

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller
Synopsis

Gary Tallman, young petroleum engineer from Alabama, misses his bus to San Antonio, Texas. Mona Mason, wife of a cattle rancher, gives him a lift. On the way, she tells him about her son Harvey Junior, now studying law, and her daughter Adelaide. At her home a red hog runs out into the road, she loses control of the car and crashes into a ditch. Quickly recovering from the shock she orders the injured Gary taken to the house.

CHAPTER II

The bed was smooth and cool, and the windows of the room looked out on wide pastures and a little ravine where mesquite trees were beginning to turn a gray, pale green under the spring sun. When his side, taped up and heavy, had stopped its dull aching and his head had cleared up and the nurse stopped shooting stuff into his arm every time he moaned, so that his head felt fuzzy and drifted around just under the ceiling, Gary Tallman became aware that it was spring and that there was a tawny-haired girl who came into his room now and then. Her name, so he had garnered out of the muddle of his perceptions, was Adelaide, and she had cool hands and now and then she laid a gentle palm on his forehead, and immediately Gary shut his eyes and breathed quickly—but of course she thought right off that it was the pain and summoned the nurse with a needle.

Other people came and went. Mrs. Mason, with a patch of plaster on her forehead and a worried look on her kind face. She felt responsible for his broken ribs and collarbone and the crack on the head he'd got when the car hit the pig, and she urged him over and over not to worry; he'd be taken care of and just as soon as he was strong enough they'd see that he got down to his job in Mexico.

And now and then Mr. Mason came in. Gary was very humble and apologetic when the big sandy man lowered over the bed. But Harvey Mason didn't seem to resent his presence or think the whole business a nuisance, though most men would have felt that way.

This room he lay in belonged to Harvey Junior, so he had learned. For pretty girls smiled at him from silver frames on the dresser and there were some more hung up on the wall.

Gary mentioned them to Adelaide, when his lips stopped being so swollen he couldn't talk, and she straightened the frames and flicked the dust from the glasses and said, "Last year's models. He took all the late ones to school with him. He gets a new one about every month."

"Girl-of-the-month club." Gary mumbled trying to grin but not doing much good at it.

"This one's married. I don't know why he keeps her around. Male vanity. Sculps on the totem pole. I guess."

Adelaide Mason had a husky voice and slow gray eyes. Lying in the dark, with the spring breeze stirring the curtains, Gary could still see her eyes. Little dark blue rings around the lisses, and her lashes had gold on the ends and made shadows on her cheeks. There was a peppery line of freckles across her nose, and her lips were lovely. She had nice clean bright hair.

The older Mason daughter, Grace, came on Sunday. She was different. Her hair was black and her eyes were cold and indifferent. She wore too much lipstick and she had a husband who looked like a collar ad. His name was Oliver. He was in solid with a big petroleum concern, and he walked like a man tramping opposition under his feet. But he had a red neck and hot eyes.

Grace drawled, "How fortunate you were hurt right in mother's front yard, practically. She'll take responsible care of you."

Implying, Gary thought hotly, that he might have fallen off a pondola. Implying that he was a sum.

This Oliver asked him about football and about Mexico, and said

Psychology, Singing, Drawing, Among Russ. High School Subjects

CP Reporter Bill Boss has had a four-hour interview with Soviet Russia's deputy minister of education. This article, one of a series, describes the system of high school education in Russia.

By Bill Boss
Canadian Press Staff Writer

MOSCOW, (CP)—The first entrance examinations Russian students try are for admission to a technical school, a university or a university-level institute, Dr. Pavel Zymine told The Canadian Press.

The Soviet deputy minister of education said that apart from gold and silver medalists, who automatically qualify for university admission, all must try the examinations.

High school subjects are Russian literature, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, geography, physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, psychology, history, singing, drawing and one foreign language.

Special Subject

"In certain schools we add Latin for those who intend to study biology, medicine or history," Dr. Zymine said.

"In the republics instruction is given in the national language—e.g. Ukrainian in the Ukraine and Russian is studied as a special subject."

"Marxism and Leninism are not taught in the 10-year schools Russian equivalent of public and high schools. We introduce them in the university. But naturally such subjects as history, literature and biology are approached in the light of Marxist and Leninist theories."

School hours vary from 24 a week in the first years to 32 in the upper classes, six days a week, but some reduction is planned.

