

THERE IS TODAY

By JOSEPHINE LAWRENCE

CHAPTER II

Sarah Daffodil acts in every capacity for the four-family house in Garset after her husband's death. In February, 1941 23 year old Andrew Thane and Candace Moore, who plan to be married the following week, inquire about the Merding apartment advertised in the morning paper. Sarah realizes that it may not be wise to rent to a couple of youngsters with the selective training law hanging over the boy's head, but their youthful charm wins her over.



"The news from across the pond isn't getting any better."

"You're Andrew Thane, aren't you? I guess you don't know me but I'm a neighbor of yours—King Waters. We live in the same house—my wife and I are directly under you—on the second floor."

They shook hands gravely. His wife, King promised, would be up to call on Mrs. Thane before long. "She wanted to let her have time to get settled. I've gone down with you on the same bus two or three mornings, but there was always a crowd and I had no chance to speak to you."

Andrew Thane read the first paragraph of baseball comment, then forced himself to mumble conversationally. "Pretty fair service on this line."

Transportation was temporarily speeded up. King assured him, because of the approaching spring elections. "But the service we are getting now will seem deluxe compared with what we'll be getting once we're in the war."

That night King Waters mentioned to his wife that he had spoken to young Thane in the bus. "When are you going up to call on Mrs. Thane?"

"Oh, sometime. Why?"

He had thought she might be able to dispose of a couple of tickets for the Legion's fair and bazaar. Waters suggested, "You know I've got to get rid of sixty."

His wife said that he had only himself to thank for that. "You always were one to bite off more than you could chew." Her crocheted hook flashed swiftly.

"Made up your mind about giving the committee one of your spreads? Haven't you got one with a mistake in it, a dropped stitch, or something?"

"Every one of my spreads is perfect and you know it."

Her husband took his unlighted cigar from his mouth, examined it with apparent interest, replaced it still unlighted. "Emma?"

"Well, what?"

"When do you think you will get up to see Mrs. Thane?"

"My good heavens, how do I know? She isn't home during the day and I've got something better to do with my evenings than running around calling on women who don't take enough interest in their homes to stay there. I suppose, though, I won't have any peace until I go to see her and try to sell her a couple of tickets."

Waters said, reproachful patience heavy on his tongue, "Funny how you feel about doing anything for the Legion. Here I was willing to give my life in the last war and you—a lot of dames like you—stall when you're asked to help fellows who need help now."

His wife turned the radio dial and an impassioned tenor voice besought listeners in to sample the merits of a new dessert. Emma Waters said coldly, "I don't believe you were so crazy about the war until you found yourself safely out of it."

"Is that so? Maybe I wasn't crazy about the war, but I was ready to do my duty. Not like that young fellow up stairs who is apparently all set to claim exemption. It's a disgrace, the way marriage applications have jumped since the selective training went into effect. Falling over each other at the city hall to get a marriage license so they can hide behind some woman's skirts."

"You were drafted," Emma Waters crocheted a chain of stars at top speed.

"Well, what's that got to do with it? I did what was asked of me, and I stand ready to do it again, if we go into this second time. I'm going to see what I can do about getting a commission."

His wife shrugged her narrow shoulders. An airplane, flying low, droned over the house and the noise seemed to partake of motion like a shudder. "There's a good chance Mrs. Thane will be in here tonight," Emma Waters said.

They had made each other's acquaintance in the cash grocery she revealed in response to her husband's curious prodding.

"But why's she coming here?"

"I asked her. I can't get Pearl for any day but Thursday next week and I want to see if Mrs. Thane will exchange garden days with me. She said her husband studies nights, so I thought it would be better to have her come down than for me to go up."

She might have said something about it, Waters grumbled, pulling down his vest and jerking his tie straight. The door button buzzed and he hurried to answer it.

Candace Thane, ushered ponderously into the living room, looked like a doll in contrast to the thick outlines of her host. The girl had to thread her way through an eddy of low tables and chairs, to reach Mrs. Waters

limp, extended hand. "Nice of you to come, King. get a chair—not that one, something lower. I guess you don't know my husband, Mrs. Thane."

"Only by sight," Candace smiled. "My husband and Mr. Waters are fellow bus commuters."

