

SHOW BOAT GIRL

By ROBERTA COURTLAND

Chapter 13 The Kiss

JIMMY was coming back to them now, and with him was Randy. Melissa's heart gave a little startled leap at sight of Randy. Was it true, what Dolores had said? Randy looked a little worried—or was he tired?

Reaching the table, he smiled down at Melissa and said lightly, "Have we time for a dance? Or are you already tired out with dancing with Jimmy here?"

"I'm not tired—I love to dance with you," said Melissa, and even as she rose she caught the warning look on Dolores' face. Randy put his arms about Melissa as the music began and Melissa's heart climbed right up into her throat and hung there. Randy's arms about her, Randy's heart beating against her own—oh, but this was Heaven! This was madness—but this was Paradise, too!

Randy grinned down at her and said lightly, "Having fun?"

"Lots of fun," answered Melissa steadily; and then, curiously, she asked, "Is everything all right on the show boat, Randy? You're not—well, worried about anything?"

Randy looked down at her, puzzled by her question. "Well, I'm not exactly worried. Of course, getting a place like the River Queen established, to where it is making money, paying a return on investments takes a little time. It's hard to convince a business man like Marston that you can struggle along for weeks, months even, not more than making expenses, breaking even—and that then the place may suddenly begin to pay off."

"Oh," said Melissa in an odd, tight little voice.

"What do you mean—oh?" demanded Randy, laughing.

"Just 'oh,'" answered Melissa, and added lightly, "Jimmy's awfully nice, isn't he? I like him a lot. I rather expect I'll be seeing a whole lot of him later on."

Randy's arms tightened about her ever so little, as though that had unpleasantly startled him. He stared down at her, puzzled, frowning a little. "Now what the devil do you mean by that?" he demanded straightly. "First you want to know how things are at the show boat, and then you're going to see a lot of Jimmy Marston. The two facts wouldn't be related, would they? I mean you haven't any crazy ideas about—well, about 'wanna-be' Junior in order to make Senior happy, have you?"

He had come so close to the truth that Melissa was startled. Because she knew her expression might easily betray her, she tucked her head so that her face was hidden against Randy's shoulder, and the gay little laugh she managed was fairly convincing.

"Still! What a crazy idea! I don't believe that Senior would be pleased if Junior started making a fuss over a show boat girl, do you?" she answered carelessly.

"Jimmy's not pretty much what he wants. His parents are crazy about him. But I thought you didn't like the guy."

Hard Job

"That was silly of me, wasn't it?" She had better control of her expression and of her voice now, so she dared to let him see her face, upon which she had pinned a gay, brave little smile. "I didn't even know him, but now that I have been with him awhile and see how nice he is—well, I like him a lot! And that, of course, was true, for Jimmy could be charming when he wanted to be."

Randy nodded, and she saw his jaw harden, his mouth tighten a little. But just then the music ended and in the general confusion of dancers returning to their tables there was no further chance for private conversation.

When they reached their table Randy said curiously, "Sorry, girl, but I'm afraid we'll have to be starting back. It's getting late."

Dolores and Melissa gathered up their gloves and bags as Jimmy said eagerly, "Look, Ace, you've only got a roadster and there are three of you. Why don't you let me drive Melissa back—that is, if Melissa doesn't mind?"

"Mind?" said Melissa, easily quite aware of Dolores' eyes upon her even though she would not meet them. "I think that sounds like grand fun. I'd love it."

Randy said grimly, "Then that leaves me nothing to say, does it? Don't be late for the first show, Melissa. Ready, Dolores?"

And he turned away as though he had no interest whatever in the matter, his hand beneath Dolores' elbow, guiding her swiftly and surely through the chattering crowd.

"This is swell!" said Jimmy happily a little later, as he tucked Melissa into his expensive, low-slung gray and silver coupe. "I haven't been able to get you out

of my mind since the other night when I heard you sing."

Melissa laughed, although she had never felt less like laughing. "Was I as bad as all that?" she murmured lightly.

"That's shameless fishing for compliments, of course," Jimmy stated firmly as he put the car in motion. "You know you weren't bad at all—you were glorious. There's something about your voice that sort of gets a fellow—makes chills run up and down his spine—but I love it."

