

Virginia of the Air Lanes

A ROMANCE OF FLYING

By Herbert Quick

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Theodore Carson, inventor of an airship, rescues from a fugitive flying machine called a helicopter, a beautiful young girl.

II and III—Carson is infatuated by her and takes her where she can communicate with her friends.

IV—Carson visits the Roc, a giant airship owned by Shayne, uncle of Virginia Suarez, the girl he rescued, and, being coldly received, leaps from the Roc, at a great height, in a parachute.

V, VI and VII—He lands in the grounds of the Slattery Institute for Inebriates, where he makes a friend of one Craighead, who plans to raise capital to manufacture the new style airship Carson has invented. Thus they hope to rival Shayne, who controls the airship industry.

VIII—Mr. Waddy decides conditionally to capitalize the Carson-Craighead project.

IX—Carson goes to Florida to complete a sample airship to exhibit to Mr. Waddy, and he finds Virginia there.

X—He is in love with Virginia. Wigner, a rival inventor, conspires to kill Carson.

"But think, my dear sir," protested Mr. Craighead, "of the untold millions in the Broom idea—aerial monopoly. Even if Theodore should be only four cents and a spade, we still hold the ace, my dear Mr. Waddy. Do not grind your teeth thus so long as the American Nitrate and Air Products company remains as the Archimedean lever with which to pry up and dump the world. We are ahead whatever happens to the aeronaut end of the deal."

"Well, the aeronaut end," said Mr. Waddy, "had better come to the center or I'll see what law there is for getting money by false pretenses."

The two men were the best of traveling companions. Mr. Waddy insisted on going in the smoker. Mr. Craighead took the stateroom while his money lasted and then borrowed of Mr. Waddy.

Mr. Craighead had advertised for people to organize a rapid business campaign covering the civilized world to meet him in West Twenty-third street at the studio of an acquaintance to whom he had neglected to impart any knowledge of the trust with the specialists. Waddy and Craighead arrived somewhat late on account of the time consumed in adjusting Mr. Craighead's aura and found a crush of people entirely alien to the fine arts, filling the studio and the hall outside. Craighead's sculptor friend, with a lady model, escaped the angry mob into the scaffolding of an equestrian group representing an Indian maiden in a stampede of buffaloes. The model had been posing for something—an Indian maiden perhaps—and had feathers in her hair.



HE WENT ABOUT WITH MARVELOUS RAPIDITY.

Craighead broke through by imperceptibly an officer, shouting "Make way for the police!" and upreaching the crowd with his elbows.

"Hello, De Land!" said he, nodding to the sculptor. "Most beautiful princess of the Apaches, how?"

"That you, Craig?" called down the sculptor. "What, not sober? Go after the police. Turn these people out, please, Craig!"

"Friends of mine," said Craighead. "I advertised for 'em. Hope you haven't been incommoded, old man."

"Not at all!" replied the sculptor sar-

castically. "But get them out so Miss Brown and I can descend."

Craighead's manner of disposing of the crowd commanded Mr. Waddy's sincere respect. He went about with marvelous rapidity, sending away those whose nonutility was unquestionable and making engagements with others at "our Wall street office," the name of which made everybody more respectful.

The dinner to which Mr. Craighead took Mr. De Land, Miss Brown and Mr. Waddy was the first of a series which reduced Mr. Waddy to torpor. The old gentleman, in his long frock coat which buttoned to a surtout, his frowzy face and his evident attachment to Mr. Craighead, was remembered in certain ultra bohemian circles for his surreptitious sinking into the dimmest corners of cafes and roof gardens. He had a dark secret, Mr. Craighead said, which he did not explain, originated in Mr. Waddy's agreement with the lady in goggles that the whole situation was improper. He felt obliged to keep with Craighead because of a suspicion that the aeronaut was a figment of two Slattery Institute imaginations, and he did not purpose to let any guilty man escape. So he providently engaged a detective to shadow both himself and Mr. Craighead, the unremitting presence of whom in very plain clothes made Mr. Waddy feel and look guilty and fugitive.

