

Lady DOCTOR

by PEGGY GADDIS

Meredith Blake, brought up by her grandfather, Dr. Jonathan Blake, in the small Southern town of River Gap, has been away for some time studying to be a doctor, and has just finished her internship. Jonathan has been looking forward to the day when she would come home to help him in his practice, but Meredith, unaware of his plans for her, has accepted a post as assistant to young Dr. Evan Farley, whom she met during her internship and to whom she has become engaged. Accompanied by Evan, who is on his way to a new position, she arrives home to spend a vacation with Jonathan, her 18-year-old sister Rosalie and her aunt, Matilda. Jonathan's sister and housekeeper, Jonathan meets her at the train, but has to hurry away on a call. She receives her first inkling of his plans for her when she and Evan reach the house and see a sign bearing her name outside Jonathan's office. She's dismayed by the thought that he may expect her to stay in River Gap, but she decides the sign must be a little joke.

CHAPTER IV

WHEN Meredith had finished tidying herself, she and Rosalie went back downstairs. As Evan had not yet come down, she went into the big,



"Your grandfather has fastened all his hopes on you—has seen you as his successor here in River Gap."

old-fashioned kitchen, where the colored cook, Jennie, who had been with the family for years, was busily preparing supper.

Jennie greeted her with delight. "Miss Merry! Child, I sure is glad you's home again. I been missin' you bad!"

Meredith answered gaily. "I've been missing you, too, Jennie. If you could see what the diet kitchen at the hospital calls a chicken potpie, you'd burst into tears."

A broad grin spread over the

ing at her queerly. Matilda followed her out of the room into the back hall.

"What did you mean, Merry—saying you would be here only two weeks?" Matilda asked anxiously.

"Just that, Matilda, dear. I've two weeks vacation before becoming Evan's assistant in a new hospital at Midland City," answered Meredith, her voice quickening with eagerness. "I didn't write you because I wanted to talk it over with you and Jonathan when I came home. It's a perfectly marvelous chance, and—"

"Jonathan's got his heart set on

hour" for the opening of a second front because of the necessity of gathering information about enemy dispositions.

The Germans also reported an "unsuccessful" British-French commando raid on the French Channel coast Sunday.

The American invasion exercises were regarded as probably the most realistic and extensive ever conducted by the U. S. army.

Whole Towns Used

Whole towns have been evacuated and wide stretches of the countryside cleared of everything, including livestock, to prepare a practical no-man's land. Reaches bristle with pillboxes, like those across the English Channel.

The course lasts three weeks, but when it is over the men are ready for "D" day and "H" hour.

Capt. Ludwig Sertorius, military correspondent for the German Transocean agency, said reconnaissance and intelligence have reported "military movements" in England that can be interpreted "as signs that invasion is relatively near."

PRESSURE COOKER RESTRICTIONS OFF

Washington, Dec. 30.—(U.P.)—Pressure cookers today were removed from all rationing restrictions by the War Food Administration, but purchasers will be required to specify that they intend to use them for preservation of food only and not for sterilization of utensils.

A WPA spokesman said the supply of pressure cookers now is "plentiful" in all parts of the

your staying here and working with him, Merry." Matilda cut in. "Oh, but, Matilda, that's nonsense!" Meredith protested. "Why what in the world would I do in a little place like this?"

"What Jonathan has been doing for over forty years—treating the sick," answered Matilda, her voice now harsh. "It's what doctors are supposed to do. Isn't it?"

Meredith stared at her. "Why, Matilda, you—do you think I should stay—don't you?"

"That's a thing for you to decide," said Matilda, almost coldly. "But before you decide, remember all that Jonathan has done for you—the way he saved and scrimped and denied himself to put you through college and carry you this past year when you were an intern—"

"But I can pay him back by being Evan's assistant. I'll have a good salary and—"

Matilda said grimly. "You'd pay him back—with money?"

"Well, yes, of course. How else?" Meredith was bewildered by her aunt's sudden antagonism.

"YOU can't pay back with money," what Jonathan's done for you, Meredith, I am surprised you're fool enough to think you could," said Matilda scathingly. "Ever since you were a child, he's fastened all his hopes on you. He has seen you as his successor here in River Gap. He's held on these last two or three years and managed somehow to send you the money you have needed, because he felt so sure that you would take up here when he has to leave off."