"That's probably the microphone," said Melissa wisely. "Without it, you can't hear me beyond the first row of tables."

Jimmy said unexpectedly, "How the dickens did a girl like you ever start singing on a show boat, anyway?"

And so she told him something of the point of life in the ancient cabin with Gran; of meeting Randy and of her journey to New Orleans when Gran's death left her alone.

"I knew you were something extra special," said Jimmy when she had finished. "Though I never dreamed you were quite that extra special. Wonder why Ace hasn't had you written up in the New Orleans papers. There must be a lot of people who never heard of Mississippi lamp-light—none of them would suspect that a scrap of a kid like you could be one. I have to tip off a couple of guys I know who work for the local rag."

"But maybe Randy wouldn't like that," protested Melissa uneasily.

Jimmy said almost grimly, "Randy, as you call him, ought to be tickled to death with anything that would improve business on the River Queen."

The Slip

Startled, Melissa asked, "Is it as bad as all that?"

"What a sucker you are for jumping at conclusions," said Jimmy teasingly. "No, business isn't bad at the River Queen. It's improving a little—picking up steadily. Everybody connected with the financing is tickled to death. But still, an increase in business due to some well-placed publicity about you, my child, wouldn't be hard to take at all."

"Oh," said Melissa, and relaxed a little. The sharp relief in her tone made Jimmy look at her a trifle curiously.

"Say, you really care about this career of yours, don't you?" he said, obviously a little surprised.

"It's not exactly the career, if you could call what I'm doing a career," answered Melissa quite honestly. "It's just that—well, Randy's been so good to me that I like to know things are going well with him."

Jimmy shot her a straight, level, almost stern glance.

"It wouldn't be, maybe, that you're in love with him!" he asked bluntly.

Melissa set her teeth hard for a moment to steady her voice before she answered as coolly as she could. "Of course not."

"That's good," said Jimmy in frank relief. "Because he's no sort of guy for you, you know. My lamb, Ace is a lone wolf—he's wary about women. And being the swell guy he is, he'd probably be the first one to tell you that."

The road curved sharply and a fork led off away from the river. Taking the main road which would carry them to the River Queen, Jimmy indicated the narrow fork-road and said, "That's our place down there—Enderle Plantation. I'd like to show it to you some day."

"I'd like it, too," said Melissa politely.

Jimmy cocked an eyebrow at her and grinned.

"My, what nice manners you have, Miss Melissa Marlowe," he teased her lightly. "I think that's probably one of the things I like best about you—the rest being your beautiful hair and your lovely eyes and that pretty little nose of yours and the chin that says you can be a stubborn little rascal when you want to be—and your mouth—your lovely, lovely mouth—Oh, Melissa, my dear—"

He had brought the car to a halt even while he talked and now his arms were about her and he was holding her very close and hard against him and his mouth had found and taken her own.

Melissa was too startled for a moment to struggle, to protest; and before she could regain her scattered faculties a car behind them honked impatiently, demanding right of passage. When it came abreast of them Melissa saw, her heart sinking in her breast, that it was Randy's car. Randy could not have helped seeing that Jimmy was kissing her. She caught her breath on a little sob, and before she could control the impulse she raised her hand and slapped Jimmy as hard as she could.

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1310
Spokane: KGO (NBC-Blue) 810
San Francisco: KGW (NBC-Red) 830, Portland
KJR (NBC-Blue) 1070
Los Angeles: KOA (NBC-Red) 830
Denver: KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland
Seattle: KPO (NBC-Red) 950
San Francisco: KSL (CBS) 1160
Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PST

Monday

8:00 p. m.—Adventure Stories, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO; Floyd Wright, KOMO; Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN, KNX.

9:30 p. m.—Voice of Richard Crooks, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Harry W. Plummer, KNX; News, KOIN; Voice of Yesterday, KSL; News of the World, KEX, KJR, KGO.

10:00 p. m.—Radio Theater, KNX, KOIN, KSL, Dr. I. Q. Jim McClain, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Secret City, KEX; Voice of Victory, KGO; Old Times, KJR.

