

Is it Love? by MARGARETTA BRUCKER

Chapter 28 Johnny Returns

GINNY opened her eyes wide, then smiled. "Not entirely. Although it's no more to be condemned than marrying for a fine plantation home."

"So that's what people are saying?"

GINNY shrugged. "Why should you care? Toby says that you and I have made up my mind that Toby's a better judge of character than I am. I don't see why he picked me—but then," Ginny decided shrewdly, "Toby likes nice people and I do have family."

"You're leaving one important thing out of this arrangement, aren't you?" asked Sue Ellen quietly.

"You mean love?" Ginny leaned over and patted the hand which was holding her. "I know you married him when he asked you. I know that he'd bought Belle Acres the day we went out there and the sign was down in front of the house, remember? I knew who had started to tear down those tumbledown shacks. I knew long ago that he loved you. I'd rather marry a man who loved me too much than to have too much loving on my side. I'll make Toby happy—see if I don't. And you married a man who wasn't in love with you. Do you know, Sue, that's why I had the courage to marry Toby."

She felt like a cheat. Suppose Ginny had made a mistake and she was responsible. Ginny was wrong; she did love the man she married. It might be days—possibly months—until Johnny would know; he would guess, he must see. But Ginny—could she love plain, clumsy, honest Toby enough to be happy with him?

Ginny ran on and on and then said curiously: "You haven't heard a word. Honey, are you still upset about Riv and Deedora?"

"Why should I be?"

Ginny stared thoughtfully at the carpet. "It must be odd for you to be married to a Yankee."

"A Yankee is no different from any other man."

Ginny pondered this. "Well, a northern girl is certainly no different from one of us. Look at Deedora Waller. She went off the deep end about Riv Moore and now she's in a jam."

"You know?"

"Everyone in Tyler Springs knows. I wonder she came back here. Do you know what I think?"

Ginny rushed on to answer her own question. "I think she's sentimental."

"Deedora?"

Ginny nodded. "All that brusque manner is so much camouflage and underneath she fell for Riv because she's much more romantic than you or me, who have married for a plantation and a grocery."

"Ginny!"

"It's the truth. Deedora came down here with one idea: to marry a handsome southern gentleman to manage the estate her father bought for her. She had a romantic picture of southern life. Stately old home with white columns and magnolias. Riv fitted into the picture, and being engaged to another girl made him more fascinating and desirable. She saw Riv as another Rhett Butler, just as these Camp Shelby soldiers see a Scarlett O'Hara in every pretty girl. Underneath the skin, a Yankee is twice as susceptible as a southerner."

Secret Out

THE conversation might have gone on and on, for Ginny loved to talk and was just warming to her subject, but Aunt Car appeared and settled herself at the window, and with a warning glance, Sue Ellen hinted that they had better change the conversation.

They talked about the newly formed Red Cross unit and whether or not the carpet should be cleaned at the Episcopal Church, and finally Ginny declared she must go. As Sue Ellen followed her out into the hall she whispered: "Don't mention what I told you."

"About Deedora?"

"About me, goose. If mamma should find out my plan, she'd shut me up on bread and water until I came to my senses. And don't forget, you've promised to go over tomorrow afternoon and break the bad news to her."

"I wonder if that news about Deedora is true," said Sue Ellen as she and Ginny moved toward the street door.

"How your mind runs to Deedora Waller. She made plenty of trouble for you."

"If I could do anything to help her..."

Ginny said: "Hal! Help her! Better not offer her any pity, she doesn't hesitate to tell everyone how much she dislikes you."

Sue Ellen stood and watched through the window as Ginny paddled off in the rain, umbrella bobbing, rubbers bright, her red raincoat the one bright spot in the sullen landscape.

When she went back to the library, Aunt Car said: "What's Ginny Fairchild hatching now?"

"Why?"

"Because mischief is written all over her face."

Before she remembered her promise, Sue Ellen said: "She's marrying Toby Tyler tomorrow!"

The Lord bless us and save us. Aunt Car's tapestry fell to her lap. "What's the South coming to, when a Fairchild marries a common crossroads grocer?"

"Waking up," said Sue Ellen briefly. "This generation of southerners is changing its sense of values. We get satisfaction out of clinging to outmoded ideas which were all right for our great-grandfathers. We're emancipated." She smiled, then sobered and added earnestly: "I promised Ginny not to tell her plans. Don't say anything to anyone about it, will you?"

