

FLAME TRAIL

BY MARI DE NERVAUD

SYNOPSIS: When Kay Cranston of the Lazy Nine loses her ranch house and barn in a fire, Josh Hastings, owner of the Flying Six, tries to buy her ranch and court Kay. She hates him and is determined to keep her ranch and rebuild. Ted Gaynor, a puncher she impulsively hired, fights Scrap Johnson, a cowboy who molested Kay. They shook it out, wounding each other. Hastings finds them unconscious and murders Scrap with Ted's gun. Ted crawls to a shack where a girl named Marion nurses him through a feverish week. The gun is found and Sheriff Farley searches for Ted while Kay anxiously awaits news.

Chapter 20

'Reconstructing' The Crime

BY THE next morning, Kay had reached a point of tense anxiety that demanded action. There was no use denying to herself any longer that Ted meant more to her than any man she had ever known. The sympathy for his desperate plight that had first drawn her to him, had changed to admiration, for he clever way in which he had helped her. And this feeling again had given way to something much deeper, as she had watched him fighting for her, and during that magic ride back in the sunset, before he had said goodbye. She admitted now the cause of her intense restlessness when he had failed to appear at the time she had expected him. She was in love with him, and somehow she knew that he cared for her too.

The first thing to do, she decided, was to ride over to the Flying Six and see if there had been any news from the sheriff. But she couldn't be able to come over with any message until after school, and Kay simply couldn't wait until then. After the way she and Josh Hastings had last parted, it was fairly certain that he wouldn't take the trouble to bring any message over. In spite of her vow not to go near the Flying Six again, Kay felt she couldn't possibly wait until afternoon to hear any news there might be. Let Josh Hastings think anything he wanted to. She was going over there.

Eating a hasty breakfast, she ran down to the corral, saddled Flicker and was off. In the morning sunlight, her fears of the night assumed less tragic shape. The fact that Ted hadn't been any more than a messenger would seem to indicate that he couldn't have been so severely wounded. The only thing for her to do was to have faith in him, and try to talk down the ugly rumors that were running rife about him. To her relief, Josh Hastings was nowhere in sight as she rode up to the ranch house of the Flying Six. Aunt Kate was sunning herself on the porch. She waved a greeting.

"I'm glad to see you ain't such a fool after all," she said complacently as Kay came up the steps. Ignoring this remark, Kay ran over and kissed her peppery old relative, then eagerly asked, "Has Zeke Farley telephoned any message for me, here?"

"Not that I know of," Aunt Kate wrinkled up her face and squinted speculatively at Kay. "He stopped here on his way to find that fine new puncher of yours! I don't know any stronger proof that you need a husband to manage you and your affairs, than that you go off and get a murderer in your outfit! And give him your father's gun! Go do the murdering with it!" She gave a snort of disapproval.

Kay bit her lips to keep back the angry retort that sprang to them. Quarreling with Aunt Kate wasn't going to get her anywhere. On the contrary, here was her chance to set her straight about Ted.

"I thought you had more fairness than to jump to conclusions that way," she began, in a carefully controlled voice. "You . . ."

"How Do You Know?" "Who's jumping to conclusions?" Kay started as Josh Hastings appeared suddenly in the doorway. He had a sly smile of satisfaction at seeing her there. It made Kay regret her impulsive haste in coming over, especially as there hadn't been any message for her after all.

"Why, Kay here says I am!" Aunt Kate answered in an aggrieved tone. "We were talking about that man the sheriff is after."

"I didn't expect you to have proof of what I was telling you to have soon," Josh Hastings looked triumphantly at Kay. "There's no question of jumping to conclusions. The man's a proved murderer. And if he hasn't escaped over the border, he's watched for Kay's reaction to these words."

Kay controlled her expression by a mighty effort. "Fortunately, every one isn't as ready to condemn a man unheard as you are," she answered coldly.

"Don't be a fool!" Kay's coolness touched off Josh Hastings' easily aroused temper. "The Gaynor man's gun was found with two cartridges exploded, where he dropped

ped it before he dragged himself over to the water! He—"

"Dragged himself over to the water!" Kay echoed. "You mean he was wounded? How do you know?"

"I don't know," Josh Hastings snapped. A dull red came into his face, and his eyes shifted from Kay's inquiring gaze. "I'm only reconstructing the picture as I imagine it must have been." His manner was suddenly blustering and confused. "Like as not I'm mistaken. Gaynor probably wasn't wounded at all. He just shot Scrap through his arm, and when Scrap dropped his gun, Gaynor finished him off."

"I didn't know Scrap Johnson had been shot twice!" Kay exclaimed. A rising excitement made her breath come fast. How did Josh Hastings know so much? Why was he so red and angry?

