

Glider Girl

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CHALLENGE

CHAPTER XIX
The free barbecue dinner held the crowd at Sky Harbor until 9 p. m., also held Jimmy Carr and his passenger there. But the reception committee had thoughtfully arranged no night program. This would give the flyers a chance to rest.

As soon as he could manage it, Jimmy slipped away from the bigwigs and celebrities and went to speak with Loraine. Ed Bryan had stayed near her, on guard. "I can tell you are furious, Loraine," Jimmy began, earnestly. "But I want to talk to you. I can explain everything."

"Somebody'd better!" she gritted out. "I wouldn't say much without thinking, Miss Stuart," Ed Bryan said, in definite warning again. "Now or any other time. There's plumb strict laws about flashing around guns and fake Army orders. So long, Captain. I'll be seeing you at the hotel tonight."

When he had gone, Jimmy drove straight to the point.

"This had to happen," he told the girl. "You must see it in the right way, Loraine. You simply must!"

"That—that Bryan—he pulled me out of the sailplane, and—"

"I know he did. And I know he brought Patricia Friday out here. In fact I ordered him to. Loraine, I wanted Pat put back as the passenger. You remember how I kept you hidden at the take-off in Chicago? Wouldn't let news photographers on the field? That was done on purpose."

"But why?"

"Because it had to be! There's too much at stake. Colonel Furedy, the Army—they're banking on this sailplane trip! Coast to coast. Mountains of publicity. It's a real chance to tell us what the U. S. A. And we can't afford to let any kind of mixup spoil it. We want it to go off smoothly. And by George it will! Do you understand?"

"She didn't answer him. Her lips were taut."

"Loraine, I know you got a dirty break. But if you couldn't be ready at the start there in Elmira, then I just had to run in a substitute. It'll only be a few days more. Now you're mad, and I understand it, so I'll let you alone. But you go to that hotel and meet us for breakfast, all sugar and smiles. Okay, sweetie?"

Sweetie still didn't answer. Jimmy squeezed her elbow in genuine feeling, said, "Please, Loraine," and went away again.

Whatever surged in Loraine's mind that night, only she knew. But she took no drastic action. Perhaps Ed Bryan's warning and Jimmy's plea both helped her to control herself. She was already in the hotel dining room next morning when Jimmy and Pat and Ed came in.

"Good morning, Loraine," Pat said, as cordially as she could. Both men spoke heartily, too. They all drew up chairs to her table, uninvited. And the waiters began to serve them there.

Loraine was cooler now. "Hello," she managed, flat tone.

Pat said, "Loraine, we—we shan't do any bluffing. Not among us four. I can tell you that I was as astonished as you were, but—"

"Right," Ed Bryan nodded. "—but I understand why Ed and Jimmy felt they had to do what they did. You must believe us when we say this is not personal. You were not treated shabbily. At least no more than—"

Practical Ed Bryan stepped in again. "No more than you was treated in Chicago, Miss Friday. Not as much, in fact. You're the goat in all this, if anybody asks me!"

"Yes," Jimmy nodded. "It's regrettable, all around. But let's all forget it. Please, kids! All of us. Intentions everywhere were good, I'm sure. Certainly this whole deal was impersonal. A part of our Army task. And, hang it all, it's been such a fun! Aside from this—this little back-stage misunderstanding."

THAT was the vein of talk in which Loraine was held down, then. She said almost nothing. But the other three assumed her agreement, and they made extra effort to be courteous and kind. If she was astute enough to sense that this was by arrangement, it couldn't be helped.

At 9 o'clock this second day in Phoenix, distinguished Army flying officials were to meet local civic leaders in the hotel convention hall. They asked Jimmy and "your fiancée" to attend. That meant Pat, of course, due to the original mistake which had been allowed to stand. The public still thought cute little Pat Friday was named Loraine.

Jimmy had agreed to meet flight technicians for an engineering powwow, but Pat went to the convention hall. The committee had arranged a radio forum, with 12 microphones.

"This three-day glider and sailplane exhibition," the master of ceremonies told the radio audience and the people here in the hall, "has already proved to be a much bigger event than any of us anticipated. This, we know, is because Phoenix is the center of a vast irrigated farming empire. Soaring my friends, is a means of transportation, and if we can somehow work out a way

HONESTY PAYS

CHICAGO, (AP)—Ten-year-old Helene Huls espied a purse on the floor of a shop. Opening it, she found \$337 and a ration card belonging to Mrs. Domenica Misjukowepz.

When the girl returned it, Mrs. Misjukowepz was so pleased with Helene's promptness in bringing the purse to her that she gave the child \$25.

Helene announced she would invest the reward money in war bonds.

We've been doing it all our lives, but it's still doggone hard to get out of bed.



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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



QUOTE GOD'S



SOME ELEPHANTS ARE CLEVER ENOUGH TO BREAK OFF TREE BRANCHES AND USE THEM TO SCRATCH PARTS OF THE ANATOMY OTHERWISE OUT OF REACH.



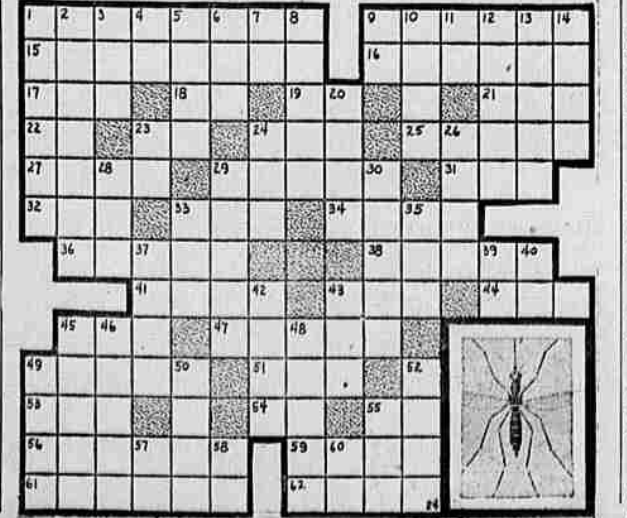
DAINTY EMBROIDERY TO BRIGHTEN LINENS



by Alice Brooks

PESKY INSECT

Answer to Previous Puzzle												
1 Pictured insect	24 Mimic											
9 A British insect named after it	25 Organs of sight											
15 Slaughter-house	26 Dined											
16 Come out	27 Pains											
17 Fish snare	28 Pertaining to the sun											
18 Half an em	29 Portray on the stage											
19 Negative reply	30 Fox											
20 Symbol for aluminum	31 Color											
21 Like	32 And (Latin)											
22 Purpose	33 Therefore											
23 At no time	34 Ditch											
24 Preparator	35 Dress edge											
25 Point in planet's orbit	36 These insects—disease											
26 Is (Latin)	37 Frequently											
27 Aviator	38 They—in swamps											
28 Carry (cant)	39 Warplanes of this name made in Berlin											
29 Sailing vessel	40 Slender											
30 Mislays	41 Folding beds											
31 Article	42 Carriage											
32 Possessed	43 North America (abbr.)											
33 Child	44 Symbol for cobalt											
34 Feruse	45 Measure of area											
35 Sedate	46 Perform											
36 Log floats												
37 Perched												



Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



Wash Tubbs

By Crane



Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



Allop Oop

By Martin



Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray

