

SERIAL STORY—

WORKING WIVES

By LOUISE HOLMES

CAST OF CHARACTERS
MARIAN HARKNESS—A working wife.
DAN HARKNESS—Her husband.
DOLLY HARKNESS—Dan's widowed sister-in-law.
SALLY BLAKE—An ambitious young stenographer.

Yesterday, Marian is surprised when Dan calls at the apartment. She has found happiness in her home town, is to marry a childhood sweetheart. She hopes that Pete and Julie will forgive her. Like Marian, she is trying to make amends.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

MAY DAY. No letter from Dan. Marian stayed close to the telephone all day, waiting for Dolly's call. She was restless and uneasy, filled with nervous energy.

She cleaned the apartment until it shone, baked a small cake, wrote letters, finally packed a suitcase. Nightgowns, the pink taffeta house coat with the flower buttons. She'd had it on the night that Dan refused to kiss her. He hadn't noticed it at all. But her baby would like it. She went on, filling the suitcase. Little shirts and bands and tiny sleeping garments. Packing the little things, her daughter's clothes, she was filled with wonder. Closing the suitcase, she lay beside it on the bed, one arm thrown over the lid.

"A woman needs her husband at a time like this," she thought. A dreadful, suffocating loneliness caught at her throat. For the first time, she was frightened. "Dan—Dan—help me to be brave," she moaned. "You are so far away—sometimes I can't find you at all." Resolutely, she set her chin. "It's my punishment that I must go through this alone and it's just punishment. I'll take it and be glad of the chance." Glad, Dan used to say that she could be glad about the damdest things.

Dan's letter arrived on the following morning. It had been forwarded from the office. She opened Dan's letter slowly. Slowly, she pulled the single sheet from the envelope. A check fluttered to her lap, but she ignored it.

"Dear Marian: Enclosed find check. A nice clean spring has arrived out here. I can't remember that we had springs in Chicago, Dan."

Marian closed her eyes. There was a stinging pain behind them. Dan couldn't remember spring. He couldn't remember her.

THE bell tinkled and she said, "Hello."

"Marian—It's Dolly."

"Dolly—my dear—can you come right now—right now?" There was frantic urgency in her tone. The enemy forces, loneliness and fright, were gaining ground. Dolly, the reserve army, had arrived not a moment too soon.

"Of course, you sick?"

"No—I don't know—" Her voice blurred with tears.

Dolly asked no questions. She said, "Give me the address."

Marian told her, then went to the window. She waited but 20 minutes. A great car careened up the street at unlawful speed. It slid down and stopped. Dolly fairly tumbled out, running up the walk, peering at the number. Marian went to the head of the stairs.

"Up here, Dolly," she called. Dolly came, running. Almost at the top, she halted. "Then, with a moaning little cry, she had Marian in her arms, crying, laughing, hugging her. "You poor child," she kept saying brokenly. "You poor child. Why didn't you tell me?"

Marian led her into the apartment and closed the door. Her cheeks were wet.

"I—I'm glad you've come," she faltered.

DOLLY removed her hat and gloves and threw them on the couch as if she intended staying. "And just about time," she said briskly. "Where's Dan?"

"In P-Portland."

"Why isn't he here with you?" Marian caught her by the shoulders. "Look, Dolly—I was never so glad to see any one in my life. I don't think I could have endured it if you hadn't come, but I'll throw you out. I'll run away and hide, unless you promise to do as I say."

"All right—all right—you don't have to make my shoulders black and blue."

Marian pulled her to the davenport and they sat down close together.

"Start at the beginning," Dolly said.

"First of all—I'm going to have a baby."

"No—Really?" Dolly dimpled and laughed.

"I knew it before Dan went away, before you were married."

Dolly turned aside. "Why didn't you tell him? He certainly had a right to know."

"Dan didn't just go away, Dolly. He left me and my baby alone. He hurried on as Dolly exclaimed in dismay. "I don't know why he put up with me for so long."

"Oh, Marian—you should have told me—I wouldn't have gone—I still don't see why you didn't tell Dan."

"I was determined that it shouldn't be true at the time. And when he went, I hadn't time to think. Since then he's made it perfectly plain that he cares nothing about me and I haven't told him because—I don't want him rushing back from a sense of duty. He'd come, you know. Dan is like that."

Dolly nodded thoughtfully. "And your job—you're going back?"

"No. When the baby is old enough, I'm taking her to Portland. Even if Dan doesn't want us, and I'm facing the fact that he probably will not, I want her to grow up near him. I want her to know her father."

"Her? Are you sure?"

"Dan always wanted a little girl." Dolly regarded her lovingly. "You're brave, Marian—and fine. You're beautiful, sweet and womanly. If you care for the adjective."

"I love them. I've found my place, Dolly, and I'm happy in it. I have an idea, maybe it's a foolish belief, that if I work hard enough at this job, I'll find my way back to Dan. It can't happen all in a minute because I have so much to undo. I have years of selfishness to atone for."

