

FLAME TRAIL

BY MARIE DE NEVRAUD

SYNOPSIS: Just as Ted Gaylor is desperately about to set a forest fire to get a job, Kay Crandon stops him, like his looks, gives him a place at the Lazy Nine. When her ranch house and barn burn, Josh Hastings, owner of the Flying Six, invites her there—he wants to buy the Lazy Nine and marry Kay. She refuses, distrusting him, but young sister Babs and Aunt Kate gladly accept. Kay's hopes of rebuilding with the insurance money are dashed—it has to go toward the mortgage. Unknown to Kay, Ted fights for her good name in a bar. As they ride back to the ranch, he tells her Hastings is "a snake."

Chapter 10

Ted's Plan Clicks

"TED," Kay gazed at him with solemn eyes. "Uncle Dan told me not to breathe this, but I'm going to say it just once to you, and then never again until I have proof. I believe Josh Hastings had some connection with the fire that burned down the ranch house!"

"Your Uncle Dan was right in warning you not to say that," Ted answered gravely. "You may be right, but an accusation like that could react on you like a boomerang and charge of dynamite combined, unless you have undisputed proof."

"I won't mention it again," Kay promised, "unless I have that proof. But, Ted, can't you tell me what you know about him?"

Ted shook his head. "Not yet. But he hasn't heard the last of me, if it takes years to get him where I want him."

"If you could only trip him up now!" Kay exclaimed. "I'm afraid you'll get him too late to do me any good. But he's not going to have the Lazy Nine!" she came back passionately to the thought uppermost in her mind. "I'll probably have to sacrifice most of my stock to get enough money to re-

her protest, Kay's eyes reflected the thrill that Ted's plans gave her.

"They'll be mighty lucky to have a roof over their heads and food to eat," Ted observed grimly. "And if they have any sense, they know it. You can leave that to me," he went on. "I'll put it up to Seth, and he'll put it up to the outfit."

"And to think that this time yesterday I didn't even know you!" Kay marveled. "You're making everything possible!"

"This time," yesterday, I didn't know myself," Ted answered gruffly, and Kay felt a sudden quickening of her pulses at the look he bent on her. "It's you who have made everything possible," he paused, and then brought out, "Miss Kay."

"The boys all call me 'Kay.' You may as well get used to it." Touching Flicker with her heel, Kay raced ahead without waiting to see the effect of her announcement.

It was enough to feel the color coming into her own cheeks, and to realize that in some magic way the whole world had taken on a new aspect. What had seemed a hopeless disaster was being turned into a most thrilling adventure, and somehow the future was full of exciting promise.

The Boys Back Up Kay

Before lunch, Ted got Seth to one side, explained the situation about the insurance, and put his proposition up to him. There was no question of Seth's reaction to the scheme.

"Hell's bells! Why didn't I think of that myself!" He grasped Ted's hand. "Sure the outfit'll stand by. You just watch 'em!"

Wasting no time, he strode over to the mess shack, where the men were gathered waiting for the welcome summons to "Come and get it," and explained Ted's idea.

The response was unanimously enthusiastic, and by the time Kay arrived for lunch she found the whole outfit eagerly discussing plans.



"It's you who have made everything possible."

build, but I'll get a fresh start some way."

"What good will it do to rebuild, if your stock has to go to get money to do it?" Ted reasoned. "I've got a better idea than that. If you've got the right kind of outfit, and from what I've seen of them I'm willing to bet you have, we can rebuild without any money."

Like The First Settlers

"WHAT do you mean?" Kay hung breathlessly on his words.

"Why, we'll do the way the first settlers did," Ted declared. "Haul in our own logs, and cut our own lumber. I'm no bad hand at carpentering, and I'm a darned good blacksmith, if I do say so. We can make what we need in that line at the shop down by the corral, and by starting on the barn right now, we can have it ready for winter. By spring, everything will be up again."

"Ted!" Kay's eyes sparkled with excitement as his enthusiasm kindled hers. "Do you suppose we could?" A sudden thought dimmed her radiant expression. "But what will we do for feed? That's all some with the barn!"

"You've got some money laid aside for the winter, haven't you?" Ted asked.

"Only just enough to pay the men and buy food," Kay replied despondently.

