

SPITE MARRIAGE

by Katharine Hamilton Taylor

SYNOPSIS: While Bob F. finishes his work in Mexico, Mrs. Marsha, a caring for his mother, ill of an incurable disease in New York, Marsha and Bob had been on the brink of divorce. But Bob has decided it best that they pretend affection while his mother remains alive. Bob and Marsha love each other, but are held apart by a foolish misunderstanding.

Chapter 31 TARLETON AGAIN

FEBRUARY was bad for Marsha; twice Mrs. Powers was acutely ill, a nurse became a fixture, the doctor a constant visitor.

Once Marsha felt she must write Bob, recalling him; but her hope that the next day "things would be better" was justified; for a little time more, she decided, she could fight on alone.

Mrs. Powers liked Marsha at her bedside. "The nurse is an efficient, a very admirable young woman, but I seem to need you, child," said Mrs. Powers. "I am, I sometime feel, rather absurdly dependent upon you, child. I hope I do not weary you by the dependence?"

Marsha said that the dependence did not weary her, and her voice was a trifle thick. She, herself, had learned too much of dependence.

She did not know how she could go on without Bob's mother, who was the only person who had ever really cared, "I adore you!" she thought, looking toward the faded and shrunken small person who lay on the great bed.

Marsha thought swiftly then of the groceries she must order. Such things diverted one and ever since she had cried, face pressed against Mrs. Powers' knees, it had been too easy for her to cry. And oddly enough, that was because, at moments and despite circumstances, she was so very, very happy.

The nurse talked to Marsha "rather too persistently." Marsha felt, about getting out. To Ella and Hannah, the nurse said, sounding angry, "She ought to get out more. She suffers more when the old lady suffers, than the old lady does!"

"You mean, I presume, Mrs. Powers?" Hannah questioned chilly. She knew her place, did Hannah, but "the old lady!" Impertinent, it was; and incorrect, too, with Mrs. Powers barely seventy! (Hannah was seventy-two).

But with Hannah's anger somewhat calmed, Hannah considered the matter and spoke to Marsha about it.

AND because the nurse and Hannah and Ella and even Bartholomew said that they felt she should get out a bit more—if she would pardon the liberty of their speaking—Marsha went out to shop one afternoon, saying before she left, and with mock sadness, that she did not feel she was very popular. Once out, she saw Geoffrey Tarleton.

Her shopping had been done fairly quickly considering the time it takes to move in New York, where traffic is controlled in the most modern manner. And knowing her early return would be a disappointment to those who wanted her to have "a long, free afternoon," she turned, for her tea, into a small, sedate hotel on a side street. She did not think she would meet anyone she knew.

An old waiter, who saw her as very kind as well as most beautiful, put himself out to serve her well; so much of kindness coupled with beauty, experience had taught him to be rare. And although the temper of servants had not at one time mattered at all to her, Marsha was now warmed by the wish to please that she felt.

She was actually enjoying the tame little moment, she decided, as she loosened her tur, when she looked up to see Geoffrey Tarleton entering the dining room and, eyes upon her, moving toward her. Threading through tables swiftly and with his usual nonchalance, nine-tenths of the few women present looked after him.

"Well!" he said, by her table and looking down upon her; she was not looking quite well, he saw, but he had never known her to be lovelier.

"I came here," said Marsha, "because I thought no one I knew would be here, and Geoff, that has a moral."

"I saw you come in; I tagged you... old habits cling. Can't I sit down for a few moments, Marsha? Say for the space of drinking a cup of the ghostly tea they must brew

"I very much... talk to you?"

"If you must, Geoff; but there's nothing for us to say to one another, and you must know, Geoff, that I'd rather not be with you."

"I hear the old lady's acting the dragon, and that you're locked in a tower," said Geoffrey as he settled to lay the coat he had shed, his stick, hat and gloves upon a nearby chair.

"You hear the usual lies that are made by gossip," Marsha answered. "I've thought of you a lot, Marsha. I've wanted to ring you up to ask you to have tea with me, and wanted to ask you a few questions. I suppose you get your afternoon out, a la cook?"

"Please don't call me, Geoffrey."

"Very well. I smashed things up for you, didn't I?"

"Quite successfully," she admitted, "but I haven't blamed you. It was my fault."



Mrs. Powers liked Marsha at her bedside.

"Isn't it fixed up?"

"No."

The waiter drew near; rather vaguely, Geoffrey, who was usually dett, ordered "some sort of—tea."