"All I know is what the sheriff said!" Josh Hastings turned to Aunt Kate, and fixed her with hypnotic glance. "You heard him say that!"

"I don't remember that!" Aunt Kate pursued her lips reflectively. "But land sakes! I was so excited, I don't know half he did say."

"But you did hear him say that!" Josh Hastings persisted, his eyes still dominant holding so much? "I reckon I did," Aunt Kate agreed doubtfully. "Anyway, I recollect what he said about it being my brother's gun!" Her beady black eyes turned accusingly to Kay. "The idea of your giving your father's gun to a man like that! Josh Hastings has told me all about him."

"That's easy to see," Kay commented bitterly. She turned angrily toward the steps. "I may as well be going on as long as you have your minds made up already about an innocent man's guilt." She turned back to Aunt Kate. "If there should be any message, have Babbs ride over with it, will you?"

"I will, unless someone else wants to take it!" Aunt Kate gave Josh Hastings an arch look, which made Kay's blood boil.

Turning and bolting down the steps before she should say something she might regret later, she sprang into Flicker's saddle and was off.

A Plan of Action THE same early morning sunlight that had tempted Marion Howell out into her clearing on the morning that Ted finally was out of danger, shone on Kay's cabin and awakened her from the exhausted sleep into which she had fallen at early dawn, after a second wretched night.

There had been no message of any sort from the Flying Six and, unable to stand the suspense, Kay had sent Shorty over after supper to see if any late news had come in. It was midnight before Shorty had come back, and with her first glimpse of his face, Kay had had her answer.

"No news is good news, Kid," Shorty had tried to be comforting with his clumsy sympathy. He seemed to sense, in some strange way, what Kay was going through. "I'm with you about there being something phony going on. That Gaynor guy's no murderer, or I miss my guess."

"Thanks, Shorty," Kay had said. "I know he isn't. But everyone but you and me seem to be taking against him." Shorty had ruminated, shooting Kay a quizzical look. "Reckon you're being for him don't help none in that quarter!"

This remark lingered with Kay after Shorty had left, and she had gone to bed. She must be careful not to raise antagonism to Ted, by being too violently partisan.

Putting aside the negative ways in which she could help, Kay tried to concentrate on something positive she could do. The thing that would mean most to him, would be for her to get in touch with his mother and sister herself, and bring them over to the Lazy Nine, as had been originally planned.

She had resolved to wait one more day for news of Ted, and then to put this plan into action. Finally she had dropped asleep.

Now, as the sun gradually brought her to full consciousness, this plan came back to her mind, and she sprang out of bed and began to dress with feverish energy.

Why wait one more day, before acting on her own? She wanted to be back at the ranch house that night, because the sheriff would surely have some news by then. Meanwhile, however, there was no need to have another wretched day of anxious, interminable waiting. She would ride up to the central divide and do some scouting. Knowing that her plan would stir Seth's opposition, and would certainly make him insist that one of the boys go with her, Kay carefully avoided the bunk house. Slipping into the mess shack, she foraged some breakfast for herself. Then she grabbed up some bread and ham and a canteen of water, and made for the corral.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



600-YEAR FAIR!
AT KING'S LYNN, England,
A FAIR HAS BEEN HELD ANNUALLY
SINCE THE 14TH CENTURY...

**CHRIS SIEBER AND
J. E. SCARLETT,
LITIGANTS IN A CIVIL SUIT,
WERE CALLED FOR
JURY DUTY IN THEIR
OWN TRIAL!**
-Yolo County,
Cal., 1909-

**A UNITED STATES WARSHIP
ONCE SAILED UNDER A
FOREIGN FLAG!**

**ALTHOUGH MANNED BY AN
AMERICAN CREW WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS,
THE U.S. FRIGATE "GEORGE WASHINGTON"
WAS COMMANDEERED BY THE
DEY OF ALGERIA FOR A TRIP TO
CONSTANTINOPLE.**
AND FLEW THE ALGERIAN FLAG! -1800-

8-7-37

**DOUBLE DEBUT—
JOHNNY STONE PLAYED IN
THE FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE
GAME HE EVER SAW—
AND MADE A DOUBLE
IN HIS FIRST TIME AT BAT!**
-Detroit Tigers,
1928-

Under a Foreign Flag
From the 16th century through the early part of the 19th century commerce and travel in the Mediterranean were at the complete mercy of the Mohammedan states, Morocco, Tunis, Algeria and Tripoli. The four powers depended almost entirely on piracy or extortion for their means of income.

