

Outrageous Fortune

by Patricia Wentworth

SYNOPSIS: Caroline Leigh returns from London to find Patsy Ann, with whom she lives, mooning over a visit from Robert Arbutnot. Caroline has gone to check up on Nesta Riddell's marriage record, for Nesta claims that Caroline's cousin Jim Randall is not only her husband, but that he has stolen the famous Van Berg emeralds and shot their owners! And there is a six weeks space in Jim's life that he cannot remember, excepting that he had some drinks with James Van Berg. Caroline has learned nothing definite in London, but she has heard that the police have taken finger prints from a glass, and that Van Berg's book, in which he keeps finger prints of friends, has been found with a page missing. The page was entitled "J. R."

Chapter 29 ABOUT ROBERT

"GOLLY!" said Caroline to herself. If she hadn't been so tired, it would have said itself out loud. Was it possible that Robert had an ulterior object?

Caroline dwelt with joy on Robert under the influence of a Tender Passion, of Robert Pursuing a Courtship, of Robert Proposing and Being Accepted. She forgot that she was going to sit on a bottom step and let the world go by. Her eyes sparkled. She swooped down upon the heart-rug beside Patsy.

"Patsy Ann—what have you been up to? What has Robert been up to? How could you be so indiscreet as to have him to lunch in the absence of your chaperon? A gay young man like that! Tell your Aunt Caroline all!"

Patsy began to cry. Her face worked. Tears came rolling down her cheeks. She sniffed loudly between angry sobs.

"You've never done him justice! I've had to put up with your making fun of him always! I didn't say anything—because it wouldn't have been any use saying anything! You only think about your own affairs—you don't confide in me—you never have! I'm sure if you'd been engaged to Jim, you couldn't have shut me up more—when I asked the simplest and most natural questions—though if I'd chosen—"

She stopped and dabbed her eyes with the blue velvet. She was not quite prepared to claim Jim as a lover. She plunged hastily back into the original grievance. "You always make fun of Robert! If you were older, you'd appreciate him as I do. He has a very high sense of duty and a pure Roman nose. It isn't you he wants to marry, so it doesn't matter what you think of him!"

Caroline was appalled. "Patsy darling—don't I never, never mean to hurt your feelings. Darling, you know how one laughs at all sorts of things one respects most frantically—like bishops—and the Bank of England—and—Parliament."

"Robert isn't an—institution!" That was exactly what he was. But never again must Caroline say so. She hugged the weeping Patsy. "Darling, I respect him most rightfully. He's as safe as the Bank of England and as good as a bishop. Are you going to marry him? Has he asked you? Have you said yes? Here's my hanky—you're simply ruining that blue velvet."

Patsy blew her nose on the proffered handkerchief. "There's nothing settled," she said in a muffled voice—"nothing at all. Only he said—he did say—his mother thought—he ought to marry. He's such a good son—and he said he would like to please her—and did I think 47 was too old—and when I said no, it was just the prime of life, he said he was very glad I thought so—because he valued my opinion very much. He said that twice—and then he asked me—whether I had any views about—cousins marrying—and I said I didn't think it mattered so long as they weren't very near."

"DARLING!" That was practically a proposal! Patsy gave a final sob. "I thought—it was—because he got up and looked out of the window—and then he said, 'Your grandfather was second cousin once removed to my grandfather.' And then he said he must be going—and then—just at the end—he pressed my hand—and said, 'You will hear from me in confirmation of this interview.'"

Caroline sprang up hastily. If she laughed, Patsy would never forgive her. She went quickly towards the stair, saying, "I'll just take my things off and come down again."

"You do think he meant something?"

"It sounds like it." Caroline was gathering up her bag and gloves. "Of course he said he'd come down to ask us about Jim."

With her foot on the bottom step, Caroline stood rigid. What had Robert Arbutnot wanted to find out? She made an effort and said, "About Jim?"

