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Cop Retains His Job Though He May Be Rich
 Hollywood, Cal.—Everybody knows policemen are skeptical, and Herbert R. Reynolds, traffic officer of Hollywood, is no exception. In the squadroom at the police station, fellow officers recently crowded around and congratulated him on falling heir to \$500,000. "Maybe yes and maybe no," Reynolds commented, leaving hurriedly to take up his duty as directing traffic officer at Hollywood's busiest corner.

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WHY CLARA WAS SOBBING

By JANE OSBORN
 (©, 1924, McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Bertram sat at the fragile bit of furniture that his landlady had designated as a writing desk and began to write.

"Dear Bill:
 "So far I haven't found life in the big city so very exciting—"

Then he stopped, laid down his pen and listened intently. After a full minute of acute listening, hearing nothing, he resumed.

"I left the hotel and am living in a boarding house. Of course no man wants to live in a boarding house always—"

Again the fountain pen was laid down and Bertram listened, looking intently at the wall in the direction from whence the sounds came. The sounds were faint, but quite surely they were sobs. He heard them again—low, soft, heartbreaking sobs—sobs that would induce at least mild nostalgia in the heart of anyone so far from home as was Bertram.

"The girls here aren't anything wonderful. To be sure I've seen some that dressed better and looked smarter than the girls home. There are a couple of girls in the office, but I never cared about mixing business and—"

Just then a succession of sobs deeper and more poignant than the last were heard and then a quick, really startling thud. Bertram listened for the cry or shriek that he thought ought to follow this last sound of trouble but none came, so he resumed his brotherly letter.

"—a girl in the boarding house that looks pleasant and rather pretty that I've spoken to because we sit opposite each other at table. If I get really lonesome I'll get acquainted with her, though she seems a bit stiff and might not be interested."

Bertram wrote a little more, telling his brother of his share of success in his work and of his plans for the future and then the soft, low sobbing began again.

"I guess I'd better quit," Bertram wrote. "This old house must be haunted or something. Anyway there's a queer noise coming through the walls that makes writing hard. Hope it will stop before I try to sleep."

The next evening just as Bertram had opened a new magazine, lighted his favorite pipe and spread out on the lounge chair which was the only really luxurious piece of furniture in his room, the same sort of soft sobbing began. He closed his book. Rainy night though it was, he donned his hat and coat and went out, found a nearby public library, took a book on engineering from a shelf and proceeded to work over most complicated problems of his profession.

The next morning at breakfast Bertram scrutinized the faces of all the boarders in the dining room, and he went thither early and left late so that he might be able to see them all. He tried to find one in which lingered traces of the sadness that had been poured forth in that soft, gentle sobbing in the next room. Nobody there could sob like that, he concluded, so perhaps it really was a spook.

Meeting his landlady in the hall that evening, he asked her whether the room next his was occupied and in that way drew from her the information that it was now, and had been for the past two years, occupied by Miss Clara Pringer.

"She sits across from you at table," smiled the landlady. "Nice girl and not at all stuck-up—teaches school—high school, I think—sends money home to an invalid aunt—"

"She isn't unhappy—" began Bertram.

"Bless your heart, no," said the landlady. "What would she have to be unhappy about?—got a good job, got her health, and doesn't give a whoop for the men."

"Of course, of course," said Bertram and went up to his room.

He had determined to forget all about the sobbing and would perhaps have done so had it not disturbed his peace of mind that evening. It was very faint, very much subdued and might not have been audible to one possessed of less acute sense of hearing than Bertram.

The next morning Bertram scrutinized Miss Clara Pringer rather closely. True, he observed, she appeared to be happy, but there were light shadows under her gray eyes, a delicate turn to her pretty lips that might betoken sorrow. Certainly she looked a little more weary, now, than she did when he first came to the boarding house a month before. Without quite meaning to do so he asked her if she had been at home the evening before, and she said that she had. He asked her if she intended being at home that evening, and she replied: "I haven't planned anything." In such a way that Bertram boldly asked her if she would "go to the movies" with him.

The next night he sat in his room and the sobbing began. Listening more intently than ever, he heard between the sobs a low, pathetic monotone of words. Now perfectly sure that his neighbor must be absorbed in some consuming grief Bertram felt that it was almost his duty to take

her out when she would consent to go, to divert her at table, and in every way try to take her mind from her great sorrow. And for some reason or other Clara seemed to have no objection to being thus cheered by her fellow boarder.

Then one night as he sat in his room he heard the sobbing again. He had not heard it for a week, perhaps because for every night for a week he had taken Clara out—to a play, the "movies," a lecture, the art museum, a walk in the park and once to dinner where they danced.

Following a long pause came more sobs and then without warning a thud that seemed to be just beyond the wall of Bertram's room. Bertram listened a second and then quite clearly came a cry of pain, and then silence.

In the minimum of time Bertram was in the hall, found the next door unlocked and had made his way into the room. There he found Clara sitting on her daybed rocking back and forth nursing her right arm in the bend of the left one.

"Ouch," she said with a pretty pout, and then she jumped up from the daybed and offered Bertram a chair in her little room. "You fell, didn't you?" he asked.

"Yes," she said. "I don't seem to be able to learn the trick. Did you ever do a stage faint? You have to be perfectly limp and then you can go down without hurting yourself—but it takes a lot of courage, and this time I hurt my arm so that I couldn't help crying out. You heard me, didn't you?"

Bertram had moved his chair very near to Clara on the daybed. He was looking intently into her eyes, searching them for the tears that he thought must be there. "And I heard you sobbing," he said with sympathy.

"Miss Pringer—Clara—won't you tell me? Won't you let me help you? If my love would be of any help?"

"Of course it would—if you really mean it," said Clara, looking very much surprised. "I'd no idea you felt that way about me. But really I wasn't sobbing. That is, it wasn't real sobbing—you see I'm to be in a play that the teachers are giving at school. And I have to take the part of the unfortunate sister whose lover is lost at sea and I have to sob and then faint when they tell me he's lost—and I've been rehearsing every night for weeks. It's so hard for me to sob—perhaps because I've always found so much in life to be merry about."

"You darling," said Bertram taking her into his arms. "I wanted to marry you any way but I'd so much rather marry a girl who didn't spend her evenings sobbing."

Now He Never Would Get Those Smackers

It was a \$8 murder. One negro shot another. This is his verbatim confession, with the names altered because so-called confessions are often repudiated:

"I went to call on Mr. Brown at his home on Antoine street. I knocked on the door and Mr. Brown said to me: 'Come right in, Peg-Leg,' so I went in.

"I looked at Brown and I says to him: 'Brown, would 'yall mind givin' me back them six smackers 'all oweis me?'"

"Mr. Brown he just smiled at me and he says:

"'Peg-Leg, they ain't a chanct in the world fob you to get them six bucks.'"

"I look kinda hard at him and I says: 'Brown, where for you get that apple sauce Ah ain't ever goin' to get them six smackers?'"

"He reached right into his pocket and hauls out a big black gun. He done laid it on the table and then he says to me:

"'Peg-Leg, I told you you ain't got no chance to get them six bucks. There's mah proof layin' right there on that table.'"

"Well, sir, I took one squint at Brown and then I got scared. I reckoned he might shoot me, so I jest fired as fast as I could.

"Course, they ain't no use mah tellin' you I never will get them six smackers now."

Insulation From Milk

It is said that there has been devised a process for making insulating pieces out of milk curds. The curds are stirred into a paste with cold water, and coloring matter is added, if so desired, the result being heated to the boiling point. After the paste has been boiled for ten minutes, continued stirring reduces it to a uniform pulpy consistency. This pulp is then taken, while still hot, to a hydraulic press fitted with hot molds of the shape in which the insulation pieces are wanted. After being pressed into this shape the pieces are cooled and dipped into formalin which adds the needed quality of a preservative. The product is said to resist the action of acids, to be much cheaper than hard rubber and to be easily colored in imitation of agate, marble or the like.

Scientific Canary

There is a canary in New Bedford that drinks water in a slightly different manner than most birds partake of the same liquid. Suspended from the perch on which the bird stands is chained an ordinary silver tumbler. This tumbler when in its resting position lies quietly in a glass of water below the perch of the bird. Perching on the extreme end of his rest, the canary places one foot around the chain fastened to the tumbler of water. This he yanks up a short haul and places the slack under his foot on the perch. Two more moves of a similar nature bring the tumbler to a position where he can drink.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Hillsboro. — A United States civil service examination will be held here July 19 to fill an expected vacancy as fourth-class postmaster at Aloha and any other vacancies that may occur.

Hillsboro.—The city of Hillsboro has accepted the bond of S. Simonsen for the program of paving recently ordered by the city council, for an amount of \$44,958.43, which is \$18,000 less than the estimate.

Pendleton. — Umatilla county dairy men will not have any surplus dairy cattle to supply the shortage in California, according to Fred Bennion, county agent. Umatilla county has been shipping in dairy stock to meet an increased demand from farmers.

Salem.—The United States government has requested permission of the state engineer to file on 75,000 acre feet of water on McKay and Birch creeks in Umatilla county. It is proposed to sell this stored water to other projects located in that section of the state.

La Grande. — Cove begun cherry picking in earnest Monday, according to announcement of Chris Stackland, prominent orchardist. Picking has been in progress in some portions of the valley during the past week, but the heavier fruit has been hardly touched.

Salem.—Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McKinney and Mrs. S. S. McKinney, all of Los Angeles, who suffered injuries when an automobile in which they were riding left the Pacific highway and overturned Saturday night eight miles north of Salem, are reported to be recovering in a local hospital.

Eugene.—The water situation in Eugene was much better Saturday, the weather having become cooler, and less water is being used. All the reservoirs were full last night, according to employees of the water department, and the ban on sprinkling and irrigating was lifted for the present.

Salem.—Issuance of blanket bonds by surety companies to bail out of jail violators of the traffic laws is not permissible under the Oregon laws, according to a legal opinion prepared here by I. H. VanWinkle, attorney-general. The opinion was requested by Will H. Moore, state insurance commissioner.