To prevent their ships from being preyed upon by the government-controlled Barbary pirates, nations that could afford it paid annual tribute to the Mohammedan powers. The United States fell in line with this system when her young shipping business started to poke its nose into the Mediterranean and, in 1794, paid \$80,000 for immunity. Regular payments were made for some years thereafter, borne to the rulers of the pirate states by naval ships.

In September, 1800, the U. S. Frigate "George Washington," commanded by 26-year-old Captain William Bainbridge, sailed for Algiers to deliver "protection money" to the Dey. The distasteful job was done and the ship was about to head back for America when the Algerian ruler made the humiliating demand that the "George Washington" perform an errand for him in carrying gifts and an ambassador to the Sultan of Turkey. To top off the insult, the Dey ordered that the United States flag on the ship be hauled down and replaced with the Algerian flag.

Under threat of having his entire crew imprisoned and war declared on American shipping, there was nothing for Captain Bainbridge to do but agree. The trip was made with the flag of Algeria flying from the mainmast. When the "George Washington" returned to the United States, Bainbridge was completely absolved of any blame by his government for the incident.

In 1815, Decatur took a fleet to Algeria, captured the chief city and forced the Dey to sign a treaty abolishing all future paying of tribute by the United States. In a like manner he made the rulers of Tunis and Tripoli sign similar treaties. England followed in this move and France finally ended the Barbary tribute today.

Wheat Shortage In Europe Helps U. S.
PORTLAND, Aug. 7. — (AP) — A wheat shortage in Europe and the biggest crop in 10 years for the United States made Kenneth Stuart Templeton, president of the Chicago board of trade, smile for interviewers noted, however, that except in those districts where buying was brought to a standstill by last summer's drought, there was little improvement over the previous year's total.

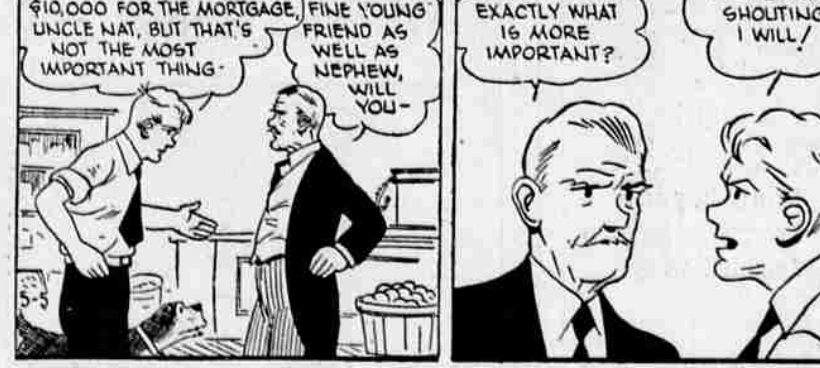
The estimated volume of retail distributions for the country as a whole was estimated at from 8 to 20 per cent larger than for the corresponding week last year.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Skeeter Gets a Set-Back!



THE THREE-POINT AIR LINER, BOUND FOR DENVER, WITH TOMMY AS PILOT, SKEETER, CO-PILOT, AND BETTY—LOU AS AIR HOSTESS, HAS JUST LANDED AT PHOENIX
2003

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Surprise!