"He's an old man, Merry. Jonathan's nearly seventy, you know! And this last year he has driven himself hard, and when I've tried to make him take care of himself, he has always laughed and said, 'Don't you worry about me, Matilda. I can hold on until Merry's ready to take over! She'll be back soon and I've got to keep things going for her. Not many young doctors can step into an old established practice like the one I've built up for Merry.'"

"But I don't want him—I didn't ask him—to do that," protested Meredith.

Matilda studied her for a long moment.

"No, I suppose you didn't," she agreed curtly. "Well, you'll have to decide for yourself. Only don't tell him tonight. Let him have a little happiness out of your homecoming before you blast all his hopes and plans. Just tell him alone for tonight."

Without waiting for Meredith to answer, Matilda went swiftly down the hall and disappeared into the dining room.

MEREDITH remained standing there, her thoughts a dismayed jumble. She definitely wanted no part of River Gap, nor of the country practice that her grandfather had built up.

Delivering the Hastings' annual spring baby: sewing up the cut hand of a saw-mill employee; setting a small boy's broken arm when he fell from the barn loft where he had had no business being in the first place; trying with tact and patience to convince farm-women that collard-kreens and salt cures were not the best diet for babies. All the drudgery and too-often thankless business of being a country doctor.

Her whole spirit rose up in rebellion. Was it for this that she had worked so hard to make herself capable of being Evan's assistant? Evan, who had great plans for her in the excellently established and well-endowed Harbor Memorial Hospital in Midland City? She couldn't give up all that, just to stay here and roll pills and dole out castor oil and do the sort of simple surgery that any first-year nurse could perform in a pinch.

(To be continued)
The characters in this serial are fictitious.

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On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the list:
KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane
KQIO (NBC-Blue) 1510, San Francisco
KJW (NBC-Red) 1230, Portland
KJH (NBC-Red) 1930, 1000, Seattle
KNA (NBC-Red) 1930, Los Angeles
KOA (NBC-Red) 1230, Denver
KQIN (CBS) 970, Portland
KOMO (NBC-Red) 1530, Seattle
KPO (NBC-Red) 880, San Francisco
KSL (CBS) 1180, Salt Lake City

Time shown is PWT

Thursday
6:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN. Galen Drake, CBS.
6:15 p. m.—Dick Tracy, BN. Superman, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Jack Armstrong, BN. Harry Flannery, CBS.
6:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC. Capt. Midnight, BN. Norman Nesbitt, MBS.

6:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, CBS.
7:00 p. m.—Musical Hall, NBC. Major Bowes, CBS. Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
7:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Bob Burns, NBC. Spotlight Bands, BN. Dinah Shore, CBS. Hour of Song, MBS.
7:45 p. m.—Harry Wimmer, sports, BN.

7:00 p. m.—Abbott and Costello, NBC. Raymond Gram Swing, BN. The First Line, CBS. Raymond Clapper, MBS.
7:15 p. m.—Pulitzer Outlets, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—March of Time, NBC. Red Ryder, BN. Here's to Romance, CBS.

7:45 p. m.—Bernie Cummins, Orch., MBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC. I Love a Mystery, CBS. Paul Nielson, news, BN.

8:15 p. m.—Night Editor, NBC. Lum and Abner, BN. Harry James, Orch., CBS. Swinging Hall, MBS.
8:30 p. m.—Coffee Time, NBC. Death Valley Days, CBS. Human Adventure, MBS.

8:45 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsh, CBS. 9:00 p. m.—The Aldrich Family, NBC. News, MBS. Inspector Hawks and Son, BN.

9:30 p. m.—Elery Queen Mystery, NBC. Major of the Town, CBS.
9:45 p. m.—Art Baker, BN. Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.

10:00 p. m.—News Flashes, NBC. Town Meeting, BN.

10:30 p. m.—Chase About Dogs, CBS.

10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC. Russ Smith, Orch., MBS.

11:00 p. m.—This Moving World, BN. Henry Bussor, Orch., CBS. Hotel Biltmore, Orch., NBC. Yankee House Party, MBS.

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5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Waltie, NBC. Three Rascals, BN. Gabriel Heatter, MBS.

6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—People Are Funny, NBC. Spotlight Bands, BN. That Brewer Boy, CBS. Double or Nothing, MBS.
6:45 p. m.—News, BN.

7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, NBC. Durante and Moore, CBS. John Gun-

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