

# READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

Chapter 48  
REX IS MISSING

ONLY on one point did Laurie stand up firmly to Mark Albery.

It was about Gladys. "I cannot be separated from my sister until the time when the supposed divorce will be made public," she said. "Gladys will have to be told the truth, so that she can come and be with me. She is not strong. I don't want her to work for a little while. She would break down. I should be worrying about her all the time."

"It is surely foolish to force her to give up her work," Albery retorted, with a certain amount of reason. "I'm not thinking of doing that. I'm too fond of work myself. And Glad will be a great dancer some day. I want her to have a chance. I want her to go to the best teacher in the world. I want her to go on working and learning until she is ready. But I want her to have a rest first. She is really ill. And she is all I have in the world."

"You surely don't want us to take her on our honeymoon, Laurie?" Albery asked, with his disturbing smile. Physically and mentally she shrank from him, from the very thought of their married life together. But she must not show it. "If Gladys is ill," he suggested, "let us leave her in a good nursing home. I will tell my cousin, Mrs. Dent, to look after her. I can think of some plausible story to tell her. She is very simple, kind woman. And then we can decide where Gladys is to go for her training. Anything in the world that is possible I will do to please you, my dear little girl!"

So it was settled that way. Laurie had a fairly easy task with Gladys. The girl was really broken. She was in a sense desperately ill. She had a great deal more emotion in her nature than her sister had thought, and more power of suffering. She was listless; she cared for nothing.

Laurie told her that she had to go away on a business trip for her employer. She also told her that she and Rex Moore were going to be divorced. Gladys was not well enough to finish her present contract. Laurie had communicated with the manager of the troupe, and he understood. Laurie wanted her to go into a nursing home for two or three weeks, so that she could get quite strong again. Mr. Albery's cousin would look after her. Mr. Albery was being kindness itself, as usual. "Because he's potty about you!" remarked Gladys, with that strange, divining glance of hers. "When you and Rex are divorced, are you going to marry him?"

Laurie admitted that she was. But it was a dead secret. "Does he know about Jimmy?" "No, darling. Not from me, of course. And it isn't likely that he'll hear it from Dallas himself. Only Rex knows, and you may be sure that he will never tell." "You're funny, Laurie," said Gladys. "I can't help feeling that you're in love with Rex all the time. And yet you're divorcing him! But I suppose you've got a reason. Men are all alike."

But she was not really interested. She was too much taken up with her own misery. She fell in with Laurie's plans for her without a word of protest.

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She did not know of Wanda Stiele's death. There had been only a brief reference to the accident in the papers, which she had missed. The day came when, as Laurie told herself, her life would end. Everything was ready. Her modest luggage was on a cab. Gladys was comfortably installed in the nursing home. She had immediately taken to the rôle of the luxurious patient, and her beauty enchanted the nursing staff, who, one and all, were only too eager to wait on her hand and foot. The rest, and the seclusion from the outside world, were indeed a boon to the girl, and her sister knew that.

SALEM, Ore.—(UP)—Sentiment for a unicameral system of government for Oregon is growing, especially among the Grangers. Governor Martin has been petitioned by a score of organizations, most of them in Deschutes county, to call a joint meeting of the two houses of the state legislature at the forthcoming special session to determine the feasibility of a one-house state government. The State Grange legislative committee has been asked to work for the unicameral plan, in favor since its adoption in Nebraska. The Granges pointed out that the state is faced with the problem of building a new capitol and should rid itself of a "useless burden" in maintaining a house and senate. Resolutions received by the governor declare "there is no good purpose served by the operation of a two-house government."

# SCHRAMM'S FATE REMAINS IN AIR

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—Following an executive session lasting more than an hour, the state banking board today announced it had not agreed upon the election of a state superintendent of banks. The term of A. A. Schramm, present

superintendent, will have expired on September 1. Schramm was appointed to the office by Governor Patterson and has served for eight years. Mark Skinner of Portland was proposed by Governor Martin for the position. He previously was connected with the Northwestern bank in Portland, and lately has been associated with the federal housing administration.