"Yes. Someone has told him about that broadcast, but they'd forgotten the name of the hospital. He wanted to know whether we had any reason to suppose that Jim was on the Alice Arden."

"And you said?"

"I said you thought he might have been. I told him it was the Elston cottage hospital, and that you had been over and found the man wasn't Jim. I told him the name wasn't Randall at all—it was a man called Riddell, and his wife had taken him away."

"He was quite satisfied?"

"He went on asking questions. He's so thorough. I think it's wonderful to be so thorough and conscientious."

Caroline leaned on the old oak balustrade. The cottage had been there for three hundred years, and for three hundred years the hands of men, and women, and little children had been rubbing the balustrade smooth. Caroline's hands slipped on it now. She came down a step and stood against the newel. What sort of questions had Robert been asking, and what sort of answers had Patsy given him?

"What did he want to know?" she said.

"When you heard from Jim last—and what his plans were—and whether you'd seen him since he landed. . . . Oh, and most particularly, whether you'd heard from him, or about him, since the wreck of the Alice Arden. And of course I said no, we hadn't. And then he said a most awfully curious thing."

"What did he say?"

"It wasn't so much what he said as the way he said it. He coughed and cleared his throat, and poked the fire, and then he asked me whether we'd heard any rumors. What do you suppose he meant?"

"What did you say?"

"Well I hadn't heard anything really so I said I never listened to gossip. And he said, 'Quite right—quite right,' and blew his nose and wouldn't say anything more except vague things like not getting drawn into any scandal, and remembering that we were two women living alone."

"And of course, after saying that about not listening to gossip, I didn't like to ask what he meant—he mightn't have thought it quite nice of me. You know, he thinks women ought to be protected from contact with the sordid side of life. He said so at lunch. He said their place was the home, and that a really nice woman asked for no higher or wider sphere. He said—"

"Why?"

"That's the sort of woman he admires."

"I don't mean that. Why did he say all that about a scandal?"

"I don't know. It sounded—well, it sounded as if Jim—"

Caroline stamped her foot. "Patsy Ann!"

"Well, it did sound like that—and of course when Mrs. Smith was scrubbing out the kitchen yesterday she did say—you know her sister-in-law's eldest girl is kitchen-maid at Backham Hall—she did tell me—"

"Well!" said Caroline. "You know how she talks—I wouldn't ask her anything, but you can't help listening—well, she says there used to be a photograph of Jim in Mrs. Van Berg's sitting-room—a big one like yours—"

Caroline did not speak; she looked instead—proudly and a little contemptuously.

Patsy's color rose. "It's no use of your looking at me like that! And you didn't let me finish. Mrs. Van Berg might have fifty photographs of Jim if she liked, and if her husband didn't mind. Even Mrs. Smith didn't mind her having the photograph."

"What did she mind?" said Caroline in a deep, angry voice.

"Well, it isn't there now," said Patsy.

"Why should it be?"

"It isn't. But it was—it was there the very day Mr. Van Berg was shot, and it's never been there since—and, as Mrs. Smith says, things like that are bound to make people talk. Caroline turned round and went up the stair. Her door shut sharply.

A shape loomed at Caroline, tomorrow, out of the dark.

WINDOW DISPLAYS HERE TO FEATURE OREGON PRODUCTS

Oregon made products will be in the limelight throughout the state next week, and arrangements are being made for local retail merchants to exhibit window displays in keeping with the state-wide campaign to feature Oregon goods. It was announced by the chamber of commerce this morning. The campaign is being sponsored by the Oregon Manufacturers Association and the Retail Merchants' department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Letters have been sent to retail merchants of Medford asking that they display Oregon manufactured goods during the week of October 27 to November 4, and it is hoped by John Moffatt, chairman of the retail merchants' committee of the chamber of commerce, that this city will make a creditable showing.

