













# Kathleen Norris Says:

## The Captain's Wife

Bell Syndicate.—WNU Features.



She likes him very much; they love to dine and go to the theater together; he comes out every Sunday and they take Nancy and go on a picnic somewhere.

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

WAR is a test of everything our young men have of character, self-forgetfulness, courage, vision. We demand of them that they put aside all the dreams, the hopes, the happiness and freedom of youth, to buy hope and security and happiness for thousands of other men, yet unborn. And the magnificence of their response to this demand is holding the whole world breathless.

What women sometimes forget is that war years make similar claims upon us, too. If our boys must give their lives, physically, we are often called upon to give what is as dear as life. We have to sacrifice plans, dear companionship, the peace and harmony of home life, the smoothness of living which for so many years was ours.

It takes a woman strong in character to get through these days. It takes a woman with a brave soul and a prayerful heart, a woman who can laugh and work and hope, who can bear today because of what may be tomorrow. And because not all women are like that, the newspapers are filled with the tragedies of broken homes, faithless wives, all the moral irregularities that follow in the wake of war.

**Army Captain's Problem.** Many of these, naturally, don't get to the newspapers. In this class is the problem of a certain army captain, a man who has been for more than a year in England, and who wrote me just before the invasion.

"When I came across," says the letter of Capt. Leonard Blank, "I left a pretty wife and a small daughter of three behind me. Lynn and I have been married nearly six years; they have been heavenly years. Waiting—waiting—waiting for the big push to start, over here, I've dreamed of some of those summer trips in the old blue car; I've waked up crying more than once.

"Perhaps I'm really awake now. Perhaps it was all a dream. Anyway, here's the gist of a letter I got this morning from my wife. She's afraid friends are spying on her and I'll hear gossip, so she's telling me herself that she's been going about with a certain man we both know who is stationed at a plane factory near our home town. She likes him very much; they love to dine and go to the theater together; he comes out every Sunday and they take Nancy and go on a picnic somewhere. But everything's absolutely on the square, I'm not to believe what anyone says, for she hopes she has sense enough to stop short of anything wrong. She admits that she adores her, says he always has, although she never realized it before. But I'm not to get all worked up about it because it's absolutely all right. She hasn't seen my mother in two months because Mother asks her to stop seeing Browie; it's too bad, for Nancy adores her Grandpa, but Lynn doesn't propose to put up with that kind of interference from anyone, so if Mother writes me I'm to discount her letter accordingly.



Such a letter!

### Washington, D. C., Needs 10,000 Office Workers This Fall

About 10,000 office workers—most of them typists and stenographers—will be needed this fall in Washington to take care of the normal turnover and to replace teachers and students who are returning to school, the U. S. Civil Service commission estimates.

At present there is no pressing demand for clerks, the commission said, but applications for such jobs are still being considered, and there are a few openings for card punch operators and the like. The bulk of the present demand, however, is for typists and stenographers.

The commission has adopted for its own personnel a "Big Sister" plan through which the newcomer is given the benefit of an older girl's experience in finding suitable living quarters, is shown the convenient shopping centers, given tips on what's tops in entertainment, introduced to other girls, and generally given a chance to orient herself.

### MORALE WRECKERS

While most wives of servicemen are doing magnificently, holding the home together, working in factories, taking care of the children and doing Red Cross work in what "spare" time they have, there are some women who are so weak and selfish that they think only of themselves and their pleasures.

An army captain writes that his pretty wife, whom he has loved deeply for six years, tells him that she is going about with an old friend... picnics, theaters, and such. But it's "absolutely on the square," she adds hastily; just a little fun to help pass the lonely hours. The neighbors will talk, of course, but that can't be helped. She assures her husband, worried with military responsibilities, that while this old friend adores her, and comes to the house every Sunday, she "hopes that she has sense enough to stop short of anything wrong."

"Maybe you think that's a swell letter to come to a man facing what we're facing here," the captain says in conclusion. "But I don't!"