11:30 p. m.—For America We Sing, KGO, KEX, KJR; Songs of Men, KPO, KGW, Talk, KOMO.

12:30 p. m.—Fredy Martin's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Monday Merry-

Go-Round, KGO, KEX, KJR; Contested Hour, KPO, KGW, KOMO. 7:30 p. m.—Blondie, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Cavalcade of America, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Jimmie Fidler, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Edward Tomlinson, KGO, KEX; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Musical, KJR.

8:15 p. m.—Irene Rich, KGO, KEX, KJR; Lanny Ross, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Lu mand Abner, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

8:30 p. m.—I Love a Mystery, KGO, KEX, KJR; Hawthorne House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Gay Nineties, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, KPO, KGW, KOMO; True or False, KGO, KEX, KJR; I Was There, KNX, KOIN; Excursions in Science, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Paul Martin's Music, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Hollywood Show-case, KNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KJR, KEX; Let There Be Music, KGO.

10:00 p. m.—Phil Harris' Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Masterworks of Music, KSL; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Ed Stoker's Music, KOMO; Claude Thornhill's Orch., KPO; Alvino Rey's Orch., KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; Masterworks of Music, KNX; War Time Women, KOIN; Concert Hall, KPO.

11:00 p. m.—Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KSL, KOIN; Ran Wilde's Orch., KPO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX, KSL, KOIN.

Tuesday

8:00 p. m.—Are You a Missing Hair, KSL; News, KOIN; Musical Portraits, KOMO; 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; Bob Burns Show, KSL; Horace Heidt's Treasure Chest, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Bill Henry, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Burns and Allen, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Duffy's Tavern, KSL; Secret City, KEX; Voice of Victory, KGO; Dance Time, KJR; Second Husband, KNX; What's the Answer, KOIN.

9:30 p. m.—Fibber McGee and Molly, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Symphony Concert, KGO, KEX, KJR; Report to the Nation, KNX, KOIN.

10:00 p. m.—Bob Hope Variety Show, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Leon P. Drews, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Red Skelton, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Red Ryder, "GO, KJR, KEX; Vox Pop, KOIN; Second Husband, KSL.

11:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Three Ring Time, KGO, KJR; Fred Waring in Pleasure Time, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Studio Program, KEX.

11:15 p. m.—Lum and Abner, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Lanny Ross, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

11:30 p. m.—Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Are You a Missing Hair, KOIN, KNX; Johnny Presents, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Duffy's Tavern, KNX, KOIN; Easy Aces, KGO, KJR, KEX; Adventure of the Thin Man, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

9:30 p. m.—Don Bestor's Orch., KGO, KJR; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Bob Burns, KNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KEX.

10:00 p. m.—Cugat Rumba Revue, KGO, KEX, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Masterworks of Music, KSL; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Stan Kenton's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Are You a Missing Hair, KOIN, KNX; Johnny Presents, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KSL.

Wednesday

8:00 p. m.—Are You a Missing Hair, KSL; News, KOIN; Musical Portraits, KOMO; 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; Bob Burns Show, KSL; Horace Heidt's Treasure Chest, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Bill Henry, KOIN.

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11:30 p. m.—Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Are You a Missing Hair, KOIN, KNX; Johnny Presents, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KSL.

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11:30 p. m.—Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Are You a Missing Hair, KOIN, KNX; Johnny Presents, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KSL.

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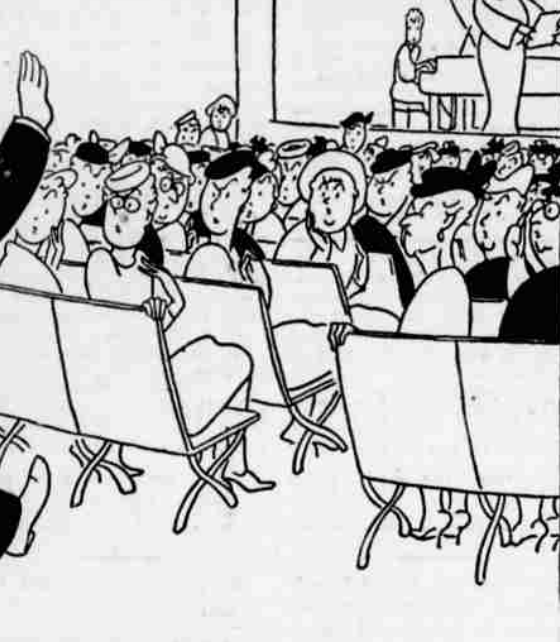
By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