Aunt Car promised. "Ginny know anything else?"

Sue Ellen came across the room and bent and kissed her. "The whole town thinks I married Johnny to get possession of Belle Acres."

"And does that worry you?"

"It isn't true," said Sue Ellen softly. "You know that."

Aunt Car's slender hand caught Sue Ellen's fingers and held them closely. "When are you going to let your husband know that you love him?" she asked, gently.

"When I'm sure that he loves me," was Sue Ellen's answer.

The rain continued throughout the day. About two in the afternoon, Johnny called from Camp Shelby. "I may have to go away for a month," he told Sue Ellen. "I'm coming over this afternoon to wind up the signing of those papers. I want everything to be settled and Belle Acres in your name before I leave. These are uncertain times." His tone was troubled.

"There's no danger that you won't come back?"

"Try to keep me away," said Johnny, and something in his voice made her heartbeat quicken. He would be over about four, he must drive back soon after dinner. Sue Ellen left the telephone to announce that there would be a guest for dinner. "A very important guest," she told Aunt Jennie, whom she found ambulating about the low-ceilinged kitchen. "My husband is coming and I want to have everything just right."

"Funny kind of a husband," muttered Aunt Jennie, who had known Sue Ellen from the day she took her first step and never hesitated to express her opinion on anything which concerned her. "You stay, heah—and he stay theah. Whoever heard of such nonsense."

"That's the modern way," Sue Ellen teased her.

Aunt Jennie tossed her kinky head. "That's what all these triflin' no-account gran'chillun of mine says. I ain' modern." She rolled her eyes. "I ain' nevah heard of a husband that don't want to make love to his wife. It ain' decent—it ain'."

"Maybe things will be different soon," said Sue Ellen demurely. "You must remember that my husband is a soldier."

Aunt Jennie grumbled. "Soldier! What we fightin' foah this time?"

Unasked Guest

AUNT PLEAS' announcement that Riv was downstairs and wanted to see her annoyed Sue Ellen, upset her and made her slightly uneasy. The talk with Riv earlier in the week showed her convinced him that their relations were ended. She had told him flatly that she did not want to see him. Now, he had come again.

"He looks terrible. I think he has been drinking. If you don't care to see him, I'll tell him you're out of resting. I'll make some excuse."

"Then he may rush off and say or do something rash and create a lot of gossip," Sue Ellen was already slipping out of her housecoat and into a dark wool dress. "Tell him I'll be down in a minute and make some excuse to interrupt us if you hear that he is becoming loud and unmanageable."

"I don't think you should see him," Aunt Pleas insisted. "She did not tell her aunt that she was afraid not to see Riv. Always high-tempered and reckless, he might rush off downtown and express his opinion about Johnny Harris and start a new flood of gossip. Once and for all, Riv must understand that he should go about his own business and leave her alone."

When she came downstairs, she found him pacing the hall, staring up the staircase and rushing to meet her before ever she reached the last step. He caught her arm and drew her quickly into the front parlor.

He arose, strode back and forth a minute, his breath coming stammerly, his black eyes flashing. "So you married the man who could give you Belle Acres," he jeered. "I've just come from the bank and learned that you were to have the place for your own while this Yankee soldier goes back east to show off his uniform. What kind of marriage is that?"

"Is that your business, Riv?"

"Yes, it is. You run off to marry me and then turn up in Tyler Springs married to someone else and the whole town is guessing why and imagining all sorts of things."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KGW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland.
KJH (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle.
KNX (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles.
KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver.
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland.
KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle.
KPO (NBC-Red) 680, San Francisco.
KSL (CBS) 1190, Salt Lake City.
Time shown is PST

Wednesday
5:00 p. m.—Adventure Stories, KGO, KEX, KJH; Big Town, KSL; Ken Stevens, KOIN; Line Arden, KGO; Stars of Today, KGO; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO.
5:30 p. m.—Dr. Christian, KSL; News of the World, KGO, KJH, KEX; Swing Trip, KGO; Bill Henry, KNX; Eye of the Storm, KOIN; Waltz Rhythm, KPO.
6:00 p. m.—Star Theater, KSL; Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KGO; Scandination Reporter, KJH; Tonight's Best Buys, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.
6:30 p. m.—Penthouse Party, KGO, KJH, KEX; Concert by Kalash, KPO; Big Town, KNX, KOIN; Highlight Hour, KGO.
7:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch.

