A Father's Search for a Little Son He Has Never Seen

Little Boy Lost

By MARGHANITA LASKI

(Author of "Toasted English")

SYNOPSIS: Is Jean, or is he not, the son of Hilary Wainwright? Hilary, whose wife was killed by the Gestapo during the war, has come to France to find his little lost son. The search has taken him through the byways of Paris and now to a Catholic orphanage in a provincial town. Pierre, his French friend, has been of much help in the search, but Hilary has come on along to see the small boy who may or may not be the child he is seeking. Now go on with the story—

CHAPTER 16

At last it was after five o'clock and he was walking up the hill to the orphanage.

Again Sister Therese opened the door. Behind her he could see the white face of a little boy, the big eyes gleaming with radiant excitement. "Ah, monsieur," he cried, and ran forward.

Hilary said cheerfully, "Well, what is to to be today?"

Jean breathed rather than said, "The trains!"

They set off down the hill, the little boy chattering without ceasing. This evening they saw not only the goods-train but two shunting engines and the longed-for passenger train.

"Oh, monsieur," Jean gasped ecstatic. His hand reached out convulsively and clutched Hilary's raincoat and held on to it tight.

Later the boy followed Hilary to the cafe walking without hesitation to the bench he had occupied the previous evening.

Hilary said, "Jean, I've got a present for you."

Jean said incredulously, "A present? For me? Is it my birthday?"

Hilary was reminded of his mission. He said with a forced laugh "You should know when your birthday is better than I do."

The boy looked sadly at Hilary. "I haven't got a birthday. Do you think, monsieur, that that's why no one has ever given me a present?"

Hilary said quickly, "No, of course it isn't." He meant his voice to sound reassuring, but it came out choked with anger.

The child looked frightened, but whispered doggedly, "The other boys have birthdays, and they get presents."

Hilary schooled his voice to gaiety, "You're getting a present now. Would you like to see what it is?" He brought the parcel up from under the table and held it out to the boy.

Very, very slowly Jean's face creased into a wondering smile. Suddenly he put out his hand and snatched the parcel, holding it close to his breast.

The boy's smile was of ineffable, incredulous joy. Gently, gradually, still clasping it close to his breast, he plucked the paper from the parcel, and at last the gloves fell out and lay in his lap.

He looked down at them dreamily as if he feared to break this moment and awake. Hilary found he was biting his lip until it hurt. He made himself relax and said gently, "Wouldn't you like to try them on? Let me help you."

With uneasiness mounting into panic he tried to pull the red ribbing over the red fists. The gloves were too small!

The boy looked at the glove. He plucked it off, took a glove in each hand, held one fiercely crushed in each fist. Then he burst into tears.

Hilary hugged the child to him, pleading in anguish, "Don't cry, Jean, please don't. Don't think about those silly old gloves any more."

Through his sobs the boy shouted, "They're not silly old gloves," and Hilary pressed him closer and muttered, "Don't cry, Jean, please stop crying."

Gradually the boy's agonized weeping died down. Hilary heard him stammer between convulsive sniffs, "It was my present—they're not silly old gloves."

"Look, Jean," Hilary whispered. "Couldn't we pretend that they were your present for your last birthday? You've just grown out of them and your real present for this birthday is coming tomorrow!"

Jean opened his fists and gazed sadly at the crumpled gloves. He asked, "Could I keep them if we pretended that?"

"Why, of course you could," Hilary reassured him.

The boy said doubtfully, "When I grow too big for my clothes, Sister Clothilde gives them to Louis."

Hilary said, "I'll see that they're not given away." He pulled out his handkerchief. "Blow," he said, and Jean obediently blew, and then smiled a watery smile.

He watched the boy furtively slide the gloves from off the table, crush them up into a little bundle that he held tightly in his left hand. Then he began to drink his syrup and Hilary sipped his beer in silence.

I ought to start questioning him, he was telling himself, but what can I ask him? If he is my son then we met once at the moment of his birth and have had nothing in common ever since. He might tell me what toys he played with—but I have never seen them. If he remembered being kissed on this particular spot, being put to bed with that particular formula, I would still not know if those were the things that happened between Lisa and my son. I don't even know the little pet names they would have for each other.

But this gave him an idea. "Jean," he said. "I know your name, but I don't believe you know my name. It's Hilary. Have you ever heard it before?"

He could detect not flicker of awareness in the boy's face as he answered, "No," and bent to his syrup again.

"My favorite girl's name is Lisa," said Hilary.

