# The Free Press Short Story

#### WINGED FEET

By MABEL MCKEE

bundle.

Warren pulled from the opened bag degree is just like hers. But she teaches meat, potatoes, tin cans of fruit, milk in the high school in Lindendale and and vegetables, the children shouled and just in this little unknown grade school. capered in Joy.

Marian Lee would have jumped up A dull langle sounded. The telephone and down with happiness, as did the bell, after a ten-day, silence, was ringchildren if she had not recognized the ing again. Mrs. Warren fairly flew to red-winged aeroplane. She, too, had answer it. Marian Lee asked herself it viewed the rapidly decreasing amount of in food in the kitchen with apprehension, to Mrs. Warren's conversation. had tried to laugh off Mrs. Warren's wongles lest they starve to death before the January ice melted. She would have welcomed help from anyone, except Frances Hearn, to whom the red-winged he's got his father's phone and ours machine belonged.

all over the country." Marian's heart if we got food all right to-day and if cried out in protest. "She already has we needed fuel." everything, but this will give her more

had started months before the January floods of the Wabash had imprisoned hundreds of farm people, who lived in the valley, in their homes, to be followed by sub-zero weather and the turning of the water into a great ocean of ice. The rift had really started in June when the two girls, just graduating from college had both applied for the position of assistant in English at the Lindendale High School.

Prances, whose father was editor of the Lindendale Gazette, had been elected to the position. Marian, whose only relatives were two spinster nunts, who owned and ran the Busy Bee Tea Room in Lindendale, had said furiously when you were still alive, When we got back she would get it. Girls whose fathers units had heard from you. I can breathe a letter. have newspapers get everything. Pran- again now I know you're safe." ces doesn't need the money as I do. She's just teaching to earn money to buy a before the rift with Frances. He told now plane. It isn't fair."

she came to her home the evening after had been thrilling to fly low, summoning the appointment. Aunt Josephine, try- the impresoned farm people from their nig to ease the situation, told the girl homes and watching them get food, who had been her niece's chum through- falling right out of the sky. out high school and college days, that Marian had a headache. The next day Marian Lee had packed a suit case and

there she had interviewed the tion at the consolidated high school. He had promised her the first vacancy which appeared in the entire county. After a tiresome, unhappy summer, Marian was given the position of teacher at the Bayou School, a little one-roomed country schoolhouse.

She roomed with Widow Warren, who always "kept" the teachers of the Bayou School at her little home on the hill. was there that she was now marooned by the sea of ice. Five days had passed since she had geen anyone except Mrs. Warren and the four children.

Now Martha Warren jumped up and down. "Teacher, that aeroplane is the one that used to circle over the school- them they must send the seven-yearhouse last fall," she cried. "Don't you remember how it dropped candy down on us one day?"

Marian tried to laugh gally, "There she evaded. "And they all look alike." Lad seen for many days, the children sure I can make it." sat happily in the kitchen watching her. almond wafers like your aunts brought had run out at the motor's call.

Wabash Valley was telling her father she sat down to don her skates. that Frances should become a commer- They did not fit well, but Marian ettention and care, means doing them cial pilot

in the Warren kitchen brought Marian perilous trip. Lee out of her beautiful but heartbrenk-

HE red-winged aeroplane circled After she had finished her tes and them. They would make the knapeack over the Warren home several chocolate almond wafers, which did not too heavy for the short strap and handtimes, dipping lower and lower, taste the same as they had when she kerchief support; so she had to abandon The four Warren children shouted and and Prances had been friends, Marian them. waved their hands wildly. Even Mrs. Lee went to the window to look out over Warren cried with delight when she saw that ice Prances was probably still fly- One tiny cloud there seemed to be movshooting from the aeroplane, a great ing, dropping provisions to people hem- ing on and on as her guide. "Like a

med in by the sheets of ice. Straight toward the Warren house it A year ago she would have flown with courage." came, missing the veranda roof by just Prances in the aeroplane. Probably John a few inches, and dropping with a thud was with her now, however. He would on the ground, a huge gunny sack filled share her fame. "It isn't fair she should to the top with provisions. As Mrs. have everything," Marian whispered. "My

miracle had happened. She listened

"That Billy Winters Is Ca. wonder." cried the woman, when and had turned from the telephone. 'He's been out all day working on the telephone lines and working. That was the operator at the "She'll be front page copy for papers Junction calling. She wanted to know