"That's what I meant by the right sort of outfit," Ted answered. "We won't take any pay. We'll use the money to buy the necessary feed for the cattle and horses to carry them over the winter. With what's left, we'll buy food for the outfit, and if rations get slim, we can follow the pioneers there, too. There's as good trapping and hunting in the Bitter Root as there ever was."

"But I couldn't ask the boys to go without their pay!" In spite of

"We're all rarin' to go!" Seth called out, as Kay came in sight. "Just you wait till you see this building and loan association getting into action!"

Sudden tears came into Kay's eyes as she faced the eager group.

"I'll try to make it up to you boys somehow," she said huskily.

"Gosh, there's nothing to make up," Shorty, the outfit comedian, spoke up for the bunch. "Anybody with grub and a roof over his head's in luck this winter. And say, won't we build some chateaux! Oh, la, la! I'll tell the world! Shorty, who had been overseas during the World War, never missed an opportunity to air his French.

Kay laughed. "Never mind the chateaux, Shorty. Just a plain log ranch house is good enough for me!"

"By the way, is there any good sized timber near here?" Ted spoke up.

Seth scratched his head. "Most of our timber land is kind of scrubby second growth," he answered. "I hadn't thought of that."

"What's the nearest big timber?" Ted asked.

Seth looked speculatively at Kay. "I reckon the ridge of Old Man Warren's is the best there is anywhere 'round."

Kay nodded, a thoughtful pucker between her eyes.

"I'd better see him about buying a few acres," she decided. "I'll do that the next time I go in town."

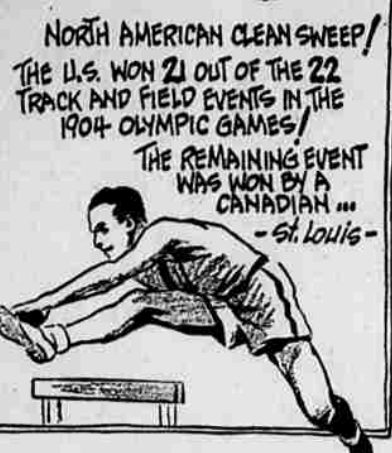
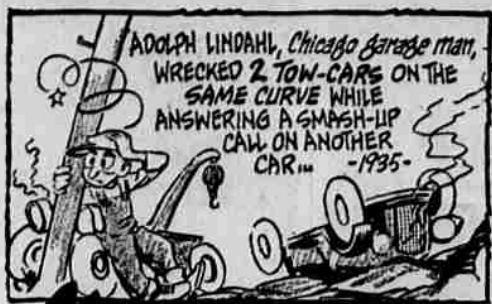
"Say, we'll have the sweetest ranch house on the range," Shorty boasted. "I'll be the architect."

A roar of derision greeted this proposition and with a general hubbub of plans and suggestions, they all piled in for food.

Kay rashly tells her plans to Josh Hastings, Monday.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



NICHOLAS M. BUTLER—
Republican candidate for U.S. Vice-President in 1912, WAS DEFEATED BEFORE HE BECAME A CANDIDATE!
HE DID NOT RECEIVE A SINGLE VOTE IN THE POPULAR ELECTION.

John Hix

Defeated Before He Ran

Strange as it seems, the name of Nicholas Murray Butler did not even appear on the ballots of the voters who went to the polls on November 6, 1912, to vote for a president and vice-president—yet when the electoral college met the following January, eight electoral votes were cast for Butler as the Republican candidate for vice-president. The odd mixup came about as follows:

James S. Sherman was nominated Republican candidate for the vice-presidency in conjunction with the candidacy of Taft, for re-election as president. The Republican ticket was overwhelmingly defeated in the popular election. Six days later, Sherman died.

While the Republican defeat was not the least in doubt, it remained for the electoral college to cast its vote before the results would become official. With Sherman dead, the Republican party needed a substitute candidate to be officially defeated. Butler, a renowned New England educator, was hastily put up as a nominee and given eight votes by the electoral college. Thus a candidate for the vice-presidency was defeated before he ran—and didn't even get the opportunity to vote for himself!

Double Crack-Up

On a "hurry-up" call to the scene of an auto wreck one day in 1935, Adolph Lindahl, North Chicago garage man, skidded his tow car and

smashed into a lamp pole. Uninjured, he left his wrecked car and returned to the garage for another tow car. Rounding the same curve on which he had just finished having a smashup, he skidded and turned over. Again unhurt, he towed in his two wrecked tow cars with a third while a competitor, handled the job on the original wreck.