"No end sorry," said Geoffrey. Marsha raised her shoulders and her brows. "Old thing," he went on, "I never thought I'd feel sorry you weren't being loved by another man, and I care more than ever for you. But ever since that day, I care in a new way; I want you happy. Who said, 'So much of good in the worst of us?'"

"I don't know, Geoff, and you're kind... but don't tell me about caring for me again, please."

"Very well, dear."

He saw her eyes grow wide because she did not want the tears that had welled in them, to escape. He had always been bored, hideously bored, by weeping women. But now, well, it was quite different, and it only hurt dimly to see her fight back tears and he found that he was not hideously bored by a weeping woman.

"It breaks me up to have people too kind," she said. "Kindness has come to matter amazingly, and the things we used to do seem flat. I've been knitting washcloths!"

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Tomorrow, the curate takes a seat.

FISHERMEN AGREE ON SALMON PRICES

SEATTLE, Aug. 8.—(AP)—Washington and Alaska fish will do the "striking" from now on with some 700 fishermen of the Alaska Trappers association going back to work yesterday and the Puget Sound Fishermen's association of Washington returning to the salmon banks today.

George Jurich, secretary of the purse seiners, announced here that the association had accepted terms of Fishermen's Packers corporation and had agreed on a price of sockeye salmon, ending a strike which was called at Nash Bay, July 31.

"The first 200,000 sockeyes received by the corporation," Jurich said, "are to be paid for at the rate of 45 cents a salmon."

"The second 200,000 at 40 cents a salmon, and all over 400,000 at not less than 30 cents."

HIGHWAY CONTRACT LETTING IS DELAYED

SALEM, Aug. 8.—(AP)—The meeting of the state highway commission, set for August 23 to let the first of the new projects under the congressional appropriation of more than \$3,000,000 was postponed today until approval of the allocations recently announced is received from the federal government.

It was hoped the meeting would not be deferred more than one week, but no definite date had yet been set.

FINISH FIGHT PLANNED AGAINST BOOTLEGGERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—Secretary Morgenthau plans to increase his alcohol tax force to 5000 men as he "fights to the finish" to eliminate the bootlegger.

In what officials called the greatest drive ever conducted against tax dodging liquor, the treasury has equipped 15 newly organized alcohol tax districts with supervisory personnel and disclosed that 1301 enforce-

U. S. AND SPAIN TALK OVER TRADE TREATY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—The United States and Spain have started talking things over to clear the way for a give-and-take trade treaty.

Department of commerce figures disclosed today that trade between the two countries is improving. It nearly doubled in the first half of 1934 as compared with the first half of the preceding year. It is hoped preliminary talks, now going on between the president's tariff bargaining committee and Ambassador Juan Francisco De Cacerenas, will lead to still greater increases.

MARINES LEAVING HAITI NEXT WEEK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—The marines are coming home from Haiti next week, closing the book of American intervention in Latin America.

When the American flag is hauled down at the barracks in Port au Prince August 15 and the "devil dogs" embark for home, it will signal the liquidation of another of the war time tasks that Uncle Sam shouldered and it will underscore America's "good neighbor" policy.

Haiti regains full sovereignty after 19 years. The evacuation is being completed two months ahead of schedule as the result of President Roosevelt's visit to the island republic in July.

