

SHOW BOAT GIRL By ROBERTA COURTLAND

Chapter Nine
Enter Dolores

IT WAS shortly before noon the following day when Melissa had her first glimpse of the show boat. River Queen she was called, and in the not too far distant past of perhaps twenty years before, she had been in reality a show boat, plying her trade up and down the river, bringing romance and adventure and mystery and excitement and thrilling even if temporary and synthetic, to the dwellers in the small towns and villages along the banks of "Old Al."

Big and freshly white with new paint, broad in the beam, with gay awnings along her upper deck, with the interior all done over, seats removed to make places for small, intimately placed tables and with the stage left untouched, she would have made an old-time show boat captain sick with envy. Tied up at her dock, the yellow river water gently lapping her sides, she looked peaceful and serene, like an old lady napping in the sun.

As Randy ran his car into a garage built in a clump of trees along the bank, Melissa stood at the edge of the tiny dock, her eyes taking in the shining white, the daily striped awnings of the boat.

There were a few people scattered about. Three men in the bow end, their heads bent over a music score. Aft, a tall, slim girl in turquoise blue slacks and a daffodil yellow shirt was fishing over the rail; near her, a young man with thick, tousled red hair, dressed in brown slacks and sleeveless sports shirt, lay in a deck chair, his head sunk over a copy of Variety. Everything was peaceful and serene as Randy led Melissa aboard the River Queen.

The girl in blue slacks and yellow shirt raised her hand in a little salute and said cheerfully, "Hiya, boss?" And then her eyes fell on Melissa and she looked startled and uneasy.

"Alice, this is a new member of the troupe," said Randy cheerfully. "Melissa, this is Alice Jordan and her partner, Hugh. Melissa Marlowe, Hugh and Alice. She sings a little and dances a little and picks a guitar in her spare time. Hugh and Alice are the featured dance team on the show, Melissa."

"Hello," said Alice and Hugh politely, and the startled, uneasy look did not vanish from their eyes.

The three men came forward and were presented as members of the orchestra. They greeted Melissa politely but without marked enthusiasm.

"Hello, darling—I thought I heard the car," said a woman's rich, warm voice as she came out on deck. It was a girl with ash-blond hair, great starty blue eyes, exquisitely smooth white skin and a body that was literally poetry in motion. She wore pajamas, with enormously wide trousers of powder blue splashed with great white polka dots, and tightly fitting sweater-shirt of white with huge blue dots. At sight of Melissa she stopped short, and a startled, almost angry look was suddenly in her eyes.

"Well, angel where did you pick up the little mouse?" she demanded, and now there was the sting of a lash in the voice that had been warm and caressing.

"Dolores, this is Melissa Marlowe, who's joining the floor-show," said Randy, and for all the quietness of his tone there was a note in it that made Dolores look at him sharply. "Melissa, Dolores is prima donna of the show."

"And see you don't forget it, Melissa," said Dolores curtly. "Ace, I want to talk to you."

She turned and went back inside.

"Alice, how about finding Melissa room and helping her make herself at home?" suggested Randy quietly. "Bob, how about a short rehearsal after lunch? Find out what Melissa does best and get her ready to go on tomorrow night."

"Sure, boss," said Bob, the short, dark, wiry-looking, orchestra leader, as Alice, smiling at Melissa, led the way along the deck and down to the living quarters, while one of the orchestra boys followed with Melissa's two bags.

"I guess this will do," said Alice, opening a door and standing aside for Melissa to precede her into a stateroom that was a marvel of compactness, surprisingly comfortable for all its smallness. There was a bunk, puffy-looking, covered with snowy linen; above it, a shelf, and hooks to augment the tiny closet that was made by curtaining off one end of the tiny room. "As soon as you've unpacked and hung your things away, Shorty will store your bags below for you until you want them again," Alice explained, smiling.

She turned toward the door, but Melissa stopped her with a little half shy, half eager gesture.

"Who is that girl—Dolores? She's beautiful, isn't she?" she asked, and, and, and her heart hammering a little.