Astoria.—Dr. W. J. Kerr, head of Oregon Agricultural college, who was injured in an automobile accident near Astoria on the night of June 28 and who has since been confined to his bed at St. Mary's hospital in this city, was able to sit up in bed Friday and professed to be out of pain for the first time since the accident.

Eugene.—Cascara bark sales in the Siuslaw national forest have been large since April 1, according to a report issued at the Siuslaw forest office here. The total sales have been 97,041 pounds, yielding \$4853. Some small sales are yet being made, it was stated. The sales this year are said to have been the largest since the world war.

Mill City.—LeRoy Ledgerwood, manager of the Mehama salmon hatchery, was in the city Wednesday and said the last of the salmon hatched out last winter were turned loose Wednesday, they being three inches long. This makes a total of about 3,000,000 salmon that were hatched out and turned loose from that hatchery during the last season.

Salem.—There were 633 accidents in Oregon during the week ending July 3, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. Of that total 551 were subject to the provisions of the workmen's compensation act, 79 were from firms and corporations that have rejected the law, and three were from public utilities not entitled to state protection.

Halsey.—Farmers from this vicinity met recently in Albany with farmers from other communities and set a rate of pay for farm hands for the season. Six-team threshing outfits will charge \$11 a day, a reduction of \$1 from last year; eight-team crews, \$13, against \$15 last year; and ten teams, \$15 instead of \$18. By the sack, the charge will be 22 cents for wheat, 18 cents for barley, and 15 cents for oats, a reduction of .91 cent for oats. Wages are to be \$2.50 per day, instead of \$3, and man and team \$4 instead of \$4.50, and sackers unchanged, \$3.50.

Pendleton.—With the completion of the huge McKay dam across the creek of the same name by the United States government there will be need for 1200 settlers on the irrigated land in the Hermiston-Stanford-Umatilla district, E. P. Dodd, prominent Hermiston farmer and business man, told members of the land settlement committee of the Oregon state chamber of commerce when they visited the vast Umatilla project recently. Completion of the McKay dam, which is expected to take two or three years yet, will bring the total acreage of the project up to 160,000.

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Worries That Sear.
 Do not worry about the wrong people will or might do to you. Let them do their worst. It will glide off your life as water rolls from oiled canvas. But the wrongs you commit yourself leave ugly, irreparable marks.—Helen Waljeska.

The Antiseptic Orange.
 The discovery of the antiseptic value of the orange was made soon after its introduction into England, for Cavendish says Cardinal Wolsey was wont to carry "a fair orange, filled with a sponge of vinegar against pestilence."

Zinc Deposits.
 As Zincblend a compound of zinc and sulphur is found in large quantities in Missouri. As smithsonite, a compound of zinc, carbon, and oxygen, is found in Spain and various parts of the United States.

Valuable Imitation Fur.
 A process has been invented in Australia for manufacturing fleeces not adapted to spinning into an imitation fur claimed to have advantages over animal furs.

Takes Out Grease.
 When grease is spilled on the rug you can remove it by covering the spot with a piece of blotting paper and going over it with a hot iron. The blotting paper will absorb the grease.

Move for Fuel Economy.
 With a view to fuel economy experiments are under way with an air blower to control the draft in locomotives instead of employing exhaust steam for the purpose.

The Spider's Silk.
 The amount of silk produced by each spider is so small that a scientist has computed that 63,522 of the insects would be required to produce a single pound of thread.

Danger in Jealousy.
 Jealousy is said to be the offspring of love; yet unless the parent makes haste to strangle the child, the child will not rest till it has poisoned the parent.—Harc.

Earning His Reward.
 Patience and perseverance are the two chief requirements of the successful artist. These shall hereafter reward him. No great work of art was ever achieved without them.—George Sand.

Must Make Use of Material.
 If we do not make use of our newly discovered materials, we shall only continue to live stupidly in a stupid world.—E. C. Lindeman.

Zinc Not Long in Use.
 Zinc was known as far back as 500 B. C., but it has only come into common use within the last 125 years. It was first manufactured at Bristol in 1743.

Deadly Germs Oddly Spread.
 Germs carried on the feet of birds and by currents of air are said to spread outbreaks of "foot and mouth" disease among cattle.

Eyelids of Snakes.
 Snake's eyelids are transparent scales fixed over their eyes, and, being immovable, they give the reptile a piercing look.

Not Much Different From Humans.
 African gorillas live in little villages, build their shacks of twigs and branches of trees, and in many respects resemble the native Zulus.

Woman's Weapons.
 A bachelor says that when a woman goes gunning for a husband she arms herself with a curling iron and a box of smokeless powder.—Exchange.

Both Begin With a "P."
 An optimist looks at the oyster and hopes for a pearl. A pessimist looks at the oyster and expects ptomaine poisoning.

Red Cross BALL BLUE
 Used for baby's clothes, will keep them sweet and snowy-white until worn out. Try it and see for yourself. At grocers.

P. N. U. No. 28, 1924