# The Free Press' Short Story

## THE FATAL SPARK

By Dorothy Arno Baldwin

destruction, were forgotten as he watch- unthinkable. He would not do it!. ed the dense cloud of smoke that was . "Is there any guess as to how the fire pouring up over the forest. The next started?" Bob ventured to askinstant he had driven the boat again assumed carelessness. into the current and, foot by foot, was . "Oh, somebody's lighted match thrown little stream.

It was a heart-breaking business, this plenty o' ways-" t a snail's pace after the flery "It started from a ca monster that leaped and raced, licking up the timber with terrible speed. The fire wardens would have sighted it long before this and would have called help from the lumber camps and the nearest settlements, but even with motor-driven canoes to cross the lakes, no adequate body of men could reach the scene in less than two or three hours. Inevitably, much valuable timber would be destroyed but this meant little to Bob beside the fact that, if he had guessed its the one corner of earth he most loved; h- and that he was responsible for its destruction.

and the other denizens of the wilderness. had seen him, also. He had built a log camp for himself Fresh men had come in to keep watch near Clark's Carry, a wild, beautiful bit until all danger that the fire would ter ejaculated. "You say you set that of the river, and he had hoped soon to break out again was past, and there fire?" be able to buy a large tract of the sur- was no further need of him here. Others rounding forest land in order to save it soon joined the group, and Bob took the from the lumbermen who had recently opportunity to slip away unobserved. He come into possession of it and who, Bob had gone scarcely twenty paces, however. feared, would strip it as he had seen when some one hailed him and, looking and appreciate his release. other fine regions stripped for the sake back, he saw the fellow with the frizzled

of gain. Now it was being stripped in far more thorough fashion because the boy himself had neglected to carry just one more teapotful of water to throw over the outdoor fire by which he had cooked his dinner. He had thought it was safe "Which way you going?" he asked. enough, but now he remembered having seen one last curling wisp of something, steam he thought at the time, rising from the embers. The season had been dry, there was a strip of dead grass not far away, and with the wind to fan it, it was easy to see how the blaze had started and leaped to the resinous ever-

As Bob poled around the last bend that lay between him and the fire, his turned abruptly away in the direction worst fears were confirmed. Driven by of Musquacook Stream, meaning to swing said earnestly; then smiled at the look the fitful wind, the flames had spread out later to the river where he had on Bob's face. "I know what you are in both directions from his camp fire, left his canoe. He felt certain that he thinking. You've taken it for granted preserving the meat have been tried, but and for half a mile or more along the would be followed, although the older that because we are a lumber company. right bank of the river stretched a smok- man made no move to prevent his our affection for the woods goes only as of freezing, which according to a recent ing waste of charred stubs where a short going. If he could reach his canoe far as our pocket-books, and that we Report of the Emipre Marketing Board, The flames were eating their way with ably certain of out-distancing them in beauty of every spot we touch. On the making of bacon. incredible speed into the heart of the the swift-flowing river enough to enable contrary, my son and I shall spare no woods, with a lake, miles distant, the first him to take refuge in some one of the pains to protect the natural beauty of mild cured bacon in the green condition. obstacle in their path.

Beaching his cance and selzing his ax, Bob plunged into the woods and tore his way through a place where he by night when, aided by the moon which talking, as you came in, of the chances 14 degrees F. Even at this low tem might head off the fire. A crew was already fighting it, having come in from his escape by river to the border towns. the way, you're a trained forester, the lake, and Bob took his place among them, chopping away the underbrush and alert to catch any sound of pursuit, he should say, from all I have been able felling trees to make a breach in the heard nothing to increase his anxiety, to learn of you. Will you undertake the fat of bacon continues to take up forest, while others dug trenches across nor, when he looked back as he some- supervision of the work?" the path of the flames. The heat was times did from behind some dense intense, and the smoke choked and growth, did he see any sign of a human assent, "let's tear up this check and get were made it was found that the fat blinded the men, blackening their faces being. If he had been recognized, men down to business." past all possibility of recognition. Now would be waiting for him at his camp and then some one shouted an order, but for the most part they worked in him to attempt to break out through the grim silence, straining every energy in forest without first returning for his gun the desperate task. Again and again or provisions would be practical suicide. they were driven back to open new! The sight of his canoe in the place glass flowers in the Peabody Museum in Board, that the transport of mild cured trenches, which, one after another, the where he had left it, high on the shore, Cambridge, Massachusetts. They are green bacon in frozen condition from fire leaped as if they had not existed, and it was not until the end of the second day that, aided by re-enforcements, they were able to check the conflagration and, at last, bring it complete- ped boldly out, launched his canoe, and most if not equally as remarkable, are

