

FLAME TRAIL

BY MARIE DE NEVAUD

Chapter 53
Confession

WHEN Zeke Farley and his companions rounded a curve and came to the designated place, they stopped short with surprise at the sight of the extraordinary group waiting to receive them.

Stepping in front of the girls, Ted told his story.

"I brought Josh Hastings along, in the hopes he'd confess," he ended. "But I reckon I can convince a jury without him."

A groan from Josh Hastings brought all eyes to him, as a convulsive shudder shook his frame, and tiny beads of foam appeared at his lips.

"He's had another stroke!" Kay exclaimed. "Quick! Get him off!"

In a trice they had lifted him to the ground. Kay took sudden command of the situation, and motioned them all a few paces away as Josh Hastings' eyes opened. She knelt beside him.

Just in Time

"YOU'RE going to die, Josh Hastings," she declared solemnly, her eyes holding him with hypnotic intensity. "and Ruth will be left all alone. If you will tell the truth about Scrap Johnson's death, I swear that I'll take care of her."

Josh Hastings' eyes wandered from Kay to Zeke Farley and Tom Runyon behind her, then to Ted. A sudden gleam of triumph gleamed through their glazed terror.

"I won't talk!" he declared, with sudden vindictive strength. "Then Ruth must be alone in the world and fend for herself!"

Kay's voice was inexorable and gave no quarter. "Damn you! Have it your own way, then!" His eyes clouded as a convulsive tremor shook him. Kay beckoned Zeke Farley closer.

"Go on!"

"I killed Scrap Johnson, because he pulled a dirty trick on me!" Josh Hastings gasped out his confession. "And I framed Gaynor because I hate him, and I intended to have him prove a murderer to you. And what's more, I burned your ranch house, because his face contracted in a horrible grimace, and he fell back."

Zeke Farley sprang to him, and put a hand on his heart. After a moment of breathless silence, he turned to Kay.

"You were just in time," he announced. "He's dead."

With an inarticulate cry, Kay rose to her feet and flung herself into Ted's arms.

Tom Runyon, who had been watching the whole dramatic scene from a distance, swung into his saddle. He silently pushed past the group on the trail, and without a backward look, headed down for Clear Water Basin. For a long moment, his horse's hoof beats were the only sounds to break the silence.

Sunrise

WITH sudden radiance, the first rays of the sun caught the tops of the peaks, announcing the arrival of a new day. To the south-east, a heavy cloud of smoke smothered the ridges, but above and ahead of them, all was clear.

"That is the past and the future!" Marion spoke in an awed whisper, as she looked from the obscurity of the eastern ridges to the bright promise of the western peaks, towering above them.

Kay raised her head from Ted's shoulder, but before following Marion's look her eyes anxiously sought Zeke Farley. He nodded a sympathetic assent to her unspoken question.

"He's free, all right!" He motioned his men to take Josh Hastings' body and go ahead. A grin of satisfaction spread over his face as Kay slipped her hand through Ted's arm and faced him with radiantly happy eyes.

"How about coming back with me?" He cocked a quizzical eye at Marion. "I'll send up a couple of cayuses for those two. I reckon they won't mind waiting."

"I'd love to! I want to get back as soon as possible," Marion eagerly accepted his suggestion, and before Kay or Ted could remonstrate, she kissed her hand to the arm and sprang up before Zeke Farley.

A moment later, and they had followed the rest around a bend in the trail, leaving Kay and Ted alone with the sunrise.

"Sweetheart!" Ted held Kay away for a moment, as he gazed at the bright glory of her hair in the morning sunlight that now included them in its golden radiance.

"Marion is right! The future is ours!"