State Treasurer Holman's candidate was Clarence Sewell of Portland, formerly connected with the Hibernian bank of Portland, now in liquidation. Use Mail Tribune want ads

As they went into the station, Laurie saw a newspaper headline. The black letters danced before her eyes: "REX MOORE MISSING. REPORTED DEAD."

Albery saw the paper at the same time as Laurie. The girl stared at him unseeing, and turned to go out of the station again. "Rex—missing!" she said "Rex reported dead!"

Albery gripped her arm. "Don't be a little fool! Come and get into the train."

"No. I can't go away without knowing." "Don't make a scene here! Come on—we shall miss the train."

"Why didn't you tell me?" "I didn't see why it should interest you any more. Come, Laurie, don't stand here talking!"

"Nothing will induce me to leave England until I know that he is safe," she answered calmly. "You are being ridiculous. Everything is arranged for our marriage tomorrow."

"Marriage?" She spoke the word as if it could have no connection with herself. "But if Rex is dead—"

She stopped. The look on his face froze the words on her lips. He was smiling that terrible smile. His close-set lips parted in that cruel, triumphant grin of a man reveling in some fiendish satisfaction. She had seen it on his face that morning on the Gretton airfield when she had been about to go up with Rex Moore and he had come and prevented her. And all of a sudden, she knew that if Rex Moore were dead, Mark Albery had sent him to his death. She felt it not as a suspicion but as a certainty. She looked at the man beside her with horror in her eyes. "If he's dead, you've killed him," she said tonelessly.

"You are mad!" he retorted, but the madness was in his own eyes, and again he gripped her arm and tried to force her into the station. But she tore herself away. "I am going back home."

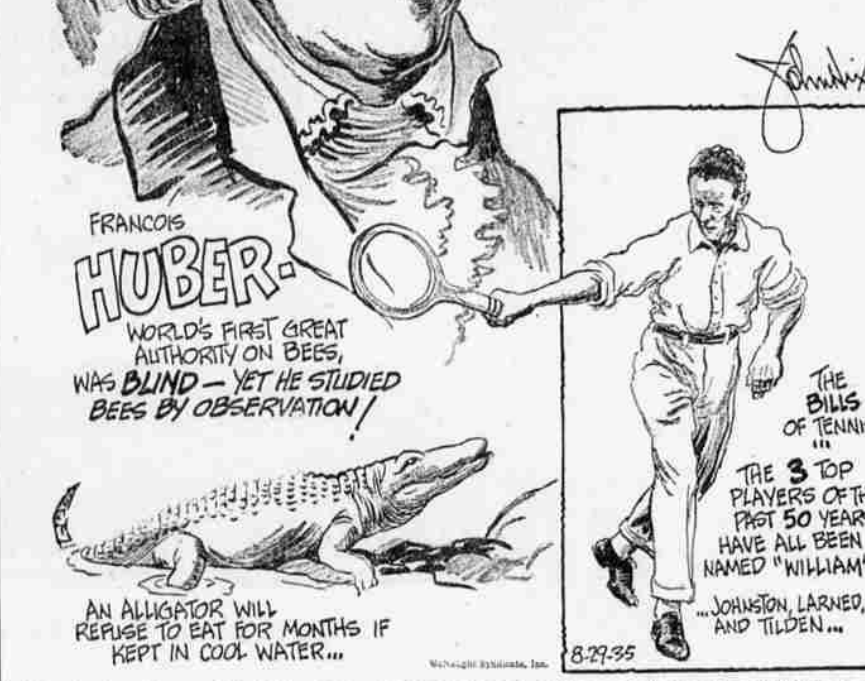
# ALBINO DEER VISITS BADGER LAKE CAMP

THE DALLES, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—An albino deer, described as almost totally white, was seen by employees at an FERA camp west of Badger Lake yesterday. Eric Gordon, chief ranger of the Mount Hood National Forest at Dufur, reported.

Forest fires have burned 2,168,000 acres of forest land in Washington in the past 10 years or an average of 216,800 acres every year. Careless smokers and campers caused most of the fires.

# STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



Like the four "James J's" of the heavyweight world, the three "Bills" are the champions of tennis. For almost half a century, since 1885, the three best men of the tennis courts have been William Larned, William Tilden and William Johnston. These three men have been ranked among the first ten players of the United States more times than any other. First comes William A. Larned who was among the first ten for nineteen years. Johnston, whose picture is the above drawing, and Tilden are the two twelve years apiece among the ten best tennis players.