LARGER POSTOFFICES ALLOTTED MORE HELP

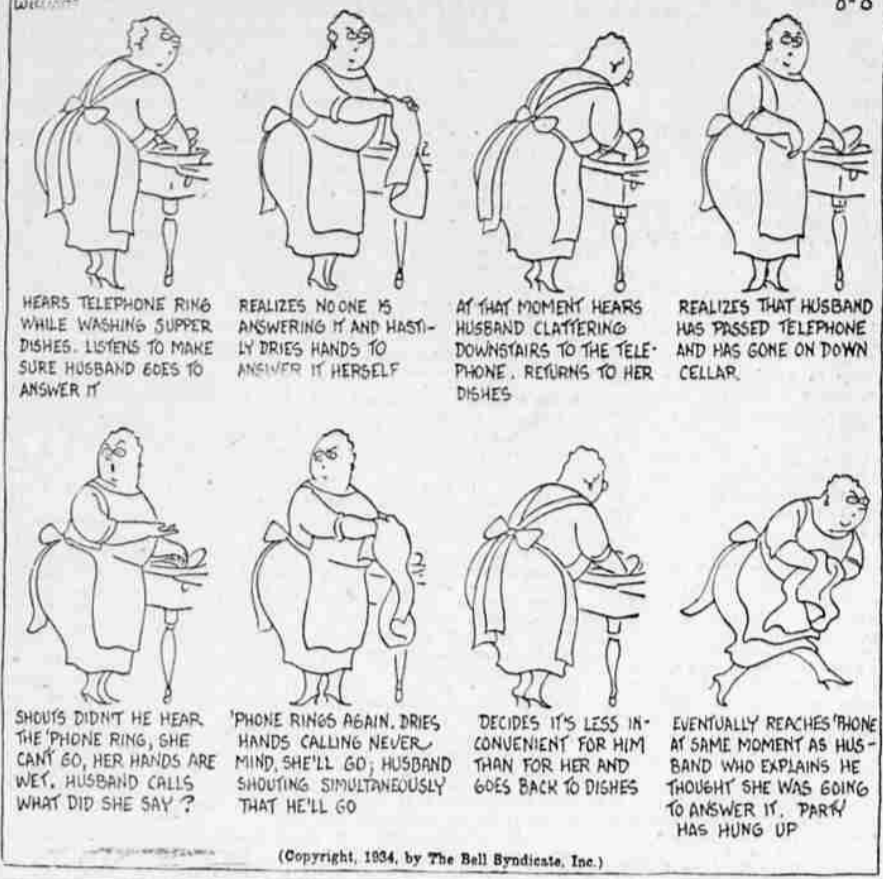
WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—The appointment of 1,885 additional regular employes in the large post-offices over the country was announced today by Postmaster General Farley.

The appointments were made, Farley said, in order to provide "satisfactory postal facilities for the patrons of those offices."

They will be effective August 16 and the regular positions will go to senior substitute employes.

The postoffices which will draw new employes, and the number in each include: Oregon: Portland, 9.

WET HANDS



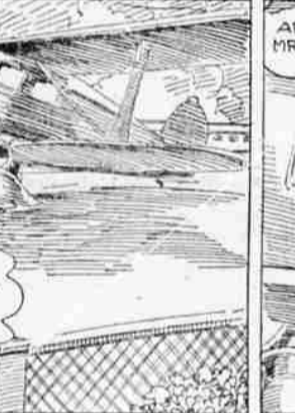
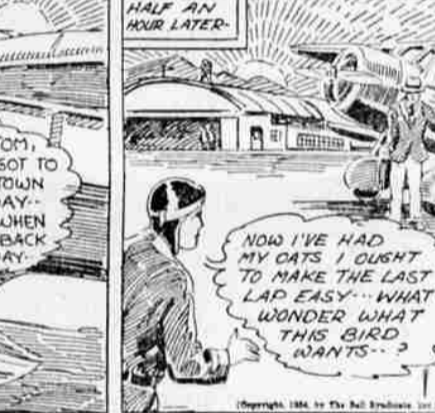
By GLUYAS WILLIAMS 8-8

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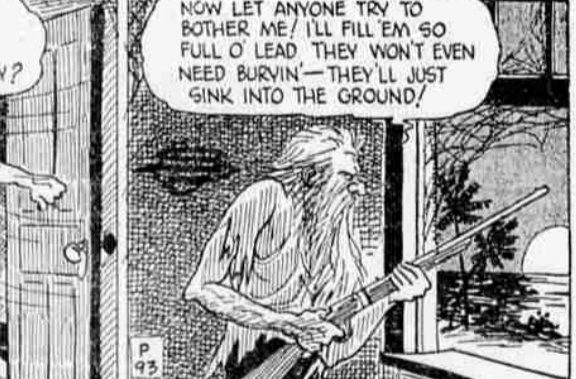
By C. M. Payne

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Stevens Forgets A Passenger!



By Hal Forrest

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Safe!



By EDWIN ALGER

THE NEBBS—On the Way Back



By Sol Hess

BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus

Farley Optimistic Over Demo Outlook

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—Postmaster General Farley returned from his western trip today radiating optimism over Democratic election prospects. He told newspaper men Senator Borah's criticism of the NRA

and other administration policies "is not making any impression even on the people of Idaho."

OLYMPIA, Wash., Aug. 8.—(AP)—William Miller, 41, brakeman on the logging railroad of the Mutual Lumber Co., Buxton, was fatally injured today as he fell from a logging train and was run over.

ENJOY

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT GUM

THE PERFECT GUM

5¢ AND WORTH IT!

SWEETENS THE BREATH