

# LITTLE SPITFIRE

By Jean Randall

**YESTERDAY:** Learning that Hugh is still in love with Pia and wants her back, Brenda promises to help him, too. Mac warns Brenda that interfering with other people's lives is dangerous.

### Chapter 18

**Explanation**  
"REALLY the safest friends for you in this neighborhood are the Misses Ponsonby," Mac informed her. "Sweet, if withered spinsters, restfully feminine. Not an ambition between 'em," he went on dreamily. "No desire to make money, have a career, do anything, in short, save make their men friends comfortable."

Gone in a flash was Brenda's new-found amiability, gone was her docile acquiescence with his opinions. She sat straight in her chair, her eyes sparkling, every curl apparently tightening in rage.

"Just nice comfortable featherbeds, in fact, yielding to the slightest pressure, totally lacking the slightest vestige of a backbone!"

"Featherbeds don't have backbones, my child. If you're going to write, you must learn not to mix your metaphors."

"I shall mix them if I please! And nothing on earth would induce me to fall back on the Ponsonby sisters for companionship. No ambition save to make their men friends comfortable! If that isn't masculine conceit I never heard it displayed! Mac, I do really think—"

He sighed. "My fault! I apologize! I'm sorry I ever said it—whatever it was! Brenda, do we always have to fight? Couldn't we spend just one peaceful evening now and then? I tell you," he proposed. "Say on alternate Thursdays and Sundays we agree to dwell in love and harmony—well, in harmony, at all events."

"I am very ready to get along with," she informed him loftily. "At home I have the reputation of being a very agreeable person."

"Cal, you lie, and you know it. A spitfire you were born, and a spitfire you'll die—unless you marry a brute who will club you into submission."

"Perhaps you'd like to undertake the task?" Her voice was as sweet and cold as lemon ice. "God forbid!" He spoke in genuine alarm. "I'm a hard working man with money and time and strength to discipline a small whirlwind like Miss Brenda Burnham. When I marry—"

"Yes!" she prompted as he paused. He shook his head. "I shall never marry."

"Oh, but you will, Mac! You're exactly the sort of man who needs to become a domestic drudge in order to be happy. I can see you tinkering with the leaking faucet on Saturday afternoon, taking the two oldest out for a walk on sunny Sunday, leaving the office ten minutes early to buy the loaf of Vienna bread your wife couldn't get at the neighborhood baker's."

He smiled at her. "It's not such a bad picture you paint, my dear. I can imagine enjoying all those things—with the right woman."

She maintained a self-righteous silence. Not Brenda would question him coquettishly about that "right woman."

The front door slammed and Isabel came in. She looked gay and rather nervous, her new lacy feta evening frock with its jacket of silver brocade. Her eyes were dancing.

"Oh, dears, what do you think? I'm going on the Matinee Hour! Every afternoon except Sunday; and scads of money!"

Mac's voice was warm with pleasure. "Good for you! You deserve every bit of success that comes to you." He was on his feet, holding out both hands. "Here, sit here and tell us about it!"

She was still telling Mac about it half an hour later when Brenda slipped away to bed. Though they bade her a polite good night, she was convinced that neither of them really knew she had left the room.

**Single-Minded**  
NED BARROW arrived on Friday and promptly telephoned Brenda. There was a peremptory note in his voice which she met in her own direct fashion.

"I've got to see you, Ned," she told him. "About something important."

"You bet your sweet life you've got to see me! And I'll tell the world it's important!"

"When?"

"I'll have the car in front of your house in ten minutes."

She chuckled as she took off her smock and put on a scarlet crepe gown, pulled a small match-

ing felt hat down over her curls and caught up a light coat. She liked Ned's single-mindedness. He wanted what he wanted when he wanted it! She found herself hoping that in spite of the mysterious girl with her child and her apparent claim on the young millionaire, he would win Elaine Abernathy.

He barely gave her time to get settled beside him before he began. "Well! How do matters stand with Elaine?"

"She was not to be outdone in forthrightness. "Ned, who was the girl you met in a downtown drugstore and paid money for? A girl with a baby named Ned?"