"What I wanted to ask you," said Emma Waters, "is whether you'd be willing to let me have the laundry and yard this Thursday." Her laundress, she explained, usually came Wednesday but this week had served a notice that her home affairs required her attention that day.

Wednesday was as convenient as any other day for her, Candace admitted cheerfully. "We send out the big things every other week and I can do the small laundry almost any time, if Mrs. Daffodil doesn't care."

"Laws, she never interferes with the tenants' arrangements. It'll be only for this week and hanks a lot Mrs. Thane. King, aren't you ever going to settle down?"

King Waters said, "I'm on my way out. You folks like it here, Mrs. Thane? Beginning to feel settled?"

"It's lovely." The girl's bright serenity suddenly sparkled. "We're crazy about the apartment and we're looking forward to the summer when that grand big lawn out back will be green."

Her host chewed reflectively on his frayed cigar. "Can't look very far ahead, I'm afraid. A lot of things can happen between now and next summer."

She looked at him intently, the glow in her large eyes faded.

"I'm afraid most of you young people are going to come face to face with reality before many months are over. The news from across the pond isn't getting any better, you know."

"Andy won't claim exemption Candace spoke gently, her smooth forehead unruined.

"I don't suppose you and Mr. Thane would be interested in a couple of tickets for the American Legion bazaar and fair? A lot of prizes and a bang-up good supper. Friday and Saturday nights next week. My wife's talking of donating one of the fancy spreads she makes to be raffled off."

He held up two orange colored slips. "Proceeds go to help the disabled veterans at the Memorial Hospital."

They couldn't go, their weekends were always planned ahead. Candace regretfully declined. She would, however, take the two tickets. "We're always glad to do what we can for the disabled veterans, Mr. Waters. I can dispose of more tickets if you'd like me to. I can sell them to friends at the office."

"How many tickets you think you can sell—at seventy-five cents apiece? A dozen—swell!" She was, he told her, a swell person and an example others might well follow. "People would completely forget those boys in the hospital if we didn't prod them."

"I wish I knew where I could get a woman with a car," said Tom Fitts into the telephone.

She and her husband occupied 2-B, across the hall from the Waters, but the two families could not be called neighbors. Tom possessed a nervous driving energy that found expression in a dozen different channels and kept her constantly and actively occupied. She was a thin, tall woman with a hard, bright manner and a will power that netted her chairmanships almost automatically. Efficiency was her fetish and everything around her, from her severely tailored gray lannels to her chromium-colored hair, cut short and swept back from her face in sharply carved rolls that looked as inflexible as glass, suggested mechanical perfection.

"Well, I have some one in mind." She appeared to clip off each word she uttered and to let it drop into the phone like a metal bead. "No, she hasn't a car—at least so far as I know. But clerical training. Makes a nice impression. Yes, call me back at this time tomorrow and I'll let you know."

She replaced the handset and glanced speculatively across the breakfast table at her husband, who was watching the coffee percolator. Toni boasted that she "lanned her day while breakfasting and certainly the table represented a fusion of interests

with nutrition coming out a poor second. The telephone, several leather-bound engagement books, two calendars and a number of memorandum pads with attached pencils fenced in Toni's place.

Bert Fitts, a grizzled, placid gentleman of perhaps fifty-five or sixty who had no figure to lose, deftly spread thick apricot preserve on a fresh slice of toast and genially inquired, "Well, what's cooking?"

"This is a terrific week for me, his wife informed him.

Her husband pointed to the percolator. "Throw out that cold slop and have a hot cup."

"No more. That reminds me I must call up Bess about the nutrition classes. And I'm down for two speeches on "Preparedness" this week and I've pledged a day to the British workrooms."

The placid man poured coffee, did not raise his voice as he said casually, "Women like you have colossal nerve to advocate this country's entrance into the war."

"Well, I'd like to know what you mean by that! Women are citizens, aren't they? We have a right to an opinion, haven't we? Look at the time and the effort and money we give to alleviate the suffering caused by this war. I'd like to know why we shouldn't advocate anything we happen to believe in!" She lifted the handset as the telephone rang and a high-pitched voice began to chatter rapidly over the wire.

