

# Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

### Synopsis

Gary Tallman, young petroleum engineer from Alabama, misses his bus in Texas and Mona Hickey, wife of a cattle rancher, gives him a lift. Gary is injured when her car crashes in a ditch and the Masons nurse him back to health. He falls in love with Mona's daughter Adelaide but, unwilling to propose until he has a job, Gary plans to leave for Mexico. Meanwhile he suspects there is oil in the property and tells tests of Oliver Kimball, Harvey's son-in-law. Hickey is employed to drill a well. Harvey persuades Gary to remain until tests are made. Lawyer Slide Ellis threatens to get an injunction, because of a violation of property rights in the sale of the land to Harvey. A break in the water pipe delays operations.

Gary locates it and believes Slide Ellis is at the bottom of the business.

### CHAPTER XXI

At one in the morning the break had been repaired, the boilers and pump were going again, and in a short time the drill was turning. But Gary and Harvey still sat on the tool box, humped over and watchful, and Adelaide insisted on staying with them, though her father had ordered her to bed a dozen times.

"How can I sleep," she demanded, "with you two sitting out here waiting for something else to blow up?"

"Well, maybe nothing more will blow up before morning. Son," Harvey scrutinized a piece of paper in his hand, by the light of a match. "I've seen this license number you got off that truck before. I'm trying to remember where."

"Maybe you saw it on Oliver's car," snapped Adelaide. "If he did have anything to do with cutting that water line, he needn't come to this house again! After you bought him a radio for his car for Christmas, too!"

"You can find out from the tax records who owns that car," Gary said. "But we can't prove that they actually cut the line, and it's un-

likely that we can find out who hired them to do it. The thing we have to do now is to see that it isn't tampered with again."

"Could put it underground—but we won't need it long enough for that," Harvey said. "How far down is she now?"

"Twelve hundred feet. But this is going to be a deep well, Mr. Mason Hickey says so, too."

"I don't care how deep she goes, if we hit oil. But time is what we need."

"And time, unless I'm very much mistaken is exactly what they're not going to give you. They'll be out here in the morning with a flock of deputies and the papers, or I'll miss my guess. And every day Hickey's outfit stays idle, it stays on your pay roll."

With morning, Gary's dismal prophecy was swiftly fulfilled. A carload of dull-faced men arrived very promptly, and though Harvey went into a rage and cursed everything alive, he had to accept service on the documents. "But let me tell you something, Chad Wingate," he fumed at the deputy. "Just as soon as I bust this thing and get my well going, I'm going to get busy and see we get some honest officers in this county. Men that can't be hired to do the dirty work of any crook who wants to steal a man's property and prevent him from do-

ing what he leases on his own land. I have influence enough and I pay taxes enough to do it—and you'll see I'll get it done, come next election!"

"Look here, Harvey, you ain't got a right to call me a crook just because I got to fetch you out a paper here, that the law says I gotta serve," protested the deputy. "I ain't the law nor the judge. I'm just a hired hand on this county, and when they hand me them things, I'm sworn to see they get into the hands of the men whose names are writ on 'em."

"If you had wanted to dodge getting served with this here paper, you coulda left town," another deputy reminded him. "We didn't figure we'd find you less'n a week did we, Chad?"

"I ain't dodging this business," growled Harvey. "I'm getting into the fight with my belt hitched up and my breeches inside my boots—and I'm stayin' in it till I bust a few heads open. Shut her down, Hickey. Got to mind the judge. But it won't be for long."

"We gotta leave a man here to see that you obey this here order of the court," Chad Wingate reminded Harvey. "And if you want to go to town, Harvey, you can ride along with me."

"I don't want to ride with you," roared Harvey. "I ain't taking favors from nobody. I'm fighting mad, and before I'm through, somebody is going to get busted wide open."

"O.K.," drawled Wingate, "but all this ain't doing you any good, you know."

Harvey stalked away, and Hickey twisted his toothless mouth, spat patiently, and shouted an order. Wheels were turned, water was shut off, the rotary slowed to a rumble and then halted, the crew hauled up the gear and made it fast, then jumped down from the derrick tower and wandered off to a grassy bank where they stretched out and smoked. And presently Harvey came out of the house, bristling all over like an angry mastiff, his Sunday suit on, and drove off to consult his lawyer.

(Continued)

## Says Canada Not Questioning Indian Policy

NEW DELHI, (CP)—Prime Minister St. Laurent in a speech to the Parliament of India said Tuesday Canada does not question India's policy of steering a middle path between the Western powers and the Communist world.

In that way, he said, India is "playing her part in the search for wise political decisions."

At the same time he told the two Houses of Parliament, where anti-American sentiment is often voiced that the United States is "the most unselfish country ever to play" the role of a major power.

### Different Approach

Sketching the differing approaches of Canada and India to the world situation, the Canadian leader said: "Both our countries are deeply aware that the continued progress of our national development programs depends on the maintenance of world peace. It is on the question of the policies most apt to promote international security that a difference in our attitude is more noticeable."

## Production Of Electricity Up

OTTAWA, (CP)—Canada's electricity production hit a record 65,429,253,000 kilowatt hours during 1953.

The previous high was 61,786,035,000 in 1952, the Bureau of Statistics reported Tuesday.

Output during the year from Quebec, Canada's largest producer, increased to 33,950,224,000 kilowatt hours from 32,142,381,000 in 1952.

Other provinces with 1953 figures in brackets included: Newfoundland 213,426,000 (171,306,000); Nova Scotia 1,038,756,000 (964,850,000); New Brunswick 747,142,000 (740,985,000).

