

FORBIDDEN GOAL

By ELOISE C. RIVERS

© 1923, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

MILDRED GLOVER, fresh and pretty in a navy-blue dress of sheerest voile, tapped a slim sandaled foot upon the granite curbing of the sidewalk until the car for the subway jangled along.

Mildred, at twenty, had received her first thrill. It was, unfortunately, a second-hand romance, and an old, familiar story. But to Mildred, experiencing for the first time the powers of her feminine beauty, it was a highly perturbed, intoxicating romance. For instance, the night before, when all the other members of her family fanned and fussed on the little screened-in porch, Mildred, lying in the dark upon a lumpy mattress in her cramped bedroom, had brought forth in such clear detail every little bit of her romance that the ugly room and even the intense heat had faded into oblivion.

The firm of brokers for which Mildred worked consisted of a senior partner and a junior partner. The senior partner was gray, grave and aloof. The junior partner was dark, charming, considerate, appreciative of a nice bit of work—and friendly. So friendly that the day before, when Mildred had taken in some letters to be signed, he had expressed dismay that a rush of business made it necessary for the girls to work during the hot afternoon. Couldn't he drive Mildred down to one of the beaches that evening to cool off? Mildred had stammered a polite refusal. The next evening, then—he insisted—and Mildred had agreed.

The little kink that made it a second-hand romance was the fact that the junior partner was married.

Two horribly persistent voices argued rapidly inside Mildred's head while the car jangled along to the subway.

"His family has been at the beach for weeks, and he's lonely," pleaded the first voice.

"Yah," jeered the second voice. "I bet he'll tell his wife all about it, too."

"Oh, what's the harm in a ride?" asked the first voice.

"And what's the harm in a kiss?" derided the second. "Remember, he tried to kiss the switchboard operator and she slapped his face."

The first voice became stubborn. "Maybe she lied. Anyway, I'm going."

Across the car, a commuter was absorbed in the last page of his morning Post. The front page sprawled its inviting headlines toward Mildred. She read them rapidly; then her gaze moved upward to the Daily Quotation at the top of the page, a feature of the paper for some time past.

Aim to attain your goal, but know you this. Rather than harm your soul, 'tis best to miss.—R. N. L.

She read it but once. The words seared themselves into her brain like live, burning coals. The car suddenly became suffocating. She left the subway and walked an extra block to her work.

"Aim to attain your goal . . . Long ago she had decided that her goal would be to get the most of fun and happiness out of life.

"Rather than harm your soul, 'tis best to miss." Would it harm her soul, she asked herself, unhappily. Oh,

it would, it would, she decided honestly. She made her lame excuses to the junior partner when she went in for his dictation. She was sorry, but her mother had unexpected guests and needed her at home that evening. Maybe some other time.

The senior partner cocked one eye at her and smiled quizzically, as if to say, "There won't be any other time, my dear."

Toward noon Mildred saw him bending confidentially over the desk of the new switchboard operator. They apparently reached some sort of an amicable decision, for the operator smiled to herself the rest of the day. Mildred saw them go out together at closing time, and banged out on her typewriter, with maniacal speed, a whole page full of "VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD."

The motto was very disconsoling.

The next morning Mildred appeared at work buoyed and freshened by a heaven-sent east wind instead of romance. She was still a little bit sore to think of the good ride she had missed because of a newspaper's Daily Quotation. All night long she had heaped bitter invectives upon the head of this unknown moralist, "R. N. L."

The girls in the dressing room were talking in low, excited tones.

"Haven't you read the morning's papers?"

Mildred hadn't. She had privately determined never to read another one.

"The junior partner was in an accident last night. Had the switchboard operator out with him."

Mildred paled. "Not—killed?"

"No. But they're both in the hospital. Woof! Any girl who would take a chance going out with a married man ought to get spilled."

Mildred walked soberly across to her desk. As she bent over her machine, she closed her eyes for a moment and sent a silent message flying through space.

"I don't know who you are, 'R. N. L.'" she breathed, "but I owe you a big lot for that quotation."

He Helped. Judge—Did you keep a public house? Prisoner—Well, not alone, but I did my share.—London Answers.

Modern Requirement. "Nowadays a man can hardly marry unless he can show the girl two licenses."

"Two licenses?" "Yes, marriage and motor car."

The New Clerk. Young Squibb—I want to try on that suit in the window. Clerk—Sorry, sir; but you'll have to use the dressing room.

The Oregon public service commission has granted authority to the Clark & Wilson Lumber company of Linnton to construct a logging railroad across the Pittsburg-St. Helens market road near Clatskanie creek bridge in Columbia county.

Natural History Films. "How much of this thousand-legger shall we take?" "Oh, about fifty feet."