Jean smiled and said, "That's a pretty name."

Hilary demanded urgently, "Have you ever heard it before?"

Jean shivered, shot a quick glance at Hilary, and whispered, "No, monsieur."

Oh, God, said Hilary, now I've frightened him again. He smiled when I said Lisa. Did that mean anything or nothing? It is a pretty name—but mightn't he have smiled if I'd said Joyce instead?

I can't go on questioning him, he said in despair, it's agony for both of us and it gets us nowhere.

Besides, he thought (but didn't say this even to himself) if I go on questioning him I might find out that he was irrevocably not my son.

I'll just go on seeing him, he decided, talk to him naturally, try to make friends with him. Surely if I do that, I shall eventually know.

"Finish up, Jean," he said, "it's time we were getting back."

* * *

"Here he is," Hilary said to Sister Therese, "safe and sound."

"And that's a good thing," said Sister Therese, in her rough grumbling voice. "Monsieur, the front door's always open. No need for you to ring the bell each time you come. If you're coming, Jean will be waiting for you in the hall; if you're going, you can just leave him here and be off. And now," she turned to the child, "you run straight up to bed."

But Jean did not let go of Hilary's hand, only clutched it tightly, desperately. "My present, monsieur. You said you'd ask her."

"Of course," said Hilary. "Ma soeur, I have just given the boy a pair of gloves. Unfortunately these are too small for him. But he likes them so much that he asks if he may keep them for himself just the same."

"Let's see them," said the nun. Reluctantly Jean undid his tight fist and delivered the gloves into the big outstretched hand.

"They're good material," she said grudgingly. Other children could be warm in them."

"Nevertheless," said Hilary, "it is for this child that I have bought them and I must request you to allow him to keep them."

"And where" said the nun, "is he to keep them?"

Hilary suggested, "Well, where does he keep his toys and things?"

"Toys!" the nun laughed. "We haven't any money to spend on toys, monsieur."

Before Hilary's eyes danced the pitiful pile of possessions spread out accusing on the bed. He said firmly, "I will keep the gloves for the boy myself. Goodbye, Jean, I'll bring your gloves when I come tomorrow." He went out filled with an inner panic that he had committed himself to something, he wasn't sure what.

(To Be Continued)

Board Decides Grades Location

Woodburn—At a recent meeting of the Woodburn public school board it was decided to make the Lincoln school building on the west side a primary school for the first two grades, beginning next fall, and to house the upper six grades at old high school building.

The action was taken by the board to place the first and second grade pupils from all parts of the district in the Lincoln building in line with the returns from a questionnaire sent to parents of grade school children. The returns favored the primary plan 170 to 51 over dividing students between the Lincoln and the old high school building on the basis of residence either west or east of the railroad tracks.

If the enrollment of the first and second graders at the beginning of school in the fall is not sufficient to fill the Lincoln building it is possible that one section of third graders from the area west of the railroad tracks may be located at Lincoln. The board also plans to run a bus from the old high school building morning and afternoon to transport primary children from the east side area. No bus will be run at noon.

Students from the third through the eighth grades from all parts of the district will go to the old high school.

Monaco Birthday Feted

Willamina—Mrs. Jim Monaco was honored on her birthday, when a group of friends gathered at the home of Mrs. Bob Boundy. Enjoying the refreshments and the visit, were Mrs. Gordon Mendenhall, Mrs. Roy McNamar, Mrs. Glenn Tucker, Georgia Brackenbraugh, the guest of honor and the hostess.