KNX, KOIN, KSL; American Melody Hour, KGO, KEX, KJH; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KGO.
7:30 p. m.—Aland of the Headlines, KGO, KJH; Juan Arvizu, KOIN; Romance of the Ranchos, KNX; Modern Music Box, KEX; Clark and Spraggon, KSL.
8:00 p. m.—Quiz Kids, KGO, KEX, KJH; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL, KJH; Point Sublime, KPO, KGW, KGO.
8:15 p. m.—Lanny Ross, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
8:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KGW, KGO; Dr. Christian, KNX, KJH; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJH, KEX; News, KSL.
9:00 p. m.—Time to Smile, KPO, KJH, KEX; Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJH; Fred Allen, KNX, KOIN; Hymn Service, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KGO, KGW; Basin Street Chamber Music, KGO; News, KSL.
10:00 p. m.—Paul Whiteman's Orch., KGO, KEX; Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KGO; News, KNX, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL; Serenade, KJH.
10:30 p. m.—Bill Clifford's Orch., KGO, KJH; John Sullivan, KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Public Affairs, KNX; The World Today, KOIN; Concert Hall, KPO.
11:00 p. m.—Dancing with Glancy, KPO, KGW; Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KOIN, KSL; This 'Morning World, KJH, KEX, News, KGW; Evening Reveries, KGO.

Thursday
5:00 p. m.—Adventure Stories, KGO, KJH, KEX; Death Valley Days, KSL; Jane Arden, KGO; Stars of Today, KGO; Eyes of the World, KOIN; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO.
5:30 p. m.—Duffy's Tavern, KSL; News of the World, KGO, KEX, KJH; Ricardo's Rhapsodies, KPO, KGW, KGO; Tonight's Best Buys, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.
6:00 p. m.—Major Bowe's Amateur Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Bing Crosby, KPO, KGW, KGO; Scandination Reporter, KJH.
6:30 p. m.—Joe Gallicchio's Orch., KGO, KJH, KEX.
7:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Cugat Rumba Revue, KPO, KGO, KGW; Rudy Vallee, KGO, KEX, KJH.
7:30 p. m.—Frank Fay, KPO, KGW, KGO; News Here and Abroad, KGO, KEX, KJH; Who Dunnit, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KGO, KGW; March of Time, KJH, KGO, KEX.
8:15 p. m.—Lum and Abner, KPO, KGW, KGO; Lanny Ross, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:30 p. m.—Maudie's Diary, KNX, KOIN; Saunders of Circle X, KGO, KEX; Panny Brier, KPO, KGO, KGW; News, KSL; Hot Stove League, KJH.
9:00 p. m.—Easy Aces, KGO, KEX.

KJH; Duffy's Tavern, KNX, KOIN; Aldrich Family, KPO, KGO, KGW; Sports, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Freddie Ebner's Orch., KPO, KGW, KGO; Death Valley Days, FNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KJH; Moonlight Sonata, KEX.
10:30 p. m.—America's Town Meeting of the Air, KGO, KJH, KEX; Reporter News, KPO, KGO, KGW; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.
10:30 p. m.—Ed Stoker's Music, KGW; Beld Tanner's Orch., KSL; Masterworks of Music, KNX; The

World Today, KOIN; Industry and Defense, KOIN; Concert Hall, KPO.
11:00 p. m.—Echoings in Brass, KPO, KGW; This Morning World, KJH, KEX; Ken Stevens, KSL, KOIN; News, KNX, KGO; Emmanuel Tabernacle, KGO.

Del Norte Seeks Mineral Survey

Eureka, Cal., Nov. 12.—(P)—Del Norte county supervisors yesterday endorsed a Curry county proposal to obtain a fed-

eral survey of mineral resources in the two counties.
They said, however, that they were not backing a Curry county movement to secede from Oregon. The Curry residents claimed Oregon had neglected its resources.
Trade barriers are impeding the movement of essential defense materials across certain state lines, the department of commerce says.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS



ANTS ARE DUMB!
THE LARGE BLUE BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR ATTRACTS ANTS BY EXUDING HONEY. ALLOWS ITSELF TO BE CARRIED TO THE INSECT'S NEST—THEN EATS THE YOUNG ANTS!

BENNY FIELDS—comedian—
HAS CARRIED THE SAME BAMBOO CANE THROUGH 35,000 PERFORMANCES!