ly under control. "If the Dexter Lumber Company ever get hold o' the feller that started that; when the tired crew had wakened from

to match. The remark struck like a blow on stream, Bob's consciousness. Throughout the desperate battle against the flames, the all the little animals that could not he saw the men pushing off in their escape as easily as could the deer, which canoe. they had seen fleeing madly before the He had a fair start, but they steadily Terror, were perishing in the awful gained upon him, and he was forced to furnace. Splendid trees that had taken pass one stream up which he might have seventy-five years or more to grow dis- found shelter if he could have suf- continue to live with her husband when ensilage per day with a grain feeding at appeared almost in a breath. He had ficiently outdistanced his pursuers. The he beats her so often? caused all this. No sentence by law double twist the river mase just before could have increased his overwhelming Musquacook came brawling into it was in her lawyer has advised her to get as as from the first of each following month

sweeping | fellow thought of the material loss, th through the river channel loss in dollars and cents. By the state caught his cance and swung it law, whoever was responsible for starting out of the rushing current, Bob Palmer a forest fire, must pay in full the owner thrust his pole savagely among the rocks of the land for everything destroyed. To in an effort to secure a hold Before do this would take more money than the pole could touch bottom, another Bob had or ever hoped to have. He gust had twirled the light craft around | would gladly have tried to pay, however to face upstream and Bob, glancing back if by so doing, he could restore the lost the way he had come, stood transfixed, a beauty and life; but to turn money look of horror spreading over his face. over to the lumber company thus helping Rocks, rapids and the gusty wind, which them to exploit other timber lands as momentarily threatened his canoe with they would soon have exploited this was of the country if, instead, he should onions and garden flowers. They also

fighting his way back against the mad into a brush heap, I s'pose," replied the number, even though he himself was hatch in two or three weeks. The larvae man who had spoken before. "There's branded a thief.

Game Warden Baker was with me."

to move; then he lifted his eyes to the of sky above him, and peace entered the feed in colonies, moving slowly across speaker. The fellow, whose hair about man's soul as he made his decision. the forehead had been singed and ous of those about him.

for me to give myself away."

A moment passed before the boy real-

hair coming after him.

good at a time like this."

"I'm more than sorry," his companion | ders!" good-by and caught a strange look in tell you it meant something to me. the eyes that were fixed upon him. He love every inch of this wilderness."

time before had been luxuriant forest. ahead of any pursuers, he felt reason- shall ruin the future usefulness and does not injure the product for the

and along the river, knowing that for held back in the shelter of the bushes, tell that they are the most wonderful carried out satisfactorily by ordinary banks. Seeing no one, he at last step- and are not likely to be duplicated. Al-

pushed off downstream. . Bob had covered some miles when the flowers made by Mr. Herman Mueller, speeding current swept him close to one who works entirely for the American promptly. there'll be something doin'!" remarked bank of the river, and he was startled Museum of National History in New one of Bob's black visaged companions by a shout from the edge of the tree York. These flowers are formed around line. Two men were eating their lunch the pillars supporting old wharf piles the first good sleep they had been able high on the bank, their cance, drawn and grow without soil of any kind. Mr. up behind a rock, invisible from up- Mueller's skill in reproducing them in

