

SPITE MARRIAGE

By Katharine Hasland Taylor

Chapter 24 THE DECISION

BOB crushed his cigarette to a lifeless, corrugated arc on a tray, and hands clasped, and frowning, he turned thoughtfully into words. "I've been considering every phase of it," he confessed; "I've walked about a good deal since lunch time. I left mother then. I thought of what it might mean to you, this hold up. I don't want to hurt you."

"It is what I want," she told him. Again she met his bewildered, questioning look. "Suppose," she suggested bluntly, "Tarleton tries waiting for you? Of course, you could explain, but—"

"You need not consider that," she assured him and a little bitterly. "It won't be," he paused to rub a clinging shred of tobacco from his lip, and then, able to speak again, he continued with: "More than a year, of course," his voice was unsteady, sharp. "It would be vastly better for her to be believing in a lie than to know the truth, with out too much wrong to yourself, to your chances for happiness—manages it?"

"I could! I wish you could believe that I want to! That I want nothing so much!" she replied. For a moment he covered his face with his big, thin, tanned hands. "I'll never be able to thank you for it," she heard. She smiled; she was, she felt, thanked disproportionately for that which she longed to do; thanked by his trust and by his asking her to do something for him.

His hands dropped. "You will stay with mother," he said, and as if he were issuing an order. "I have to finish my work; no one else can; but I'll go right along and hurry it through to come back. I have decided that's safest. And I shall trust you not to do anything that might make her suspect the truth. You can tell Tarleton why you are going so cautiously and afterward—make it up."

"It is not necessary for you to think of that... of Geoff as being, in any way, connected with me!" she responded; her cheeks hot, her voice unsteady. "We need have nothing to do with one another save before her," Bob stated, without heeding Marsha's outbreak. Her anger died. "I quite understand," she said dully. "An occasional kiss or two, and gentle words," he murmured, "are essential, those pretenses." A muscle at the corner of his mouth twitched. To pretend these things, she felt, she was to all that she had felt, to lose his two women at one time. "I am a weakling," he thought; "I'm letting it down me!"

"I understand, Bob." "It may not be very long," he said again.

SHE leaned toward him to lay her hand upon his. "Oh, Bob!" she said. He felt her sorrow for him and it almost melted him; but he saw, too, that "exhibition" the one that had ended his ecstasy for him. Marsha in Tarleton's arms; Tarleton's lips crushed against hers. He rose brusquely to leave her. She heard the door of his room close against her, but he had asked her help and she had that fact to treasure and she would help him and live in his house. And dream of him as having lived in it, and dream too of how he had loved her, and know how she loved him. And how she could love him with ever the chance for it again.

But faint, that chance! His square, firm chin! And how she loved it, and him!

The next mid-day found her settled in the Powers house and by the tea hour she could see the way she was to follow.

"When are you going to start for Mexico?" she asked of Bob that evening when they were, for a moment, alone.

"When I am certain you know the way around," he answered. "You trust me?" she questioned. "I am going to trust you," he said, and almost grimly.

The mirthless smile she was learning, a smile that had roots in pain, appeared at that. "People deal so," she commented.

NEW GIANT CRATER LOCATED IN WILDS ALASKA PINNACLES

Glacier Priest Reaches Previously Unexplored Area After Hardships — Huge Bears Give Party Fright

FALSE PASS, Alaska, July 31.—(AP)—Discovery of a new inactive crater even larger than the famous Aniakchak near the tip of the Alaska Peninsula was reported today by Father Bernard H. Hubbard, the glacier priest, after a month of hardships and adventures.

Unprecedented floods, encounters with giant Pavlov brown bears, separation and near disaster befel the expedition in the unexplored region between Pavlov volcano and the tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

"The party left its base camp here on June 22 for the fantastic Agulhien pinnacles, a group of weird and needle-like peaks visible from the sea-coast but hitherto unexplored and unclimbed," Father Hubbard said. "One of World's Wonders."

"The pinnacles constitute one of the unnamed wonders of the world." Carrying heavy packs of scientific, camp and photographic equipment, the party trekked through virgin country over mountain ridges and fording unknown rivers and lakes until it established its final camp at the base of the Agulhien pinnacles.

Good weather which marked the trek inland deserted the expedition as they prepared for the climb. For eleven days torrential rainstorms flooded the entire country, marooning the party and exhausting the food supply.

Eighteen inches of rain fell in three days, swelling the rivers and turning the whole area into a huge inland lake.

Another "Crater of the Moon," "The most important discovery," Father Hubbard said, "was a huge blown out and greatly altered crater, another crater of the moon. The Agulhien pinnacles and other nearby mountains being merely ridges to the hole in the earth which I estimated is much larger than Aniakchak volcano in the center of the Alaskan Peninsula.

"The original circumference of this new inactive crater was estimated at close to thirty miles around and is filled with rivers and lakes, smaller craters and lava flows. "Dozens of brown bear were sighted from the camp at the base of the pinnacles and on two occasions the giant animals came into our camp during the night to steal meat."

Bear Gives Fright. "Edgar Levin, while breaking his way through some alder underbrush, surprised a ten-footer who charged him without warning. "Quick action with an automatic rifle by Levin and a final rifle shot by George Peterson, our Alaska guide, dropped the infuriated Pavlov monster less than his own length from Levin who was so entangled in the alders that retreat was impossible."

After a few days at its base camp here the party expects to continue its explorations.