Three million humpback salmon eggs have been distributed to Oregon hatcheries, according to announcement made by Dr. Thomas W. Ross, member of the Oregon Fish commission. They are to be planted in the Nehalem, Tillamook, Yaquina, Siuslaw and Coos rivers.

Springfield Girl Marries Marriage licenses were issued during the last week by the county clerk to George Bjorset, 27, Cottage Grove, and Doris Sikes, 22, Springfield; to James Lynn Potter, 20, and Thelma Smith, 17, both of Eugene; to Glenn H. Harvey, 22, and Lucille Estella Davidson, both of Cottage Grove; and to Arthur C. Parr, 25, and Annie Westlake, 18, both of Cottage Grove.



Beauty bright!—when the battery behind your lights is kept vigorous with Westinghouse Attention. Drive in and let us explain our different kind of battery service.

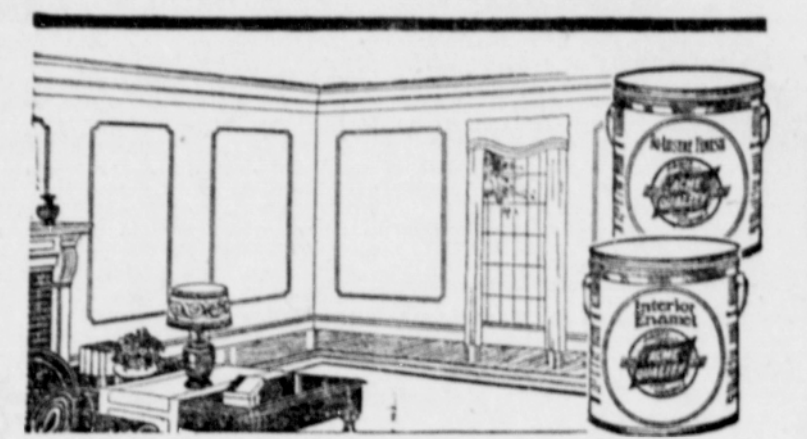
WESTINGHOUSE BATTERIES Westinghouse Service Co., Eugene.

To know how good a cigarette really can be made you must try a



LUCKY STRIKE "IT'S TOASTED" CARD OF THANKS We wish to thank our many friends for their kindness and sympathy shown us during the sickness and death of our beloved husband, father and brother, and for the many beautiful floral offerings. Mrs. W. J. Bartlett, Melbern Bartlett Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bartlett and family Mrs. Lou Lewis and family.

Just received a shipment of BLANKETS Full size cotton blankets from \$2.80 to \$3.25 Full size wool blankets from \$7.25 to \$11.25 CRIB BLANKETS Cotton 30 x 40 per pair \$1-10 to \$1.75 Wool mixed 30 x 40 per pair \$2.60 to \$3.25 Union Suits, Cotton and Wool Childrens from \$1.00 to \$1.25 Womens to \$2.25 Mens from \$1.25 to \$5.00 All colors in Fleishners Knitting yarns A. R. SNEED DEPT. STORE



White Enamel Woodwork, walls of pastel tones Think of that combination in your bedroom or kitchen or bathroom. In fact, think of it throughout the house. Nothing so popular now as this in the finest homes. It is soglean looking and so sanitary. Plan to do it now with ACME QUALITY Enamels and No-Lustre Finish Wright & Son Save the surface and you save all the world.



REXALL CATARRH JFLLY: Gives prompt and gratifying relief from nasal catarrh and head colds. Comes in convenient tube with a patent nozzle for applying inside the nostrils. REXALL CHERRY BARK COUGH SYRUP: An excellent treatment for ordinary simple, but very troublesome cough. Soothes the irritated membranes, relieves congestion and checks the spasms. Absolutely safe for children. REXALL ORDERLIES: The pleasant and effective laxative, gentle in action and absolutely safe. It is never necessary to increase the dose.

Flanery's Drug Store The Rexall Store Phone 15 Springfield, Oregon

Ford THE UNIVERSAL CAR New Touring Car Looking at the new touring car from the side, you are at once favorably impressed with the effect of longer, more graceful lines secured by enlarging the cowl and raising the radiator. Slanting windshield and one-man top lend material aid in giving the entire car a lower, more stylish appearance. An apron connecting the radiator with the fender skirts is also a decided improvement. A comfort feature much appreciated by owners, is the additional leg room provided by the enlargement of the cowl. Allow us to show you the entire line of new Ford cars now on display in our show room. These cars can be obtained through the Ford Weekly Purchase Plan. Wing Motor Co. Ford CARS · TRUCKS · TRACTORS

Christmas Printing Visiting and Christmas Cards for Individuals and Business Houses An attractive assortment is now being displayed