"Why don't yer wash yer face?" sense of his personal loss, and the real- head, and the swift water swirled him organism, no larger than the eye of a steers, according to studies carried out ization of the physical anguish brought on out of earshot, but for the first needle and reproduce it in a much larger by the Dominion Experimental Station upon the wild creatures whose home was time he was reminded of his appearance, size. This he does with no instrument at Lennoxville, Quebec. in that area had driven out all other The fact that he had come all this way or help of any kind but a brass tube hought. It was nesting time. Baby by water without stopping to wash off about three-fourths of an inch long into during the past four years show that the birds by the score, by the hundred, were the uncomfortable coating of soot and which a smaller tube is inserted. The gains in beef cattle fed a grain mixture being destroyed, the frantic parents, un- grime was enough to arouse wonder and larger tube supplies the gas for the blast as compared with a s'milar lot fed barley able to save them, often meeting horrible comment, if nothing more. Glancing lamp while the smaller one supplies the as the principal grain, made practically death as well. Young rabbits, squirrels, back as he was swept around the bend, air.

anse of guilt or deepened his suffering. his favor, however. Swiftly exchanging many beatings to her credit as possible the young paddle for pole, he forced his cance into before going to court.

the mouth of the winding stream, and BLISTER BEETLE OUTBREAKS MENriver and the nursuers were almost immediately lost to sight.

Quickly making shore, Hote shouldered his cance and concealed it in the woods potatoes and beans have been reported "Clerk-Yes, it is out of date. I bought well back from the stream. Then, during the second and third week of July it the last time I got a raise. keeping a sharp lookout to guard against in Montreal, Quebec, Winchester, Bersurprise, he scrubbed the soot from his wick, Vanleek Hill, Monkland, Hurddface, and changing into other clothes man's Bridge and Fort Francis, Ontario; which he had taken with him when he according to the Entomological Branch first started from his camp to go out of the Dominion Department of Agrito the settlements. The men had evident- culture. ly not seen him turn aside, but he could There are several species of blister not tell at what moment they might beetles. In general they are soft-bodied, return on his trail and his nerves tingled smooth-backed, narrow, elongated beetles

As time passed, the tension relaxed, distinct heads, but there was no peace for Bob in the broadly, it would be for the greatest good tomato, carrot, mangold, cabbage, corn was for the greatest good of the greatest clusters of from 80 to over 100. They

man spoke quietly but with an odd note the hours slipped by, Bob sat immovable great deal of damage to the plants on in his voice, adding, 'T saw it myself, on the margin of the stream, seeing which they feed. They devour the folnothing, hearing nothing. The sun set; lage and blossoms and frequently de-For an instand Bob stood rigid, unable stars glimmered in the tree bordered lane foliate the whole plant. They usually A few days later, his long journey to go.

frizzled until it resembled a negro's, the settlements over at last, the boy was not looking at him, but was staring stepped into the lumber company's of- they are somewhat difficult to control off through the trees, apparently oblivi- fice and asked for Mr. Dexter. His son Paris green or arsenate of lead have was in the office, and Bob saw, without been found to be effective against this "It's a trap!" flashed through Bob's consciously noting it, that the latter's pest and if the infestation is severe location aright the threatened region was mind. 'He suspects, and he's waiting hair had been scorced about his fore- may be necessary to repeat the spray as

ized that he must be as unrecognizable Dexter; that is, it spread from my camp side. Paris green should be used at the The north woods had always held a as his companions through the grime fire." Bob began abruptly as soon as he rate of 1/4 pound to 40 gallons of water great attraction for Bob. Every summer and smoke that encrusted all their faces: was in the presence of the big man. since early boyhood he had camped and But he had received his warning. If "Here is my personal check, which retramped in the Maine forests and fished the man, had seen the fire start, he presents my entire bank account. It is best used at the rate of 11/2 to 2 pounds in the innumerable lakes and streams, must have been near when Bob left not enough to cover the value of that to 40 gollons of water. living on intimate terms with the deer the spot, and it was quite likely that he timber, but I will give you the rest if it takes my lifetime to earn it."

