

She "Canned" Her Way to College

At Eleven Years of Age She was "Mother" to Her Five Smaller Brothers and Sisters, but She and Her Dad Kept the Bunch in School, and this Year She Graduated from Tuskegee.

I was born in 1909 in the little town of Boley, Oklahoma.

Our family included, mother, father, and five children younger than I.

We were very poor in those days, but my parents were determined that all of us should get an education. When I was eleven, however, my mother left us and it seemed that I should have to stop school and stay home with the two little girls then two and four years old, respectively. My father talked it over with me and he did not see his way clear to employ a housekeeper.

I stayed out of school several days,

then it occurred to me that my teacher, who was such an understanding woman, might let the children come to school with me. She consented, and for two years the six of us trudged along together, except in bad or very cold weather, when I was compelled to stay at home with the little ones.

These days were not easy for I lived in horror of being left back in my classes. But, again my teacher seemed to understand. She allowed me to do my assignments at home and send them by other children and when I returned to school I stayed in at recess time and prepared lessons which I had missed.

My next great ambition after being able to go to school was to join the 4-H Club. I looked almost with envy upon those girls who could go to their club meetings, make dresses, can fruits and sometimes go away to conferences and fairs. But at last the chance came. My father married again. My stepmother lightened my work considerably and I was able to become a 4-H Club girl.

My father told me again that he was afraid he was not able to keep six of us in school and that I might have to work. But I had already learned that efficiency in club pro-



BEULAH WILLIAMS
In one season she canned over 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables

jects sometimes earned cash prizes as well as free trips, and I was determined to try for them.

As luck would have it, I won two second prizes on my sewing and canning projects at the County and State fairs that year. The amount was \$35, and this went a long way in buying my clothes and books for that school year.

This gave me confidence and courage and for two successive years I won first prizes, thereby giving myself a sufficient sum to defray all expenses and to keep myself in high school until I finished.

In December of my senior year in high school something wonderful happened. In addition to cash, I won a free trip to Tuskegee. I think I shall never be so thrilled again. I met great groups of club girls and boys from all over the South. Each one told of what he was going to do and how he had earned money through club projects. So it became my next ambition to go to Tuskegee to school. How could it be done? How could I get money for my expenses? I went back home determined that somehow I would find a way.

The previous summer, my father had given me a canner and a sealer and I ventured to bargain with a truck farmer to can the vegetables and fruits for him which he could not sell. I worked all summer at the job, canning over six hundred (600) quarts and I made more than \$100. But this was not enough to keep me in Tuskegee for even a quarter. I decided to wait until December, when the 4-H Club should again meet at Tuskegee. In the meantime I sewed, worked, did everything I could to make an honest

"3 WIVES"

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR
KAYNE fears to his assistance that CLIFFORD is to occupy adjoining offices. JOYCE invites MR. HARGREAVE and his young wife, CLEO, to dinner; the latter makes love to KAYNE, but is ignored. LRS. LI and CLIFFORD engage in an argument over AILEEN just as JOYCE appears in the doorway.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

By RALPH MATTHEWS
PART V

"So my suspicions were correct, Mr. Kayne," flashed Joyce strolling into the room. "I thought that your ravings over that sweet-faced secretary of yours was actuated by more than her business ability. You are fired young woman," she said coldly to Aileen, who, drawn by the excitement was standing hesitantly on the sill of the door.

"What right have you to discharge me?" demanded Aileen, placing her hands on her hips. "Mr. Kayne hired me."

"Well, Mr. Kayne has proved his inability to conduct his own office, and I shall make certain changes in it. The first will be to rid it of a de-

dollar. When I bade my family and friends goodbye and started to Tuskegee in December, 1928, I think I was the happiest girl in the world. I entered the freshman class and was able to pay my expenses to the end of the school year.

The school was good enough to find work for me the following summer and, in fact, each year and summer thereafter. This is a favor which I shall never forget.

I am finishing college this month without any material debt to the school or my family. I feel that I am deeply indebted to the 4-H Club for my inspiration and courage. If it were not for this great institution, no doubt my high school education would be incomplete. The 4-H Club has been a stepping stone for me all along the way.

signing young woman who plays on his sympathy and dependence, to wreck his home."

"It's married women like you," snapped Aileen, "who are keeping girls like me out of the school system now. You have a husband to support you and yet you hang on to your job that rightly belongs to us. You're not satisfied of robbing me of that job, but with infernal jealousy you are trying to steal the few dollars I make here. Well, it's hardly enough

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The Woman's Tonic

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