feel so horrible," the girl answered.

"Emily dear, I may not see you for months," the woman countered. "Well, I don't think that it is sensible for me to wait. I think I'll take my cold home and put it to bed."

A young dark man in the uniform of a naval lieutenant had come to stand almost where they had been sitting, and Jennifer saw Emily kiss her mother goodbye, turn, come back swiftly, and go immediately into the young officer's embrace.

Suddenly Jennifer was surprised to have Emily come quickly about a long line of empty seats and join her.

"Will you tell me your name?" Emily asked.

"Jennifer Richie."

"I'm Emmeline Waskel," Emily said hurriedly. My mother and I came up on the day train from Glendale. We went to my aunt's for supper and to brush up and I deliberately — lost the train."

"So that you could meet—your lieutenant?" Jennifer smiled.

"Mother doesn't know," she said rapidly. "You see — I'll tell you: we're married!"

"Oh, lucky you!" Jennifer said involuntarily. Emily moved nearer her on the bench in a gesture of gratitude and confidence.

"Yes, we were married at six o'clock. I told Mother I had to go out for some bobby pins and face powder, and met Ken and we were married."

"Now listen," said Emily urgently. "You're going to Davenbury on the eleven-thirty. They're meeting me there at half past twelve. Will you tell them that I couldn't come, but that I'll be there in ten days? Ken has ten days' leave — "

"But I'm not going to Davenbury!" Jennifer put in.

"The ticket man over there at the office said you were!"

"I took a job with a friend of my mother. Mrs. Crittendon. Companion for her kid." Emily said. "She has to go to Washington and she wants to leave Gloria here. If I could put her off for ten days . . ."

In ten days Jim would be gone to the South Seas! In ten days Jennifer could creep back to the shelter of Mary Flood's house, could find hard, exhausting work . . . washing, washing dishes, riveting . . .

"I could say I was a substitute until you got there," Jennifer said. She had only a vague idea where Davenbury was. It would be disappearance — escape.

Emily was fumbling in her purse.

"Here's my ticket, and here's all the letters Mother wrote and all Mrs. Crittendon wrote. You can read them on the train! Tell them — tell them I was married today if you like, but say that Ken has to go away immediately and that then I'll come. The Crittendons are leaving for Washington or somewhere tomorrow; it would put them out terribly not to have anyone come!"

Emily laughed for sheer joy. "Thank you, thank you, thank you! You'll never know what you've done for me, good-bye!"

"Good-bye," Jennifer returned. She composedly walked toward the gate.

She had fallen into a sort of uncomfortable dream when they reached the end of the line, and an eager-faced woman of perhaps forty-five looked into the bus under a dripping umbrella and said, "Oh thank goodness! You're Emily Waskell? Come on . . . She's here, Kane!" the woman then called over her shoulder, and a man came forward, took possession of Jennifer's little suitcase and with a look of yawning bewilderment, and escorted both women to a waiting car.

Jennifer explained her presence; neither man nor wife offered any objection to the change. They were both evidently concerned only with the possibility of getting away the next day upon what was to them, at least, a highly important trip.

Gloria was exactly the type of girl who bought frocks at Vogelsang's. She was pretty enough—all the girls were — with a mane of silky, well-brushed hair hanging on her shoulders and curling up with just the right casualness at the tips. Her skin was flawless, her eyes skillfully enlarged and enhanced by violet shadows and oily black paint; her lip red matched her rouge.

All her clothes were expensive and smart.

She had exactly the manner Jennifer expected her to have—languid at moments, fiery at others, artificial always. Bored, insolent, amusing, arrogant, and friendly.

For the final kisses and farewells that ensued Gloria hauled herself to her feet. She and Jennifer went down to the big front doorway by which Jennifer had entered, bedraggled and weary, the night before. The rain had stopped; the clouds were rolling off to the southwest; watery sunlight shone over the garden and the panorama of hillside and bay that unrolled below it.

Thus began a strange dreamlike life for Jennifer; the day's began to go by in a daze of physical comfort and mental apathy. She had asked Gloria's father on the night of her arrival to send Mary Flood a telegram, not revealing her whereabouts but saying that she was safe. She made it important that the telegram should go from San Francisco.

With Gloria she went to movies and beauty parlors, played endless games of gin rummy, talked by the hour.

STEVE ROPER

POGO

ORPHAN ANNIE

LIL ABNER

HOPALONG CASSIDY

MUTT & JEFF

REX MORGAN, M. D.