"It spread from my camp fire." "My son says it spread from his." A moment or two passed before Bob could understand the simple sentence

"Yes." Lewis Dexter was saying, saw it go. I'd built a noon fire at the "Mind if I go with you? Company's foot of Clark's Carry. I thought it was out and had crossed the river to speak Again Bob sensed the trap. His iden- to Warden Baker, who was looking over tity was suspected if not known, but he the telephone lines there, when we both did not intend to be caught so easily, saw flames dart up in some dry brush "Over by Palmer's place. That's your across the river, but the wind had driven "I'm cutting over to Musquacook," spread like a demon. Heavens man! Be certain species of blister beetles. evaded Bob. - "Sorry I can't go along with | thankful you weren't responsible. What a fearful load to carry on your shoul-

"I know that," said Bob, simply, "I've Bob glanced at him as he mumbled a been carrying it, too, until now, and I

Mr. Dexter nodded. "So do we." he unfrequented streams that poured into the country wherever we operate, and This however, according to the report, it from the wilder forest regions. There so to carry on the work as to improve. he could hide, to travel, thereafter, only rather than despoil the forests. We were was then near the full, he could make for reforesting the burned district. By perature spoilage occurred by the fat Although Bob was constantly on the understand, and the man for us. I the staorage lasted only six weeks. This

"Well, then," as Bob gave his eager

#### A WIZARD IN GLASS

was reassuring; still for some time he worth going far to see since it is admit- Australia and New Zealand cannot be scanning the river and its shadowy and heautiful flowers in glass ever seen, commercial methods. the reproductions of the curious marine glass gives him the distinction of being The boy in the boat did not turn his in the world. He can take a bit of

### PILING UP THE EVIDENCE

ACES GABDEN CROPS

Injurious attacks by blister beetles on

from about % to an inch in length, with

The most common species causing inforest where always before he had found jury in eastern Canada this year are it. He had betrayed his best triend. He gray, graylsh-black or black in color. was an alien, there where he had before These beetles are widely distributed been most at home. What he had done, throughout Canada and the United he could not undo; he could never repair States east of the Rock Mountains. They the harm he had wrought, though he occur at irregular intervals in sudden paid to the last farthing, and why should swarms sometimes in great abundance. he pay to those who would only spread They eat a variety of plants including destruction? Looking at the matter potato, bean (particularly the blossoms) put his money into lumbering operations feed on pigweed, ragweed and meadowof his own, carried out in accordance rue. The beetles usually become abundwith the most enlightenened ideas of ant during the month of July. The eggs scientific forestry, in which profession are deposited in the ground in the late he had trained himself. Surely that summer or fall by the females, in the feed on grasshopper eggs, in this way The word came to him with a shock. they are beneficial to man. However, it That was what he was a thief! While is in the adult stage that they cause a the field destroying the plants as they

As the adult beetles are very active the insects which are killed are soon "I set the fire at Clark's Carry, Mr. replaced by others flying in from outadding 1/4 pound of fresh lime to prevent foliage injury. Arsenate of lead is

The poisons should not be used in th control upon plants such as beans with "What's this! What's this!" Mr. Dex- edible parts exposed. In this case pyrethrum' spray should be substituted This is made with 11/2 ounces of pyrethrum powder in a gallon of water which when used as a spray would probably kill the insects without injuring the human beings who might consume the sprayed products.

For small gardens many of the insects can be destroyed by beating them from the plants into a pan containing water with a little coal oil on the surface. It' is interesting to note that mos blister beetles contain a substance known as cantharidin which has the property close by my old fire. We made time of blistering the skin, hence the name blister beetles. The Spanish-fly of it into some dead firs from which it commerce consists of the dried bodies of

#### FREEZING HELPS EXPORT

New Zealand and Australia may yet become strong competitors with Canada in the bacon trade. During the past few years those-countries have been sending forward to the Motherland increasing quantities of pork. Various methods of the only successful one seems to be that

Attempts have been made to send over has proved unsatisfactory unless transported in the frozen condition about I developing a rancid condition even when it is explained, is due to the fact that oxygen even when frozen.

In the experimental shipments that of smoked bacon keeps better than unsmoked, but rancidity develops even in smoked bacon after it has been stored for nine weeks at 14 degrees F. The conclusion has therefore been reached Travellers come many miles to see the and is recorded by the Empire Marketing

> Worm Exterminator is acceptable children, and it does its work surely and

#### WHEN BARLEY SAVES MONEY IN FEEDING BEEF STEERS

When the price of barley is equal to one of the most remarkable glass blowers or lower than the cost of a good meal mixture it is economical to feed to beef

The results obtained at Lennoxville the same gains, but that with barley at 1931 prices a saving of % of a cent per pound was effected.