"What!" he shouted. "Who the devil has been telling you—"

"It's true then?" she questioned sorrowfully. "Of course it's true. But how anyone found out, or what business it is of theirs—"

"It might be Ab's business, don't you think? And Elaine's?"

He stared at her with puzzled eyes which slowly cleared into angry comprehension. "So! That's what they think, is it—Ab and Elaine?"

"Alaine doesn't know a thing in the world about it."

He sighed with relief. "Well, thank heaven for that! I don't think I could have borne it if Alaine had so misjudged me."

She seized gladly on the last two words. "Misjudged you? Ha! I thought so. Suppose you tell me all about it, Ned."

"Suppose I don't." His lips set in a stubborn line. "It's nobody's business but mine and—the girl's. I'm not under obligation to go around explaining every fool idea some evil-minded idiot has about me."

"Don't be so wholesale about it, Ned," she bade him. "It's only one idea—hardly that. Put yourself in—well, in the place of anyone who is a friend of Alaine's. If you were witness to the sort of scene we're talking of, wouldn't you feel justified in requiring an explanation from the hero of it—or the villain, as the case might be? At least before you advised Alaine to elope with you—I mean with the villain!"

**Half-Sister**  
HE TURNED the car around in the middle of the block, causing a traffic officer to blow a warning whistle after him.

"Ned! Where are you going?"

"To lick the tar out of Ab Abernathy."

"I would," she jeered. "It will make Alaine welcome you with open arms, and promote a nice family feeling all around. Ned Barrow, you behave yourself if you want me to help you! I've no time to waste on ridiculous boys."

He simmered for five blocks, then unwillingly slowed down. "All right. What do you want to know?"

"Who that girl in the drugstore was, Ned?"

"You consider that a fair question? One I ought to answer?"

"Most certainly I do." And then as she seemed unable to break his sulky frontage she said despairingly: "Oh, why will men act like such idiots! Here I am, leaving my work in the middle of the afternoon, doing my very best to further your cause with Alaine, and do you help me the least bit in the world? You do not. You brace your forehead and stare your eyes and heebaw to the setting sun. All right, my dear, all right! It's nothing to me whether you ever see Alaine again or not. She's nothing to me; you're nothing to me. I'm sorry I ever interested myself in the affair. Take me home, please. I'd like to finish a chapter before bedtime."

He smiled at her crookedly. "You win! Gosh, what a hard-boiled little tartar you are, Brenda! I sure pity Mac!"

She stiffened in the seat beside him. "Will you kindly explain that last remark, Ned Barrow?"

"No offense—golly to Moses, Brenda, no offense at all! It was merely a passing thought. It has passed."

"It had better pass," she informed him sternly. "Now if you can keep your mind on your own affairs long enough to explain—"

"The girl is my half sister," he said briefly. "What! But Why—? Does Alaine—"

"No. Nobody knows my father was married twice. His first wife ran off, taking Cynthia—the girl in the drugstore—with her. There was a divorce. When Dad married my mother he came to live in this part of town. I suppose not even Ab would expect him to get out engraved announcements to say that he had been married before!"

Continued tomorrow

## On the Radio Chains

**STATIONS**  
Where to Find Them on the Dial:  
KEX, 1160, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; KGO, 790, San Francisco; KGW, 120, Portland; KJR, 870, Seattle; KNX, 1050, Los Angeles; KOA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 940, Portland; KOMO, 920, Seattle; KPO, 830, San Francisco; KSL, 1130, Salt Lake, KJR.

**Sunday**  
5:00—Manhattan Merry-Go-Round, KPO, KGW, KFI, Summer Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; S. S. Fiesta, KGO, KJR.

5:30—Album of Familiar Music, KPO, KGW, KFI, Listening Planning, KGO, KEX, KJR.

6:00—Vocalist, KSL, KOIN; Good Will Hour, KGO, KEX, KJR; Hour of Charm, KPO, KFI, KGW, KJR.

6:30—Carnival, KPO, KFI, KGW, KJR; Columbia Workshop, KSL, KNX, KOIN.

7:00—Bookman's Notebook, KGO; Regal Amblings, KPO; Johnny Presents, KNX, KOIN; News, KGO.

7:30—Malneck's Orch., KGO, KJR; Jack Benny, KPO, KGW, KFI; Kyrer's Orch., KNX, KSL.