"The last party congress decreed that 10-year schools must lay greater foundations for professional work," Dr. Zymine said. "We think we can do this by showing how subjects already taught have practical application to the life of the country."

New Text Books

"We are preparing 15 new text books taking into consideration the latest scientific developments but stressing the basic discoveries, bearing in mind they will have to serve five or 10 years. The texts will each take a field, enable the teacher to demonstrate its theory

he thought chances were darned slim down there and anyway cheap Mexican crude was playing the dickens with the oil business. And they both went down to the family dinner, and Gary was glad of it.

He decided that he wouldn't want to owe this Oliver any money or any favors. He decided that he didn't like Oliver, and his opinion did not change even when he saw Oliver in old fishing clothes.

But Adelaide was different, and Mrs. Mason was well. She brought up trays herself and fed him custard with a spoon, when they wouldn't let him use his arm or lift his head. The hand was purple and felt like wood, lying on the cool counterpane. Mrs. Mason told him about her little boy, Phil, who had died when he was six.

"He would have been just your age now. He'd have looked like you, I think. He was a year older than Harvey Junior—and three years older than Adelaide."

So Adelaide was twenty-one. Mrs. Mason told him that she had had four children in six years.

"They were all little at once—and then they all grew up at once. And now I'm left with nobody to mother." So she mothered calves and ranch hands and Gary Tallman.

"I'll have to be going soon," Gary reminded her. "I've been enough trouble to you. And I'm going to pay back everything, you know—the nurse and the doctor and all. It may take me a couple of years—I may lose this job I had in sight—but I'll pay."

"Of course," Mona Lee was too wise a woman to begin protesting that he owed them nothing. She knew how touchy a young man's pride can be. But afterward she remembered what he had said about payment and thought that, though he paid back, a young man's pride can be costly indeed.

(Continued)

Answer To Unexplained Accidents Sought

Lasted Five Days

The condition of monotony in the cubicle-isolation tests is brought on by putting the student into a situation in which he does "Nothing." All the students reported this difficult, even at \$20 a day.

The more will-power used, the sooner the hallucinations were likely to be brought on. The answer is to provide relief from a monotonous situation.

One student gave up after nine hours. The most enduring lasted five days. The students tended to sleep during early parts of their isolation. Later they slept less, became bored and irritable and appeared eager for stimulation. They sang, whistled, talked to themselves and tried many little diversions.

They had a wider range of emotional reaction than normally. Investigators reported "the subjects would seem very pleased when they did well and upset if they were having difficulties."

On coming out of the cubicle the subjects seemed dazed and confused and reported headaches, mild nausea and fatigue.

The hallucinations involved a wide range of visual imagery—dots of light, lines, simple geometrical patterns, "wallpaper" patterns, "a row of little yellow men", processions of squirrels, prehistoric animals and cartoon-like figures.

Wearing Goggles
Some students said they could hear people in the hallucinations talking. One student said he heard music. Another said his mind "seemed to be a ball of cotton-wool floating above my body." The subjects showed a loss in thinking capacity.

The subjects returned to normal within a few hours after leaving the cubicle.

The only requirements for the test were that the subjects wear opaque goggles which let in only a hazy light, keep their heads in a U-shaped rubber-foam cushion which permitted them to lie on either side or their backs; wear closely fitting gloves, with special cuffs up to the elbow.

Burgess Bedtime
Continued from page 10

Skunk is equally well protected, but in a different way. Prickly Porky and Jimmy Skunk are two of the most independent folk in the Great World.

Even great big Buster Bear steps aside politely if he meets Jimmy Skunk, or Prickly Mr. Let-Along.

which has financial support of the defence research board of Canada. The first formal report on the pioneer investigation will be submitted to the Canadian Journal of Psychology. Dr. Woodburn Heron, Dr. W. Harold Sexton and T. H. Scott, a Ph. D. candidate.

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Only when he is starving will Buster Bear think of attacking Mr. Let-Along.

One quill had made a paw of Too-Smart, the young fox who had stepped on it, so sore that he had to walk on three legs. What would it have been like had there been several spears instead of just one? He was, as Sammy Jay had told him, lucky. You see he was young and still had much to learn about the Great World and the different folk living in it. This lesson had been a painful one, but he would never forget it. As long as he lived he would keep away from Mr. Let-Along, and so would his mate Soft-Eyes who had seen what had happened.

Contract Bridge

Continued from page 10

When East showed out, and South had to rely on the spade finesse. That play also went wrong, however, and the slam contract was down one.