"We naturally want to do our part in building up the industries of our state," stated Mr. Moffatt this morning. "But there is another reason why Medford should co-operate to the utmost extent. We are expecting the manufacturers of the state to give us a great deal of support at the time of Oregon's Diamond Jubilee celebration," he continued, "and the least we can do next week is to have our stores feature the goods of those merchants who will undoubtedly be down here next June."

The Portland chamber of commerce and Governor Julius L. Meier are both interested in the development of home products and have cooperated with Medford with regard to the Diamond Jubilee celebration, and chamber of commerce officials believe that all merchants should endeavor to reciprocate next week by having Oregon made products emphasized in their windows.

This morning the chamber of commerce received a number of posters and an additional supply has been requested. It is hoped they will arrive before Monday so that every store window can display one. The posters are headed "Buy Oregon Made Products. If Everyone Works, Everyone Succeeds."

Be correctly corrected in an Artist Model by Ebelwyn B. Hoffmann

AL SMITH SLAPS PATERNALISM IN SPEECH AT FAIR

CHICAGO, Oct. 25. — (AP) — The world's fair, in the words of former Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, is an example of the progress of industry the triumph of "the mind and the hand of free men," without dictatorship.

The one-time Democratic standard bearer took occasion yesterday to voice his disapproval of growing government powers in an address before thousands of shivering admirers in the court of the hall of science at a century of progress during ceremonies planned especially in his honor.

"Private initiative may sometimes need the curb and bit of government control, but the government is at its best when it supplements and cooperates with private industry," he said. He did not, however, make any direct reference to the present administration and its national recovery program.

The fair, with its far-flung exposition buildings and countless exhibits depicting progress of the last century, is notable, Smith said, "in that government as such has contributed a little to this progress, and as a matter of fact, might be criticised for meddling with this progress through its many bureaus."

He defended the work of industrial leaders by saying that more often than not, their motive had been the love of accomplishment, rather than personal profit.

Mr. Smith, with his wife, was still in the city today and friends said they might leave late today for New York.

MASTER MINDING NETTED SCORE IN FOOTBALL CLASH

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—(AP)—Head Coach Andy Kerr and Captain Winnie Anderson contributed some important master-minding to the touchdown play that beat New York university last week.

Before the game, Kerr called the officials aside, diagrammed a play and said:

"We may use this during the game. There's nothing illegal about it but the man who first carried the ball might look as if he's being tackled. Don't blow the whistle too fast."

The teams battled scorelessly through the first period and toward the close of the second Anderson suddenly turned to the head linesman and asked: "How much time left?"

"I'll have to take time out to find out if you want me to," the linesman replied.

"I'll take it," said Anderson.

RUTH REED NAMED ON BEAVER STAFF

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, Oct. 25.—(Sp.)—Ruth Reed of Medford, sophomore in home economics at Oregon State college, was recently named one of five secretaries on the staff of the 1934 Beaver.

The makeup of the section staff is complete and work on the yearbook can be started at once. Cover samples have been received and the cover, which will be much simpler in design than those of the last few years, will be selected soon.