> Marian Lee in turn took the telephone to talk with her aunts if possible. receiver a little later. "But it was worth Everybody's well except from worrying. That's over now. There's ice of them slept. on all the streets in the lower part of

Several hours later, as Marian Lee was undressing for the night, the telephone jangled again. Mrs. Warren and her children were fast asleep upstairs. Hurriedly Marian answered its call so they would not be awakened. John Lekey's

"Marian Lee," said John gayly. knew by the smoke from your chimney she heard of Frances' success, "Of course lifteen minutes ago Mother said your

He was the same friend he had been her about the flight of that day quite us She had refused to see Frances when though the rift had never existed. It

> They had wasted just one bag of food schoolhouse where Marian Lee taught He had been at the controls then and had been unable to make Prances understand that no one ran out of the back out into the crisp January air. The house at the call of the motor. She had feet on which she travelled were called

> Marian Lee was in bed before it came Love, too, abounded in her heart, and to her that the home at which Frances' motor had brought no response was that George, Crane, his wife, and their three the, flying low. Soon it was above the were almost recluses. They made no anyway, all my fault. I'm wiser now frænds. They had been almost rude because I've worked for power and love, to Marian Lee when she went to tell and a sound mind above anything else." old twin grandsons to school,

None of them had come out to wave at the aeroplane. ' How strange! The twins were the most active little pupils are scores of red-winged planes, Martha," at school. "Something must be wrong." Marian told herself. "I'll go over to see While Mr. Warran opened a can of them in the marning. There's a pale of corn and pounded the first steak they old skates in the summer kitchen. I'm

She tried to sleep but could not. The skin and creates complexions of sur-"There's a box of tea here, too," Mrs. lonely house, the two-little boys who passing loveliners, Warren confided to Marian. "It's your! loved school so well, the lame veteran, favorite kind orange pekoe, in a little his half invalid wife, and the tiny threebag. You and I will surely have a treat | year-od granddaughter-all five pendst--orange pekoe tea and little chocolate ed in invading thoughts. None of them

to you when they came out to visit! Finally Marian slipped out of bed and mean dome them better. All of you began to dress. Her lightest, warmest know that it does not work that way, Orange pekoe tea and chocolate al- cothes were donned. She found Peter Some women prepare three meals a day early stages of the disease, had been mond wafers! 'How many afternoons Warren's knapsack. Into it went matches the greater part of their lives, and every obtained and the experiment was about Marian and Frances had sat together in and the cans of milk John and Frances med as a poor one. Some workmen have to start, has been made. It will be the the Busy Bee Tea Room nibbling these had dropped from the sky to the War- been at one job thirty years and are as wafers and slpping orange pekoe teat rem. The bag dropped at the little poor at it as when they began. Doing That is the place where they had been cottage might not be easily found to- the same task over and over does not University of Chicago. The foundation when John Lebey had come in to tell, pught, and if there was illness in the toccasarily mean that it will be done has been making studies of "middle age them Frances' father had bought an home the matches and the milk would better and better. aeroplane, "Some of the bigger news- be meded immediately. A short, terse. How about yourself? Do you write a papers have flying reporters," he said, note was left for Mrs. Warren. Marian better letter now than you did when you "I reckon he'll let me have that Job did not dare call the older woman for were in the eighth grade? Do you play she would protest her going. The rusty a better game of tennis than you did at John, the star reporter on the Gazette, states were found and fitted to her thoss, the end of the first year? Is your cake und Frances had learned to fly at the Notzelessly the girl slipped out of the as likely to fall as it was when stirring tame time. Soon every pilot in the house down to the edge of the ice. There up a cake was a novelty to you? Doing ker, colored taxi driver, was dismissed

fastened them as tightly as the could, better and better. "She's going to teach school for two The knapsack was tight to her back and years," her father had stipulated. "Then she carried in her hand a light pole Mrs. If she wants to fly, I have no objections." Warren used for her clothes line. Equip-The aroms of the orange pekoe tea ped thus she started on the bong, lonely