"I don't precisely advocate our entrance into the war," she said now, pushing the phone back. "I think we ought to help Britain in every way and if she needs our men, why then?"

Her husband was silent.

"It's the women who have to uphold a nation's ideals," Tom recited. "You admit that, don't you?"

"I don't know what you're upholding and I doubt whether you do," he told her, replacing the cover on the jam jar. "Women whose men will be in service—like that girl on the top floor—have some right to argue, perhaps, though I'm not at all sure. After all, it's the men of military age who should do the talking—he'll be staking their lives, Amelia."

His wife frowned. She had been christened Amelia. She began to gather up her books and pencils. "I must get upstairs to call on that Mrs. Thane. She may be glad to do a little work for us—Mrs. Waters told me she holds some kind of clerical position."

Footsteps sounded in the kitchen, the door clicked. "Morning, Mrs. Fitts," Belle, the cleaning woman called cheerfully.

Toni Fitts encountered old Mrs. Peppercorn in the hall that evening as she prepared to mount the stairs to the third floor. Stair limbing afforded an excellent opportunity to slim the calves and thighs, the beauty parlor instructor had told her, so that when Mrs. Peppercorn had reached the second landing on her way to the street the old lady was a little alarmed to see a tall thin woman balancing herself on one leg with her other knee pressed against her chest.

"Oh—good evening," Toni Fitts resumed her normal stance. "I'm on my way up to see your new neighbors. I don't suppose you know whether the Thanes are home. Mrs. Peppercorn?"

(TO BE CONTINUED)

EXTRA FOOD

Extra food will help shorten the war, save American lives, and help write the peace.

Produce More Household Goods

Increased production of cast-iron skillets, kettles, dutch ovens and flat irons for household, industrial, commercial, and other uses is permitted under a recent revision of WPB order L-30a.

Return Ration Books in Mail

Finders of lost ration books may drop them in the mail without prepaying postage or enclosing them in envelopes, according to OPA. On payment of a five-cent postage due charge, the Post Office Department will return the lost book to the person whose name and address appear on the cover. When the addressee cannot be found, the Post Office will forward the book to the nearest rationing board.

Get Points to Send Food Overseas

Persons who wish to send a package of rationed food overseas may get the necessary points by applying to OPA. Those who wish to have the dealer from whom the food is bought arrange for shipment, may make the purchase without giving up ration points, since OPA will replace the point value of the foods the dealer exports. When extra ration points are issued, a copy of the export declaration or a certificate of mailing must be turned over to the OPA office which granted the points.

Use Synthetic Rubber for Elastic Thread

Synthetic rubber may be used in garters, suspenders, foundation garments, and underwear. All restrictions on the manufacture of elastic thread made with synthetic rubber have been suspended by WPB until April 1, 1944.

Irrigate More Farm Land

War food production will be increased materially by 1945 through the extension of irrigation service to nearly 800,000 acres of land on 13 Bureau of Reclamation projects in Arizona, California, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington, the Secretary of the Interior announced recently.

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56 Prisoner of War Camps

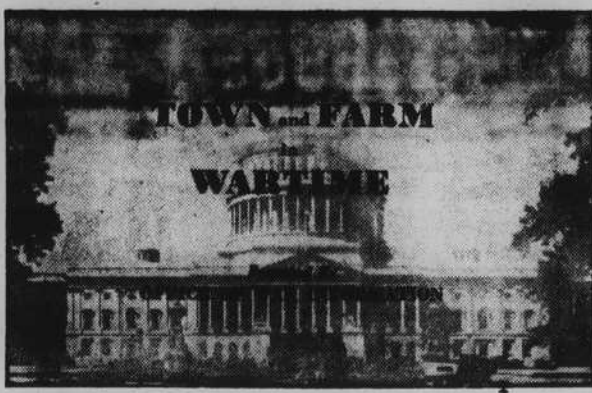
More than 140,000 prisoners of war are now held in 56 permanent camps in the U. S., the War Department has reported. The ratio of Germans to Italians is approximately three to one, in addition to the permanent camps there are many temporary ones set up to house prisoners in areas with labor shortages. Agricultural work done by prisoners includes harvesting fruits, tomatoes, potatoes, peanuts, cotton, sugar beets, and corn. Only a few prisoners have escaped and very one of them has been captured within a few hours.

