

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

CHAPTER I
Continued

Harvey Junior had always been terribly self-sufficient, resenting authority, reading books that worried his mother. But this boy here in the car was pleasantly easy. He had been around the world on a tramp freighter, he told her. He had worked, rigging wells and wading hot mud in a Louisiana swamp. He had walked a pipe line through the dust and heat another summer.

"But you can't be more than twenty?" she said.

"I'm twenty-four. I worked in summers, played football in the fall, and waited on tables in the winter to get through school. My father married again — and though my stepmother's a good scout, she has three kids of her own, and I didn't want to take help from them. Football helped out, though I didn't like being subsidized very much."

She found herself telling him about her daughter, Adelaide, who was fair and calm and quick-minded like Harvey.

"She didn't want to go to college. She's at home 'this year, but I think she's a little bit lost. She has beaux hanging around, but I don't think she cares much about any of them."

"You," said the boy abruptly, "have good hands for a horse. In Brazil last year, I rode a lot. Those fellows down there are terrific on horseback."

Mona Lee smiled a little. "Son, I grew up in a western saddle. And I can generally make a horse do what I want him to do — though maybe it's pure stubbornness."

"Does your daughter ride, too?"

"She used to. And then her father bought her a little car and now she says horses don't go fast enough. This is our place now — it begins at this fence."

"Good looking cattle," approved Gary Tallman.

"Every last head of that herd is eligible for registry. Of course, some of our stuff is just beef stuff."

"LOOK OUT!" barked the boy. It was Slim's fault, of course.

The fence should have been tight, the red hog should never have been browsing in that clump of tall grass ready to dart out, with porcine perversity, where the concrete abutment of a culvert stuck up.

There was a sickening sverve and the ear tottered on two wheels for a breath before it roared down the shoulder and into the ditch, to end with a sickening, jolting crash and smashing of glass.

Mona Lee sat stunned for a minute her stomach hurting, her neck twisted, the broken steering wheel still in her hands. Her hat was off and her lap was full of glass, and there was blood running into her eye, and her knees burned and stung. Slowly she got back her breath, opened her tout fingers, looked around, though merely moving her head made her giddy.

The door on the other side was open and hanging at a crazy angle, and of Gary Tallman only his booted feet were visible, sticking up inside the car.

Mona Lee tried to open the door beside her, but it was sprung and would not move, so she climbed over the boy's legs and tried to straighten his body, flung across the running board, his head on the ground. His face was greenish gray and the skin had been scraped off his forehead, but he was breathing thinly through his mouth. She remembered about spines and that you shouldn't lift an injured person, so she dragged some dry grass under his head and staggered back to sit down on the culvert till her head cleared a little.

Her ears were ringing so that she did not hear the truck coming till the brakes squealed right at

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The life of a whale is about 500 years; a crocodile, 300 years; elephants, 100 years; camel, 45 years; lion, 40 years, and dogs and cats about 12 years.

A seal can travel on land by arching his back like a caterpillar, and drawing his hind feet after it. Our native "wild squirrel" is red in color and is gradually becoming scarcer. Gray and red squirrels cannot live together, strange but true. Squirrels hibernate only part of the winter. Everytime it turns warm they wake up and move about.

In a garden consisting of one acre there would be approximately 50,000 earth worms.

Many years ago children were given spoons at their christening. These gift spoons had an Apostle on the handle hence the name, Apostle spoons.

Bricks are amongst the world's oldest building materials. They were used in building the Tower of Babel and specimens are to be found in Egypt and Babylonia at least 4,000 years old.

We speak of concrete as being a new building material. It's not. The Romans used it 500 years B.C., and it went into the founda-

TCA To Operate North Stars To Nfld.

MONTREAL, (CP) — Trans-Canada Air Lines announced Thursday two four-engined North Star aircraft will operate daily to Newfoundland through Halifax, beginning Feb. 1.

One flight will originate at Toronto, stopping at Montreal, Saint John, N. B., and Halifax en route to St. John's, Nfld.