His second reason for becoming Mr. Craighead's double was his sense of duty of preventing that pupil of Dr. Witherspoon from breaking the vow of abstinence. So he drank most of the intoxicants served to Craighead, somewhat to the injury of his health, but much to the betterment of his reputation as a roisterer. Altogether it was a relief to get Craighead back home, where he installed him as a lodger and boarder, charging him well for his accommodation and lending him the money on his note to pay for it. On arrival he went to bed and turned Craighead over to Mrs. Graybill, with strict injunctions to telephone the sheriff's office if he was unaccounted for more than an hour.

It was a situation with some unique aspects. Mr. Craighead began whiffing away time with a work on the "Morphology of the Crawfish" and dips into De Quincey's "Spanish Nun." Looking from the library window, he saw Mrs. Graybill enter a summer house, leaving a red hat on the railing outside.

The "Morphology" grew uninteresting. Craighead stepped from the window, went into the summer house and started at finding Mrs. Graybill there, her hair tousled about her head, her little nose elevated in that comical resemblance to her father's. "Mr. Waddy informs me that the late Mr. Graybill was a minister of the gospel," he ventured.

"Yes," she replied, "he was."

"And that he has been called," Craighead went on, "to a better life a year or more?"

"Fourteen months," answered Mrs. Graybill.

"I have been reading," said Craighead, "a work on the 'Morphology of the Crawfish.' It holds me enthralled. The person who fails to glean wisdom from the crawfish has never tested his intelligence with a bare toe or studied his morphology."

Mrs. Graybill looked at Craighead sternly.

(To Be Continued.)

CIRCUS FULL OF LAUGHTER

Barnum and Bailey Show Has Fifty of World's Funniest Clowns.

If a good laugh is better than medicine, then the Barnum and Bailey circus is the fountain of health and youth. This fountain will bubble merrily in Medford, one performance only, on Monday, August 29, at 10 a. m. Fifty of the world's most famous clowns will operate on the risibles of the audience. They will turn out a laugh a second.

Famous among these funmakers are the Garcinettis, who for several years were rib-tickers extraordinary to the sultans of Turkey. They must have made that potentate laugh, or they wouldn't have remained on his payroll as long as they did. Since joining the Barnum and Bailey circus they have been making Americans forget their troubles and see silver linings where there are none. So much for the Garcinettis. But there are others just as successful. There are the two Geromes, German pantomimists; Winsom Winslow of the Drury Lane theater at London; Sam Bennet, an English macap; Dick Ford, the Champs Elysees gense d'arms, who can make a mule laugh; Valdo, the Italian wit and jester; Dan Darling, the Australian chump; Rossi, the Venetian pickle-berrling; Harry Clemence, the Yankee skylark; Will Scott, the Scottish Highland cuss; Al Olfant, the French cut-up; Will Hill, the Piccadilly Punch; Jim Robinson, the Irish Happy Jack; Du-

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vall, the Parisian sprite; La Pearl, the American vaudeville clown, and McIntosh, the burlesque bagpiper.

The hopeless "sorehead" becomes hilariously good natured in the presence of this galaxy of mischiefmakers. Undertakers go home from the circus and write joke books. There are funny airship stunts, exploding automobiles, north pole expeditions, Chinese laundry scenes, comic balloon ascensions, travesties on political happenings, clever satires, droll skits, neat pantomimes and delightful tomfoolery to keep the audience in constant merriment. During breathing spells between sieges of laughter there is always a thriller to look at.

Jupiter, the balloon horse, takes a trip to the canvas top and comes down in a stower of fireworks. Desperado, a Frenchman, dives from the top of the tent and lands on his bare chest on the ground. Charlie the First, a chimpanzee, is the greatest bicycle rider and acrobat in the world. There is the Konyot family of daring acrobatic equestrians. There is a member of the Siegrist-Silbon aerialists who, with his eyes blindfolded, leaps across the full width of the tent, turning a double somersault on the way and then catching the wrists of a comrade hanging head down from a flying swing. Other thrills are added by Adonis brothers, who balance on the point of a swaying ship mast. Victoria Codona, the little Spanish wonder, is the most beautiful and daring high wire dancer on earth. A company of Hungarian stallions play a one-act farce, the scene of which is laid in a countryside inn. There are the four La Fallies the strongest men in the world; the Winston riding seals and a brass band of elephants. There are the wonderful Pattay-ranks, the Bernacs, the Dollar acrobats and Paula Peters' monkey and dog circus.

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