Dolly held her hand tight. "How about money, Marian? Ready and I will be so happy to help."

"It isn't necessary, Mr. Fellow."

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Pierre tries the most daring experiments—today he used just plain soap and water on me!"

HOLD EVERYTHING

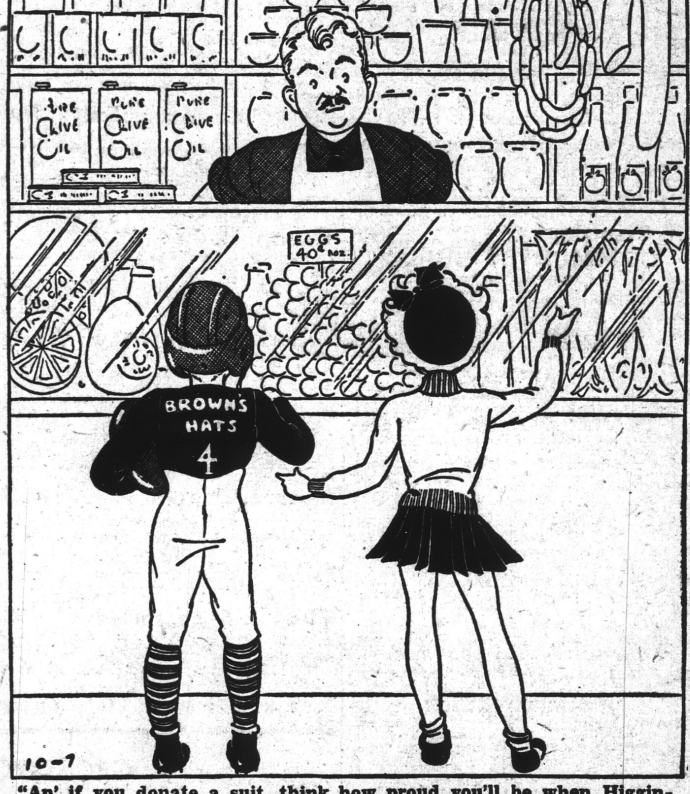
By Clyde Lewis



"Certainly my wife knows you're coming home to dinner tonight—we argued about it for an hour this morning!"

FLAPPER FANNY

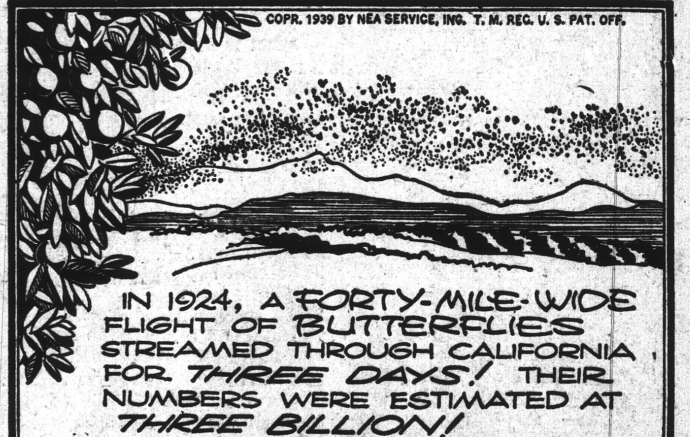
By Sylvia



"An' if you donate a suit, think how proud you'll be when Higginbotham's Delicatessen makes a touchdown!"

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



"I was determined that it shouldn't be true at the time. And when he went, I hadn't time to think. Since then he's made it perfectly plain that he cares nothing about me and I haven't told him because—I don't want him rushing back from a sense of duty. He'd come, you know. Dan is like that."



"I was determined that it shouldn't be true at the time. And when he went, I hadn't time to think. Since then he's made it perfectly plain that he cares nothing about me and I haven't told him because—I don't want him rushing back from a sense of duty. He'd come, you know. Dan is like that."

ANSWER—There is only one point in the United States where four states meet... these being Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

gave me a bonus when I left. He said it was for being a good girl, smiling. "Dan sends me \$75 a month. I'm living on it. The baby and I will live on it."

Dolly gazed at her in admiring wonder. "And when is the great event to take place?"

(To Be Continued)

(All events, names and characters in this story are wholly fictitious.)

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With Major Hoople



"LIES, SOME SMALL ADJUSTMENTS ARE INDICATED—"

L'L ABNER



"L'L ABNER!"

RED RYDER



"RED RYDER!"

NANCY



"NANCY!"

WASHINGTON TUBBS II



"WASHINGTON TUBBS II!"

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



"FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS!"

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



"BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES!"

ABBIE AN' SLATS



"ABBIE AN' SLATS!"

OUT OUR WAY

By Williams



"OUT OUR WAY!"

THE UNSEEN WINGS



"THE UNSEEN WINGS!"

By Fred Harman



"By Fred Harman!"

By Bushmiller



"By Bushmiller!"

By Crane



"By Crane!"

By Blosser



"By Blosser!"

By Martin



"By Martin!"

By Raeburn Van Buren



"By Raeburn Van Buren!"