All kinds of legal blanks for sale, no hunting, no trespassing and other cards for sale at Commercial Printing Dept of Mail Tribune.

40 ET 8 PRESIDENT UNABLE TO ATTEND OREGON CONVENTION

SALEM, July 31.—(AP)—Conflicting dates will prevent Sam Heller, of Virginia, chief of chemin de fer (national president) of the 40 Et 8 Societe, from attending the Oregon state convention of the American Legion in Astoria, August 23, C. W. Ardery, of Indianapolis, correspondent nationale, advised Dewey Powell, of Klamath Falls, grand chief de gare. Both Heller and National Commander Ed Hayes will be at the Washington state convention in Spokane for the opening date which coincides with the Oregon convention. It was learned here. Commander Hayes has abandoned his plans for an airplane trip from Spokane to Astoria and will come by train. The original schedule included the trip by air between the two convention cities by the national leaders.

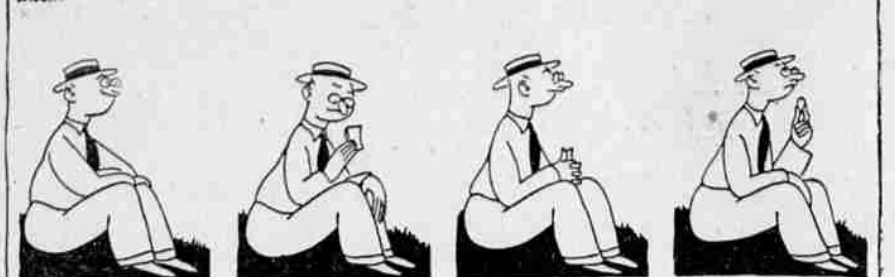
Heller has an engagement in Grand Island, Neb., for August 26.

STATE CLERK'S BACK IS BROKEN IN FALL

SALEM, July 31.—(AP)—James G. Callison, clerk in the industrial accident commission, was in the hospital here today suffering from a broken back received in a fall from a tree late yesterday. Hospital attendants reported his condition as fair.

NEW YORK.—(UP) Joseph De Bartolo, 32, saw a black cat starting across the path of his car. He swerved, the car skidded into a telephone pole and De Bartolo died.

PICNIC FARE



WATCHES PICNIC BASKET BEING OPENED, REMARKING HE'S AS HUNGRY AS A WOLF AFTER THAT LONG WALK.

RECEIVES A VERY SMALL LETUCE SANDWICH, WHICH HE FINISHES AT ONE BITE.

DROPS A HINT THAT HE'S READY FOR MORE BY REMARKING WHAT AN APPETITE ONE GETS EATING OUT-OF-DOORS.

HOSTESS PASSES HIM AN OLIVE.



AFTER A WHILE RECEIVES ANOTHER SANDWICH, A SLICE OF TOMATO BETWEEN TWO WAFERS OF BREAD.



FOLLOWED BY A THIN SANDWICH CONTAINING DABS OF JELLY AND CREAM CHEESE, ALL VERY DAINTY.



HOSTESS INDICATES END OF SANDWICHES BY ASKING WHO'S READY FOR DESSERT, AT SAME MOMENT FINDING DESSERT WAS LEFT AT HOME.



SPENDS AFTERNOON BROODING OVER WHAT HE COULD DO TO A SIZZLING STEAK OR SOME PORK CHOPS.

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S'MATTER POP—



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Send for Tommy



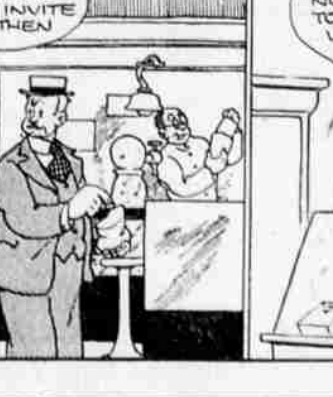
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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Capture!



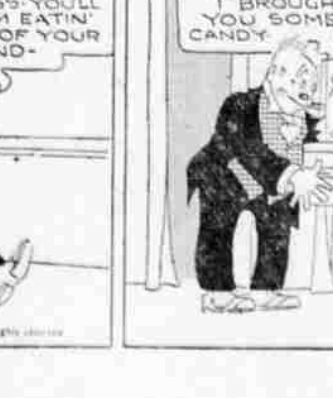
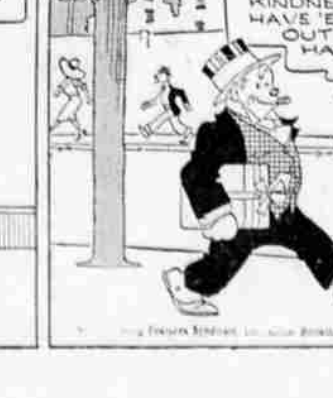
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THE NEBBS—Mind Your Own Business



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BRINGING UP FATHER



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PRUNE GROWERS VOTE FOR CODE SEATTLE GOLFER TOPS QUALIFIERS

SALEM, July 31.—(AP)—An almost unanimous vote was accorded the proposed prune code agreement here late yesterday by 350 prune growers, gathered here from all parts of Oregon. Only two or three growers voted against the proposal.

PITTSBURGH, July 31.—(AP)—Starting their final 18 holes of qualifying play today, the 184 candidates from some 44 cities seeking a public links championship are trailing a Seattle youth of Scottish extraction, Albert (Scotty) Campbell.

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