

FLAME TRAIL

BY MARIE DE NEVAD

Kay Crandon of the Lazy Nine hires a new puncher, Ted Gaylor, whom she finds in the forest desperately about to set a fire to get a job. Josh Hastings, who wants to buy the Lazy Nine and Ted Kay, invites her to the Flying Six when her ranch house and barn mysteriously burn. She refuses, dis-trusting him, but young sister Bats and Aunt Kate go. Kay finds she can't get the insurance money to rebuild—it goes on the mortgage. Ted stirs the outfit to cut its own lumber and rebuild without pay. Kay carelessly tells this plan to Hastings before buying the only available timberland.

Chapter 12

Race to Old Man Warren's

"HERE'S something I want to ask you," said Josh Hastings. "Who was the fellow you were in town with, today?"

"He's a new puncher I've just taken on," Kay dextrously evaded his grasp, and ran lightly down the steps.

"What's his name?"

Kay pretended not to hear as she swung into the saddle and picked up the reins. "I'll tell you about him some other time," she called, with an attempt at a gaily nonchalant tone. Controlling her impatience with a mighty effort, she headed Flicker for the Lazy Nine at a leisurely can trot until she was out of sight of the ranch house.

Once safely hidden in a coulee, Kay swung about at right angles, and touching Flicker with her heel, started off on a dead run for Red River.

"Stupid, garrulous fool!" she stormed at herself, as she urged Flicker on. "Why did I have to be so smart about telling all my plans? It would be no more than I deserve if he did get that timber land away from me!"

Resolved to make every effort to undo the possible mischief her ill-considered remarks might have caused, Kay busily made her plans as she raced about telling all my plans? It would be no more than I deserve if he did get that timber land away from me!"

Old Man Warren was an old prospector who lived in a shack just outside Red River. He had impulsively invested his savings some years ago in the timberland that was so necessary to Kay's plans, and had been cursing his luck ever since.

Kay had no doubt at all but that he would be only too glad to sell. But once let him get the idea that two people were after his property, and his price would sky-rocket out of sight.

As Kay pulled in for a few minutes to let Flicker get his wind, she laughed at herself for her mad haste.

"I suppose I am as crazy as that locoed coyote Josh Hastings was talking about," she observed. "Probably it hasn't occurred to him at all, to buy up this land, and I'm having all this panic for nothing. Just the same it's lucky Old Man Warren hasn't any telephone, or he might beat me to it, even now."

Spurred on by the sudden fear that Hastings might send a message to the store for Warren to go over there and pick him up, Kay urged Flicker on again. Gradually through the clatter of Flicker's hoof beats, she heard the insistent pounding of more hoofs behind her.

Sudden panic seized her, and she gave Flicker a touch of her spur, darting a glance back, in her certainty that she would see Josh Hastings following post-haste on her trail.

Imperceptibly she could feel the pursuing horse catching up, and at last, unable to bear the suspense and uncertainty any longer, she glanced around.

She gasped at her relief, and reined in slightly at the sight of the mysterious horseman. She had no idea who he was, but that slight figure couldn't be Josh Hastings. It would be better, she decided, to wait and see what he wanted, as he was obviously trying to catch up with her. His horse being faster than Flicker, he was bound to accomplish his purpose sooner or later, so it would be more dignified to slow down than to appear to be frightened into flight.

Gradually pulling Flicker in, she rode ahead more at ease, and as the pounding hoof beats behind her drew near, she reined in, and turned to face the stranger.

No Fear For Herself

KAY had a vague feeling of having seen the man who was coming on at a hard gallop, but for the moment she couldn't place him. Then, as he drew nearer, she recognized him as one of the Flying Six punchers.

She couldn't remember his name, but she clearly recalled having seen him at the last dance on the range. Something about him had distinctly repelled her. She had disliked his narrow face, with its close-set gray eyes, broken nose and the unpleasant twist to his mouth. He'd tried to dance with her, but she had deftly evaded

him. As Kay swiftly thought back to this former encounter, she felt her heart beating fast, with a sudden fear.

Not fear for herself, because he wouldn't dare molest her in any way. But fear that Josh Hastings might have sent him on to make an offer to Old Man Warren, and foil her plan to get the necessary timber to rebuild her house and barn.

Scanning his face as he came toward her in the vain effort to read his purpose in his expression, Kay steeled herself to meet the situation with all the cunning at her command.

There was a chance, of course, that he was simply on his way to town with no thought of Old Man Warren in his mind, and that all her fears were groundless. In that case, she must just play him along, and not show any anxiety.