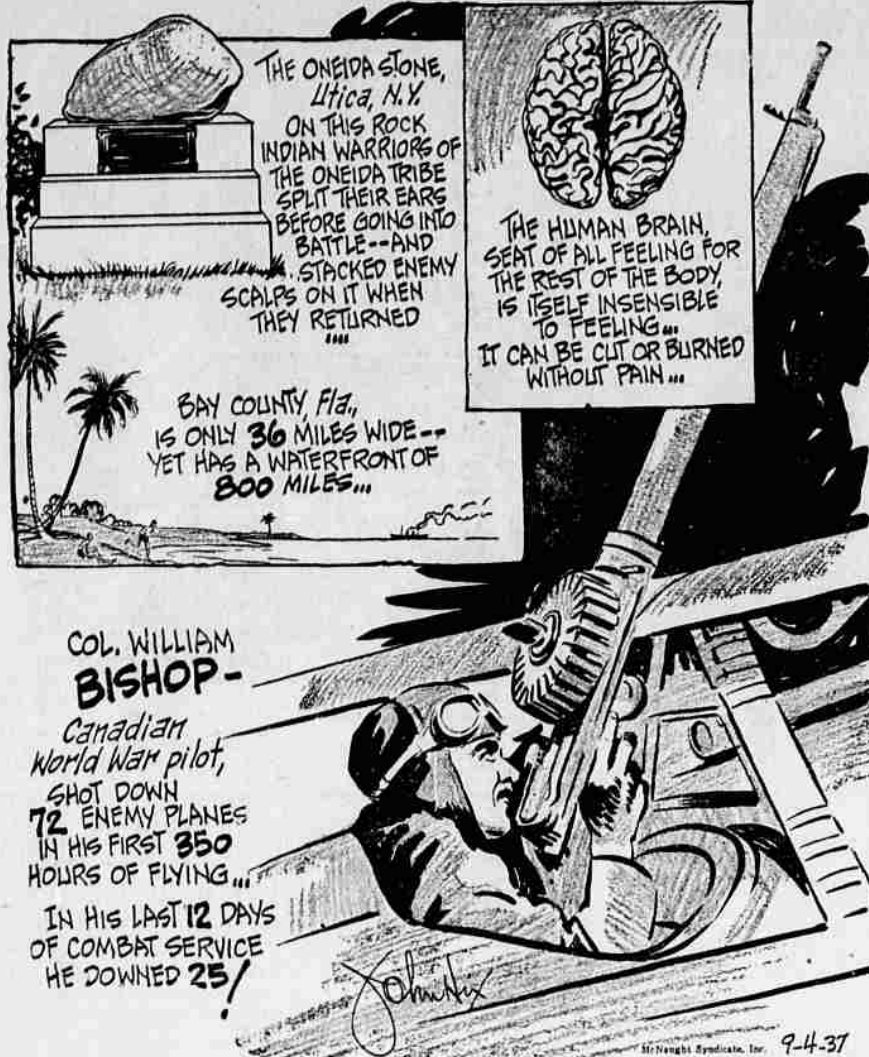
He pulled her gently to him, and for a breathless interval, future and past were forgotten in the magic of the present.

"You were just in time," he announced. "He's dead."

THE END

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



Canadian Ace

To rate the title of "ace" for action in the World War, a flyer had to down five or more enemy planes. Colonel William Avery Bishop earned the title 14 times over with two ships thrown in for good measure.

From the time of Bishop's first airplane ride to the time he shot down five enemy planes in his last two hours of aerial combat, he spent a total of less than 350 hours in the air!

Bishop entered the World War in 1914. A second year cadet in the Royal Military College at Kingston, he enlisted in the Canadian Mounted Rifles, went overseas with the outfit and switched to the flying corps as

an observer. A while at this job, and he again yearned for a change. This time he wanted to do his own flying. Sent to England for training, he returned to France as a full fledged pilot with the 80th Squadron. The enemy heard from him in a hurry.

On March 25, 1917, Bishop shot down his first victim. Within six weeks of that date the 23-year-old pilot had risen from the rank of lieutenant to captain and had blasted 20 German ships out of the air.

Unlike Captain von Richthofen, the German "ace of aces" who piled up a score of 80 enemy planes before he plummeted to his death, Bishop was pretty much of a "lone wolf." Where Richthofen almost in-

variably flew with a formation, Bishop specialized in daring solo forays. One of the most daring stunts he performed on this order was a single-handed raid on a German airport. Surprising the field at dawn, when the Germans were warming up their ships, Bishop sprayed the field with lead and shot down four planes that attempted to take off after him before he headed back for his own lines to breakfast.

Grown too valuable to be risked any longer at the front, Bishop received a 12-day notice of his transfer to England as an instructor. In the 12 days left at the front he downed 25 enemy planes. Today he is vice-president of a Canadian oil company.

fire chief, died today at the veterans' hospital at Walla Walla, according to word received by relatives. Born in Roseburg, May 22, 1889, he was a member of the city volunteer fire department for more than 25 years, and served for 15 years as chief. He served also as adjutant and service officer of Umpqua post of the American Legion for a period of 10 years.