POTATO PICKERS HONORED

About 500 farm workers from Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and West Virginia credited with helping to save Maine's bumper potato crop, stopped in Washington, D. C., recently on their way home and received a state of thanks on the Capitol steps from Senator Ralph O. Brewster of Maine. Senator Allen W. Barkley of Kentucky responded for the states from which the workers came. Maine's potato crop this year reached an estimated 71 million bushels. This is 70 per cent above normal and 15 per cent of the country's total potato crop.

FAS Borrowers Repay Loans

Families buying homes through the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act have repaid 26 per cent more on their loans than the proportion necessary to pay out in full over the 40-year period, the War Food Administration has stated. These payments "ahead of schedule" are the result of a variable payment plan followed by 77 per cent of the borrowers. Under this plan families are billed for smaller than average amounts in poor years, but are billed for larger than average payments when good incomes justify it.



RATION REMINDER

GASOLINE—In 17 East coast states A-6 coupons are now good. In states outside the East coast area A-8 coupons are now good.

FUEL OIL—Period 1 coupons are good through January 3.

SUGAR—Stamp No. 14 good for 5 pounds through Nov. 1. Stamp No. 29 in Book Four be good Nov. 1, and will be good for 5 pounds through Jan. 15, 1944. Stamps No. 15 and 16 good for 5 pounds each for home canning through October 31.

SHOES—Stamp No. 18 good for one pair. Stamp No. 1 on the "airplane" sheet in War Ration Book Three becomes good for one pair November 1.

MEATS, FATS—Brown stamp C, D, E, and F good through October 30. Brown stamp G, now good, expires December 4. Brown stamp H becomes good October 31 and remains good through December 4.

PROCESSED FOGDS—Blue stamps X, Y and Z good through November 20. Green stamps A, B, and C in Book Four become good November 1 and remain good through December 20.

TO PROVIDE MORE SOAP—An increase of about 9 per cent in the nation's soap supply, without using additional fats and oils, is expected under adjusted soap formulas recently prescribed by the War Food Administration. Two formulas call for a larger use of domestic non-fat materials, principally rosin, as a substitute for fats.

Buy Higher Analysis Fertilizers—Farmers purchasing mixed fertilizers can save money and at the same time contribute to the war effort by buying higher analysis fertilizers, according to War Food Administration officials.

Higher analysis fertilizers will cost more per 100 lbs. than those of lower plant food value, but the cost per pound of plant food is lower. To help the fertilizer distribution program, farmers should apply for fertilizer needed for fall and next spring as soon as possible and take delivery of it during the fall and winter months.

Can Still Send one Gifts—Christmas packages for soldiers overseas which have been returned to the sender because of an improper address still may be mailed, according to the War Department. The original wrapper, bearing the endorsement, "Returned to Sender, Insufficient Address," must be submitted with the correctly addressed package to prove that it originally was mailed before the October 15 deadline. Christmas packages also may be mailed to soldiers going overseas between now and Christmas. When the sender presents his package to the post office for mailing he must bring the change of address form containing the APO address to which the package is being sent.

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Recollect Old Clothings, Rags—A nationwide collection campaign for discarded clothing, used fabrics, and rags being planned to meet heavy industrial and military requirements for wiping cloths, according to WPB. Officials emphasized that they do not want clothes that the owner will wear again or can use. The discarded clothing also will be used for local relief and relief and rehabilitation purposes abroad. Materials collected will be separated and classified for best possible use. It is expected that the collection program will be handled by individual states and communities.

Urges Farmers to Collect Scrap—In support of the all out "Victory Scrap Bank" drive to collect iron and steel scrap, Marvis Jones, War Food Administrator, has urged farmers to comb their farms for all possible scrap. Pointing out that next to industry, the greatest source of heavy scrap is the American farm, Mr. Jones said, "American farmers are doing the greatest food production job in history. However if we are to insure ample steel for wartime production, millions of tons of scrap iron and steel must come from our farms in the next six weeks."

