The Free Press Short Story

THE LEDGER OF LIFE

BY EARL REED SILVERS

HE feud between James Carendon selves as candidates for the captaincy. James was a half back, a brilliant run-

The captaincy really did not amount to very much, for the team had a coach that year who ruled the players with an iron hand and who was the sole arbiter of all disputes. Nevertheless, both boys

tackler on the squad.

team." it was found that James had been the choice of his teammates by a vote of eight to seven. Irving, with inscrutable face, walked across the dressing room and held out his hand. "Congratulations!" he said.

"Thanks, old man!" answered James. Later, when the game was ended and the team had won; James met Angela at the entrance to the field and regarded her with shining eyes. "If you don't mind,"-he said,-"I'd like to come over to see you to-night. This is a big day, you know, for I've been elected captain of

Angela was only seventeen, a rather small girl with big brown eyes and auburn hair. Although she led the class in scholarship, she was interested in athletics and so she was able to understand James' elation. "I'll be pleased to have

you come," she answered. Irving Carewe, passing them as they stood by the gate, nodded pleasantly. That was the beginning of the feud be- appointment. tween him and James.

They were clean-cut youths, both them, little better than average scholars. and fair all-round athletes. thought well of them and predicted that they would be successful in whatever field of activity they entered after graduation. Each had his quota of friends and each his measure of loyalty. Each boy possessed a certain indefinable quality which grated upon the other, however, and because of their youth, they lacked the breadth of view which would have permitted them to overcome this instinctive antagonism.

ball court; but rather, in certain small by his victory but vaguely disturbed over terminator has ranked as a reliable ways which were hardly noticeable on the surface but which held great significance. For instance, they both wanted "This feud of ours simply has to end." to take Angela to the senior reception, but Irving asked her first, and she went to leave when James entered the locker with him. They were both candidates for shortstop on the baseball team, but James was the better fielder and Irving was switched to second base. graduation from high school, Irving won a special prize in English and James was spoke quietly. "I've been thinking abou given honorable mention. They clashed in many ways, and, although they were always courteous in their personal relations, the rivalry between them grew himself on one of the wooden benches.

intense. They might have forgotten about if they had gone off to different colleges; but both boys decided to enter business. hands, then, and call it off?" Curlously, they selected the same line of work, James was engaged by Freeman & Son, Realtors; Irving joined the staff of the Central Realty Company.

They attended the same church and ours goes deeper than that." were members of the same social group in town; so they saw each other frequently, both during business hours and long to be ended by a mere shake of in the evening, when business was forgotten. Each did his best to outstrip the James sold a big plot of land air. on the cutskirts of the town-and earned a large-commission. The next month Irving negotiated the sale of one of the most important business properties on Main Street. .

They played baseball in the City of the church. During the winter and in the spring they joined a class in the Young Men's Christian Association, and were finalists in a handball tournament that." which Irving wort:

So the years went on until when they were twenty-two, Angela Hartland returned from college. They had seen very little of her since high school days. for she had spent her summers at a at church for the annual watch meeting. their hearts missed a beat at the sight they had gathered at Angela's house. of her. Angela had grown up and was and at eleven o'clock they set out for the no longer the casual, impersonal com- white church at the far end of the panion they had known at school. Her street. eyes were as blue as ever, but a streak They found places in the front row of of gold had appeared in her auburn hair, seats in the Sunday school room, with and she had changed in many other James and Irving on either side

again. She played tennis at the Com- peace stole into the heart of James munity Club, attended social affairs in Clarendon. the church, and was active in the Alumni He glanced over at Irving and saw Association of the high school Wherever that he, too, was singing, his head up-Angela happened to be, there also raised and his eyes shining. Irving and would be found James Clarendon and he were rivals; their personal feud had a habit of stabbing us in the back."-

They were both well on the road and Irving Carewe began in their success in their business careers: Irving senior year at high school, had already been made a member of Both were members of the foot- firm and James' commissions' now totalball team, and when Captain Arthur led several thousands of dollars a year Lennox moved from town unexpectedly. People respected and admired them; they both James and Irving announced them- were young men of high standing in the community and in the church.

