

POWDER

By REX BEACH

CHAPTER I

Ben Furlong came to the Southern oil fields looking for work. He was very dusty and quite hungry when at last he stopped in at the Durham House.

This was a rather better-looking place than the average Texas homestead, and when he knocked at the kitchen door a girl appeared who was very much better-looking than the average Texas homesteader. She was, in fact, a very pretty girl.

She readily fetched Ben a drink of water, and while he rested she talked to him. That was, no doubt, because of his smile. He informed her that he had been raised in the Pennsylvania fields and was a good, practical oil man.

"There being no chores to do, Ben sat in the kitchen and chatted with the girl while she cooked something for him, and in the course of their conversation he learned that her name was Betty Durham, that her parents were dead, and that the farm belonged to her aunt, with whom she had lived ever since she was a little girl. The aunt had gone to Opportunity in the family fitter.

"Funny, you cooking for a tramp drifter like me and your aunt owning acreage like this," Ben remarked. "Isn't this land on the structure?"

"Sure! It's worth a lot of money. That well over yonder"—fork in hand,

Miss Durham indicated aerrick not far away—"belongs to us."

A Fishing Job

From where he sat Furlong could see that the timbers of the tower were bright and unstained, thus advertising the melancholy fact that the well itself was not a producer, so he inquired:

"What's wrong with it? Dry?"

"Dry nothing! They're not down yet. They've got a fishing job—been at it for a couple of weeks."

"Gee! The visitor shook his head. "That's running somebody in debt."

"When the first oil talk commenced I'd been glad to get the farm drilled on most any kind of royalty, but nobody would lease it. When they finally got ready, Aunt Mary wanted a bonus—two bits an acre—and she wouldn't listen to Uncle Joe's arguments. By and bye they offered two bits, but by that time she wanted a dollar. Then the companies got together, or the boom kind of petered out, or something, and it began to look as if Uncle Joe would be lucky to make any kind of a deal. He finally laid his ears back and leased a small block. Then he up and got killed."

"That's too bad."

"It was an accident. A powder wagon on let go." The speaker's face grew wistful, she stared out across the arid countryside for a moment or two. "Uncle Joe loved me, but — Aunt Mary's his second wife; we're not really kinsfolks. It might just as well have been Maddox who got killed; he was as close to the wagon as Uncle Joe, and yet he wasn't touched. Funny, too, because he's always been afraid of the stuff and has a hunch he'll be blown up. All you have to say to him is 'powder' and—"

"How'd your aunt come to put down this new well?"

"Maddox drilled the well on the lot we leased, and after Uncle Joe was killed he quit the company and sort of took charge of things for Aunt Mary. It wasn't a big well, but the royalty is enough to pay for this one. I won't cook any more ham and eggs, so you'd better make the most of these. Yes, and you'd better come and get them; they're done." Miss Durham set a plate on the table and Furlong drew up his chair.

None Too Cordial

With the curiosity natural to his calling, the visitor inquired more specifically about the nature of the mishap that had befallen Maddox's prospect, but he learned little. He inferred, however, that the royalties from the first well were dwindling at an alarming rate and that any considerable delay in completing the new well might therefore result in ruin to the owner. It was a prospect that naturally gave Betty and her aunt grave concern.

When Ben had finished eating he said: "Maybe I can give this drifter of yours some help. I've worked on a good many fishing jobs. Do you think he'd let me try?"

"He will if I tell him to," the girl declared. "He's tried everything anybody has told him to try. Who knows? Maybe you can do it."

The speaker put on her sunbonnet and together she and Furlong went across the valley to the well.

Tiller Maddox was a swarthy man of about thirty-five; his eyes were bold and black and set close together. He greeted the Durham girl with an easy familiarity, a suggestion of proprietorship that gave the visitor cause for thought, but towards Furlong he was none too cordial and when Betty explained the reason for the latter's presence Maddox frowned.

"Another wise guy, eh? Every roper-choker in ten miles has been tryin' to show us how smart he is. What'd you know about fishin', stranger?"

"Not much," Ben confessed, "but I've had some luck."

"Oh, I've had plenty of luck, myself!" Maddox asserted. "But I never had any good luck lettin' strangers monkey with my work. If you jim up the well, I take the blame."

