

Virginia of the Air Lanes

A ROMANCE OF FLYING

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.

She obeyed. They had risen to a height of perhaps 200 feet before her inexperienced hands could change the propellers, and Carson told her to keep the height. She asked if she might not use a little higher speed, but he said no—economy in gas was in the moderate speed. "Keep her as she is," said he.

"Can you come up?" she asked. "Have you the strength?" She asked this two or three times and got no reply. Suddenly she screamed with the fear that he had fainted, and as if aroused from a stupor he asked her to advance the spark a little and when she had done so to retard it again.

"Are you in danger?" she asked. "Can you hang on?" "I'm all right," said he, "only my hands. Can you see shore? Is it far?" The shore was rising fast, she told him. It was not so very far now, but the gas was almost gone. Could she do anything? Was there nothing to be done to eke it out so as to bring them a little closer before they fell into the sea? Could he do anything if he were in the car?

"Keep her as she is," said he. "When we get close enough so she can glide in I'll lighten her."

"How lighten her?" she asked. "It's easy," said he, "from down here. Keep her as she is!"

The dunes lifted white in the sun, shimmering in the heat, swelling as the Virginia darted nearer and nearer to shore. The horror stricken people on the beach saw her coming, like an albatross before a gale. The girl on the deck prayed fervently for the miraculous renewing of the little cruse of oil from which was made the gas that kept them up, and the man underneath hung on grimly, awaiting the cessation of stroke, which would prove



THE AIRSHIP SHOT UPWARD WITH THE SINGLE OF DROPPING CHAINS.

that the mixture which was the breath of life of the great engines was exhausted at last. Once, twice, thrice, came the halting in the machinery that was the death rattle of the motors. "Virginia!" said he. "Yes," she replied. "Fix the gliding mechanism. The gas is done."

"Yes, Theodore." "Turn her nose down a little. With momentum enough she'll make it from here. And when she gets within those breakers, if she is less than twenty-five feet high, tilt her up again a little. Do you understand?" "Yes, I'll do it. Anything more, Theodore?" "No; only remember what you said about forgiving me if I'd let you come with me. Remember, turn her prow up a little when she nears shore. You'll make it, dear; you'll make it!" Mrs. Graybill, standing on the shore, noted with the rest the new motion of the airship when the engines were stopped and wondered why it behaved so queerly.

And then Mrs. Graybill screamed. She had seen the man under the car deliberately let go his hold and drop into the water. The lightened car tilted slightly upward now as Virginia obeyed orders, soared slowly upward, rising a little as her momentum brought the great gliding surfaces against the air, and then, clearing the foam of the surf, she softly settled on the sand with her stern rudder, like the tail of a great dead bird, washed by the hungry waves which she had as by a miracle escaped. And rowing in from the offing where he had gone in his fishing boat in the wild and improbable belief that he might help his master came Captain Harrod with a white faced young man lying in the bottom of the boat whose fingers dripped blood from the remorseless work of the file.

"Allow me to suggest," observed Craighead as the gentlemen of the party at Harrod's camp sat in lounging attitude on various articles used as chairs, mostly jetsam and flotsam of the gulf, "that in perfecting the first really practicable flying machine we have set in motion social and economic reactions that will go on and on far beyond the ken of those who, unlike myself, have not made a specialty of them. As that submarine dragged the Virginia out to sea yesterday we all thought it was the last of Carson, M. A., didn't we?"

Mr. Carson picked at his bandaged fingers, embarrassed. "I didn't see much hope of escape," said he. Breakfast was served. Mr. Waddy was upon tenterhooks until the Virginia had been explained to him, so a trip was arranged for Waddy, Craighead and Carson. They would fly down to Fort Morgan, thence to Palmetto Beach, get their mail and be back for dinner.

Mr. Waddy shied from the sea, but once in air he became intoxicated with enthusiasm. If this machine, said he, was so good that the Aerostatic Power people thought it good business to hire Wigner to drown it and its inventor—he could not otherwise explain the horrible affair of yesterday—it was good enough to be backed with all the Waddy money in all the eight banks.

The Virginia had alighted on the parade ground at Fort Morgan. The bamboo braces fell outward, and she lay on an even keel. The aeronauts invariably halted at the mooring balloon and received passes, but Mr. Waddy's declaration of fealty was so absorbing and the speed of the Virginia so unwonted to her pilot that the fort had been spread beneath him like a map before he was aware of it. To alight might mean arrest, inquiry and discharge after explanations to the commandant, Colonel Krimnitz, of whose severity Carson felt no real fear. But if he tried to go away after running the guard he might be fired on as a spy making off with complete photographs. Altogether it was safest to alight, thought Carson, and he settled on the parade ground, greatly to the agitation of an awkward squad drilling under a sergeant, whose belated commands were cut short off by the whirl of the reversal of the Virginia's wing blades. He turned and saw the huge dragon fly with its bow rudder pointed at him like a great mandible.

