

Dark Lightning

By Helen Topping Miller

Synopsis

Gary Tallman, young petroleum engineer from Alabama, misses his bus in Texas and Mona Mason, 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 ranch to Harvey. Old Hughie Fotherill tells Gary the story in phone. Adelaide and Gary start to find the claimants.

CHAPTER XXII

When Adelaide came down, hurriedly dabbing powder on her nose, Gary was already in the car. "I've thought of something," he said. "Let's take old Hughie along. We'll find out where this woman lives, and it might be that old Hughie would know her. We'll stick him in the rumble and let the wind blow through him."

Old Hughie was excited and important when they loaded him in the car. "People would listen to me, around here, they'd save themselves a lot of trouble," he stated, shuffling his long legs down inside the rumble.

"Go to Ellis' office first," directed Gary. "I want a look at his power of attorney. Or, if he hasn't got one, I'll find out where these people live, some way."

"Stop by my house," yelled old Hughie, "and I'll get my gun."

"No guns in this, Hughie. We've got to fight with brains."

"Harvey Mason had any brains, he wouldn't be putting no oil well in the first place," Hughie shouted back. "Had any brains, he'd listen to me!"

The roar of the wind as they flew toward town, silenced the remainder of Hughie's remarks, though they could catch the dim doom of his voice, as he bounced and orated.

They had to stop and consult a telephone book to locate Slide Ellis' office, but they found it in the best bank building, an ornate and elegant place, with tall gilt letters on the glass of the door.

"Does himself pretty nice, doesn't he?" Gary commented as they went in. Slide Ellis was not there. A rosette-faced girl sat behind a desk and regarded them with faint hostility. "Mr. Ellis is in court," she said. "I'm afraid he'll be there all day. But if you want to wait, you can sit in there."

"We don't want to wait," Gary said. "I'm Harvey Mason's field superintendent. I want to see the papers on the case against Mason—injunction case."

"Sorry," the girl was cool and lofty, "I'm not allowed to discuss cases with any one."

"Well, you can tell us the name and residence of the plaintiff in that case, can't you?"

"Sorry," her plucked eyebrows went up. "I haven't that information. If you want to wait, you can sit in the other room."

Adelaide fairly danced with anger. "If you think we're going to sit around here all day, waiting for a crook—"

"Take it easy," whispered Gary, taking her elbow and steering her out. "Fight guile with guile. Who's your father's lawyer?"

"Dan Hobson. I suppose Dad's there now. Shall we go over there?"

"As fast as we can go."

Harvey Mason was not in Hobson's office. Neither was Hobson, but an obliging young law partner produced the papers.

"What we want is the name and address of this woman, the mother of this plaintiff," Gary said. "I've got a hunch that there's something slightly putrid going on—and I'd like to talk to the woman."

"Her name is Maggie Williams," the young man discovered, "and she lives away down in the south end of the county, on a little farm. Might be a smart angle if you could dig into it—find out if those people are really a party to the suit, or simply being used by somebody else."

"We'll get what we can. If Hobson comes back, tell him to stall along till we find out what there is to know, will you?"

"Of course I'll do that."

They explained nothing to old

Japan Presents Variety Of Topics For Canadians In Writing Home Folks

By Jack Brayley (Canadian Press Staff Writer)

TOKYO, (CP)—Japan can provide the 7,000 Canadians in the Far East forces with topics for letters home as varied as the ingredients in sukiaki, which soldiers describe as the Irish stew of Japan, "cooked while you watch."

Some probably have written of these things. To others, the Japanese way of life has become so commonplace they no longer consider it worthwhile describing to their families.

A Canadian soldier, sailor or airman giving his first impressions can't ignore the ever-present smell of sewage but he soon learns there is good reason why it's so unaccountably handy to the nose—it's routed into "honey buckets" and sent to the rice paddies and vegetable terraces to fertilize the soil.

Intensive Farming

The boy from the Alberta or New Brunswick farm is impressed by the use of every inch of soil for cultivation and every facility for fertilization.

This maximum use of resources explains in some measure how this country was able to mount such a gigantic war effort despite the general sub-standard of living.

Now the industrious Japanese is working 10 or 12 hours a day seven days a week, for his country's recovery.

The boy from the farm can tell about the picturesque countryside all wistful browns at this time of year, or describe to his folks how the Japanese farmer lays out his symmetrical terraces, preparing close to the peak of the big hills.

A method of agriculture successful only where mechanization has not replaced cheap labor.

"You see, dad," writes the Canuck, "you couldn't operate a tractor on those steep terraces and anyway if you could what in the world would all those farm hands do for employment?"

The soil on the terraces seems poor and is reminiscent in some spots of the bleak slopes of the gaff topalls in Newfoundland where no Canadian would think of growing crops. Even the vegetables between road and railway are under cultivation for the nation's 90,000,000.

Plain Diet

The hard-won national larder, consisting mostly of vegetables and fish, is made a little more varied by home-grown oranges and enormous pulpy apples. There are also exotic preparations made from snakes and snails, and sliced of bamboo that taste like chestnuts, go into stews and salads.

The letter writer, too, can probably fill you in on many interesting phases of the Far East news because in Japan he can read half a dozen English-language papers which keep him up-to-date on the situation. He is made sharply aware of Japan's attempt at economic recovery and reads the reaction to new trade agreements aimed at providing this industrial country with markets to replace those lost in eastern Asia.