"I won't jim anything."

"What'll you charge for this here miracle of yours?"

Impatiently Miss Durham exclaimed, "What's the difference how much he charges if he can do—"

"I've been paid for any help I can give you," Furlong declared. "Probably I can't do anything, but so far I don't even know what's wrong. Do you mind telling me?"

Men Spend \$7.95 Less On Beauty

Than Women Do In a Year On the Average—Male No Longer "Unconcerned."

Another feminine illusion has been shattered. It was interesting while it lasted, but we women will have to stop thinking of men as self-confident, self-satisfied, and unconcerned, writes Ruth Millet.

At last we'll have to acknowledge the fact that men are uncertain creatures, as terrified of the years as we are ourselves. And almost as desperate in the attempt to exchange money for youth and attractiveness.

Anxious to Look Best
The proof that man is anxious to look his best and as young as he can comes from the group of men who make other men beautiful—scalp specialists and such. They tatted in round figures and the disillusioning truth is that Mr. Man spends almost as much in a year on beauty as the little woman spends.

If we must face you with the figures, they are \$21.55 for the average man and only a trifle more, \$26.95, for the average woman.

So the unconcerned male isn't as unconcerned as he would have us believe. All his pretended indifference to looks and his mumbbling about "keeping fit" is just a cover-up for his need of the reassurance that women admit good looks give.

Without interrupting traffic the new 300-ton railway bridge at Acton, England, was rolled into place by 60 men.

Supper FAVORITES

Man does not live by bread alone. That is to say, not by plain bread. Quick breads are a delightful substitute for bread and a welcome change in the diet. They are easy to make and delicious to eat, especially when served hot.

Here is a recipe which will serve as the basis for many unusual variations of the quick bread theme.

Baking Powder Biscuits

2 cups sifted flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons butter or other shortening
3/4 cup milk (about).

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder and salt, and sift again. Cut in shortening. Add milk gradually, stirring until soft dough is formed. Turn out immediately on slightly floured board and knead 30 seconds, or enough to shape. Roll 1/4 inch thick and cut with floured 2-inch biscuit cutter. Bake on ungreased baking sheet in hot oven (450 degrees F.) 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 15 biscuits.

Here are some of the variations of this basic recipe which clever cooks can use to make really professional looking quick breads:

Sausage Rolls

15 sausages
1 recipe baking powder biscuits
Pan-broil sausages until well browned. Prepare biscuit dough as directed and roll 1/8 inch thick. Cut

in 2-inch squares. Cut sausages in half; place one-half in centre of each square. Fold dough over sausages, pinch edges together, and shape into roll, leaving ends open. Place on ungreased baking sheet; bake in hot oven (450 degrees F.) 12 to 15 minutes. Makes 3 dozen rolls.
You can elaborate on this simple recipe to make dainty, tasty tea rings.

Cheese Roulettes

1 recipe baking powder biscuits
Melted butter
1 cup grated Canadian cheese
Salt
Paprika

Prepare dough for baking powder biscuits as directed. Roll into oblong sheet, 1/8 inch thick. Brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with salt and paprika. Roll as for jelly roll. Cut in 1/4 inch slices and place on greased baking sheet. Bake in hot oven (450 degrees F.) 15 to 20 minutes. Serve hot. Makes 15 rolls.

If you want something really tasty and different to accompany a salad plate supper, here is the answer.

Bismarck Tea Ring

1 recipe baking powder biscuits
1/2 cup raspberry jam
1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons milk (about)
2 tablespoons raspberry jam.

Prepare dough for biscuits as directed. Roll into oblong sheet, 1/8 inch thick. Spread evenly with raspberry jam. Roll as for jelly roll; bring edges together to form ring and place on baking sheet covered with greased paper. With scissors, cut one inch slices, almost through ring, turning each slice outside up and pointing outer edge. Brush with melted butter. Bake in hot oven (400 degrees F.) 30 minutes, or until done.

Combine sugar, milk and jam for glaze. When ring is baked, remove to cake rack, and while hot, spread with glaze. Serve warm. For plain glaze, the 2 tablespoons raspberry jam may be omitted.