The drill sergeant's expression carried conviction to the sergeant of the guard, where his description of a devil of a bird thing that you couldn't see at all till it struck the ground might not have been credited. The guard turned out and moved on the parade ground. The guard encountered a great silver winged insect with a snug car amidst his, her four braces sticking in the Bermuda grass like very short legs.

The guard halted at five paces, and the sergeant advanced, obtaining his first good look at Mr. Craighead, maintaining the attitude of military caricature with a steadiness perfectly statuesque. The sergeant, a little man with a red mustache turned up a la Kaiser, looked at him for half a minute and uttered a mysterious exclamation. Craighead remained motionless, his hand to his cap. The sergeant amazingly returned the salute. Craighead relaxed his tense muscles, dropped his hand to his side and winked with the utmost sobriety of expression. "Podner," said he, "have yeh got any eatin' tobacco?"

"I'll trouble you gentlemen for your passes," returned the sergeant. "Unfortunately," replied Mr. Craighead, "we omitted to obtain passes. Say no more, Mr. Sergeant. We are all soldiers. This is Gennie Theodor's Carson, M. A., and this Mr. Waddy, who served in his youth in the typhoid uprising at Chickamauga in the Spanish-American war. Show your button, Mr. Waddy, as an S. A. W. V. You see, sergeant, that you are quite safe against our capturing Fort Morgan."

"Here's Captain Bolger now. Tell him about it." (To Be Continued.)

If a merchant is really selling some useful article lower than any one else in town, and is not getting out of that fact its full advertising value, he was never destined to be a merchant.

HORSE TAKES BALLOON RIDE

When at Top of Ascent He Pulls Leather Strip Which Sets Off Large Display of Fire Works—Is Marvelous Feat

What a unquestionably the most beautiful and spectacular circus feature ever devised is this season holding a prominent place on the program of the Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth, which comes to Medford one performance only, at 10 a. m., Monday, August 29.

This act is performed by Jupiter, known as the "Balloon Horse." He is a beautiful snow-white Arabian animal. A handsome young woman, dressed in white from the tips of her shoes to the plume in her hat, sits in the saddle during the perilous trip.

Jupiter and his mistress come majestically into the arena. In the center ring is a large balloon. Instead of a basket a platform is suspended from it by four chains. This platform has no railing and is barely large enough to hold the horse. The animal steps upon it and steadies itself. Then the ascent begins. The sight is inspiring. The audience is amazed. Without a safeguard of any kind horse and rider mount to the very top of the canvas.

Arrived at the top Jupiter turns his head to one side, and with his teeth takes hold of a leather strap which operates a battery of fireworks above him. He gently tugs the strap. A series of sputters and explosions follow. Balloon, horse and girl are enveloped in a flood of flame, fire-sters, brands and white smoke. In this Niagara of fire the descent is made. When the ground is reached a storm of applause greets the performance.

In France and Germany where this act was exploited for the first time, it was extolled as the most brilliant and exciting aerial achievement the world had ever seen. The man who knows anything about training horses will say the same thing. It takes a full second for the audience to recover at the conclusion of the act.

Another thriller is presented by Desperado, the French dare-devil. He mounts to the dome of the tent and leaps to the ground, landing on his bare chest upon a slender skid just three feet high. Charlie the First adds another sensation to the exciting program. He is merely a chimpanzee as far as zoological classification is concerned, but he is a greater bicycle rider and acrobat than any man who ever lived. Other sensational numbers are presented by a company of Hungarian stallions that go through evolutions and show development and training that no other horse act of the past has approached. There is a company of ponies and unbridled mules that made a hit in Germany last winter. There is a brass band of elephants. There is Berzac's comedy horse circus. There are equestrian and juggling seals that are marvelous. There is a circus of dogs and monkeys that have astonished Europe, and a barnyard full of educated pigs, geese and roosters.

This show is a great affair. It has always held first place in the estimation of the world. This season, more than ever before, it is an object of wonder. Counting the various agents throughout the world, the animal trappers and the advance men, there are over 1500 names on the payroll. Traveling directly with the show are 1280 employees. There are 700 horses, 30 camels, 40 elephants and 1200 other wild and semi-domestic animals. In the menagerie is the greatest zoological curiosity ever exhibited. It is a baby giraffe three feet tall and the only one of its kind ever born in America. Its mother is 22 feet in height.