'The feud persisted, and although each ner, and an expert forward passer; Irving in his heart of hearts may have been played at left end and was the hardest slightly ashamed of it, neither could quite bring himself to take the first step toward reconciliation. They knew that, sooner or later, the spark that smouldered within them would be fanned to

In the early winter of their twentydesired the honor with all the grim third year, they entered a handball tourand each possessed the potentialities of Association. Due to long practice, they leadership. Moreover, even in those early were admittedly the two best players in days, each wanted to be elected, so that their class. Gradually they overcome he might go to Angela Hartland and all opposition until they found themsay: "I am the captain of the football selves scheduled to meet for the championship. There was nothing unusual in that, for they had met before; but on the evening preceding the match they both asked Angela to the annual reception of the Community Club.

They had met at her house with three or four other young people, and the two of them had accompainted her to the kitchen to help make sandwiches.

Before the girl had time to answer, Irving broke in. "And I'm hoping that For a moment Angela hesitated.

liked them both and wanted to friends, but she did not care just then to make an outright decision between them. As she was not ready for that yet, she smiled into their eager faces. "I'll tell you what I'll do," she announced. "I'll go to the reception with whichever of you wins the handball

Their eyes clouded, but both young men did their best to conceal their dis-

The two met on the handball court the next evening, and there, in the heat competition, the long-smouldering spark was fanned into flame. played grimly, without comment, each man striving for the victory with all the skill and speed at his command. Jame won the first game and Irving the second. In the third and deciding game there was never more than a poin separating them; but in the end James

For the first time in their long rivalry. Irving did not offer his hand. work," he muttered and shuffled off to So, as the year advanced, their rivalry locker room, while the watching crowd congratulated James and dispersed. James waited outside for a time, elated

Irving's attitude. Suddenly James made a decision Irving was fully dressed and preparing

"Oh, Irving!" said James. The other man looked up doubtfully 'I'm on my way home," he explained "Sorry I can't wait for you." "It will take only a minute." James

this-this feud of ours. It's about time ended, old man."

Trying tossed aside his hat and seated "I've been thinking the same thing." "That's fine" James was conscious of

infinite relief. "Are you willing to shake Unexpectedly, Irving shook his head

"I thought you just said-" "I said I'm willing to call it off, bu not by shaking hands. This rivalry of

"I don't understand." "It's too big a thing, it's histed the hand," explained Irving. "We need definite climax, something to clear the

"I still don't understand." "What I suggest," announced Irving quietly, "is this. On Friday night; yo and I come down here to fight it cut.

"Do you mean a fist fight?" "With boxing gloves," explained Irving. This will give us a chance to find a vent for all our bitterness. After that we can be-friends."

James shook his head. "I couldn't de

Irving stood up. "I'm sorry," he said "And you won't shake hands?"

They did not see each other again until New Year's eve, when they me With a half dezen other young people

Angela. For the first half hour they She announced that she was back in sang the old familiar hymns: 'How Firm Washburn for good, and that she was a Foundation," "Rock of Ages," and anxious to renew her former friendships. "Abide with Me." Gradually, as the She at once became one of the old crowd minutes passed, a feeling, of reverent

existed now for over five years, and Stanley Baldwin.

unless something was done about it. it would continue indefinitely. They were both members of the church, both Christians. It was not right, especially at the end of an old year and the be-

ginning of a new one. The singing ended, and the pastor, gray-haired man with kindly face, began to talk. "In another few minutes," he said, 'we shall write finis at the bottom of one page in the ledger of life. Then we hall turn to a new page, unmarked by a single line. What is written upon t lies with us. It may be a record of good deeds, of problems solved, of tempupon it should be free from bitterness, free from anything which is small or unworthy. In the page from which we shall turn, there may be a record of deeds not befitting us as Christian men and women. But that wil be ended now,

and the new page awaits us, white and clean, God grant that we may keep it so.". The big_clock in the corner boomed twelve, and the assembled people rose to their feet, and sang: "Abide with me fast falls the eventide . . .

When the singing had ended. James for a cupple 100 yrs, and it hassent locked down at Angela. As her eyes met his, he found in them, for the first time, something for which he had long to-day. I was tawking about Jane and

new page on the ledger of life!

finally James' particular group wandered to tell when we had the best time in outside. The others left one by one until all are lifes but I was stumped. James was alone with Irving and Angela. cudent disside weather it was the time In front of Angela's house they halted. The girl turned to James. "I'd like to have you come to dinner to-morrow. Do you think you can?"

missed a beat. Angela had invited him, but not Irving. "Good night!" she said.