Butterscotch Pecan Rolls

1 recipe baking powder biscuits
3 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
4 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 cup chopped pecan nut meats

Prepare dough for biscuits as directed. Roll 1/4 inch thick. Cream together butter and sugar and spread on dough; roll as for jelly roll and cut in 1-inch slices. Melt 4 tablespoons butter in 8 x 8 x 2 inch pan, add 4 tablespoons brown sugar, and mix well; sprinkle nut meats over top. Place in pan, cut-side down. Bake in hot oven (425 degree F.) 15 minutes; then decrease heat to moderate (350 degrees F.) and bake 15 minutes longer. Remove at once from pan. Makes 10 to 12 rolls.

When rolls are baked in a smaller pan, use less than 4 tablespoons butter and 4 tablespoons brown sugar for mixture in bottom of pan.

Amelia Earhart's Memory Honored

Foundation to Award Scholarships For Women In Social Service

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced last week that she has accepted the position of honorary chairman of the national sponsors committee of the Amelia Earhart Foundation.

The First Lady said she was "very happy" to accept the offer because she feels that the women of America should not allow the famous flyer's "memory to fade."

"I think that her life and work, both in social services and as a flyer, should remain an inspiration to the younger generation of women today and to those who will follow us," she said.

The Foundation plans to raise funds to award scholarships for women in sociology, lectures, and possibly for founding chairs in colleges on social welfare subjects.

Broaden Scope of Award.
The first meeting of the national sponsors committee will be held at the White House late this month or early in March, the First Lady said.

She told her press conference that she had urged the committee to broaden the scope of the award so as to include many subjects. Miss Earhart's personality, her scientific mind and her spirit of adventure all contributed to her charm and influence, she said.

Mrs. Roosevelt reiterated her belief in equal rights for professional women and other "brain-workers" and in "protective" legislation for women in industry.

Requirements For Perfect Husband

Filmland's Darlings Put Heads Together, Draw Up Definition

A dimpled dozen of the screen's dancing darlings put their heads together and selected themselves a composite husband last week.

If Robert Taylor, Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, William Powell, Gary Cooper and Errol Flynn could be rolled into one, the scrambled result still would fall three feet four inches short of their idealistic goal.

All They Want
Here is all they want in a husband:
1. Tall and handsome with gentlemanly manners.
2. Very good dancing ability.
3. Must be romantically inclined, yet solid and comforting.

Colorful Laura Wheeler Apron In Simple-to-Sew Design



PATTERN 1635

As much fun to make as it is to wear... a gay little apron with its tulip-shaped pocket and flowers easy to applique and embroider. Pattern 1635 contains a transfer pattern of apron, a motif 9 1/2 x 9 1/2 inches and applique pattern pieces; illustrations of stitches used; material requirements; color suggestions.

Send 20 cents in coins (stamps cannot be accepted) for this pattern to Wilson Needlecraft Dept., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Write plainly PATTERN NUMBER, your NAME and ADDRESS.

Wedding Parlors

Group Planning "Pleasant" Rooms For Weddings Like Ones In Funeral Homes.

George R. Hart, who has married more than 5,000 couples in the last three years, announced last week at St. Charles, Mo., that he and eight St. Louis businessmen were incorporating as the George R. Hart Marriage Parlors to provide sumptuous surroundings for weddings.

"Why shouldn't people who want to get married have the benefit of pleasant surroundings instead of going to some justice's dingy basement office," he said. "When a person dies his body is taken to a beautifully furnished undertaking parlor. I tell people they are entitled to the same sort of surroundings when they are married."

Louisiana has announced the discovery of hilgardite, a heretofore unknown mineral. It is a clear, colorless borate.

Marian

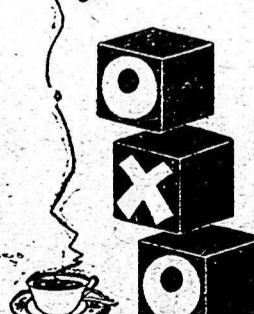
She can be as wise as we,
And wiser when she wishes;
She can knit with cunning wit,
And dress the homely dishes.
She can flourish staff or pen,
And deal a wound that lingers;
She can talk the talk of men,
And touch with thrilling fingers.