It is no wonder the Canadian may write confusingly about the political trends in the Far East. It must have been startling to him to read in a recent paper a congratulatory New Year's message from the new Japanese minister recalling with thanks Japan's participation in the Second World War because it speeded recognition of independence for countries such as Ceylon.

The letter home may describe a wild ride in one of the Tokyo taxis and pass on the unconfirmed report that they are driven by former Kamakaze suicide pilots. But in spite of the speed there are fewer dented fenders in Tokyo than Montreal and traffic moves as quickly because of the split-second timing and aim of the driver.

Oriental Theatre

The Canuck may be a bit restricted in what he writes about the strip shows, but he will describe the more traditional live stage entertainment such as the Kokusai theatre. This company trains for a year before each season and mixes a little Western music hall variety to add spice to the show—and, incidentally, to appeal to the mass of American and British troops.

This is a fast moving and at times elusive program. Numbers range from the classical Kubuki symbolism, with ornate costumes on a grand scale, to modern presentations that include a human puppet tableau that is unique and amusing.

The sets and decor are also on the grand scale and in one recent piece a big temple—occupying a stage nearly as big as Radio City Music Hall—crashed in rubble amid a crescendo from the big orchestra and realistic and almost horrifying off-stage sound and lighting effects.

Some Canadians even go to the Kubuki itself but it is doubtful if many write about it. This long-winded and heavily-costumed theatre escapes nearly every foreigner and some Japanese but its audience, for the most part, is made up of repeaters. It goes on for hours and usually only the most hardy Canuck stays to the end.

Costumes are rich and reminiscent of the Japanese pottery patterns displaying the wide-panted warlord slaying the fiery dragon.

Eisenhower Cancels Press Conference

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—President Eisenhower won't hold a press conference this week, his vacation headquarters announced Monday. The president will leave here by plane tonight and arrive in Washington early Wednesday, his usual conference day. But James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, said there would be no session with reporters then or later in the week.

Block of N. Y. Central Shares Change Hands

CLEVELAND, (AP)—Clinton Murchison, Dallas oil and gas millionaire, and Sid W. Richardson of Fort Worth have bought the 800,000 New York Central shares owned by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, the C and O announced Thursday.

Murchison is reported to be a friend of Robert R. Young, now engaged in a battle for control of the New York Central system. The sale price was given at \$25 a share.

A brief announcement by Walter J. Tuohy, the C and O president, said the sale represented a profit of approximately \$2,400,000. Tuohy said: "The stock was sold at a profit to C and O shareholders. We have no further comment."

Murchison has extensive holdings in oil and gas but also is interested in banks, utilities, chemical companies, life insurance companies and holds several million dollars worth of securities in the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

The 800,000 shares are the largest single block of New York Central shares. They have been held in Trusteeship by the Chase National Bank of New York, under a ruling by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Nova Scotia Chairman

Touhy's announcement said the C and O directors meeting here Thursday approved the sale of the entire block of shares. It was the first board meeting since Cyrus S. Eaton, Nova Scotia-born Cleveland financier became chairman of the board.

Eaton, a native of Pugwash, N. S., was named chairman in January when Young and his associates in Allegheny Corp. sold their C and O stock to Eaton and

Five Canadians Graduate From Defence College

PARIS, (CP)—Five Canadians graduated Wednesday from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's defence college here.

They were among 40 officers and 12 civilian government officials from 12 NATO countries to complete the college's fourth course.

The five Canadians are Group Capt. R. M. Cox of Winnipeg, Omdr. N. S. C. Dickinson of Toronto, Lt.-Col. E. T. Munro of Ottawa, Wing Omdr. J. V. Watts of Hamilton, and Ian R. Stirling of Charlottetown and Ottawa, member of the Canadian immigration department.

All will return to duty in Canada with the exception of Col. Munro, who is to take up an appointment at supreme headquarters, Allied powers in Europe.

The plan for a multi-national defence college to study NATO military, political, economic and social problems was conceived by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower when he became the first Allied commander in Europe. Since November, 1951, 206 persons have been trained.

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Injured Paratrooper Reported Recovering

QUEBEC, (CP)—Pte Raymond Jacques of Thetford Mines, Que., was plunged 1,000 feet from a plane last Thursday with only a

partially-opened parachute, was reported Wednesday "progressing normally for the type of injuries he sustained."

His condition, however, is still considered serious by hospital authorities.

The 22-year-old paratrooper suffered fractures of the spinal column in the jump from a C-119 transport bomber.

His survival was credited to the fact he landed in the same manner as in a normal parachute landing. Jacques landed in a two-foot snowbank. The mishap occurred during a routine jumping exercise at nearby Ancienne Lorette airport.



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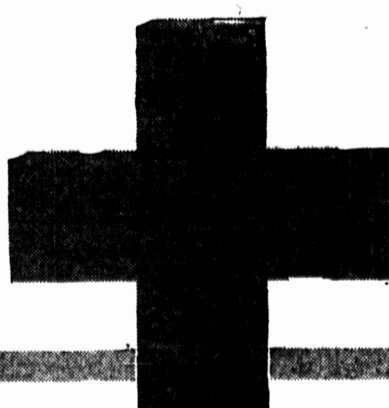
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- (8) To organize and maintain an emergency service to render immediate assistance when the occurrence of disaster or epidemic affects more persons than can adequately be assisted by the municipal authorities, or by other established relief agencies.*



*FROM THE CHARTER AND BY-LAWS OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

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