DONALD DUCK

MARY WORTH

RADIO PROGRAMS

FRIDAY—P. M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1350 MBC	KGAE 1450 K.C.	KOCO 1400 ABC
12:00	News	News	Paul Harvey	Tony Trudeau	Spider	News
12:15	Band of Life	Come Get It	News	NW News	Spider	Major
12:30	Pop. Young	Home	Noon Edition	Gay 90s	Spider	League
12:45	Happiness	Party	Sam Hayes	Music	Spider	Major
1:00	Bobby Wife	Hilltop Hon.	Kay West	Kirkwood	Spider	League
1:15	Stella Dallas	Godfrey	Kay West	Kirkwood	Spider	Major
1:30	Widow Brown	Godfrey	Kay West	Lucky U	Spider	League
1:45	Wom. in Rbl	Godfrey	Kay West	Ranch	Spider	Major
2:00	Fishn Bill	Godfrey	Tennessee	News	Rec. Room	Magic
2:15	P. P. Parrott	Godfrey	Ernie	Music	Rec. Room	Melody
2:30	L. Jones	Godfrey	Summer	Music	Rec. Room	Magic
2:45	Doc's Wife	Curt Massey	B'wagon	Shoppers	Rec. Room	Melody
3:00	Welcome	Wm. of Odd	Know News	Music	Jim Dandy	Magic
3:15	Traveler	Ruth Ashton	FM Edition	Music	Jim Dandy	Melody
3:30	Dr. Paul	Robert Lewis	Fer Girls	News	Jim Dandy	Magic
3:45	Garroway	Tunefully	Fer Girls	Paula Stone	Jim Dandy	Melody
4:00	Life Beautif.	Kirkham	This Oregon	Patt. Lewis	Kiddies Krnr	Music Too
4:15	Music Box	Rosemary	Squirrel Cag	Hemingway	Music Mart	Want
4:30	Music Box	Kirkham	Squirrel Cag	Curt Massey	Music Mart	Music Too
4:45	Art Baker	Kirkham	Happy Time	Sam Hayes	Music Mart	Want
5:00	Bill Stern	Ed Murrow	Happy Time	B-Bar-B	Traffic	Time Time
5:15	News Parade	News	V. Pinkley	B-Bar-B	Jamboree	Forward
5:30	L. McCall	World Today	Chet Huntley	Wonderful	Supper Club	Music
5:45	E. Peterson	Frank Gosu	Bob Garred	City	Supper Club	Fishcaster
6:00	Relax With	Mr.	Washerman	Gab Hunter	Supper Club	Candlelight
6:15	Music	Cameleon	Rpt. Spotlt.	News	Supper Club	Candlelight
6:30	Judy Canova	Spt. Spotlt.	Time Edition	Serenade	Supper Club	News
6:45	Judy Canova	Meditation	Gd. Listning	Sam Hayes	Supper Club	40 Kayo
7:00	Sports Topo	Mr. Keen	Sophis.	J. Fiddler	Music	Rosary
7:15	Sports Topo	Mr. Keen	Rhythm	Ed Dodd	Music	Star Sing
7:30	Portland	L. Thomas	Sy Oliver	Cisco Kid	Sign Off	Bandstand
7:45	Hit Parade	Fam. Shelt.	Orchestra	Cisco Kid		Bandstand
8:00	Man's Famil	Johnny	Summer	John Steele		Dugout Dope
8:15	World News	Mercer	Symphonette	Adventurer		Baseball
8:30	Eddie Fisher	I Believe	Platter	Harmonies		Baseball
8:45	R. Cleoner	On Spot	Brains	Dix. Concert		Baseball
9:00	Best Plays	Music in	Whats That	Glen Hardy		Baseball
9:15	Best Plays	Air	Song	Fulton Lewis		Baseball
9:30	Best Plays	Broadway	Arazon	Music		Baseball
9:45	Best Plays	My Best	Ballroom	Music		Baseball
10:00	Reporter	5 Star Final	Final Edit.	Coke Time		Baseball
10:15	Sports Page	You & Work	Dance Time	Newscast		Night News
10:30	Bob & Ray	Record Show	Dance Time	News		Night Song
10:45	Bob & Ray	Record Show	Dance Time	Official Det.		Night Song
11:00	News	City Club	Dance Time	Official Det.		Night Song
11:15	L. McCall	Address	Dance Time	Music		Night Song
11:30	City Council	Music	Dance Time	News		Night Song
11:45	City Council	Music	Dance Time	Music		Night Song
12:00	Sign Off	Silent	Dance Time	Melody Man		Sign Off

SATURDAY—6 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M.

6:00	Record Room	West. Stars	Farm Hour	News	Saturday	Western
6:15	Record Room	KOIN Klock	Farm Hour	Timekeeper	Salute	Melodies
6:30	Record Room	KOIN Klock	Farm Hour	March Time	Saturday	Farm News
6:45	Record Room	KOIN Klock	Farm Hour	NW News	Salute	News
7:00	Record Room	KOIN Klock	1st Edition	Hemingway	Saturday	KOCO Klock
7:15	Record Room	News	Arronsky	Breakfast	Salute	KOCO Klock
7:30	Record Room	News	Vets News	Breakfast	Saturday	KOCO Klock
7:45	K. Manning	Consumer	Bob Hasen	News	Salute	Exten. Serv.
8:00	Record Room	Theater of Today	No School Today	Carter Show	Saturday Salute	Proudly Hail
8:15	Record Room	Stars Over Hollywood	Guest Star Home Agent	Music	Saturday Salute	Proudly Hail
8:30	Record Room			Haven of Rest		Concert
8:45						Concert
9:00	Howdy Doodi	Fun for All	Toyland	News	Polk County	News
9:15	Howdy Doodi	Fun for All	Time	Farm Home	Platter Party	Public Hoal
9:30	Howdy Doodi	City Hospital	Space Patrol	Pastor's Call	Platter Party	Club Time
9:45	Howdy Doodi	City Hospital	Space Patrol	Bargain	Platter Party	Kids Corner
10:00	Adventure	Music with	Stars of Tomorrow	Glen Hardy	Platter Party	Aunt Hattie
10:15	Bk. Carnival	Girls	Stars of Tomorrow	Carter Show	Platter Party	Aunt Hattie
10:30	Hollywood	Grand		Music	Platter Party	Serenade
10:45	Breakfast	Central		Music	Platter Party	Sat. Serenad
11:00	Mary Lee	Give and	Late News	Strictly	Platter Party	Major
11:15	Taylor	Take	Playland	Dixie	Platter Party	League
11:30	Farm and	Meet the	USA	Music	Platter Party	Major
11:45	Home Hour	Missus	Playland	Music	Platter Party	League