"Angela," said James, "I'm hoping very men waited indecisively. Then James pa ast him was he making mutch munney much that you will go with me to the spoke. "Irving, I've been thinking over what the minister said about the new page which we've come to. houldn't be any bitterness there.'

Irving said nothing, but his hands our-feud. If fighting it out with down at the Y' is the only way to end

Still Irving did not answer, and after a minute James spoke again. "That," he said quietly, "is my New Year's resolution. To end this rivalry of ours, and lectric Oil has been on the market upbe-friends."

to do it, Jim."

"And we'll fight, then?" "No!" Irving turned and laid his would be a cheap liniment. hand on James' shoulder. the best way, after all. If you're willing, we'll just shake hands and call it off." From far down the street the bell in the tower of the church began to toll gently. Twelve-thirty of New Year's Day! The page had already been turned in the ledger of life.

James held out his hand, and other gripped it firmly. So ended the feud between Jame Clarendon and Irving Carewe.

worm preparation and it always maintains its reputation.

Elephants are just as much right and left-handed with their trunks as human being is with his hands.

They use their tusks when searching for roots in soft ground, and while som are right-tusked, others are left-tusked It seems as if elephants realize that it is their tusks that the hunters are after. Only male elephants of fair age

have the valuable massive ivories, and female elephants will sometimes shield an old tusker from shot and spear with their own bodies If an elephant is hurt or wounded, the rest of the tribe do all they can to

this in his book, "Big Game and Pyg- into the surface of a chuck reast, it with what seemed like a wounded tusker nutritional value to the meat.

squirted water over-him while the rest | Economy Quintet." doing all they could to get their wounded comrade to some safe spot where he thick, rub into it a mixture of one tea-

in the centre, shaking his head from

thing of a mystery. Mr. Christy explains | before serving.

what they are. In the heat of the day the elephants stand together in a crowded mass for sugar, one-quarter teaspoon pepper and hours, enjoying the only sleep they ever one tablespoon, fleur. occasion he got within a few feet of a Sear roast in an iron or pot roast

They were bunched together almost spoons fat. When roast has been seared as close as they could be, in a dark, on all sides, add one cup water, cover shady place near a stream. And though kettle and cook until meat is tender, they were asleep they seemed never still. adding just enough water from time to They were flapping their ears, moving time to keep the meat from burning. their great, pedestal-like feet up and Serve with the gravy which remains in down, grinding their teeth, making the kettle, thickened with flour. strange noises and throwing their trunks

When at last they moved away they had trampled every inch of the space not a stick or bush left standing

"Facts that are not frankly faced have with \$13."

SLATS' DIARY BY ROSS FARQUHAR



ing about teaching Evalushion in the skools is foolishness. He sed they have ben teaching Spelling in the skools

Sunday-Elsy made me sore at her I just happened to remark that No girl From outside drifted the vague sounds ever made a fool outa me and she just

They waited around, talking, but - Munday-Teacher wanted each 1 of us I put a hand Full of ants in Ant Emmy's corset or the time I put Alum in the

Tuesday-Pa says if Condishuns keep "Of course," he answered. His heart on happening why evry body will half to live on whut they make and no more. Wensday-Le Hix has got his self a new truck and is halling things When they were alone, both young people witch want things halled and about all his reseats to pay Damidges There fer hitting uther people cars so he has

Thirsday-I gess pa is stil Sore over the Democrats has to take the job over.

Time has Tested it .- Dr. Thomas' Ecwards of fifty years and in that time Suddenly Irving's tense body relaxed. has proved a blessing to thousands. It "It's my resolution, too. I'm willing is in high favor throughout Canada and its excellence has carried its fame beyond the seas. If it were double the price it

THE ECONOMY QUINTET By Betty Barclay

The long and dreary depression which now seems to be about over has given birth' to a number of economy duetts. trios and quartettes which have been so well received that they will thrive long after the depression has been forgotten.

Necessity is the mother of invention and necessity has taught Canadian nousewives how to make many palatable and nutritious dishes out of a few simple and inexpensive ingredients.