Alice hesitated, running a hand carefully through her thick, naturally curling black hair, her eyes a little troubled.

"Dolores?" she repeated, and once again her eyes swept over Melissa before she said with an odd sort of wariness, "Oh, Dolores is star of the floor-show. Sure, she's beautiful."

"Is she—she—engaged to Randy?" asked Melissa, because she had to know. It was suddenly the most desperately important thing in the world that she knew.

Alice grinned wickedly and her eyes danced ever so little.

"Randy?" she repeated. "Oh, you mean Ace? Well, now I'm afraid I wouldn't know whether Dolores is engaged to him or not. All I know is—she wants to be head woman in his life and she acts as though he wanted her to be—but as for Ace—well, he's a cool and wary gent. Nobody ever gets on the inside of what Ace thinks."

She had been about to leave the room. Now she seemed to think better of it and curbed her self and in the one chair the tiny cabin held while Melissa took off her hat and opened her smart new suitcases and began unpacking.

On the Radio Chains

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (NBS) 1390, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & NBS) 1210, Spokane; KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco; KGW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland; KJR (NBC-Blue) 1600, Seattle; KSN (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles; KQ (NBC-Red) 850, Denver; KOIN (CBS) 870, Portland; KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle; KPO (NBC-Red) 680, San Francisco; KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PST

Wednesday

8:00 p. m.—Ken Stevens, KOIN; Orchestra Solo, KOMO; Brewster Boy, KSL; Adventure Stories, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO.

8:30 p. m.—News of the World, KEX, KGO, KJR; Dr. Christian, KSL; Bill Henry, KPN; It Happened In the Service, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Eyes of the World, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Eddie Cantor Show, KGO, KOMO, KPO; American Melody Hour, KGO, KEX, KJR; Shirley Temple in Junior Miss, KXN, KOIN, Sports, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Dr. Cab Calloway's Quintette, KGO, KJR, KEX; Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Ransom Sherman Show, KXN, KOIN; 7:00 p. m.—Basil Street Chamber

Music, KGO, KEX, KJR; Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KSL, KOIN; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

7:30 p. m.—Morgan Beatty, KGO, KJR; Faithful Stradivari, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—Quiz Kids, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Point Sublime, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

8:15 p. m.—Lanny Ross, KXN, KSL, KOIN.

8:30 p. m.—Dr. Christian, KXN, KOIN; Uncle Walter's Dog House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX, News, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News, Freddie Ederer's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR; That Brewster Boy, KXN, KOIN; Hyman Service, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Joe Davidson's Orch., KGO; Woody Herman's Orch., KOIN, KXN; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KJR, KSL, KEX, KGO, KOMO; Phil Harris' Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; News, KXN, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:00 p. m.—Claude Thornhill's Orch., KGO, KOMO; Howard Becker's Orch., KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; Serenade, KJR; Masterworks of Music, KXN; War Time Women, KOIN; Concert Hall, KPO.

11:00 p. m.—Bill Clifford's Orch., KPO, KGW; Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KXN, KSL; This Moving World, KJR.

KEX, News, KXN, KGO, Evening Reverses, KOMO.

Thursday

8:00 p. m.—Adventure Stories, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO; Death Valley Days, KSL; Adventures of Toyland, KEX; Eyes of the World, KOIN; Dance Orch., KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—People's Platform, KSL; Star Spangled Melodies, KPO; Bill Henry, KOIN; Student Theater, KGO; Afternoon Danes, KXN; Streamlined Fairy Tales, KOMO; News of the World, KEX, KGO, KJR.

9:00 p. m.—Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Music Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Secret City, KEX; Voice of Victory, KGO; Old Times, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Big Town, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Blue Horizon, KGO, KEX, KOIN; Arm Chair Cruises, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—Al Pearce's Gang, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Rudy Vallee, KGO, KEX, KJR; Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KOIN, KSL.

7:30 p. m.—Red Ryder, KGO, KJR, KEX; Frank Fay, KPO, KOMO, KGW; 8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Music by Bovero, KJR, KGO, KEX.

8:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KXN, KOIN; Coffee Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Your Blind Date, KGO, KJR; News, KSL; Flowers for the Living, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—Easy Aces, KGO, KEX.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

WILLIAM WILLIAMS



WITH BOTH HANDS PRECARIOUSLY OCCUPIED YOU FEEL A MOMENTOUS SNEEZE COMING ON

GLUYAS WILLIAMS

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent

That's the Question

Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

A SHORT-WAVE RADIO STATION NEAR BERLIN—THAT TENSE, SILENT, SPLIT SECOND BEFORE—



LIL ABNER—Journey's End

PEOPLE OF AMERICA—I AM SPEAKING TO YOU!



NO! NO! NO! OH, NOW AMOOZIN' YO! LIL TRICKS IS STRANGER!



THE NEBBES—Clothes Make the Man—Madi

AND, NOW, DEAR FRIENDS, I WILL SHOW YOU MY LAST AND MOST MYSTIFYING TRICK—



HEY, EMBERT! I HAVE TO GO TO WASHINGTON AGAIN TO GET OUR CONTRACT SIGNED



WHAT DO I CARE! YOU'RE AS MUCH USE TO ME HERE AS A BUSTED TEST TUBE



I AM GOING TO ASK YOU JUST ONE QUESTION—



WHERE IS YOUR SECRETARY OF AVIATION??



PERHAPS YOU CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, YOKUMS—I AM JEB SCRAGG!!



NEW DRESSES? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, WEAR TWO AT A TIME? YOUR CLOTHES CLOSET'S SO FULL NOW YOU CAN'T SHUT THE DOOR WITHOUT USING A BATTERING RAM!



Pendleton Airport Housing Bids Eyed

Portland, Ore., March 18.—(P)—Kloepfer & Cahoon of Boise and J. W. Brennan of

• SHOP AT NIGHT

Barker's are open until 8 o'clock EVERY night.

Barker's
Store for Men

Pocatello were low with a joint bid for several troop housing facilities at the Pendleton army airport, Col. C. R. Moore of the U. S. army engineers, announced today.

Frank Lohse of Portland submitted low bid on another section of the general enlarging job.

Censorship forbids disclosure of amount of bids, details of the construction and date of completion, Col. Moore said.

NEW COMET

Helsinki, Finland, March 18.—(P)—Torku university announced today the discovery of a new comet March 11 by Prof. Kalle Vaisala. A star of the thirteenth dimension, the comet has been given the name of "1942 C-Comet Vaisala."

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



Cecil Rhodes, GREAT SOUTH AFRICAN PIONEER, NEVER LIT A CIGARET WITH A MATCH!



HE WOULD OFFER ONE TO A FRIEND, THEN GET A LIGHT FROM THE FRIEND'S CIGARET!

A SHOE BOX WAS THE FIRST "POST OFFICE" IN EL RENO, OKLAHOMA! 1889...

DEATH ROAD
A Yuma, Ariz., newspaper last August carried a story announcing the deaths of seven more travelers on the notorious "El Camino Del Diablo," the Devil's Highway. Their truck had become stalled in the soft sand and all perished from heat and thirst before their plight became known. Early Spanish missionaries were the first white people to traverse the dread trail, and since then it is probable that uncounted hundreds of gold seekers and adventurers have left their bones to disintegrate into the desert dust. Today the trip is as desperate an undertaking as ever—if your car should become stalled!

DEVIL'S HIGHWAY...

A DESOLATE ROAD IN THE ARIZONA DESERT ON WHICH OVER 400 PERSONS HAVE DIED OF THIRST... 7! THE TEMPERATURE OFTEN REACHES 160°!

65 GRAVES CAN BE COUNTED ON A SHORT RIDE... NEAR THE ROAD EARLY SPANARDS FOUND A NUGGET OF PURE SILVER WEIGHING OVER A TON!

TOMORROW-LOVERS' LIGHT!