### A Weak, Cruel Woman.

Neither do I, Captain. Only a weak and cruel woman could write such a letter to her man at the fighting front, and whatever the outcome, whether you come home or don't come home, your idyllic married days are over. War has ruined one more home; war has shown up the devotion of one more wife to be an imitation of the real thing. Little Nancy is out of luck.

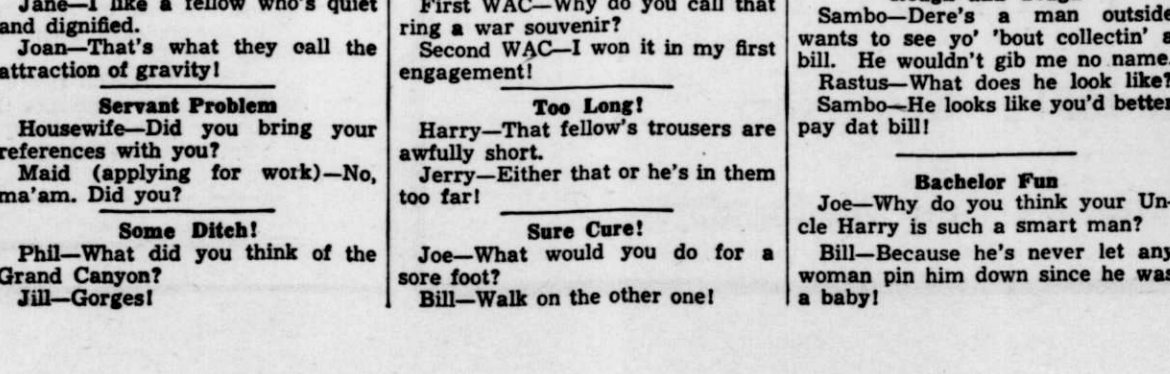
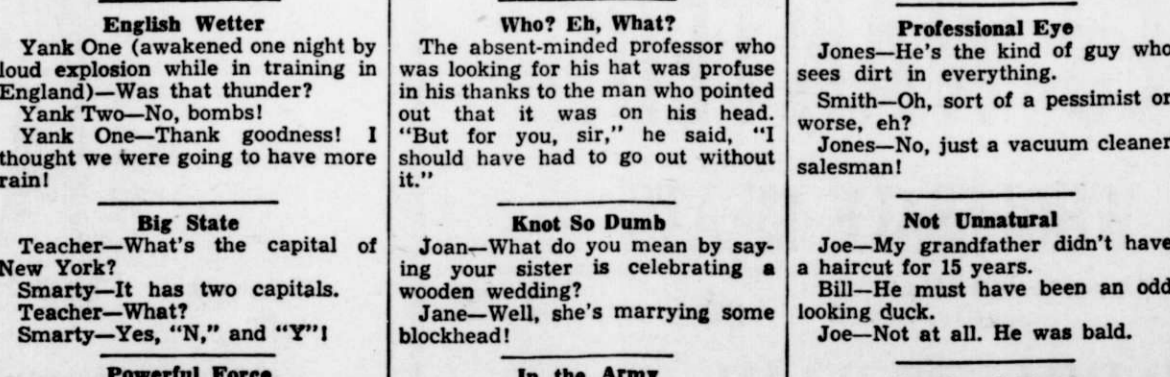
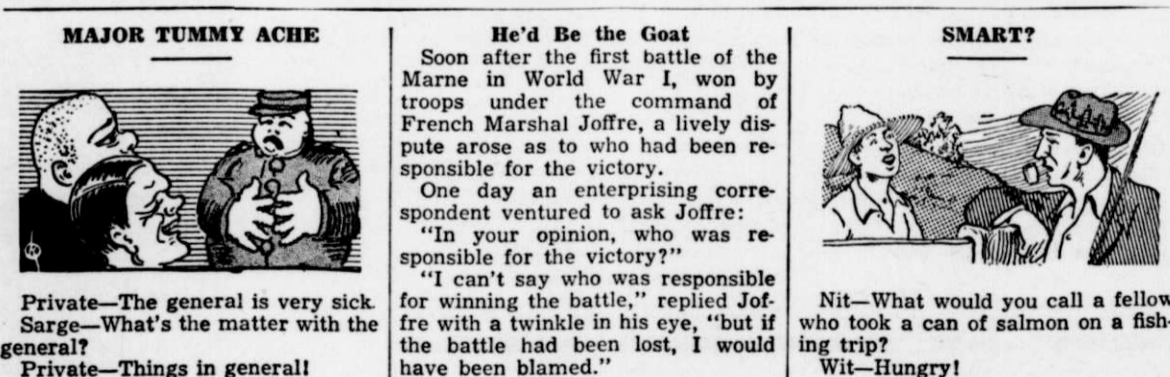
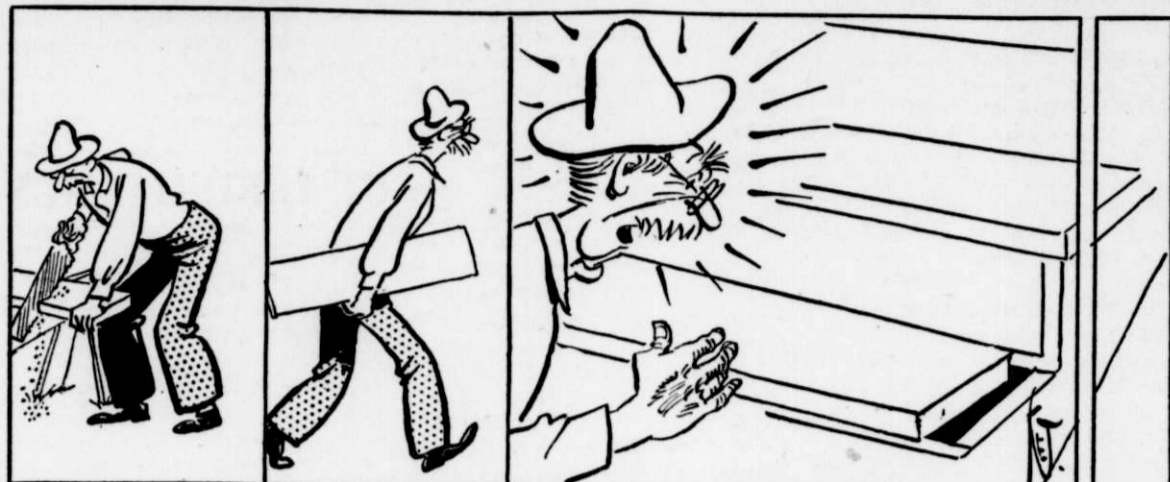
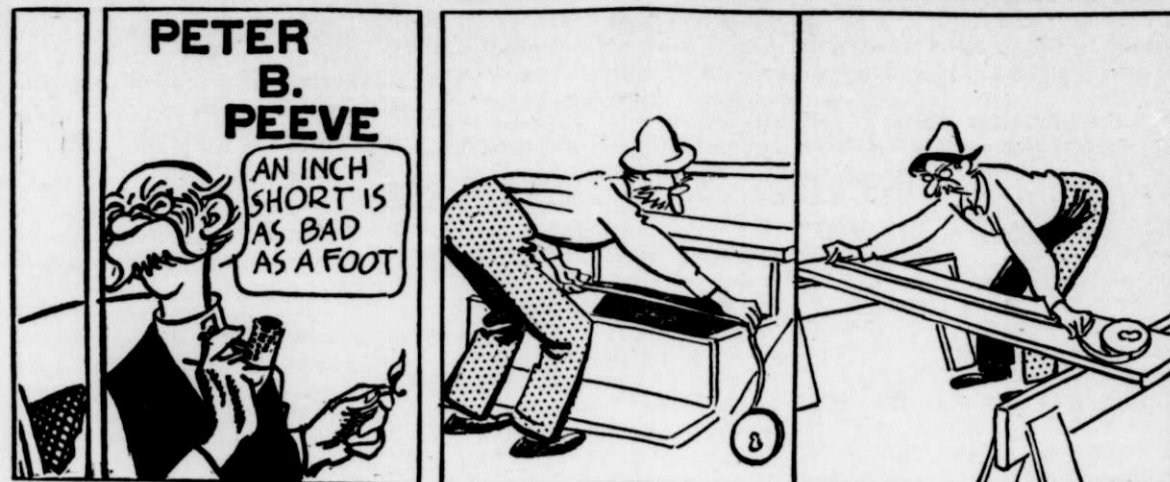
And Lynn, the wife, has lost a chance that would lead to deep and wonderful happiness, in a few years. She just couldn't see far enough, poor Lynn. She couldn't busy herself with the care of her child and her home, with some sort of service work, with hopes and prayers and plans for the happiness of reunion tomorrow. Loneliness and dullness and uncertainty were too much for her. That thousands of women are facing them with courage and energy, that thousands of women are writing their men brave letters full of reassurance and love and promises for the future—all this meant little to Lynn. She just had to be petted and flattered; she had to play with fire, make mockery of her husband, her marriage, her child.