8:00—Noble's Orch., KOIN; Fields' Orch., KGO, KJR; Walter Winchell, KPO, KFI, KGW, News, KEX.

8:30—Take It or Leave It, KNX, KOIN; I Want a Divorce, KPO, KFI; KGW; Stern's Newsreel, KGO, KEX, KJR.

9:00—Night Editor, KPO, KGW, KFI; Courtney's Orch., KOIN; Ten Disciples of Rhythm, KGO.

9:30—Freeman's Orch., KOMO; McCune's Orch., KSL; Belasco's Orch., KJR.

## Radio Highlights

**By Associated Press**  
(Time is Pacific Standard)  
New York, May 25.—The war and its repercussions in America will have an important place in weekend broadcasting.

Both President and Mrs. Roosevelt will be on the networks Sunday, the former in a fireside talk on defense needs and the latter in a special Red Cross war relief appeal hour.

Former president Herbert Hoover, who was to have spoken Sunday night on defense, has postponed his broadcast until 9:30 Monday night.

The Red Cross program is scheduled for 10 a.m. on WJZ-NBC, CBS and MBS, besides Mrs. Roosevelt and talent previously announced, it will include Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy, Lynn Fontanne and Alfred Lunt and Fibber

McGee and Molly. The president's fireside chat is set for 8:30 p.m. over the combined NBC, CBS and MBS chains.

Sunday brings WEAF-NBC, CBS, MBS—7:30 p.m. Salute of America from Panama.

WABC-CBS 4, Rep. Hamilton Fish on "A Republican Peace Program."

MBS—7:15 a.m. Reviewing stand, Drs. Glenn Frank and Wallace McClurg; 2 p.m. James L. Fly on "Radio in a Democracy."

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## APPLGATE GRANGE AIDS 4-H SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

Big Applegate, May 25—(Sp) Through efforts of Upper Applegate Grange, some 4-H youngsters of the Beaver creek school will receive a scholarship to 4-H summer school at Corvallis this year. It has been announced. Upper Applegate Grange was one of three Granges in the county awarded scholarships by the Grange Markets in Medford through a sales slip contest sponsored by

## APPLGATE GRANGE AIDS 4-H SCHOLARSHIP PLAN

the Oregon Grange Bulletin. Other Granges winning were Eagle Point and Griffin Creek.

## Canada Spends

Ottawa, Ont., May 24.—(U.S.) The department of munitions and supply announced today the awarding last week of 193 contracts amounting to \$6,261,425. The orders placed by purchasing boards now total \$289,000,000 of which \$73,000,000 was for British account.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 7:30 p.m.