"Say, this is what I call luck!" Kay instinctively disliked his rasping voice, and she bold way he eyed her, as he drew up beside her. "I spotted you a long ways back," he went on, "and reckoned as we both seemed to be headed for town, we might as well go along together. But it took some catching up! What's all the rush, Cutie?"

Kay's eyes blazed at his familiar manner, but she controlled her anger, and forced herself to pretend she hadn't noticed his impudent form of address.

"I am in rather a rush," she answered, "so I'm afraid I won't be a very agreeable companion. You probably won't want to keep up my pace, so I'll go on ahead."

"Haughty as ever, eh?" His laugh had a harsh, disagreeable note. "Well, I reckon I can keep any pace you set."

Kay bit her lip as she tried to decide what would be best to do if he hadn't been sent after her by Josh Hastings, it would be better to put up with his company rather than have any argument about it. After all, the main point was to get to Red River as soon as possible. And even if he was planning on seeing old Man Warren, it would be the lesser of two evils to have him arrive with her rather than to beat him to it.

The fact that he had caught up with her instead of trying to pass her and race ahead, somewhat allayed her fears about Josh Hastings' complicity in the matter. So, deciding to make the best of the situation, she accepted his company with as good a grace as she could muster.

"All right, if you want a hard gallop." In spite of herself, Kay couldn't keep her dislike entirely out of her tone, and she saw an ugly flash come into his eyes, and his mouth twisted into a sneer.

Without waiting for an answer, Kay picked up Flicker's reins, and touched him with her heel. He shot ahead, impatient to be off after the delay, and like a flash put some distance between Kay and her unwelcome escort, who had been somewhat slower in starting.

Hoping that the man had taken her hint, and was going to let her go ahead alone after all, Kay bent forward and gently urged Flicker ahead.

Helplessly Pinioned

A SUDDEN whirling sound made her start and straighten in the saddle with instant alarm. But before she could make any further move, she felt the loop of a lariat drop over her shoulders.

The next instant it tightened and Flicker started at the sudden check, springing to one side as Kay made a desperate effort to free herself. Thrown off her balance and held helplessly by the rope pinioning her arms to her sides, she swayed in the saddle, and then felt everything grow black as she crashed to the ground.

It was only a minute or two before she came to herself again, but in that interval the Flying Six puncher had plenty of time to finish the job of tying her securely and rendering her absolutely helpless.

As Kay opened her eyes, stung into consciousness by the sharp pain of the ropes that cut cruelly into her wrists and ankles, she found him standing over her with a gloating, jeering expression that filled her with a sinking fear.

Resolutely forcing back her panic, she summoned all her wit and courage to her aid. Her only safety lay in getting a mental advantage over her assailant. Any sign of fear and she would be lost. Struggling into a sitting position, she fixed him with blazing eyes. "How dare you do this!" she demanded, her voice firm with sudden outraged anger that actually did, for the moment, dispel her fear. "Cut me loose at once, if you don't want a necktie party when my outfit knows of this outrage!"

He laughed softly as his narrow gray eyes traveled with leisurely deliberation from her head to her feet.

Ted decided to mail down that option for Kay, tomorrow.

rainfall at Crater lake are revealing important information to aid in estimating the supply of spring water in the park and the flow of water into streams and lakes beyond the boundaries of the park, John E. Doerr, Jr., park naturalist, sets forth in a current issue of Crater Lake Nature Notes.

Data compiled by the U. S. reclamation service and Park Ranger W. T. Frost from 1905 to 1915 reveal that when the level of Crater lake varied less than two feet the inflow of Upper Klamath lake, a short distance south, remained fairly constant. From 1915 to 1934 there was a constant but gradual decrease in the level of Crater lake. During the same period there was a constant decrease in the inflow of the Upper Klamath. Since 1934, the level of the former has varied within 0.09 of a foot and the inflow to the Klamath lake has increased slightly.

Statistical figures These observations, Doerr states,

are theoretical proof that Crater lake seepage is an important factor in the supply of water for springs and streams at lower levels.

Snowfall observations show 37.34 feet as the average total fall for the park area. A high mark came in the winter of 1923-24 with a total of 73.2 feet, while the season of 1923-24 was low with 18.2 feet. January is the heaviest snowfall month with an average of 98 inches, followed by 86 inches for December and 68 for February.

The level of Crater lake at present is about 12 feet under the high water mark reached in 1908. The old shore line is easily discernible on the bases of rocky cliff surrounding the lake.

Fee for Pie Thrower. MARYSVILLE, Cal. — (UP) — New sports are developing on the Pacific

coast. When Charlie Merz entered the restaurant of Dolly Gray and espied a row of newly baked pies, he asked what it would cost to throw one at the proprietor. "One dollar," said Gray. Merz threw the pie. Gray ducked and collected.