Struck a Rich Mine.
S. W. Bends, of Coal City, Ala., says he struck a perfect mine of health in Dr. King's New Life Pills for they cured him of Liver and Kidney trouble after 12 years of suffering. They are the best pills on earth for Constipation, Malaria, Headache, Dyspepsia, Debility. 25c at all druggists.

PORTLAND AFTER NEXT ESPERANTO CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Portland, Ore., is making an active campaign for the next congress of the Esperantists, in universal conclave in Washington at present. The Oregonians, owing to extensive advertising of their metropolis, are in great favor with the linguists. It is very probable that the northwestern city will be chosen.
Haskins for Health.

"FALCON" LEBLANC WINS BIG RACE

Completes Last Leg of Journey and Wins Prize Amounting to \$48,000—Tremendous Welcome Accorded Aviator

PARIS, Aug. 17.—Gracefully soaring around the spire of the Eiffel tower, then sweeping easily to the Issy parade ground, Alfred Le Blanc today won the 488-mile cross-country aeroplane race amid the plaudits of a monster crowd.

The flight from Amiens to Issy, a distance of 70 miles, was made in 1 hour and 42 minutes. Le Blanc was officially declared the winner of Le mattin's \$20,000 prize and the other purses, which bring the total up to nearly \$48,000.

Aubrun arrived second, having covered the last 70 miles in two hours flat. Surrounded by a brilliantly uniformed guard War Minister Brun and General Dalstein, military governor of Paris, greeted Le Blanc enthusiastically. The formal welcome was hardly over before the cheering throng pushed the soldiers aside and lifted the victorious aviator upon their shoulders.

When Aubrun alighted he, too, was captivated by the spectators and the two aviators were carried around the aerodrome and through the crowds in the streets. Corrected figures show that Le Blanc flew successfully from Issy to Troyes, Nancy, Mezieres, Loual, Amiens and back to Issy—a distance, with necessary detours, of 494 miles—in the time of 11 hours and 56 minutes. Aubrun, who took second place, flew approximately the same distance in 13 hours and 27 minutes.

Other aviators who finished, although not figuring in the result, were: Lieutenants Letseux, Aquaviva, Cammerman, Vullienne, La Gagnieux and Belovocic.

Wayman the American, did not show.

JUDGE DUNNE'S RESIDENCE ENTERED AND LOOTED

Last Thursday, Judge Dunn's residence, on the ranch east of Ashland, was entered and plundered of a sum of money, jewelry, hunting knife, razor, etc., supposed to be the property of a hired man working out in the field at the time, as the family are away on a trip to Crescent City, says the Tidings. A technical book, evidently the property of the robber, was left on the premises, on the fly leaf of which the name "J. W. Williams" was written. Chief Irwin sent out notices broadcast and soon got a reply from Oregon City that a party by the name of J. W. Williams, a boozier, had left that vicinity recently bound for San Francisco, from which information it is inferred that the party committed the robbery while passing through here on his way south, accidentally leaving the small book on the premises. The San Francisco police have been notified to be on the lookout for anybody answering either to the name or description given by the Oregon City authorities.

A GOOD REASON

Medford People Can Tell You Why It Is So.

Doan's Kidney Pills cure the cause of disease and that is why the cures are always lasting. This remedy strengthens and tones up the kidneys, helping them to drive out of the body the liquid poisons that cause backache, headache and distressing kidney and urinary complaints. Medford people testify to permanent cures.

A. Betz, 130 Front street, Medford, Oregon, says: "I am just as willing to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills today as I was in September 1907, when I publicly told of my experience with them. I suffered from kidney trouble for the last five years and as time passed, I grew worse, instead of better. Sharp pains darted through the small of my back and sometimes the attacks were so severe that I could hardly stoop. At night my back ached intensely and sound sleep was out of the question. Being told to try Doan's Kidney Pills, I did so and they soon gave me relief."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50c. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

TEDDY TO WORK FOR INSURGENTS?

Republican Leader Says Colonel Realizes Only Progressive Republicans Can Win in Next Presidential Campaign and Plans For Same

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 17.—"Realizing that the tendency of the western states is strongly progressive and that none but a progressive republican will stand a chance of election to the presidency in 1912, Colonel Roosevelt will make his spring trip into the west the basis for a progressive campaign."

This statement came today from a republican leader, commenting on the present republican party.

Rumors current here are that Roosevelt will plan his speaking tour in all the southern states on his way to the Pacific coast as preliminary to the opening of a campaign. In the west and northwest he will deliver several addresses, most of which will be in support of the insurgent spirit, instead of attempting to mould public sentiment in favor of Taft. This attempt, it is believed, would be the only manner in which Roosevelt could defeat himself.

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