She knew the path to the schoolhouse, spanked for a misdemeanor and stood in ing memory land. The table in the but she had not counted on so many; the corner to think over his trangreskitchen had been set while she dream- rough places in the ice. Twice she fell, slons. Half an hour later his father ed. The steak, the potatoes, and the the last time breaking the strap that said: "You know why I spanked you, corn were ready to serve. Mrs. Warren fastened the knapsack around her shoul- don't you John?" was pouring the ten into two cups she ders. It was too short to go around her "I don't really," replied the child, had brought for herself and the teacher, shoulders again. With her only hand- "unless it's the depression."

kerchief Marian Lee made it secure to

The moonlight made the ice a glassy sea, beautiful as it was slippery and filled with danger. She skated around the knoll on which the little schoolhouse stood and on to the bend of the river. It was there her greatest danger lay Trees grew thick here and the ice was so rough she slipped constantly and fell again and again.

Marian decided that she could travel better without the skates, with her stick as support. She had not dreamed she would have to take off the skates and had not made provisions for carrying

Sometimes she glanged up at the sky. fairy plane," she thought. "God give me

In the worst part of the woods, where limbs cracked ceaselessly, accentuating the loneliness, she suddenly remembered a verse she had memorized in Sunday school. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," it had run. "Love and a sound mind," she repeat-

Suddenly all her anger at Prances died. She had to have love as well as courage. She knew that now. Suddenly, unbelievably short time it seemed she was at the little cottage from which no wisp of smoke came.

td. "Love."

Very soon Marian was kindling a fire. after having told the bedridden man and woman there, who she was. While the fire blazed and grew strong, the woman told her that the children had measles. She did not even know the droning aeropland had brought them food, of which they were sadly in need.

Marian The heated milk for the veteran and his wife, both of whom were must have talked about a dollar's worth," ill with colds. She wakened the twins to she laughed when she had hung up the make them drink cups of hot milk. She filled another cup with warm milk and gave it to the tiny girl after which all

Morning brought a wealth of beautiful sunlight. Marian Lee dragged in the big gunny sack of food dropped by the aeroplane. She toasted some of the bread

All morning she worked and talked Sometimes she sang to the baby girl Mr. Crane thawed and began to talk also Late in the afternoon Murian heard the drone of a motor. The aeroplane circled lower and lower, and another bag was dropped close to the house. drew from it provisions and with them

Marian Lee, darling-If you get this and are safe come out and wave at us. Please do. We'll fly back in a few minutes to see it-you-me here. Mrs. Warren telephoned your aunts this morning of how you left her house last night to come to the bend. The Red Cross is sending aid over the ice. We're proud of you and your winged feet. Wave frantically if you're all okeh.

Marian Lee carried the bag into the

"winged feet." Her courage soared high,

from love came power. Her eyes went to the sky. She saw the of the Spanish-American War veteran, red-winged aeroplane coming back, circlhouse, again so low she could see the rural and 49.5 per cent, urban. The largaround the bend from the schoolhouse, features of the girl flying it. Joyously est proportion of rur I population is was a home almost forgotten in the she waved. More and more joyously found in Prince Edward Island, where neighborhood. The veteran, who lived came the waves which almost spelled. on his pension, and his half invalid wife "The rift is healed. It was a cilly rift"

> aid for skin health and beauty. Aids: the mother in additional loveliness, Proects the tender skin of the child. Delights the father as a hair fixative or large and small lakes in which there are cooling shaving lotion. No matter to what use it is put, it is always beneficial of all kinds caught in the three provinces to the skin. Every woman should use. it. Perstan Balm cooks and caresses the

## DOING TASKS OVER

Doing tasks again and again should

tasks over and over, if you do them with

## JUST ANOTHER REASON

A small boy, and five, had

NEW WAL MURKURS Pamous Writer Says World Paces

Choice of Peace or Death H. G. Wells told millions of British radio listeners recently of the borrors in store for them if we go on without taking hold of the war problem much more courageously than we have done