It is undeniable that South had very bad luck in the break of trumps, and further bad luck with the spade finesse, but these breaks would not have mattered in the least if South had made an extremely simple safety play at Trick 2. That safety play was to ruff a diamond. There was certainly nothing risky about the play. East could not have eight diamonds to

the K-Q-J without having over-called, so West's lead could not be a singleton—and if trumps broke badly, this immediate diamond ruff might be vital.

After ruffing, it would be natural to lead a heart to the ace, and with East showing out, South should now ruff away dummy's last diamond. After that he would merely have to cash the heart king and the three clubs, then throw West in with his heart queen. West would have to return a spade, giving South an automatic finesse, or another ruffing in the other.

IT, STILL GOES ON

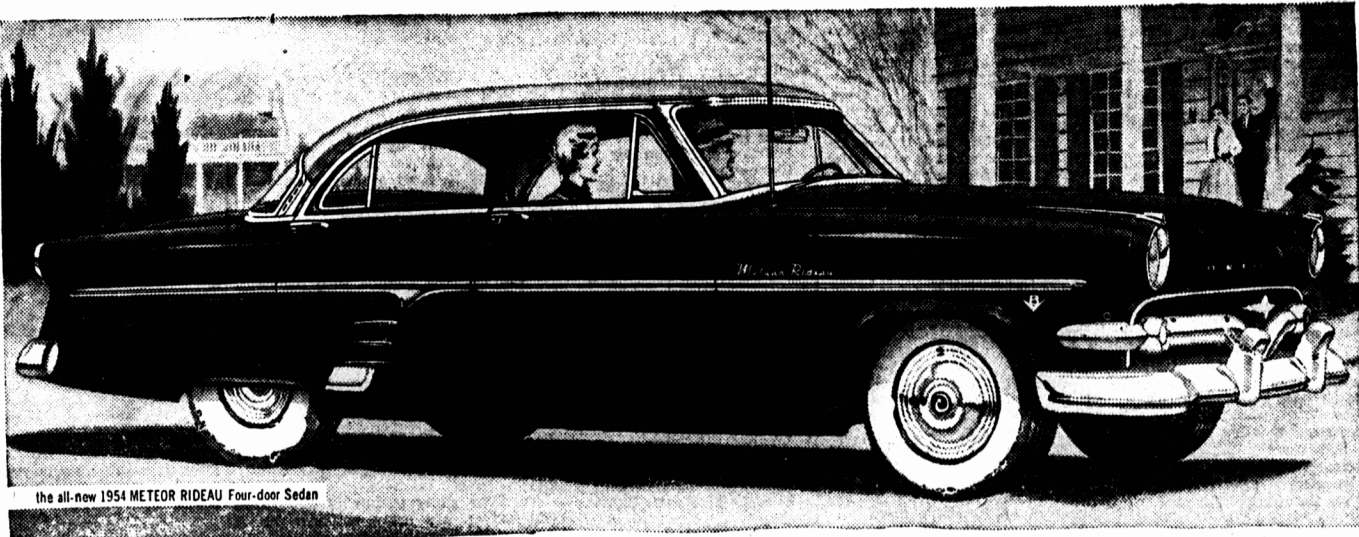
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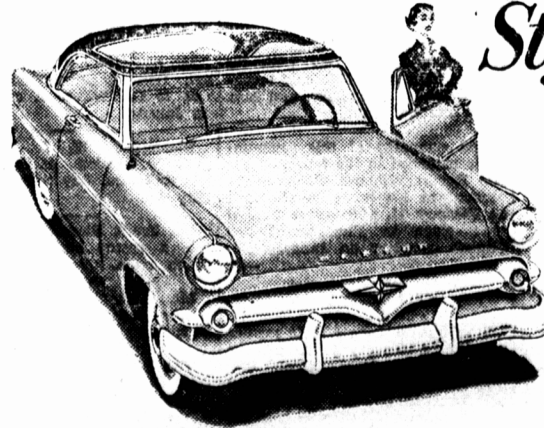
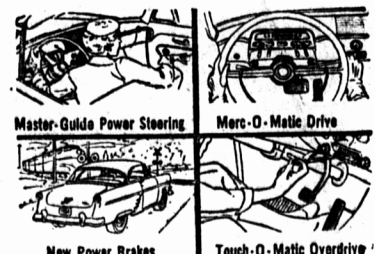
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