With barley as the principal feed the ration per steer was 12 pounds of hay Hammond-Why does Mrs. Meekly and 20 pounds of oats-peas-vetch the rate of 4 pounds per head from Cabbageo She wants a divorce, and January 1 increased by 1 pound per day

Boss Charles, you wear a very old fashioned coat in the office.

YOU are always sure of Kellogg's Corn Flakes, For 25 years Kellogg's have been the standard of quality.

Kellogg's Corn Flakes are made in modern, sanitary plants ... always open to inspection by visitors. Kellogg's have the finest materials, expert workers; and wonderful machinery it has taken years to perfect. Plus a patented sealed WAX-TITE bag that brings the flakes oven-fresh to your table!

Guaranteed by W. K. Kellogg: "If you do not consider them the finest and freshest corn flakes you ever ate, return the red-and-green package and we will refund your money." Made by Kellogg in London, Ontario.



#### SLATS DIARY BY ROSS FARQUIAR

Friday-Ant Emmy is threttening to run for leiislachure nex Fall oney she

that she promise to Repeel the onwritten Law and now she is all Enthewsastick abou

Saterday - Pa was tawked in to betting a \$ on a Horse race to-day. Mr. Gillem told him to Bet on Mary Ellen becuz she was suchy nice horse to bet on and so pa put a \$ 0 Mary Ellen.

was right becuz Mary Ellen is a very nice horse oney she is to Nice becuz

partie tonite and when they cum home I herd ma a balling pa out. she sed Well I never wood of that you cud make so menny dum plays with oney 13 Cards in yure hand. Pa uttered a lot of Silents. Teusday-well Clem Mullen went and tuk a Civle service Xaminashun a few weeks ago. he got a good grade in Algebray and Botany and histry and public speaking so now he has ben give a job

Wensday-well I never was sopperstitus but yesterday I broke a looken Glass and today Ant Emmy give me a new box of Pencils and a Aablet and ma brung home a pear of skool shoes for me to ware. I hope I don't see no black

Thirsday-Pa has disided that they ago becuz he seen a picture of a lot of stuff took out of a Egiptian Toom and he says they must of bor Bridge prises becuz nobuddy couddent find no use

SEE SIGNS OF INCREASE IN CATTLE PRODUCTION

Certain conclusions may be arrived at from a study of the cattle data presented in the twelfth annual report on the Origin and Quality of Commercial Live Stock Marketed in Canada in 1931, issued by the Dominion Live Stock Branch. Intentions to increase production are indicated, not so much in the fact that store cattle purchases were some 10,000 more than in the previous year and the heaviest since 1928, but more because of a very marked curtailment to the liquidation of cows and helfers. Despite an increase sale over the previous year of some 23,400 cattle of all kinds, there was a decrease in the number of cows and heifers of 33,655 head or of approximately six per cent.

A father and his little boy were having a discussion on legal matters. 'What is a retaining fee?" asked the

His father replied: "A retaining fee is fee paid to a lawyer before he wil undertake to do any work for a client. "Oh!" replied the boy; " like putting a shilling in a meter before you get any

she Walked Home the way it looks to

Sunday - well I gess Hard Luck is follering us kids all rite becuz I herd the superintendent of skool tell pa this after noon that the Tacks muney had been comeing in pritty good and they was a going to be Able to start on Time Munday-ma and pa went to a Bridge

running a steam shuvle on a big Dam

cats lately.

must of played bridge sevral 1000 yrs.

#### A RETAINER

# TAKE A CHANCE LADY

"Don't talk nonsense, my dear. There "That may be, but it's easier to a

those who've been caught."



visitors, seize the spirit that gribs and thrills, experience the enthusiasm that permeates this gorgeous 350-acre lakeside park and its scores of permanent and costly exposition edifices.

"Besses - o'- th' - Barn," Great Britain's finest brass band and thirty other leading military and concert organizations; four appearances of internationally famous 2000-Voice Exhibition Chorust Kaye Don with "Miss England III": "The Triumph" 1932 inspiring Exposition pageant; Olympic athletes from this year's games; Seventh Marathon Swim for world championship; two Art Galleries; all branches of Agriculture; Engineering. What programmes, entertainment, education, recreation.