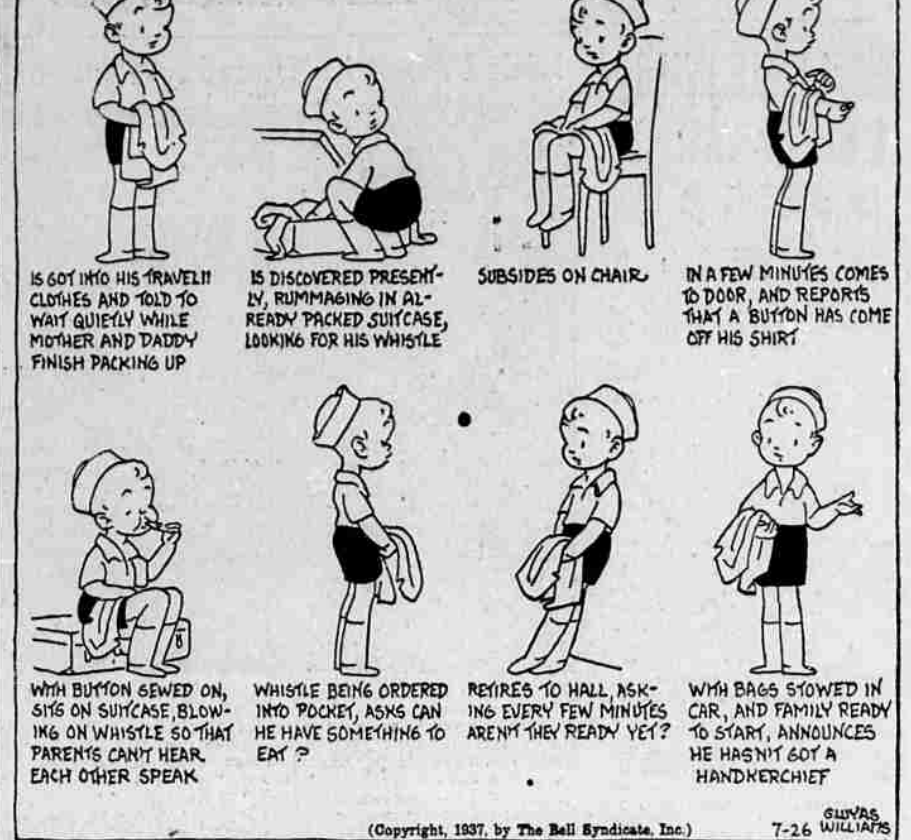


THE NEBBS—As Knights of Old—



READY AND WAITING

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



IS GOT INTO HIS TRAVEL CLOTHES AND TOLD TO WAIT QUIETLY WHILE MOTHER AND DADDY FINISH PACKING UP

IS DISCOVERED PRESENTLY, RUMMAGING IN ALREADY PACKED SUITCASE, LOOKING FOR HIS WHISTLE

SUBSIDES ON CHAIR

IN A FEW MINUTES COMES TO DOOR, AND REPORTS THAT A BUTON HAS COME OFF HIS SHIRT

WITH BUTON SEWED ON, SITS ON SUITCASE, BLOWING ON WHISTLE SO THAT PARENTS CAN'T HEAR EACH OTHER SPEAK

WHISTLE BEING ORDERED INTO POKET, ASKS CAN HE HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT?

RETIRES TO HALL, ASKING EVERY FEW MINUTES AREN'T THEY READY YET?

WITH BAGS STOWED IN CAR, AND FAMILY READY TO START, ANNOUNCES HE HASN'T GOT A HANDKERCHIEF

(Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.) 7-26 GLUYAS WILLIAMS

S'MATTER POF

By O. M. PAYNE



WHAT'S AT?

MOTHBALLS!

WHAT FOR?

TO KILL MOTHS

OKAY! CHASE ONE OUT AN GIMME A CRACK AT IT!

TO KILL MOTHS

OKAY! CHASE ONE OUT AN GIMME A CRACK AT IT!

TO KILL MOTHS

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SAWMILL PLANNED IN CRESCENT AREA

KLAMATH FALLS, Aug. 7.—(AP)—Work started today on construction of a railroad and pond for an extensive mill development by the Gilchrist Timber company at Crescent, on the Dallas-California highway in northern Klamath county.

T. V. Wright, representative of the company, stated that Kern and Kibbee company has the contract for construction of 11 miles of railroad which will connect the mill at Crescent with the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad one mile north of Mowich.

The contract also calls for construction of a dam in the little Deschutes river which will back up water for a mill pond to hold from 60 to

TRADE SWINGS UP IN HOT WEATHER

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—(AP)—With hot weather spurring demand for summer goods retail trade volume established further gains in many areas during the past week. Dun & Bradstreet said today in their weekly report.

All leading series of distribution reported larger sales than for the week preceding the gains ranging from 3 to 8 per cent. The review

By SOL HESS



MRS. ERIN LAWRENCE, CULLMAN, ALA. GIVES MAX A VOTE.
OLIVE BENNER PITTSBURGH, PA. THINKS EMMA SHOULD MARRY MAX.
MRS. A. G. RAYTON, ASHEVILLE, N.C. VOTES FOR MAX.

LUTHER, SOME LADIES FROM THE MOON BEAM CLUB CAME TO ME AND SAID I SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF MYSELF— LETTIN' TWO MEN BRAWL OVER ME

WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF THEIRS?

WELL, I WENT TO MAX AND HE SAID YOU CHALLENGED HIM AND HE CAN'T CALL IT OFF!

YES, I DID AND I'M GOIN' TO GIVE HIM A BEATING HIS GRAND CHILDREN WILL REMEMBER

I'M A MAN. I HAVE PRINCIPLE AND PRIDE! I WOULDN'T LET NO INSULTING LOW-BROW STAND BETWEEN YOU AND ME— I'M GOING TO FIGHT FOR YOU AND MARRY YOU!

WELL YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND— THAT'S 50%. NOW YOU ONLY HAVE TO MAKE UP MINE!