The second, originating here, will stop at Moncton, N. B., Halifax, Sydney, N. S., and Stephenville and Gander, Nfld., terminating at St. John's.

At present, five twin-engined DC-3's operate between here and Halifax daily, and two aircraft of the same type make the daily run to St. John's.

Under the new system, four DC-3's will continue to operate to Halifax with the North Stars, and the Newfoundland service will be handled solely by the four-engined craft.

One North Star will operate on a first-class basis, and the other tourist class, in line with the Canada-wide policy announced recently by G. R. McGregor, TCA president.

her ears, and a man jumped down beside her.

"Good gosh, Mrs. Mason!" It was Slim. Mona Lee began to cry and scold hysterically.

"It was that red hog — Harvey told you to fix that fence. Don't you lift that boy — you might break his back. You go get something to carry him on."

"Your face is cut." Slim was dabbing at a smarting place with his dubious handkerchief. "Sure lucky you ain't killed — the way that car's busted up. Easy now — hang on to me. I'll get you home and fetch some help to take care of him."

"He's breathing yet — but you'd better hurry."

She did not faint, thank goodness, and except for the quaver in her voice and the tears that kept running down her face, she was calm.

"Don't send him to any hospital — you bring him here," she ordered, when Slim helped her into the house.

And then, when people were running around frantically and telephoning and exclaiming, she sat on a straight chair and wondered what had happened to her hat.

(Continued)

CANTERBURY, England (CP) — Artist Sydney Nash, 62, has painted and sold nearly 15,000 water colors of Canterbury cathedral in the last 40 years. One of his customers was the late Queen Mary.

tion of Salisbury Cathedral and for the walls of Corfe Castle. The early homes in England had wooden shutters instead of glass. Floors were covered with rushes and the family slept at one end of the hall while their servants huddled together at the other end. The farmers milked goats and sheep as well as cows. Ewes were milked twice daily.

Every farmer kept bees, as honey was the only form of sweetening known in those days.

There were no health services. Most healing depended on the superstition of doctor and patient. To bleed, a popular practice in those days, at the wrong time, i.e., when the moon was full instead of on the wane, was a bad error.

Soap was so scarce that it was only used to wash clothes. Spectacles were unknown, so that those who had poor vision groped their way through life. The Devil was all-powerful and lurked in every

desolate place, seeking victims. The statue of Liberty at the entrance to New York Harbor, is the biggest statue in the world.

Prior to the year 1600, stone balls were used as shot.

The moon can give no light of its own. It can only reflect to us the light which falls upon it by the sun. Without a moon, our tides would be smaller and of course the nights would all be dark. Astronomers tell us that earth and moon once formed one body. This body split into two parts, the larger becoming the earth and the smaller the moon.

In ideal growing weather a hom-bone tree will grow 14 inches a day. Certain varieties reach a height of 100 feet.

Did you know that bells were used to summon the congregation to worship before the time of clocks and watches? Why should bells be tolled at a funeral? To invite Christians within hearing to

pray for the passing spirit.

The cat bird gets its name from the cat-like mew it gives out.

It takes about eight weeks for domestic poultry to moult.

The female ostrich lays her eggs in the sand and they are incubated by the heat of the sun. It is only during cold nights that the bird takes to the eggs.

Both the male and female pigeon feed their young on a white fluid which forms in their crops. It is called pigeon's milk. Strange but true.

It would take five golden crested wrens to weigh one ounce. Counting the tail it is only 3 1-2 inches long and is the smallest bird in the world.

Why do swallows fly low when rain is coming? Because the insects upon which they live are then lowest to the ground. Swallows make good weather prophets.

During the reign of William II

of England the price of a cow was two shillings, an ox 2s 6d, 22 ounces of honey sold for 1s 8d, a porker put you back 8d. People slept on bags of straw and the poor did the paying. They paid their master almost for the right to breathe. At times when their own crops needed to be cultivated they were forced to work for the brass hats. Widows were often forced to marry again so that the master farmer could make use of their husband's land and services. Sabbath-breaking was punishable by the lash.