RADIO PROGRAMS

FRIDAY—P.M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 MBC	KOCO 1490 Kc
5:00	The 3 of Us	News	Fun House	Adventure	Band of Day
5:15	News	The Little Show	Fun House	Adventure	Band of Day
5:30	Songs of Time	News	Green Hornet	Tom Mix	Bing Crosby
5:45	Elmer Peterson	News	Green Hornet	Tom Mix	Fishcaster
6:00	T B A	Johnny on Spot	Progress Report	Answer Man	Candle Light and Silver
6:15	T B A	Johnny on Spot	Home Edition	Sam Hayes	News
6:30	Confidentially	Songs for Sale	Hits & Encores	Orchestra	Tune Time
6:45	Confidentially	Songs for Sale	Hits & Encores	Orchestra	
7:00	Wanted	Escape	Organ Tucker	Folk Music	Twilight Song
7:15	Wanted	Escape	Orrin Tucker	Garden Fence	Music Jackpot
7:30	Bill Stern	Number Please	Orchestra	Cisco Kid	Bandstand
7:45	Rhythm Time	Number Please	Orchestra	Cisco Kid	Bandstand
8:00	Man's Family	World Tonite	Fat Man	Proudly Hail	Durout Dops
8:15	News of World	Songs	Fat Man	Proudly Hail	Baseball
8:30	Dimension X	Cloud Nine	Your FBI	Behind Story	Baseball
8:45	Dimension X	Cloud Nine	Your FBI	Serenade	Baseball
9:00	MGM Theater	Up for Parole	Thin Man	Hardy News	Baseball
9:15	MGM Theater	Up for Parole	Thin Man	Fulton Lewis	Baseball
9:30	MGM Theater	Garry Moore	Western Skies	Music	Baseball
9:45	MGM Theater	Garry Moore	Western Skies	Music	Baseball
10:00	Reporter	5 Star Final	Final Edition	I Love Mystery	Baseball
10:15	Heidel. Marm.	Sports Spotlight	Intermezzo	Newsreel	Baseball
10:30	Sports Final	You & World	Concert Hour	News	News
10:45	Curr. & Choice	Orchestra	Concert Hour	Navy Air	Midnite Journey
11:00	News	Organ Music	Concert Hour	Net News	Midnite Journey
11:15	Wax Museum	Organ Music	Concert Hour	Midnite Melod.	Midnite Journey
11:30	Wax Museum	Treasury Band	Memos	Midnite Melod.	Midnite Journey
11:45	Wax Museum	Treasury Band	Memos	Midnite Melod.	Midnite Journey
12:00	Sign Off	Silent	Xtra Hour	Sign Off	Sign Off

FM Mag.: KOIN 10 1.1, 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. KEX 92.2, 2 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

6:00	Hodge Podge	News	Dawn	News	
6:15	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Downbeat	Timekeeper	
6:30	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Dawn	March Time	West Melodies
6:45	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Downbeat	News	West Melodies
7:00	Now Hear This	KOIN Klock	Round-Up Boys	Hemingway	Andy Parker
7:15	Now Hear This	News	Top o' Morning	Breakfast Gang	Tex Ritter
7:30	News	News	Top o' Morning	Rise & Shine	News
7:45	Sam Hayes	Consumer News	Bob Garred	Top Trades	Extension Serv.
8:00	T B A	Let's Pretend	Yesterday Hits	Bargain Counter	Radio Kids
8:15	T B A	Let's Pretend	Yesterday Hits	Farm Home	Radio Kids
8:30	Archie Andrews	Junior Miss	Home Agent	Haven of Rest	Proud. We Hail
8:45	Archie Andrews	Junior Miss	Army Band	Haven of Rest	Proud. We Hail
9:00	News	Theatre of	New Releases	Northwest News	Science Exc.
9:15	Public Affairs	Today	New Releases	Bing Sings	Defense Rep's
9:30	Taze Tris	Grand Central	Toyland Tunes	Pastor's Call	Music Room
9:45	News	Grand Central	Toyland Tunes	Glen Haymes	Music Room
10:00	Mind Manners	Stars Over Hollywood	Stars of Tomorrow	News	Gisella
10:15	Mind Manners	Give and Take	Stars of Tomorrow	Gospel Singer	Salem Air Rally
10:30	Cumberland	Give and Take	Stars of Tomorrow	Gay 90's Headlines	Concert Favorites
10:45	Cumberland				
11:00	M. L. Taylor	Family Party	Operetta	Baseball	Aunt Sophie
11:15	M. L. Taylor	Family Party	Operetta	Baseball	Aunt Sophie
11:30	Young Orcs.	Fun to Be Young	Operetta	Baseball	Jan Garber
11:45	Young Orcs.		Operetta	Baseball	Harmony Shop
12:00	Farm-Home	News	Am. Jazz	Baseball	At the Opera
12:15	Farm-Home	Quartet	Am. Jazz	Baseball	At the Opera
12:30	Marine Band	Meet the Mrs.	There's Music	Baseball	News
12:45	Marine Band	Meet the Mrs.	There's Music	Baseball	Les Brown
1:00	T B A	Music Girls	Borrowed, Blue	Baseball	Salute Res.
1:15	T B A	Music Girls	Horse Races	Baseball	Salute Res.
1:30	Orchestra	Newspaper	Orchestra	Baseball	Singing Cop
1:45	Orchestra	Newspaper	Orchestra	Baseball	Sat. Matinee
2:00	T B A	Orchestra	Tea, Crumpets	Baseball	Sat. Matinee
2:15	H. Hickman	Orchestra	Tea, Crumpets	Scores	Sat. Matinee
2:30	Guest Star	Way for Youth	Tea, Crumpets	Baker's Dozen	Sat. Matinee
2:45	News	Way for Youth	Man & Music	Baker's Dozen	Sat. Matinee
3:00	News	News	Junior Junction	Rangers	Souvenirs
3:15	Bob Consodine	Correspondent	At Home Music	Rangers	Souvenirs
3:30	Bands of Land	Farm News	At Home Music	Music	Power House
3:45	Bands of Land	News	At Home Music	Land of Free	Power House
4:00	Bands of Land	Chicagoans	Rex Koury	John Flynn	Chin-Up Chat
4:15	Bands of Land	Top Tune Time	Squirrel Cage	Hemingway	Chin-up Chat
4:30	Bands of Land	Treasury Band	Squirrel Cage	Jandsland USA	Curtain Calls
4:45	Bands of Land	Hollywood Turf	Remember	Bandstand U A	Curtain Calls