The movie comedienne, who eloped to Las Vegas, Nev., with the make-up man last May 30, will charge cruelty.

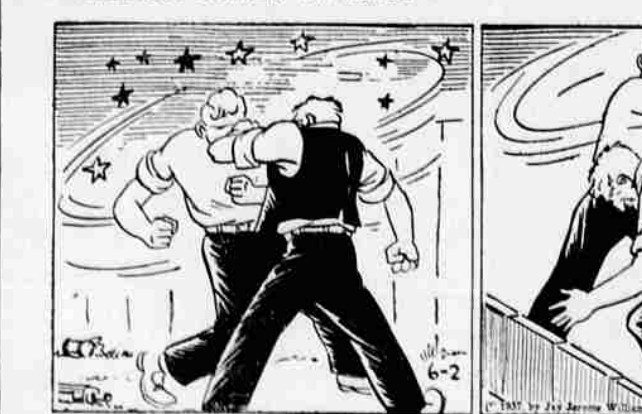
FORMER FIRE CHIEF OF ROSEBURG DIES

ROSEBURG, Ore., Sept. 4.—(AP)—James Fletcher, 48, retired Roseburg

TAILSPIN TOMMY—What Does Tommy Mean?



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Alarm!

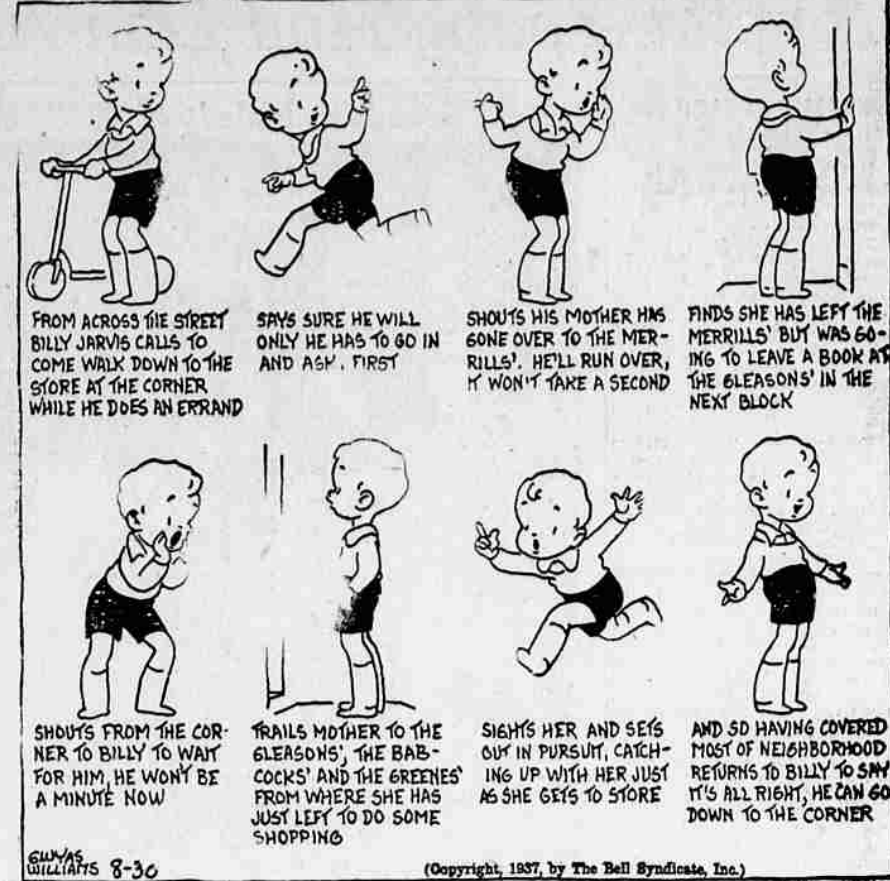


THE NEBBES—Can't Take It



GETTING PERMISSION

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



S'MATTER POF

By C M PAYNE



By HAL FORREEST



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS



SCOTT P. SQUYRES ELECTED SKIPPER FOREIGN WAR VETS

BUFFALO, N. Y., Sept. 4.—(AP)—Scott P. Squires of Oklahoma City was elected national commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars today.