## Would Sell Surplus Products To Russia

VANCOUVER, (CP)—Jan. R. Maxwell, a member of a new British investment house in Montreal, said Saturday he is negotiating a \$20,000,000 deal to send surplus Canadian farm products to Russia.

Mr. Maxwell, a member of the 30-man British trade delegation sent to Moscow to discuss Russia's resumption of trade with the West, said the products would include butter, skim milk, cheese, wheat and some salmon.

He arrived here to discuss the pending deal with business men returning to Toronto and Montreal to line up firms to export of the goods.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

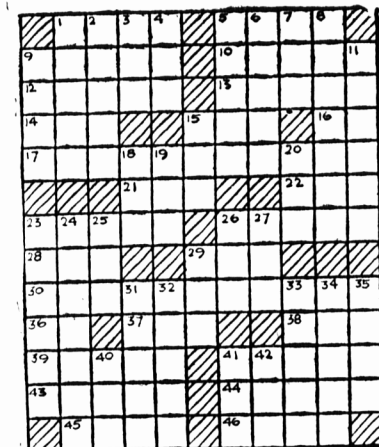
- ACROSS
- Put through a sieve
  - Thick slice
  - Proprietor
  - Hourly
  - Rice field
  - Fiber from agave plant
  - Malt drink
  - Tiny
  - Indefinite article
  - Solid figures
  - Tree
  - Mistreats
  - Obtained
  - One-spot card
  - Permit
  - Jabs
  - Neighborly gathering for work
  - A dandy
  - Not acquit
  - River (Chin.)
  - Flow
  - Fuss
  - Weird
  - Arrange in a line
  - Cuts
  - Trunks of trees (Bot.)
  - Examination
  - Foreman

- Attempt
- Recolled
- One who fails to wit
- Skill
- Remainder
- Brightly colored fish
- Parts of camera
- Damp
- Time gone by
- In what manner
- Appendages
- Mistreats
- Merciful
- Marshy meadow
- Hawaiian food
- Choice
- Merriment
- Beds for infants
- Search
- Warp-years
- Game at cards



Yesterday's Answer

- Puts on, as clothes
- Regret
- Warp-years
- Game at cards



## DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation  
YKT ETM YKMY WMOAKE MHVOFR  
OE KMYK EOFRTHTOR FVY DOY  
DVOFR OE—EBLFDHFHT.

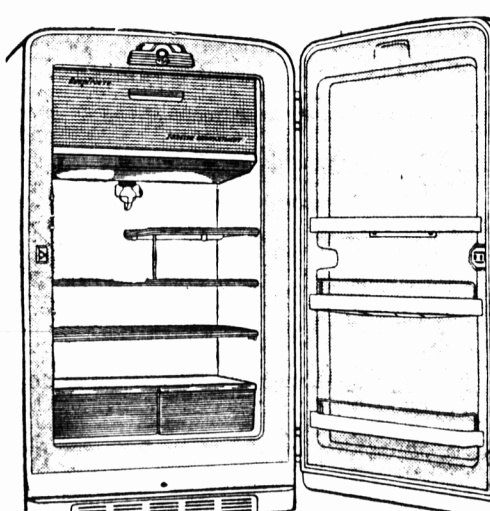
Yesterday's Cryptogram: FINISH WHAT I BEGIN, AND ALL I FAIL OF WIN—WHITTIER.

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## Music Recital Held In Albany

The music pupils of Mrs. J. George MacKay held a mid-term class recital on Monday evening at the home of their teacher. A majority attendance of interested parents showed the keen interest being taken in the development of music in this rural area.

A hearty welcome was extended by Mrs. MacKay and a short talk on the value of music was given. Regret was also expressed that several members of the class were unable to be present owing to illness and road conditions.

At the conclusion of the program, ice cream and cake was enjoyed and a social hour spent.

The following numbers constituted the program: (1) Chimes; (2) Jingle Bells, Margaret Howatt; Cradle Song, Joyce Dixon; To The Cuckoo, Adele Cutcliffe; Little Spring Song, Jennie Mayhew; Minuet In F, Roger Lord; The Fairies' Harp, Catherine Gillis; Pop Corn, Gladys Dawson; Oranges and Lemons, Adele Dixon; (1) Lullaby, (2) Gladness, John Robinson; Yellow Butterfly, Winnifred Thomson; (1) Sonatina In C, (2) The Moles' Dance, Arthur Large; vocal solos, Sweet Afton, Adele Cutcliffe; Fairest Lord Jesus, Winnifred Thomson.

## Canada-Wide Traffic Safety Campaign Urged

TORONTO, (CP)—C. W. Gilchrist, managing director of the Canadian Good Roads Association, said yesterday highway accidents are increasing at such a rate that practically every Canadian during his or her lifetime will be directly affected by death or injury on the road.

At least one relative, friend or associate of every Canadian will be involved in a traffic accident if the present rate of increase is not checked, he said in an address prepared for delivery to the 60th annual meeting of the Ontario Good Roads Association.

He urged the association to support a demand for a Canada-wide traffic safety campaign. Last year more than 3,000 Canadians were killed in traffic accidents and more than \$1,000,000,000 was lost in property damage.

Driving licence requirements permitted totally unqualified persons wreaking havoc on the roads. Before progress could be made in curbing the traffic toll, testing for drivers' licenses would have to be made compulsory in all provinces and traffic regulations would have to be strictly enforced.

### TOUGHER GARMENTS

EDINBURGH (CP)—Mrs. Grace Greaves, wife of a university professor, is leading a campaign against "well-tailored, short-lived" school blazers. She wants students dressed in gabardine blouses modelled on army battledress, with reinforced elbows, shoulders and cuffs.



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