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

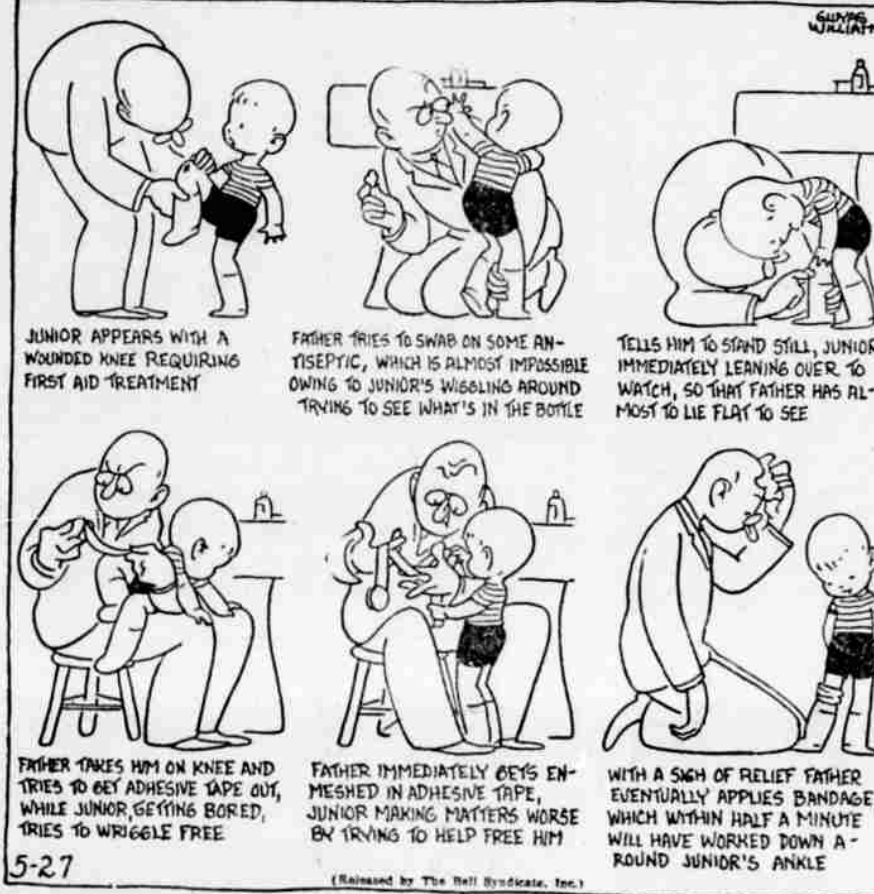


**BAR HOUND**  
Patrons at the tavern of Ernest Thierstein of New Glarus, Wis., frequently saw a black Belgian police dog twist his head and lift an empty bottle from a table and carry it behind the bar. Fido had a bank account of tips patrons gave him. When he died last February, he was able to pay for his own funeral.

**OLDEST PRINTER**  
Winner of a recent contest to choose the champion Old-Time Printer of the United States was Benjamin Franklin Waite, 97, of Johnson City, N. Y. "I am the oldest member of the International Typographical Union," he says. "I still work every day."

Monday: Wire mystery.

## FIRST AID



5-27 (Reprinted by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

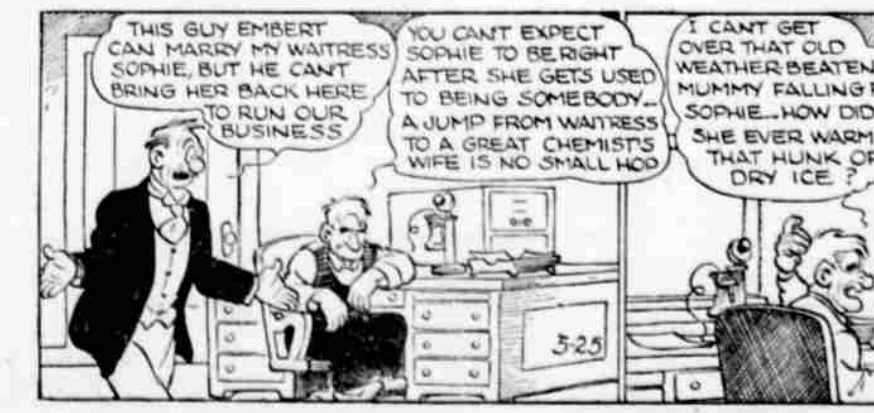
## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Another Warplane Slated For Destruction!



## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Explanation?



## THE NEBBES—Anything Can Happen



Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 7:30 p.m.

## BIT OF A RALLY COMES TO WALL ST.

New York, May 25.—(AP)—War gloom lifted a trifle in the stock market today without any special news to account for it, and leading issues stepped out of a generally disappointing week with a fair-sized rally.

Steels, aircrafts and coppers came to the fore for gains running to 3 or more points.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks held a net advance of 3 of a point at 38.1 but for the week showed a net loss of 2.3 points. It was the fourth consecutive week's decline in this composite. Today the barometer was 4 of a point above its two year low established Tuesday. The 1940 high was 82.2

## WHEAT PRICE UP; EXPORTS HIGHER

Chicago, May 25. — (AP)—Wheat prices marked up net gains of 1 to 1 1/2 cents a bushel today, July closing at 84 1/2-85c and September at 84 1/2-75c, as the wheat reflected a rally in securities and sharply higher prices at Winnipeg.

After the close private reports indicated export sales amounted to 3,000,000 bushels, mostly to Great Britain.

Closing wheat prices at Winnipeg showed gains of 4-4 3/8 cents from Thursday's finish after a holiday there yesterday. July wheat rose to 72 cents, or about 11 3/8 cents below the corresponding Chicago contract.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 7:30 p.m.