

it was now keeping vigil over the less important utensils of the family and Jimmy's pet frog, which was tucked carefully away on the bottom shelf. The only evidence of its presence was the pungent odor of dead fishing worms and the monotonous croaking of Wilbur. Across from the cupboard stood the iron stove on a piece of linoleum just big enough for the four carved legs

and the coal bucket. Maybe at night, when no one was looking, it straightened out those tired legs and rested in peace. It was king of the kitchen, and if it had had a nose it would have looked down upon the lesser articles in its presence.

All that was needed was the mistress of the Kitchen Kingdom, and she was soon to appear.

Her Majesty

MAXINE DEMLOW

Zooming through the ever-changing, lofty clouds, a Lockheed Lightning Interceptor came into view, her wings outspread as a huge eagle. Queen of the airways, she seemed propelled by some forceful, hidden power, concealed from the human eye. The sun reflecting the drab olive green wings as the P-38 made a gliding left bank was startlingly blinding.

Circling the enormous landing field, whizzing by at such a tremendous speed, the masterpiece of intricate workmanship flew waiting for a signal from the ground to land. When she had received it, she chose a long, stretching runway, her wing and tail elevators moved, and she came out of the sun, losing altitude fast, the concealed cannon and guns in her nose gleaming.

Suddenly, as if appearing magically, her retracting gear lowered. Slowly, at approximately 100 to 150 miles an hour,

the Lightning straightened, hit once—twice, then smoothly, confidently, and majestically taxied up the runway. Upon reaching the opposite end, she came to a complete standstill, her motors still throbbing, as if panting for breath after the swift flight.

She possessed a non-stall wing which served as a preventive measure against possible tail spins. This wing, developed from hundreds of wing tunnel experiments, bore the large white star, the emblem of democracy.

Proudly she stood, knowing that she had extra strength and dependability, that she could fly faster, higher, and farther than any enemy fighter; proudly she stood, the result of many months of designing, planning, and testing, knowing that she could take punishment and still deliver the goods, knowing that she is an essential protector of our great nation.