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STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



TOKYO—capital of Japan, DOUBLED ITS POPULATION IN A SINGLE DAY! FROM THE POSITION OF 10TH MOST POPULOUS CITY IN THE WORLD, IT LEAPED TO 2ND!

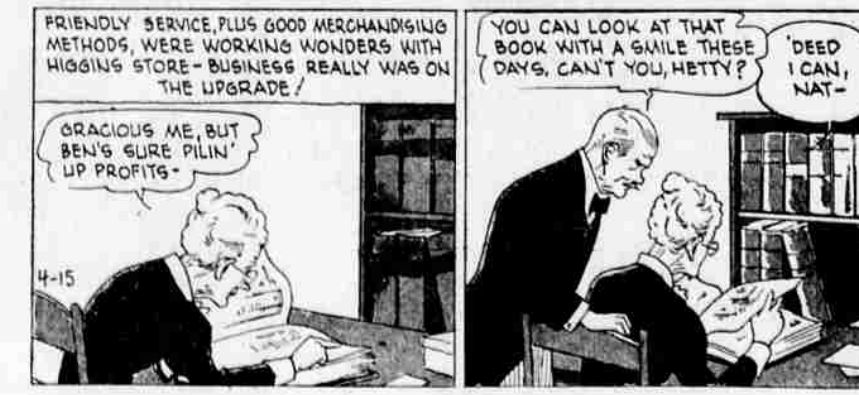
Tokyo Surpassed in population only by New York City, Tokyo has a population well over 5,800,000. Before October 1, 1932, however, the Japanese capital ranked only tenth among cities of the world and had a population of less than 2,100,000. The reason for the sudden increase of the city's population was the annexation of 82 adjoining towns on the date mentioned. Tokyo now includes an area of 217 square miles. The city of London, often mistakenly considered the most populous city in the world, has a population of around 11,000. It is only one of the many divisions which comprise the area of 693 square miles known as Greater London.

Bouncing Berries Before a cranberry is shipped it must prove its fitness for market by bouncing over a barrier. A berry that has decayed or otherwise deteriorated will not bounce when dropped from a short height. The "bounce grading" is done by machinery with the berries being given four chances to bounce over a barrier. Those that fall are thrown out.

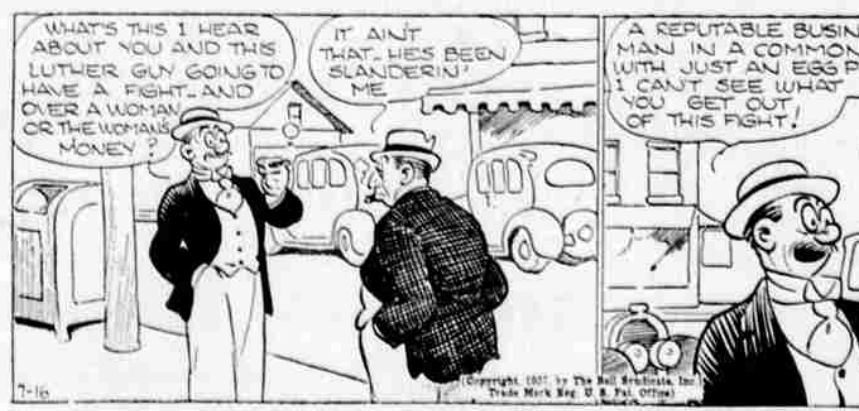
Anniversary Balloon Following is the account of the odd coincidence flight, as described by ex-Lieutenant J. J. Quinn of Hollywood, Cal., U. S. naval reserve, during the World War: "I was completing my course at the naval field at Akron, Ohio, and went up for my first free balloon solo flight on the morning of November 14, 1917. After flying all day, I made a landing in a pasture belonging to a farmer named Johnson, near Paris, Ohio. "Johnson was celebrating his golden wedding anniversary that day and had invited the people of the countryside. Fifty years before, he had been married in Youngstown, Ohio, and had attended the county fair there after the wedding. He saw Captain Baldwin, old-time balloonist, make a parachute jump from a smoke balloon at the fair. That was the first balloon he had ever seen. "Mine was the second—on his golden anniversary in his own back yard!"



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Happy Days?



THE NEBBES—And the Winner?



THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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8 MATTER POP

By C. M. PAYNE



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—And Tommy May Be Next!

By HAL FORRESTER



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS



CRATER LAKE DATA SHOW LOWER LAND AIDED BY SEEPAGE

Streams And Springs Benefit, Long Study Reveals—Present Shore Line Is 12 Feet Under 1908 Top

CRATER LAKE (Sp.)—Observations over a long period of years of precipitation in the form of snow and