

TRIAL FLIGHT

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
JACKIE DUNN—heroine; she is to be married to the stratosphere.
BRYAN BRECKNER—hero; he is to be married to the stratosphere.
BRYAN MELROSE—wally; he is to be married to the stratosphere.
JACKIE DUNN—heroine; she is to be married to the stratosphere.

Yesterday: Grimly awaiting news of Roger, Jackie calls the airport. The news is that searchers have found Roger's wrecked ship but not Roger!

CHAPTER XV

As long as she lived Jackie never forgot that night and the following day. For during those hours the girl who had been Jackie Dunn died and a woman was born, a woman who learned the meaning of life, who faced only life, but death as well, the dark despair of what a death could be.

Roger's ship had been found, a beautiful silver plane, it was smashed against a lonely mountain side, its left wing crumpled like a discarded piece of paper. But aside from his helmet and parachute—and a splash of blood here and there—no single thing of Roger could be discovered.

It was believed that the pilot, though undoubtedly seriously injured, had managed to climb out and get free of the ship, fully realizing the danger of explosion and fire.

The papers played Roger up as a hero who rode his ship down, and of bailing out. Until the end he had tried to save the plane. By so doing he had, in fact, saved his trial flight from a total failure, for the graph, containing the vital records of the speed and altitude, remained intact. It revealed Roger had broken all records of altitude and speed and had almost vanished.

"He can't be dead . . . he can't be . . ." Jackie repeated over and over to herself all through the following day. She must hold on to that thought so grimly, so faithfully that it would be answered, like a prayer.

Jackie could think of Beryl now in pity and sympathy, all her resentment against this other woman, all her anger and jealousy swept aside. For Beryl had loved Roger, though Jackie alone had known that. Jackie, who knew

now—too late—that she, too, had loved him.

For this was the awakening, the growing into womanhood that came to Jackie during those agonized waiting hours. She knew that she had loved Roger from the first. She had tried to put up a defense, not only against love itself, but against him. She had thought that love need not hold any place in her life. And now she saw, with this sudden, terrible clarity, that without it—without Roger, life could hold no meaning, nothing except emptiness.

Oh, she was glad now that Mac had managed to slip in that word or two, and that almost the last words Roger had heard had been—"Jackie sends luck—and love."

Perhaps Roger had known, with sudden clarity, too, that that had not been pretense—that he had her love with him.

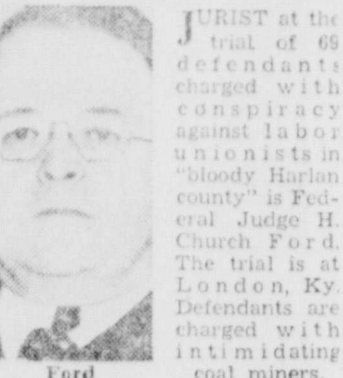
Though it had not brought him much luck—or the fact that she had worn his pin. Jackie knew now she should not have accepted it. Not in the way she had in anger, in pretense, her heart steeled against him.

Oh, if only Roger could be found in time, so that in some way she could make all this up to him, prove to him how big, how fine her love could be for him.

Prayers sometimes are answered, Jackie's was. Though she was not to know, even then, in her rejoicing, in her thanksgiving and great relief, that her prayer—with all its promises—was to be put to still another test.

Roger was found that day about four o'clock. He had managed at last, through a long and painful process, to reach the side of a road.

On Bench in Labor Intimidation Case



Eugene Lankford

JURIST at the trial of 65 defendants charged with conspiracy against labor unionists in "bloody Harlan county" is Federal Judge H. Church Ford. The trial is at London, Ky. Defendants are charged with intimidating coal miners.

and to attract the attention of a passing motorist. He had lain unconscious during most of the night, weakened from loss of blood from a severe head wound; chilled and thirsty and hungry, he had managed to half crawl, half drag himself through the heavy underbrush, only a few feet at a time. He had seen the planes searching for him, circling high over head, heard the shots and some distant shouts from the ground, but he had been unable to shout back in response.

His condition was critical, the reports said, but there was hope for his recovery. He had been

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rushed to the hospital at Phillipsburg.

It was only when she read this last that Jackie burst into tears, a wild fit of weeping that was beyond control. She had held back those tears so long. She had tried so hard to be brave, to hold on to that faintly shining star of hope.

Now, at last, she could let go, find relief in the balm of tears, healing for her spirit—such joy, such gratitude, as she had never

known could exist within one human heart.

(To Be Continued)

Ranger Warehouse Operation Costs Low

RANGER, May 18—J. E. McRoney, secretary of the Ranger chamber of commerce, has announced that the Ranger Bonded Warehouse was operated for the past few months at a cost of only

\$20.96, which was considered very cheap considering the amount of good the warehouse did for peanut growers in this part of the country.

The Southwestern Peanut Growers association was so well pleased with the way the warehouse was handled and the good it did that directors of the association voted unanimously to refund the \$20.96 to the chamber of com-

merce, and the local organization has been refunded all the money it spent in promoting the warehouse.

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