The Lynns are having their day. But the day of the steadfast, patient, waiting wives and mothers, sisters and daughters, is coming fast. The women who endured, who worked, who prayed, who wrote letters, saved money, kept their eyes fixed on the tremendous years ahead, will have their day soon. Little pretty Lynn, discontented, disillusioned, superfluous, airing a continual grievance, will drift into the shadows she herself has chosen for middle-age and old age. The others will help build the new America.

**Leave 'Abandoned' Fawns Alone**  
"Every summer when the new crop of young animals is at the 'cute' stage, reports start coming in of people finding such animals abandoned by their mothers. Such stories very frequently center around young fawns," says Dr. Gabrielson, department of the interior.

"Cases of actual abandonment of fawns are very rare indeed. The best thing to do when such fawns are come upon is to leave them right where they are found; if taken away, they generally die."

# OUR COMIC SECTION



### SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

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### ASK ME ANOTHER?

#### A General Quiz

#### The Questions

1. What conquering armies have marched through the streets of Berlin within the last two centuries?
2. How many Presidents of the United States have been under 50 when inaugurated?
3. The Bible tells of a man who fastened firebrands onto the tails of foxes and sent them into the cornfields of his enemies. Who was he?
4. By what method do the members of Finland's parliament vote?
5. Who delivered the famous Cooper Union address?
6. What do the British call our baby flat-tops or escort carriers?
7. If an enlisted man's cap is piped in light blue, what does it signify?
8. What products constitute in tonnage half of the supplies shipped overseas by the United States to our allies and our armed forces?
9. One coast of India is on the Bay of Bengal. The other is on what sea?
10. Why are women able to sing at a higher pitch than men?

#### The Answers

1. The Russian troops of Catherine the Great in 1760, and the Old Guards of Napoleon in 1806.
2. Six.
3. Samson (Judges 15:4, 5).
4. They press a "yes" or "no" button on their desk. Thus they can pass a bill within 90 seconds.
5. Abraham Lincoln.
6. "Woolworth carriers."
7. That he is an infantryman.
8. Petroleum products.
9. Arabian sea.
10. Women are able to sing at a much higher pitch than men because their vocal cords, five twelfths of an inch in length, vibrate from 200 to 800 times a second, or twice as fast as men's cords, which are seven twelfths of an inch in length.

### SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Normally there are 20 per cent more tire failures during the summer months than others. Tests have shown that at a temperature of 90 degrees tires wear out twice as fast as at 60 degrees and that at 100 degrees they wear out five times as fast as at 40 degrees.

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