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Friday P.M.—5:00, Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Upbeat; 5:50, 550 Sports Club; 6:00, News; 6:15 Dinner Melodies; 6:30, Music of Czechoslovakia; 7:15, Evening Farm Hour; 8, Artistry in Classics; 8:15, Wonderland of Vision; 8:30, Great Songs; 8:45, News; 9:00, Music That Endures; 9:15, Lift up Thy Voice; 10:00, Serenade; 10:45, News; 11:00, Sign Off

KOAC Saturday A.M.—10:00, News; 10:15 Especially for Women; 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Ride em Cowboy; 1:30, Stars on Parade; 1:45, Melody Lane; 2:00, Music of Masters; 3:30, Science News; 3:45, Here's to Vets; 4:00, Island Serenade; 4:15, Songs of West; 4:45, Australia.

Fall Fractures Leg

Dayton — Jane Reeder, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Reeder, had the misfortune to fall while playing on the garage roof at her home Monday, sustaining a fracture in two places in her leg. She was taken to the McMinnville hospital where a cast was put on her leg. She is expected to return home in a few days.

Bean Harvest Begins

Unionvale — Bean picking started Wednesday morning on the 5 acre field at the George Strawn farm in the Unionvale district. Four more acres of a later planting will soon be ready for picking.

Radio Jackpot

Fairview — Miss Helen Maurer of Fairview has received a diamond ring as a prize from the radio show "Win a Diamond" sponsored by a Portland jeweler

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Part of a circle
4. Kind of necktie
9. Corpulent
12. Cheering syllable
13. Worth
14. Self
15. Give forth
17. High pointed hill
18. Mexican laborer
19. Funny
21. Rainy
22. Thus
24. Perform
25. Sharp
27. Conjunction
29. Unit of work
31. Final
33. Oversight
35. Not so good
37. Music dramas
39. Wild ox of Celebes
40. Color quality
42. Beverage
43. Behold
44. Fair
46. Like
48. And: French
49. Island in the Pacific
50. Telephone greeting
53. Oriental nurse
55. Guided
56. Norse mythological giant
59. By
60. Eagle's nest
62. Wrath
63. Finish
64. Hurry
65. Spread

DOWN

1. Exist
2. Strike violently
3. Stylish
4. Broad street: abbr.
5. Queen of the Egyptian gods
6. Timepieces
7. Belonging to us
8. Symbol for tellurium
9. Measures of length
10. Gone by
11. 2,000 pounds
16. Bushy clump
18. English coins
20. Burrowing animal
21. You and I
22. Calyx leaf
23. Seat of the University of Maine
26. English school
27. Scarflike vestment
28. Put into type again
30. Sticky stuff
32. Branches of learning
34. Southern constellation
36. Hindu prince
38. Resound
41. Those remaining
45. Aloft
47. Cunning
49. Three feet
51. Redact
52. Leave out
53. Monkey
54. Grown boys
55. Pasture
57. Before
58. Roxy
60. Exclamation
61. Eye: Scotch

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

M	O	P		M	E	R	E		L	E	N	S
E	A	R		A	M	E	N		E	L	I	A
T	R	E	A	T	I	N	G		E	S	P	Y
		S	T	E	R	N		A	D	E		
O	D	E			S	E	R	F	S		P	I
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AP Newsfeatures 7-21

ROOM AND BOARD By Gene Ahern