P. E. O. Rummage Sale, Friday and Saturday, at 217 West Main.

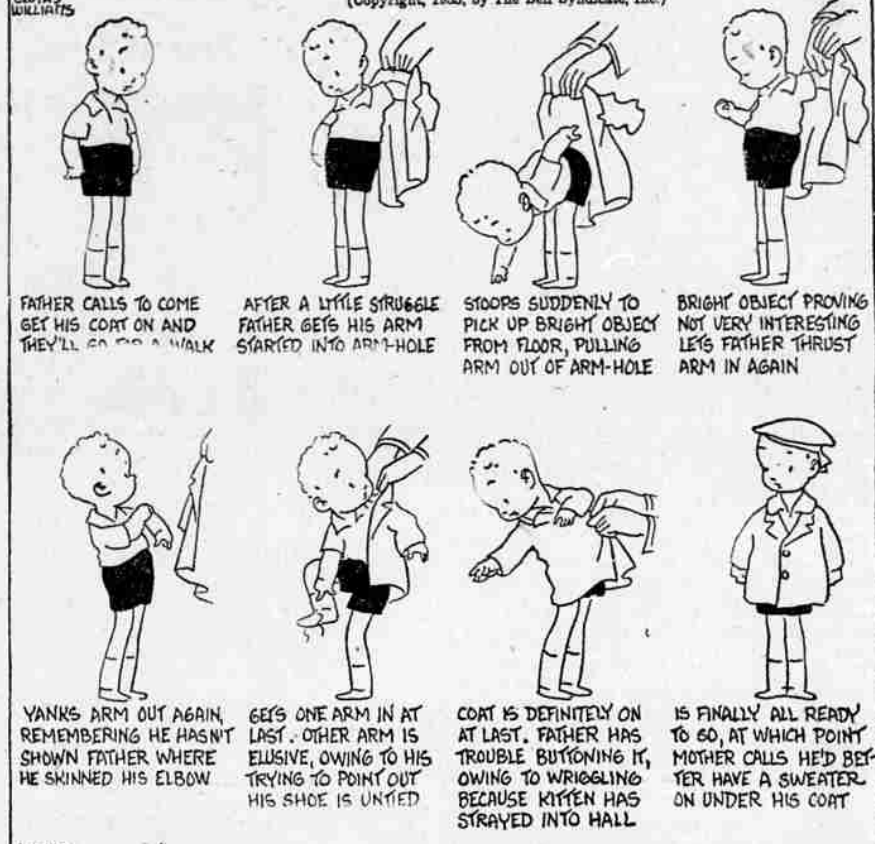
SENTENCED SLAYER GIVES JUDGE A KISS

MERCED, Cal., Oct. 25.—(AP)—Joe Moro, 43, added a new ceremony to court procedure today, when he kissed on the cheek Superior Judge Hal S. Shafter before leaving the courtroom after pleading guilty to a charge of manslaughter and being sentenced to San Quentin prison. He was charged originally with murder.

'SMATTER POP—



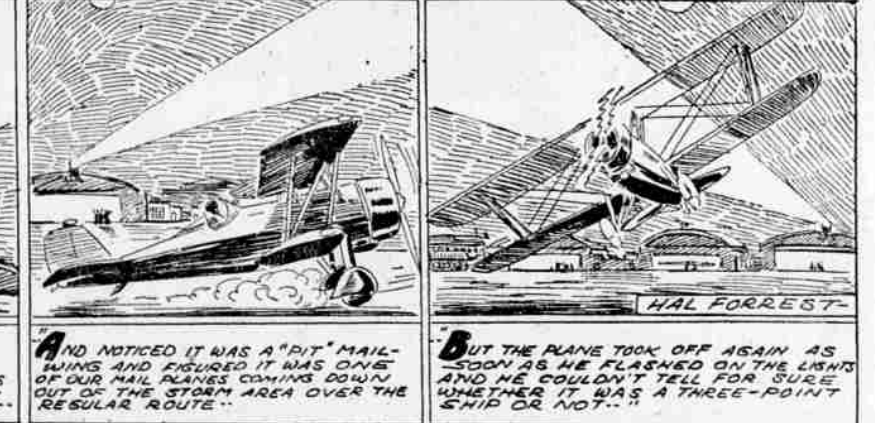
SNAPSHOTS OF A BOY GETTING HIS COAT PUT ON



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Mystery Landing At Walleo Field!



BOUND TO WIN—"A Friend In Need"



BRINGING UP FATHER



LOCKS AT BONNEVILLE TO BE SECOND PHASE

PORTLAND, Oct. 25.—(P)—Charles Grim, chief civilian engineer, announced today that plans are under way for construction of navigation locks at the Bonneville dam, the second major engineering phase of the \$31,000,000 project.

The locks will cost \$1,500,000 and will require about eight months to build, employing 300 men daily.

Because of the large amount of work required for the plans, the date has not yet been set for the call for bids.

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