Match her eye across the sea,
Natures fond and fiery;
Ye who zest the turtle's nest
With the eagle's eyrie.
Soft and loving is her soul,
Swift and lofty soaring;
Mixing with its dove-like dole
Passionate adoring.

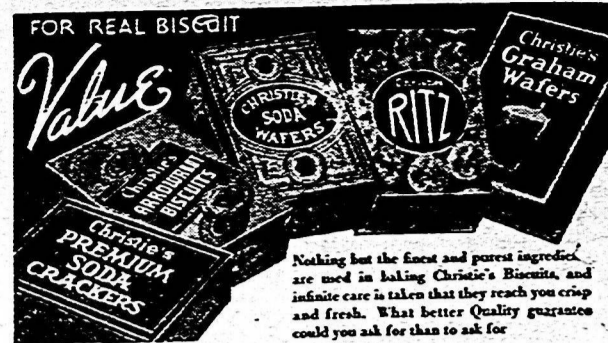
Such a she who'll match with me!
In flying or pursuing,
Subtle wiles are in her smiles
To set the world a-wooing.
She is steadfast as a star,
And yet the maddest maiden;
She can wage a gallant war,
And give the peace of Eden.
—George Meredith.

BUILD UP

With



Issue No. 9-'38



Christie's Biscuits

"There's a Christie Biscuit for every taste"

- Must have great interest in wife's career, yet not become jealous and suspicious when work keeps the little girl at the studio late—and often.
- Must be prepared to tender compliments and candy 10 years after marriage.
- Must be a man that women (they forget the children) can respect.
- Must have a supreme sense of humor.
- Must be brilliant conversationalist.
- Must remember wife likes to wine and dine as much after marriage as before.
- Must be earning a minimum of \$60 a week.
- Must find plenty of time to improve himself by reading, without, however, encroaching on wife's time.
- Must not be too critical or fault-finding.
- Must realize a girl needs clothes and not object when wife buys them.
- Must be (Quick men, to the lifeboats!)

Pulls Eight Teeth From Wrong Child

Due to Mistake—Another Child Should Have Gone to See Dentist

Seven-year-old Betty Champlin, of Ashaway, R.I., was eating soft foods last week after her eight extracted teeth excited her father, mother, several school executives and a school dentist.

It all started when Betty came home and pointed to her almost toothless mouth, explaining the dentist pulled eight.

"Of all things," her father exploded. "I told them they couldn't take those teeth. I told them our own dentist would do it."

Champlin telephoned the school executives and the dentist. All agreed it was a "horrible mistake."

Investigation disclosed there was another Champlin girl in Betty's class. Her father's name is George. Betty's father's name also is George. When the dentist sent for George Champlin's daughter it was Betty who went.

The explanations, along with apologies, mollified Papa Champlin.

"We all make mistakes," he said. "The teeth are gone. They were only the first teeth anyway. There'll be more coming."

Household Hints

When you are using cut up apples or are peeling apples, keep a glass of lemon juice and water nearby to dip the small pieces in. Lemon juice and water will keep the apple from turning brown for an indefinite period. Then you can get your fruit cut ready ahead of time and not worry about having discolored apples.

When buying fruit, choose a larger, more expensive orange. It is always better, because it has twice as much juice as the smaller. Smell a pineapple before buying it. Dip your fruit in water when you wash it, don't hold it under the tap, as you might lose some valuable juice that way.

Long Tresses Too Tempting To Him
William Alfred Wright, 42, of London, England, says he cannot resist a desire to cut the flowing locks of young girls.

Charged in police court recently with "stealing a girl's hair in the street," he declared: "I get a feeling now and then whenever I walk behind a girl with long hair, a sensation that I want to cut it off."

Several plaits of hair were found in his home. He was remanded after a warning.