He succeeds Bernard V. Kearney of Cloverville, N. Y.

Eugene I. Van Antwerp of Detroit was elected senior commander-in-chief.

The veterans voted today to ask the government to train America's 500,000 civilian conservation corps boys for national defense in the event of emergency.

The veterans, in national convention, also voted in favor of the "prompt building up of the U. S. air force to a point where it will be second to that of no nation."

Today's action followed close on the heels of adoption of a resolution "demanding" that American armed forces be withdrawn from foreign soil. A copy of the resolution was sent to President Roosevelt.

The veterans voted to hold their next national convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Columbus won out over Los Angeles, by a vote of 1788 to 955.

Mrs. Laurie Schertle of Oakland, Calif., was elected national president of the ladies' auxiliary. Mrs. Schertle, former senior vice-president, was installed along with other officers at the closing session of the annual encampment this afternoon.

HUSBAND ADMITS MURDER OF TRIO

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 4.—(AP)—Sheriff E. T. Harvey said today Gordon Newman, 45, charged with killing his wife and her dentist, confessed that he also killed a negro yesterday.

Newman, officers said, beat his 38-year-old wife to death at their Olinburg, Miss., farm home and then drove 16 miles to Kentwood, La., where he shot Dr. A. D. Root, 45, in his office.

"They had an affair," Newman was quoted as saying.

The sheriff said the prisoner did not tell him why the negro was killed or his name. They advanced the theory that the negro possibly witnessed the killing of Mrs. Newman.

"I've been through hell in the past two weeks," Newman told Sheriff Harvey. "They had an affair. I found out about it only a short time ago. I might not even then have taken life, but I couldn't bear the taunting to which my wife subjected me yesterday before I lost my head completely and clubbed her to death."

ATTORNEYS CONCLAVE RECEIVES INSIGHT IN GERMAN COURT FALL

BAKER, Ore., Sept. 4.—(AP)—Dr. Paul Weidenbaum, who took the Oregon bar examination early this summer prior to going to Europe on an extended visit, explained to Oregon attorneys at their annual meeting here today many of the political and social incidents which led to the rule by proclamation or ordinance under the emergency power granted by the German constitution and which authority finally led to the fascist dictatorship of Hitler.

Doctor Weidenbaum, who received his law education on the European continent and in England, developed the legal trends in these countries in an unusual address.

The speaker stated that an ordinance enacted on the advice of Adolf Hitler, then prime minister, "for the people and the nation's protection against communistic attacks," did away with the liberalistic protection of the individual and established the practically unrestricted power of the state to interfere with any right of the citizen. The courts, bound by their own interpretation of the president's emergency powers, had to apply it.

A law passed in March, 1933, for "the people and empire's resurrection," virtually broke the power of the judiciary, the speaker said.

MARATHA'S HUBBY IN CAFE BRAWL

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Sept. 4.—(AP)—A fist fight in a movieland night spot last night which, Detective Lieutenant William Burris said, involved two of the Westmore brothers, was the climax to a party prior to divorce proceedings against one of the brothers.

Involved in the alleged battle in the men's room of the cafe, Burris

12 Dogs Are Fed, 12 Tots 'Starve'; Wife Kills Mate

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis., Sept. 4.—(UP)—Mrs. Elzabeth Heiser, 37-year-old mother of 12 children, last night confessed the slaying of her husband, Edward, because he "threatened to kill me and all my babies," Sheriff Oliver White announced.

Sobbing, Mrs. Heiser told White how her husband, 37-year-old farmer, fed his 12 hound dogs and let her and the children "starve."

"He always took care of the dogs before the kids," she said. "They could be crying, they'd be so hungry, but it wouldn't make any difference."

The thin, dark-haired woman signed a statement admitting that she killed her husband late yesterday as he lay in a "drunken stupor" on a bed in their farm home, White said.

PENDLETON, Sept. 4.—(AP)—N. A. Gilbert, 74, resident of Spokane, died last night at a hospital here as a result of injuries received Tuesday when his car overturned on the new Pendleton-Stanfield cutoff highway.

THE MAIL TRIBUNE WANTS 642.