IT WILL TAKE FRED PERLEY SOME TIME TO LIVE DOWN THE MISTAKE HE MADE WHEN, WORKING ON THE BOOKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY CLUB, HE BROKE UP THE WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING IN THE NEXT ROOM BECAUSE HE MISTOOK THEIR SOLOIST FOR THE AIR RAID SIREN

War of Words

By HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent



LIT ABNER—Nothing But Bullets!

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



MURAT—
FRENCH GENERAL UNDER NAPOLEON, ORDERED THE DEATH OF THOUSANDS, YET SHRANK FROM PERSONALLY KILLING ANYONE! HE NEVER DREW HIS DIAMOND-HILTED SWORD, AND ONCE CARRIED OUT A MOCK EXECUTION WITH BLANK CARTRIDGES—AFTERWARDS AIDING THE VICTIMS TO ESCAPE, BUT WAS HIMSELF LATER EXECUTED BY A FIRING SQUAD!

TOMORROW—
KNOCKED OUT 5 TIMES IN ONE ROUND!

DEVELOPING DE-ICERS

FOR PLANES, BRITISH PILOTS FLEW IN ICE-FORMING CONDITIONS UNTIL THEIR PLANES WERE "SEALED" WITH ICE...THEY COULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED HAD ANYTHING GONE WRONG!



Joachim Murat was one of Napoleon's greatest generals, being given command of a division in 1799. He married Napoleon's youngest sister and in 1804 became governor of Paris. He followed his chief to Egypt and later contributed to the French triumph at the battle of Austerlitz. Made king of Naples by Napoleon, he tried to win back this post after the emperor's downfall. Though he had once saved several victims from a firing squad, he himself did not fare so well. In 1815 he was tried for conspiracy and shot!

The Grange

Central Point Grange

Home Economics club of Central Point Grange will meet at the home of Margaret Hampton, Wednesday, March 25, at 1 p. m. Mrs. Lathrop is in charge of program.

Upper Rogue Grange

Upper Rogue Grange met March 19 with Master Herb

• SHOP AT NIGHT

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

Barker's

Store for Men

Carlton in the chair. Next meeting, April 2, will be the birthday supper honoring all members who had birthdays during the last quarter. Each member is asked to bring a covered dish. Supper will be served at 7:30.

Roy Vaughn reported on roads and agriculture. Mrs. Helen Axtell on H. E. club and Emma Beddingford on sales slips. Miss Mary Ann Brill gave a reading. Small attendance was due to prevalent illness.

H. E. club met March 17 with the chairman, Mrs. Axtell, presiding. Miss Ruth Axtell of Bozeman, Mont., was a visitor. Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Axtell and Mrs. Ritchey are on the committee to see about getting more chairs for the hall. A public dinner will be put on in the near future. It was also decided to invite Pomona Grange to dinner in April.

The largest towel factory in the world is at Kannapolis, N. C.

THE NEBBES—A Bed of Pain

By HESS



WHAT A BED!

MY MIND SAYS, 'GET UP' BUT MY MUSCLES ARE TOTALLY UNABLE TO RESPOND

DON'T SAY YOU

DIDN'T SLEEP—YOUR SNORES WOULD DROWN OUT AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY

WE HAVE A BIG

DAY AHEAD, BUT MY FORTITUDE NEEDS A RETREADING JOB

MAYBE A GOOD

BREAKFAST WILL HELP IF WE GET IT

WE'LL DRIVE INTO

THE CITY YOU CAN GO SIGHT-SEEING WHILE I SEE COL. LUNDEEN

AFTER A NIGHT IN

THIS CORNCRIB, THE SIGHT IS LIKE TO SEE MOST IS MY OWN BED