To avoid disappointment and inconvenience the management have arranged to accept advance Reservations for Grandstand Pageant THE TRIUMPH" every evening community Saturday Aug. 27, and for any of the 2,000-Voice Exhibition Charus concerts, Aug. 27, Sept. 16

ANNUAL

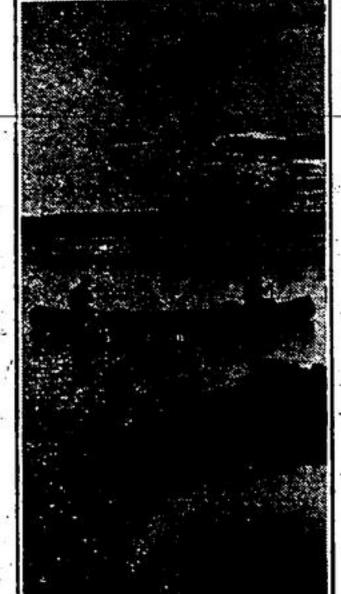
Sept. 6. Sept. 10. GRANDSTAND RESERVED SEATS: 50c and \$1.00-Box Seats \$1.50 each (5 chairs in each box) 2000-VOICE EXHIBITION CHORUS

Ground floor reserved 750. \$1.00 for Box Chairs Send cheque or money order without delay to

Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. H. W. WATERS WILLIAM INGLIS General Managet. President.

### Canoe Trips in Canada Lakes and Rivers Provide Numerous Attractions

Opportunities for an Enjoyable Vacation Almost Unlimited



picturesque country and an miles without meeting obstacles of excellent summer climate, any kind.

one requiring much effort and ex- ful scenery. perience, or one quite free from rapids and portages, the canoeist has only to select his route.

Easy of Access Although railways and the automobile have provided a means of often weighing from fifteen to thirty rapid transport, there are countless pounds while other species of fish places in the quiet of the forest. out of reach of either. It is such well provided with waterways, well places, approachable only by cance, that invite the adventurer to partake of the wonders of nature. The railways and the development of good roads have however made the majority of canoe routes in Canada easily accessible, and one need not through a well settled region, or an travel far from the majority of adventurous journey through the Canadian cities before reaching the wilderness, the canoeist will find an embarking point of an enjoyable almost unlimited number of lakes

#### Forest Beauty

In certain parts one may follow the streams for a long summer outing and never see a village or dwelling, yet civilization lies so close that return is easily possible. Waterfalls, rapids large and small, lakes of singular beauty hidden deep in the forest, and islands HE requirements for a successful and satisfactory trip by canoe: suitable mater covered with pine and spruce trees for the angler and hunter may be by canoe; suitable water, places one may travel hundreds of

can be found almost any. There is a remarkable contrast be- at Ottawa, has prepared a series of where in Canada. The in- tween the conventionality of modern four booklets entitled "Canoe Trips," There is a remarkable contrast be- at Ottawa, has prepared a series of numerable lakes and rivers make the life and the full naturalness of life copies of which may be had by our choice of trips almost unlimited. in the great forest, where one may readers, free of charge. The series One can travel for hundreds of miles relax, amid the beauty of natural covers the Maritime Provinces, Queon any of the great rivers, journal surroundings. A strange appeal of bec, Ontario and Western Canada. ing from lake to lake and portaging imagination comes to one while fol- Further detailed information is avail-

| kind of trip to be made, whether | amid the constant change of beauti-

# Fish and Game in Abundance

Canadian lakes and rivers are renowned for the variety and abundance of their fish. Brook and lake trout are numerous, the latter are plentiful. Eastern Canada is suited to travel by canoe. Canal systems, rivers -large and small, rapids, falls, lakes, stillwaters and all the requirements for an enjoyable canoe trip, await the devotee of the paddle. Whether it be a cruise

and streams. The waterways of western Canada, in days gone by, assisted materially in unveiling the mystery of the great country between lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean. Radiating from lake Winnipeg, are routes of romantic interest. Nestling among the mountains of the coast are many beautiful lakes, also streams that wind through the hills, where sport

#### found. Free Information

The National Development Bureau of the Department of the Interior