Tire Help for Truck Owners—Truck owners who have tire rationing certificates but are unable to get tires, because local quotas are used up and those operators unable to get certificates because of depletion of quotas soon may get help through the Office of Defense Transportation. Instructions on procedure for reporting such cases soon will be issued to the 142 ODT district managers. After cases are reported ODT will clear shortages with the Office of the Rubber Director in an effort to get the necessary tires.

CORN PRICES SET—Maximum prices for white ear corn are 2 1/2 cents a bushel less than shelled yellow or white corn of like quality and grade, under a recent OPA ruling. White shelled corn is 3 1/2 cents per bushel less. The Commodity Credit Corporation will continue to pay the corn producer for any advances in the maximum price of corn through December 31, 1943.

Report on Third War Loan—Final figures for the third War Loan showed 18,943,000,000 worth of bonds sold. Under Secretary of the Treasury Daniel W. Bell reported recently. Sales to individuals, the first objective of the drive, exceeded the five billion dollar quota by 377 million dollars.

Extra Ration Points for Some—Persons who reside in remote areas and are unable to obtain their minimum nutritional requirements of fresh milk will be obliged to receive extra ration points to purchase additional amounts of rationed meats, fats, and dairy products, according to OPA.

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Keep them in Your MEDICINE CABINET—Alka-Seltzer—Try Alka-Seltzer for Headache, "Morning After" Aching Muscles, Acid Indigestion, Pleasant, prompt, effective. 30¢ and 60¢.

ONE A DAY VITAMIN TABLETS—High Vitamin potency at low cost—ONE-A-DAY Vitamin Tablets, A and B tablets in the yellow box—B-Complex tablets in the grey box.

DR. MILES NERVINE—For Sleeplessness, Irritability, Headache, and Restlessness, when due to Nervous Tension. Use only as directed.

Women! Here is a name to remember

CARDUI—A 62 year record of 2-Way help* *See directions on label

Used as a tonic, Cardui usually puts up appetite, aids digestion, and thus helps build energy for the "time" to come. Started 3 days before your time, and taken as directed, it should help relieve pain due to purely functional causes.

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Lawyers and Soldiers' Recovery Army and civilian lawyers are aiding Army medical officers in bringing about the speedy recovery of wounded troops by providing free legal advice which clears up perplexing financial problems and other difficulties which may confront the soldier. This service provided overseas as well as at home, gives the soldier the peace of mind which is necessary for the proper response to medical treatment, the War Department reports.

Will Have Enough Cigarettes—Supplies of cigarettes will continue to be sufficient in volume and quality to meet the demands of U.S. civilians, according to a recent report by the War Food Administration.

Fourth Annual Report By The Brewing Industry

RALEIGH.—The Brewing Industry Foundation's North Carolina Committee has issued its fourth annual report reviewing the accomplishments of its self-regulation program for the past 12 months.

The report, compiled by State Director Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, disclosed the Committee held 161 industry meetings during the year. These included 129 meetings of retail dealers, 18 distributors meetings and four other industry meetings.

The state director delivered 23 addresses before civic and veterans' organizations, and appeared before the governing boards of 29 counties, cities and towns.

The report also includes excerpts from newspaper editorials and letters commending the Committee's self-regulation campaign.

Buy War Savings Bonds

WHEN NERVOUS HEADACHES PESTER ME I FIND THAT MILES NERVINE HELPS NERVOUS TENSION TO RELAX AND LEAVES ME CALM, SERENE

WHEN FUNCTIONAL NERVOUS Disturbances such as Sleeplessness, Crankiness, Excitability, Restlessness or Nervous Headache interfere with your work or spoil your good times, take

Dr. Miles Nervine (Liquid or Effervescent Tablets)

Nervous Tension can make you Wakeful, Jittery, Irritable. Nervous Tension can cause Nervous Headache and Nervous Indigestion. In times like these, we are more likely than usual to become overwrought and nervous and to wish for a good sedative. Dr. Miles Nervine is a good sedative—mild but effective.

If you do not use Dr. Miles Nervine you can't know what it will do for you. It comes in Liquid and Effervescent Tablet form, both equally soothing to tense and over-wrought nerves. WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?

Get it at your drug store, Effervescent tablets 35¢ and 75¢, Liquid 25¢ and \$1.00. Read directions and use only as directed.