Thus I introduce "The Economy Quintet." Blended in the proper way salt, pepper, flour, sugar and a cheap cut of meat may be turned into a delicious brolled steak or pot roast that will serve as the main course of a meal. Each member of the family may enjoy liberal serving of either the steak or pot roast at the cost of a very few cents. The flavor will be so pleasing that I feel sure the economy quintet will be popular long after those happy days are

The flavor of both of the dishes described below owes-sits quality to the seasoning. The seasoning is just as important in meat cookery as it is with vegetables. Salt and pepper are extremely important' for their seasoning help him. They gather round him, supqualities, but sugar is also a seasoner; porting him and helping him to move which should never be forgotten in meat cookery. The latter, moreover, has add-Mr. Suthbert Christy, who tells us ed value. When rubbed into steak or mie." brice saw a herd of elephants mov- caramelizes, forming a thick brown crust ing through the bush in a compact mass, which seals in the quices giving added

Try these two simple recipes which call for nothing except the five in-As he walked one of the telephants gredients which go to make up "The

were shouldering him along. They were BROILED ROUND OR RUMP STEAK Select a steak cut 1 to 114 inches spoonful each of salt and sugar and 1/4 Occasionally in the elephant country teaspeonful of pepper. Brush a hot one comes across, great troddendown skillet or broiler with fat and place the spaces as flat and as hard as a road, steak to cook. Turn now and then until For many years these spaces, known as done to your taste, serve on a hot the "elephants' ball-rooms," were some- platter, dotting butter over the meat

Mix one teaspoon salt, one teaspoon

day at the races. It was the 13th of the month. I live in a house that is No. 13 and I backed the 13th horse on the card

"And your horse won, I suppose?" 'No, the horse came in 18th!"

JUST NATURALLY

The traffic policeman was questioning the fair motorist who had swerved across the wide village street and crashed into

Surely," he said, "on a road as wide as this you could have done something to prevent the accident:" "But I did do something." she assured

"I didn't see it," was the reply. "Oh, but officer, surely you heard me. screamed as loud as I could."

LOST HER FACE

A nifty young flapper named Jane, While walking was caught in the rain. She ran-almost flew, Her complexion did, too,

And she reached home exceedingly plain.

A THEORY TESTED

Theresa Gentlemen prefer . George-You ought to know.

AN INCOMPLETE CROOK

'Just like him. Always starting some-

COLLECTING THE CURE

vestrymen who had passed the plate at the evening service. "My cough has been dreadfully

troublesome to-night. Perkins," he re-"Well, sir, you have a lot of friends." "Eight of them put

cough drops instead of dimes in the plate to-night."

SUSPICIOUS

Jam-"Yes. Doc said he wants to take

out my appendix, but I think what he

really wants to get out of me is a new

Customer-"What's wrong with these Waitress-"Don't ask me. I only laid

FOR PUDDINGS

Grocer-"You want a pound of ochre? Is it red ochre for making paint?" Small Boy-'No. it's tappy ochre for making puddings."

SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY gentleman somewhat inebriated picked up the telephone. "Hello! Hic! Hello!" "Hello," returned the operator. "Hello!"

> "Hello!" "My gosh," said the gentleman. "Ho this thing echoes!"

THE BIG PASSWORD, BOYS

Judge-Did you know the defendar Rastus?

Rastus-Ah had a logical acquaint Judge-What do you mean by a logical

acquaintance? Rastus-Well, us both belonged to the same lodge.

THE BEST AVAILABLE Marie-I have my faults, but I'm not Jean-I can easily believe that.

you were, you'd not come out with that

THE INQUISITION. your mother along? She That's what she wants to

you about.

Only Half a Newspaper

No matter how well edited or how many columns of real, interesting news appears in a local paper, that newspaper is only fulfilling half of its purpose if it fails to carry plenty of store news. Half the news of a town concerns the goods in its. stores---the price changes, the new styles, the new materials, the new methods of production and the varying qualities.

The newspaper is a co-operative enterprise. It is fashioned to carry all the local news, the news of the store as well as accounts of other happenings.

A Town Without A Newspaper

Opinion is almost unanimous that a town without a paper is a dead town. Reams could be written to prove conclusively that this must be true and very little could be said to offset these arguments. Who would care to defend an opinion in opposition to this statement?

A Store Which Does Not Advertise

Place yourself in the position of the reader of a town paper and endeavor to analyze the impression created by the omission of news from any particular store. How can it fail to be anything but unfavorable?

To the readers of any newspaper, store news is considered most important --- to some the most important part of the paper. Its omission cannot fail but have a harmful effect.

THE ACCUMATED