Indeed, conditions were so bad among the poorer classes that drunkenness was a national vice; to drown the misery of their lives the poorer classes drank themselves into premature graves.

But extravagance was the order of the day for the royal family and their favorites.

Who says the world is getting worse?

Canada Strong Enough To Go It Alone

VANCOUVER, (CP) — Stuart Keate, publisher of the Victoria Times, said Thursday Canada is sufficiently strong "to go it alone" if predictions of an impending depression in the United States in 1954 come true.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the annual convention of the British Columbia Truck Loggers Association here, Mr. Keate said Canadians now are "less sensitive to the fluctuations of the U. S. economy than we were in 1929."

At the same time, Mr. Keate criticized B. C.'s Social Credit government and, mentioning his newspaper had been rather a "stern

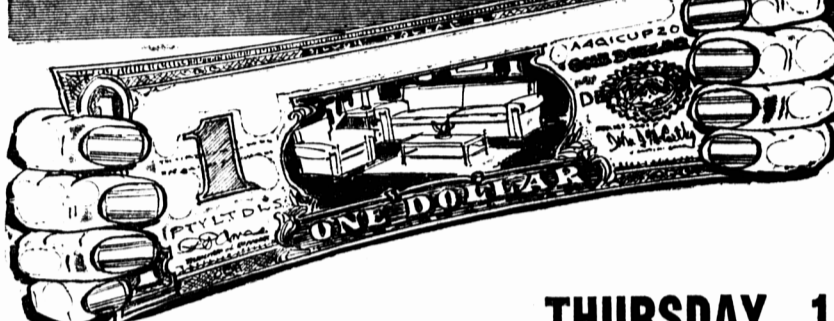
critic," said: "We think that Social Credit, as a theory, is a menace to Canada and that the best way to defeat it is at the local level."

Speaking on "what's in store in '54?" Mr. Keate said: "Almost everyone agrees that 1953 was the best year in history and that the boom is over." Business men will have to sell harder, there will be a decline in living costs which will give the salaried workers their first break in years. Unions will be less concerned with strikes, more concerned with holding the line on hourly wages and striving for fringe benefits.

"In fact, the gloom manifest in certain U. S. quarters does not seem to have a counterpart in this country."

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., (CP) — Nicholas Quilly found one of his sheep killed and another so badly injured it had to be destroyed. Tracks indicated the attacker was a lynx.

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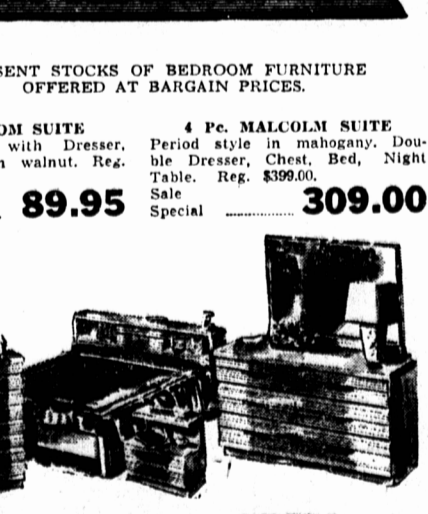


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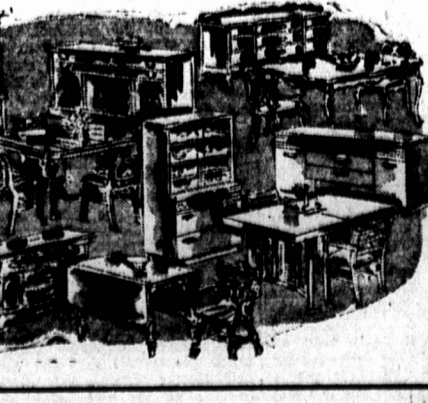
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- Reg. \$13.95 Wilton Mats \$9.53

Reg. 79.95 DAVENPORTS (Armless) covers: tapestry, frieze, velour, colors: wine, green, blue, etc. \$59.93. Save 25%—\$20.00.

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