In a grim mood like that of his early stories, which predicted the terrors of the World War, Mr. Wells declared present-day humanity was faced with choice of peace or disaster and

"How long do you suppose it is," he asked, "before men will be able to pack up a parcel of explosives or poison gas v incendiary matter or any little thing



H. G. WELLS

of that sort and send it up into the ab to travel just to any chosen spot in the world and drop its load? For my part. I don't think it is going to be so very long

before that is practicable. "Our military people will stick to guns that carry only twenty miles or so, or airplanes that must fight their way through hostile planes and gunfire to drop whatever they do drop. But nobody believes these things mark the torpedoes for anywhere, bombs and gas flame delivered wherever you like or manifest possibilities toward which all our improvement in communication is

"Mr. Wells proposed "whole faculties and departments of foresight" in the world's universities to fight the dangers created by the abolition of distance to the modern world.

## MAPPING BY PHOTOGRAPHY

Since 1922 a total area of 402,500 quare miles of Canadian territory has been covered with aerial photography-125,000 square miles by vertical photographs and 277,500 square miles by oblique photographs. Vertical photographs are used for mapping on fairly large scales or where the country is photographs are specially well adapted

## CANADIANS FLOCK TO CITIES

Of the population of Canada 46.3 per cent, are rural dwellers and 53.7 per cent, reside in urban centres. Ten years ago the proportions were 50.5 per cent.

## FISH FROM PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Mention the Pratrie Provinces of Canada- Manitoba, Sykatchewan and Alberta-and the average person visualizes waving fields of gram, and probably Persian Balm is the one true family would hardly behave that an abundance of fish comes from these provinces. It is a fact, nevertheless, that the fisheries and Yukon Territory in the last fiscal

## THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

year was 291,147,000 pounds.

Twenty persons doomed to die of a disease called incurable by medical science have volunteered the rest of their lives so scientists may chart their "steps to death", and possibly benefit others similarly afflicted. To science their condiseases" for four years.

THE MYSTERY OF A GRIP Because the Crown could not prove that he knew there were a dozen fortyounce bottles of whiskey in a grip he was carrying, a charge of violating the Liquor Act Laid against Carson K. Walhee court. Walker was found by railway adian National railway station with the arip in his possession. Investigation explanation was that he had driven a porter to the station in his taxi and had Feen asked to carry the grip up to the He d.d not know what was inside

Pleasure's couch is virtue's grave .-

COMMON IDEA

Irishman hits the pepper box on the bottom an' a Dutchman hits it on the

Mike: "Ot don't. Why, is 11?" Pat: "Shure, an' it's to get the pepper out Molke."

name last year."

JUST DRUNK Department Store Santa Claus-And what is your name, my little man?". are! Dontcha remember? I told you my

The villain's censure is extorted praise.

NOT GORGEOUS

Little Boy-'Gee, what an oil can you "I don't like to mention it, but the foo

admit I cats 'earty; but no one could call me gorgeous."



CANADIANS AND THEIR INDUSTRIES—AND THEIR BANK

#### SUCCESSFUL HOME-MAKING-CANADA'S GREATEST INDUSTRY

MECHANIC: "In recent years my pay has averaged \$110 a month, but I have made as much as \$200. My regular habit has been to deposit part of my pay in the Bank of Montreal."

SALES CLERK: "That reminds me-but finish your story."

MECHANIC: "Well, the job hasn't been easy, but here's what I have to-day: A debtfree home worth \$2,000, summer cottage worth \$500, \$1,200 in the Bank, a small automobile, good furniture, including a piano. Of course, I saved something every month for many years."

SALES CLERK: "My wife runs our family finances. I hand her my pay cheque, and after paying bills and keeping out purso money, she puts the rest in our savings account at the Bank of Montreal. That's why we had the money to buy our nice little home-a bargain for cash."

#### SOME OF THE BANK'S SERVICES TO THRIFTY CANADIANS:

Personal savings accounts; banking by mail; safekeeping of securities and other valuable papers; chequing-accounts; letters of credit; money orders and travellers cheques.

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