Strange as it seems, a blind scientist who studied by observation—the observations of others, of course—came to know more about bees than any other living person. He was Francois Huber, blind Swiss naturalist, born at Geneva in 1750. He had special bee hives constructed with glass sides, and had others observe the habits of the bees. These observations were reported to him, and from them he drew his conclusions. This method, he said, eliminated any chance of failure that might occur with just one observer—the errors arising from the "personal equation" were ruled out by taking an average of many observers.

Huber discovered the routine of life in the hive. He cleared up the mystery of the queen, the function of the drone, and disproved many popular fallacies then current. He showed they gathered pollen and propolis as well as nectar. All these things he learned—and Huber never saw a bee except in early boyhood.

Tomorrow: The Northwest Passage.

# SOUNDS OF MORNING

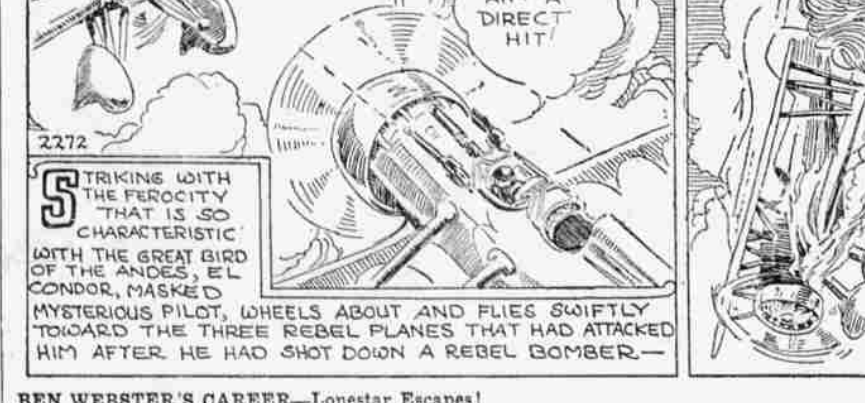


By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



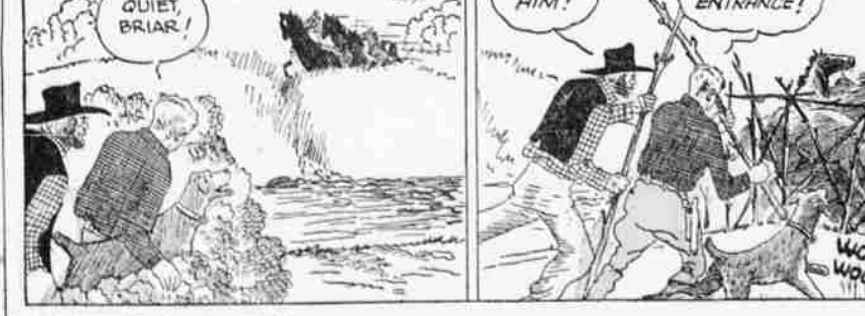
By C. M. Payne

# TAILSPIN TOMMY—One Rebel Accounted For!



By Hal Forrest

# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Lonestar Escapes!



By Edwin Alger

# THE NEBBS—Opening Night



By Sol Hess

# UNICAMERAL SYSTEM GAINING SUPPORT OF GRANGERS IN OREGON

Three resolutions were introduced at the last regular session of the legislature for a unicameral plan. Representatives Olsen and Hoch proposed to abolish the senate outright. Senator Zimmerman and Representatives Bull and Hyde and Senator Chinnock were not as drastic.

# SEES DAPPER JIM IN ROGERS' SHOES

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.—(AP)—James J. Walker's return to New York as a successor to the late Will Rogers was envisioned today by James J. Lyons, Bronx borough president. He was asked if he thought the former mayor of New York, who quit under fire, would return from Europe to re-enter politics, since the justice department has announced it will drop his income tax investigation. "It looks as if he would not," Lyons said, "but personally I think he will take the place of Will Rogers as entertainer, columnist and radio speaker. "In my opinion he is the outstanding humorist of the country."

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