FLUSH KIDNEYS STOP GETTING UP NIGHTS
IF kidney irregularities break your rest do not overlook it. For the relief of minor kidney irregularities Dr. Pierce's A-muric Tablets have been found very beneficial. The action of this stimulant diuretic in flushing the kidneys, diluting acid, and relieving irritation has given relief to men and women in every part of Canada. Mrs. H. Mead, 61 Metcalfe St., Toronto, said: "My kidneys gave me trouble. I found sleep almost impossible, my back and limbs ached, headaches were frequent, and my hands and ankles would swell. But Dr. Pierce's A-muric Tablets soon brought relief." Buy at drug store.

'Teen Age Girl Is Chess Genius

World's Champion Who Defeated Her at the Game Declares She's a Prodigy

Whiskers and lines of wisdom all went with the popular conception of twilight chess players until dimpled Elaine Saunders, age 12, came along.

She met Dr. Alexander Alekhine, the world champion, in a tournament at Twickenham, England, and while he defeated her he said afterwards she was a genius and caused him a lot of trouble.

For the last two years she has been champion of the open chess tournament for girls of all nationalities under 21 years. She started playing chess seriously when she was six years old and her mother says she took to the game as easily as most children master tiddly-winks.

She likes the company of grown-ups rather than children and thinks "a lot of games you have to play at parties are silly." She doesn't like party frocks, because "you usually catch cold and have to have medicine and doctors."

A London columnist, discussing the child, said precocity in chess is no new thing. "Most of the famous players began playing as children," he wrote. "It is curious that only in chess, music and mathematics are true infant prodigies found—and still more curious that so many eminent musicians, from Philidor in the 18th century, have been brilliant chess players."

WAKE UP LIKE A CAVE MAN
Feel Full of Life—No More Tired, Dull, Heavy Mornings

Keep your liver healthy and you'll feel great every morning. When you wake up feeling "rotten" your liver is out of order. Your liver clears the blood of poisons, separates the nourishing part of your food from the waste. Supplies energy to muscles, tissues and glands—gives out bile, the best laxative, helps stomach, kidneys and intestines to work properly. A mere bowel movement isn't enough. "Fruit-A-Tives" made from fruits and herbs, will strengthen and build up your liver like nothing else will. You'll be amazed how well you are every morning. Try Fruit-A-Tives. All druggists.

FRUIT-A-TIVES LIVER TABLETS

A Fairy Sentinel That Curbs Uric Acid and Keeps Rheumatic Pains at Bay

Uric Acid is like a lurking enemy always on the prowl to discover a new victim. Without warning, you feel a stabbing, gripping pain in a knee or elbow joint—sharp, incisive, excruciating. Don't tolerate this growing torture for another day. One effective way to combat Uric Acid is to take a 15 teaspoonful of Fyrmol Salt in a glass of water and take it every morning. It is as if you set up a fairy sentinel to guard and protect you. Uric Acid cannot form within the body when Fyrmol Salt is taken regularly, because its many remedial ingredients—such as Sodium, Potassium, Lithium, etc.—afford adequate protection. Think what it means to be relieved of Rheumatic Pains, Sciatica, Lumbago, etc.—to enjoy the uplift that comes from saying goodbye to these torturing complaints. Fyrmol Salt, the famous British remedy, works with Nature because it is a combination of Natural Salts of the Earth. Try the effect of one large 75c package. Within a week you'll wonder where your Rheumatic Pains have gone to. Get Fyrmol Salt from your druggist—today. If you have any difficulty getting the product, write to Fyrmol Sales Agency, 3, Colindale Street, Montreal. 30

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Take 2 "ASPIRIN" tablets and drink a full glass of water. Repeat treatment in 2 hours.

If throat is sore from the cold, crush and mix 3 "ASPIRIN" tablets in 1/2 glass of water. Gargle twice. This eases throat rawness and soreness almost instantly.

No family need neglect even minor head colds.

Here is what to do: Take two "Aspirin" tablets when you feel a cold coming on—with a full glass of water. Then repeat, if necessary, according to directions in each package. Relief comes rapidly.

The "Aspirin" method of relieving colds is the way many doctors approve. You take "Aspirin" for relief—then if you are not improved promptly, you call the family doctor.

"Aspirin" tablets are made in Canada. "Aspirin" is the registered trade-mark of the Bayer Company, Limited, of Windsor, Ontario. Look for the name Bayer in the form of a cross on every tablet.

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