FLOATING COLLEGE!
THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY IS HOUSED IN A SHIP!
The S.S. California...

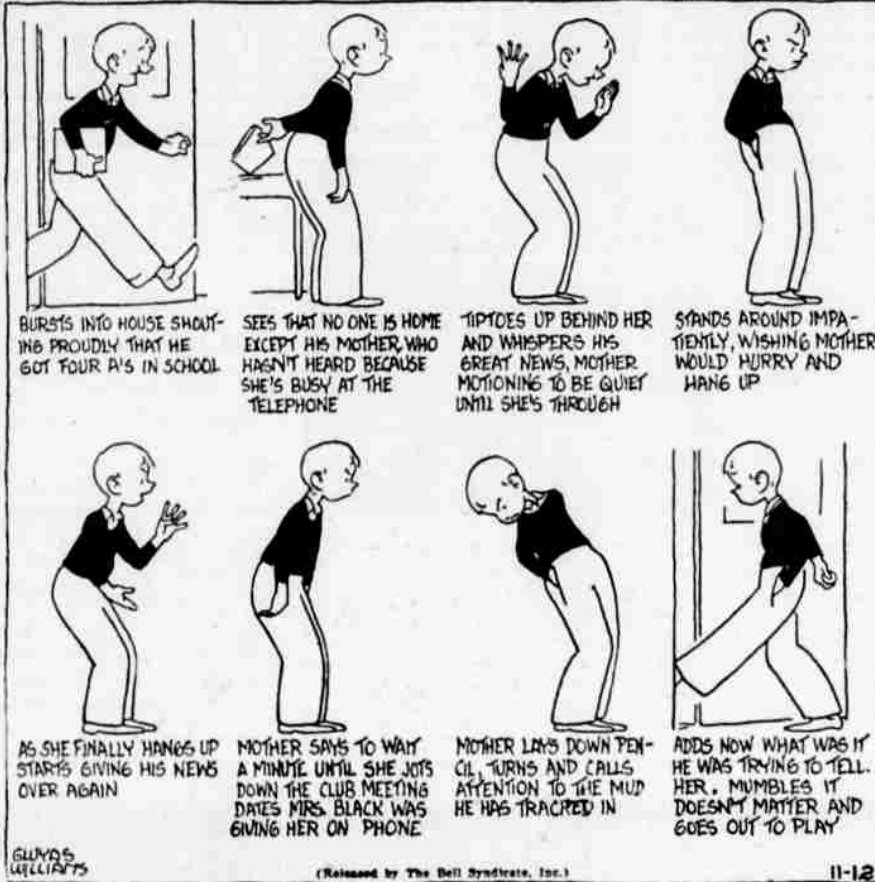


FRANK MILLER—
55-year-old Trick shot expert—
BREAKS AERIAL OBJECTS WITH A SHOTGUN FROM HIS LEFT SHOULDER AND KEEPS A LARGE LARIAT LOOP GOING WHILE STANDING ON A HORSE!
Livermore, Colo...

VETERAN CANE
More than 30 years ago Benny Fields, the "Minstrel Man", bought a little cane in a Chicago store. Since then he has never failed to carry it with him while making an appearance.
SCHOOL AFLOAT
The California Maritime Academy is the only "floating college" in the world, as far as is known, authorized to give a Bachelor of Science Degree and to award honorary Doctor of Laws degrees. Among those who have received its honorary degrees is Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission.
Tomorrow: Lady of the Black Horse!

NEWS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



GLUYAS WILLIAMS

L'L ABNER—Yokum's Last Stand



TAILSPIN TOMMY—An Astounding Development!



THE NEBBES—That's Bad



By HAL FORREST



By SOL HESS



Bomber Crashes Into Army Camp

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 12.—(P)—The still-smoldering wreckage of

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Store for Men

an army dive bomber which crashed into a maneuvers camp last night, killing its pilot and injuring three men, was piled onto a truck today and carted away pending an official inquiry.

The dead pilot was Second Lieut. H. P. Taylor of Mankato, Minn., about 24 years old, and air corps reserve officer attached to the 8th bombardment squadron, 3rd bombardment group, based at Savannah, Ga.

The story goes that when men in the sunken submarine Squallus were waiting for help, they read aloud "On the Bottom," the tale of a submarine rescue.