FM Mgr.: KOIN 99.1, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. KEX 92.3, 6 to 9 p.m.

DIAL LISTING KOAC, 550

KOAC Friday P.M. — 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour, Marion county agent; 1:00, Music; 2:00, Especially for Women; 3:00, Oregon Reporter; 4:00, Sports Forecast; 5:00, Children's Theater; 6:00, News, Weather; 7:15, Farm Hour; 8:00, Cooper Union Forum; 9:00, Music; 9:45, Meditation; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Sat. A.M.—10:00 News; 10:15, Especially for Women; 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 2:00, Music of Masters.

Idanha Ambulance Service Terminated

Detroit — Service of the Industrial Hospital Insurance ambulance which has been stationed at the Idanha Fire Department for the past five years, has been discontinued.

Improved travel conditions between the Detroit-Idanha area and Mill City, insufficient use of the vehicle, and cost and inconvenience of maintenance were the reasons given for its removal. Residents of the area are asked to call Mill City or Stayton for emergency ambulance service.

INSPECTION PROGRAM

Seoul (AP)—The U.S. Eighth army said today a huge inspection program, designed to keep the army in top fighting shape, is in full swing in Korea.

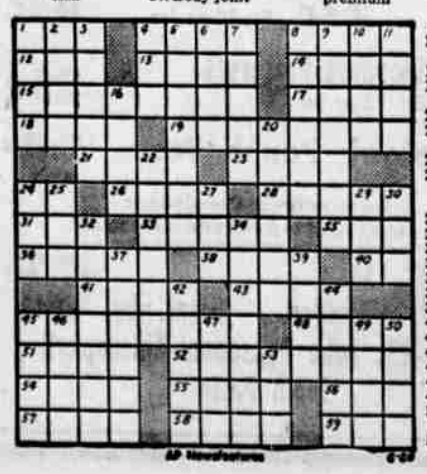
Teams of inspectors are examining all equipment to bring it to a peak of combat readiness, said an official army release.

ROOM & BOARD By Ahern

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Knock
4. Spanish cooking vessel
8. Flows back
12. Epoch
13. Sustenance
14. Roman emperor
15. Gilbert and Sullivan opera
17. Trolley
18. Leaping amphibian
19. Apart
21. Halt
23. Waste allowance
24. Perform
26. Corn meal dish
28. Judges
31. Manner
33. Mining excavation
35. Soak
36. Hallowed
38. Breathe quickly
40. Near
41. Ogle
43. Blunt end
45. Restaurant attendant
48. Smoke
51. Dillseed
52. Frightens suddenly
54. Affection
55. Roman garment
56. Secure
57. Body joint
58. Small barracuda
59. Piece out

DOWN
1. Engrossed
2. Exchange premium
3. Punitive
4. Away
5. Least tight
6. Learning
7. Expert
8. Dinner course
9. Scolds
10. Contemptible child
11. Not all
16. Father of Abel
20. Glowing
22. Summon together
24. Light touch
25. Ingredient of salad dressing
27. Jump
29. Crowd
30. Discover
32. Ease
34. Transit
37. Couch
39. Cluster
42. Reposes
44. Swell out
45. Go afoot
46. Presently
47. Halt
49. Submissive
50. Old Italian family
53. Deserter



Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

A	N	I	M	A	L		S	P	O	R	T	Y
M	A	T	U	R	E		T	E	N	U	R	E
U	S		D	I	V	E	R	S	E		I	S
S	U	M		D	E	M	I	T		H	U	T
E	T	O	N		L	I	P		S	I	N	E
D	E	B	I	T		T	E	M	P	T	E	R
			N	I	I	S		S	E	E		
R	E	S	E	N	T	S		T	A	M	P	S
E	R	I	I	S		R	O	B		R	O	L	E
P	A	R		S	A	L	A	D		P	E	P
O	S		G	E	N	E	S	I	S		A	T
R	E	M	I	N	D		E	C	A	R	T	E
T	R	E	N	D	S		R	E	P	A	S	T

AP Newsfeatures