Napoleon's Wife

Shortly after Napoleon's death in 1821, the emperor's widow made a morganatic marriage with her chamberlain, Count Neipperg. Neipperg died in 1829 and Marie Louise took another morganatic husband, Count Bombelles, in 1833.

COMES BACK TO LAKE AFTER 44-YEAR LAPSE

CRATER LAKE (Sp.)—After 44 years absence J. S. Barton of Coquille came back recently to resume old acquaintance with Crater Lake. As a lad of 17, Mr. Barton blazed a hemlock tree and with a surveyor's tool carved his name in the wood. He never returned until his recent

visit. He quickly found the tree near the park information building. The lettering was still visible despite the 44 years which had elapsed.

Hills near Peiping, China, are dotted with dummy Tibetan fortresses erected by the Emperor Chien Lung to train his army for a successful conquest of Tibet at the time of the American revolution.

A GLASS OF LEMONADE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

'SMATTER POP

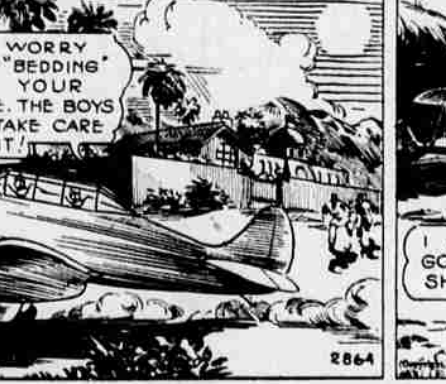
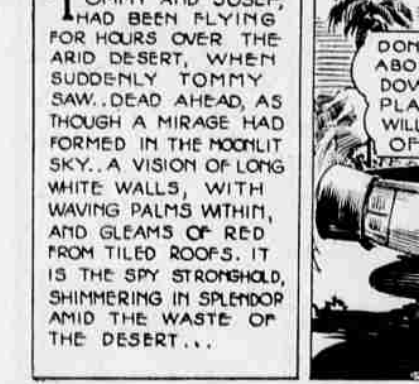
By C. M. PAYNE



Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—An Oasis in the Desert!

By HAL FORREST



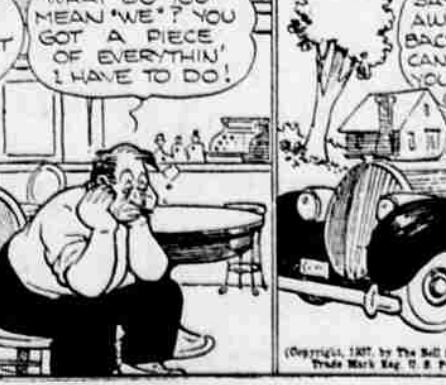
BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Idea Sparking

By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—Mischief, Thou Art Afoot

By SOL BESS



Pinnacles Attract Visitors At Lake

CRATER LAKE (Sp.)—A popular destination for park visitors is the pinnacles of Wheeler creek canyon on the east entrance road. An improved parking area provides space for numerous automobiles, permitting visitors to view the tall, needle-like, eroded spires at close range.

The pinnacles reach a height of 200 feet from the canyon floor, the result of countless years of wind and water erosion. They are still being slowly developed by the patient process. The formations are the only examples of their kind on the Pacific coast and are not similar to pinnacles found in other sections of the world.

Mrs. Susan Robins England, who died at 102, never had a vacation, never saw a motion picture, and only once rode in a motor car.

Crater Discovery Trail Now Open

CRATER LAKE (Sp.)—Discovery Point trail, 1 1/2 miles long, is now open to foot travel. The trail leads from the rim village area along the edge of Crater Lake to the spot where John Wesley Hillman, a prospector, discovered the lake on June 15, 1859.

A small tablet marks the spot where white man first saw Crater Lake's blue waters. In addition to its historical significance, the trail provides hikers with numerous views of the southern Oregon scenic wonder.

'What, No Eruption?' Asks Visitor To Lake

CRATER LAKE (Sp.)—"How come you get to the activity here. Is it dangerous?" an eastern tourist excitedly asked a ranger at a park checking station early last week.