

BOY CRAZY

by GRACE PERKINS

SYNOPSIS: Engagement with Dickey Dale turns Hope's career of popularity in Westchester. The marriage is quickly annulled by her father. Since her own Dickey are minor. Lisa told Hope by her family made her believe Dickey has not tried to see her since she was kept prisoner by her father.

Chapter 21
ANOTHER HARMOUTH PROM
HOPE found, with a touch of bitter disdain, that her wealth and her family position placed her far above open criticism or unkind treatment for her "wildness."



Goody's Shopping

As a matter of fact, her reputation in town seemed only heightened by her sensational romance. Nobody knew the entire story, and nobody dared to ask details. Elaborately they made their own explanations. And with magnificent gestures, they bent themselves to show Hope and her folks how much they understood, admired and sympathized.

All of which thoroughly irritated and bored Hope. In spite of her continual activities, Hope was increasingly lonely, unable to readjust herself, unable, no matter how hard she tried, to forget Dickey. Even hating him, she remembered. If only she could forget! And somehow, the more she remembered, the less she hated him. The more she brooded over him, wondering how she had ever so totally misjudged him. Most of all, was she unable to find anyone to take his place.

Only Rusty Crandall remained of the steady old line. In all her broad little world, only Rusty Crandall and Judy Hunt seemed truly to care. Without Judy, and without Rusty, who was wise enough (or perhaps disillusioned enough) no longer to speak to her of love, Hope could never have seen the long Dickeyless year through.

Such a year as it was! Angel, cornered by family affairs, was forced to leave school and, hardest of all, quit Hope's crowd as a regular member. Head high, and proud, Angel commuted to a New York secretarial school—only to become transported with joy when Rusty got her a position in his firm as stenographer (no, not secretary) to two or three of the lesser lights in his father's main office. It gave Rusty's family the chance for polite, kind superiority to the "nice little" thing that Rusty just got a job for—at eighteen dollars a week.

But a greater shock was when Judy was firmly forced into announcing her engagement to Frisky Hall—the greatest catch of all Westchester. It brought Hope and Judy closer together, for with Hope, Judy could sit and gulp highballs that stopped the tears, while she vowed viciously that she'd never marry Frisky, that she'd keep postponing the engagement forever, that she was still seeing, almost as much as ever, Tom Post, her saxophone player, who understood and would wait for her—any, kidnap her if necessary. . . . Only Tom would become successful as a lyric writer. . . .

And then there was Goody. And Goody's engagement party. Goody and Goody's tremendous. Thanking that meant nothing at all, and Christmas that meant less because it brought back memories of the meeting in Lake Placid. . . . Perhaps the terrible sweep of these memories was responsible for a strange action on Hope's part that New Year's Eve. Betty Preston, whom Hope had never liked

too well, appeared at the Country Club celebration with a new, magnificent male in tow—a twenty-one-year-old sophomore at Harmouth. A boy who earned the name of "Twoosome" Hubbard because of his astonishing propensities for heart-breaking.

Long and often did Hope dabble with this Twoosome, asking subtle and flip questions about Harmouth, asking him if he had ever met her "annulled husband," Dickey Dale. "No," said Twoosome, with a broad grin, "but I've heard enough about him to fill a library."

"Well," Hope leaned back in his arms and almost lost step with the fox trot. "Go in sometime and introduce yourself to him. And tell him I hope he graduates with honors!"

She hated herself the moment she had spoken the words. Hated herself worse, when Betty questioned her about it later, and she listened to herself prattle on and on with Betty. . . .

Hated herself a million times more, when Betty came over to her house one afternoon three weeks after New Year's, carrying a letter from Twoosome Hubbard, in which he reported that he had carried out Hope's suggestion with Dickey Dale, and had nearly been thrown downstairs for his trouble. Dickey had said, and said ferociously, that he never wanted to hear Hope's name again!

Hope asked Betty for the letter, and kept it. Wondering why. Wondering how she could want to inflict such pain on herself as re-reading it, over and over, until the pages were worn and crumpled. Wondering why the tears came, when she had believed the last of her tears were shed. Wondering why she wanted to see Dickey again—if only to hurt him as badly as he had hurt her.

That was it! She wanted to hurt him! To humiliate him and make him cringe and suffer. To show him how terribly, terribly little it meant. . . .

An idea, in those days, was an accomplished feat with Hope. Quite subtly she favored Betty Preston, cultivating her closest friendship. Until finally she confided, with beautiful finesse, and a secrecy that flattered Betty into ecstasies, that she wanted to go to the Prom at Harmouth.

Delighted with having a hand in an adventure, Betty wrote to Twoosome. And Twoosome, after considerable bribing and counter-bribing, dug up a "blind date" for Hope for the Prom. A boy, wrote Twoosome, named Tuck Hall, who was a sophomore like himself.

After accepting the invitation from her blind date, Hope sought Judy's confidence. There are friends in whom you can confide and feel safe with your secrets. There are other friends who do not even demand confidence. Judy refused to listen to why Hope

needed her to lie. Judy waved aside explanations. "You're old enough to know what you're doing, Hope. I'll help you to be a lady or a chump. Either way, it don't matter, Poison or poison. And if you're being a chump, I'd just as well not know. What I don't know I can't talk about."

Gratefully Hope explained she was going somewhere for a week-end. And her family mustn't dream of her whereabouts or question her absence. (Copyright, Grace Perkins)

A fine plot—but there is a fatal flaw. Hope is rudely surprised tomorrow.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Easier To Get In Than Out!



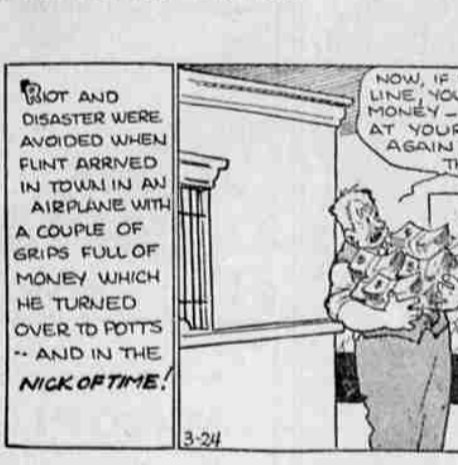
'SMATTER POP—Applesauce!!!



BOUND TO WIN—The Reunion!



THE NEBBS—Solvent



MUTT AND JEFF—Mutt Finally Gets Into The Game



BRINGING UP FATHER



GHOST WALKS FOR CHICAGO TEACHERS

CHICAGO, March 21.—(AP)—There will be a \$2,800,000 cash payday for Chicago's school teachers and city employees today. Mayor Anton Cermak announced banks have purchased enough tax anticipation warrants to make the money available. The 14,000 teachers will be paid for the last half of November. They have received only 10 weeks' cash pay since May. City employees, whose pay is only six weeks in arrears, will receive about \$1,800,000 of the total. And after payday is over, the city will still owe the public employees \$23,000,000 in overdue salaries.

SPEAKEASY FOR DRY FAIR 'OUT'

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(AP)—A suggestion by Senator Tydings of Maryland that a speakeasy be included in a prohibition fair to be held here April 17 has been rejected. The Maryland Democrat, an anti-prohibitionist, proposed this in a letter to William Rufus Scott, director of the fair. In a statement today the organization said a speakeasy had not been planned because they "are as old as the liquor traffic itself" and had not been produced by prohibition. A modern soda fountain will be included, however. "To typify the general shift to soft drinks under prohibition."