## The Free Press Short Story

### VACATION ORGANIST

By ARCHIE JOSCELYN

he turned away a shadow-crossed that slated as a sight-seeing tour and for the finely expressive countenance.

"It's a dream come true, for this little community." he said softly. derful dream. A chance to have the finast in music. Only with such a pipe crean. we have no one who can begin to play it adequately, and no immediate prospects of finding such a one, either." "Why, ft's like a co-incidence lan't it?"

The smile that sprightly Arley Warren turned on Midred Claments was tinged pipe-organ players in the country."

"Really?" Young Blaine was eager as he turned to Mildred. "Are you in our community for long? And would you help us our while you are here?"

Mildred flushed. She was fully conscious of the trony and mockery in her friend's words, knew just how Arley was laughing to herself. This, Mildred told harnelf flarcely, was no time for loking. The young doctor, who stated he was also Sunday-school superintendent this church, was much too fine to be made the butt of a jest. He was dosperately in earnest. She wished now that they had not stopped in, as the landlady where they had obtained their noonday meal in passing through, had suggested, "too see the wonderful pipe | nt into our church and community so orean."

"Why-" Midred smiled a little. was impossible not to smile in face of the young doctor's contactont "We had not quite decided where to spend our month's vacation, but Milburn seems like a lovely mot."

"It is lovely," assented Doctor Blaine, "and if you could play for us for month, perhaps teach some of our own aspiring talent, we'd try to make worth your while."

want to hurt this fine, earnest young man. Her own father had been a doctor, and because of that challenging that which they offered. mothery in Arley's eyes, she perversely decided that they would stay in Milburn over Sunday. This was Saburday aftermoon, anyway.

"Wouldn't it be a lovely opportunity for some one who's looking for something to do?" asked Arley, once the girls were alone. "And the people would be the time for decision had come. A few so appreciative, I'm sure. And they might even pay you five dollars a week -if you could play church hymns! Pancy!"

That last thrust decided Mildred. "I'm going to spend my month right she thought of young Doctor Blaine. here," she declared. "And I'm going to play church hymna on that fine new pipe organ. And what do you think of that Miss Warren?"

Arley Warren's blue eyes rolled heavenward. 'I shall really have to go to rather than follow a general poorly paid church to-morrow, just to hear you," she declared. "It will be wonderful, I'm true, but that was about the extent of suge! And wouldn't the audience-or is it. Most of his patients were poor, his it congregation?-be just thrilled if they hours were long. He might spend a lifeknew who was playing for them, and time in toil here, but he would be a poor could guess at your other accomplish- man always. On the other hand, in the menta?"

doctor, or to anyone-" "He is handsome isn't he? It might

not be such a bad place to spend a came. A long, legal-looking envelope, month, at that " morrow, there was no doubt of that, as breath. That name meant something.

the strong, sure notes rolled from the This letter was sent, now, because Arley organ under the deft touch of Mildred's had been saying a good word for her. fingers. Miss Clements could play any organ or piano in a way that few could on with that for which she had prepared, equal. As a little child, she had been a for which, as the letter conceded, she was churchgoer, and these hymna were a admirably fitted, with her playing, her gay link with the past.

lar, though no one quite understood her | was to take a minor part and then if Demure one moment, sparkling the next, she made good, special broadcasting. The always with veiled hints which yet told salary which was offered made Mildred nothing, it was a new experience to her, catch her breath. A contract was ennothing more. Within a week she was closed for her to sign and return. tired of it; then she demanded impatiently if Mildred was not ready to go in Milburn and play a pipe organ rather on. "I can't stand this place another than a grand plane, returned to her. Ten day," she asserted. "And I really can't dollars a week, or hundreds! Just then picture you here, either, now that the young Doctor Baline was calling up. novelty has worn off "

ed, half-incredulous sidelong glame at happen!" her, had calmly kissed her finger tips parted.

"your old side-wheeler will be waiting envelope, with its offer and contract, she for you with proverbial open arms, and slipped back into her pocket. She might we'll hit the golden trail together."

question of that, at all. She simply be- dosen miles out into the country, over longed to another world, or did she? poor roads. Both seemed occupied with Ten days ago such a thought would their own thoughts. Something almost never have entered Mildred's head, and like panic assailed Mildred at the thought she knew it. The half-slangy argot that she might never make such a drive which Artey spoke as a matter of course as this again. When they came to the had become familiar; that life which Jenkins place, a poor log house, where they had led together had seemed wholly abject poverty reigned, the afternoon was desirable; and there had been no ques- drawing to a close. tion but that, with their combined tal- Within the house was more need for ents, or either one alone, for that mat- them than even the doctor had suspectter, fame and fortune lay ahead of them. | ed. Mr. Jenkins was away, seeking work,

Figure the young doctor, viewed to the days of the shipter remote. Bhe was again transported back the shipter remote. the shining new pipe organ. As Though this vacation, which had been purpose of rest, was filled with crowded days, she was happier than she had been

She played the new pipe organ at all church functions, and played it with that true artistry which but few attain. Hours each day she spent in teaching Mildred uncarthed one short candle. some of the mysteries of it to eager students. The other hours were all busily filled. She was actually teaching a and his face set grimly. class in Sunday-school while she remainwith mockery, but the young doctor fail- ed in Milburn. The people were always ed. "You'll have to hold it in order ed to detect it. "That you should be hospitable in all community affairs. Also, give me light where I most need it here now, Mildred, at such a time of she had gone with young Doctor Blaine There's not a minute to spare, now." on his rounds two or three times, and In that barren room, with only a she had gone with her father on his

> from Arley, who was going on her gay, steadily. Watching the sure, deft fingers, inconsequent way, wondering plaintively she realized as never before what a great Low long Mildred was going to stay in surgeon he might be in a big city. Somethinking of that larger-or so it seemed- interrupt, she voiced the thought, "You field which she had left behind. One of these reminders came when Doctor Blaine, one of a committee of three, came sure fingers did not falter, seemed de-

for an opening as soon as your vacation is over." said the committee, "and we have been wondering if you would consider remaining right here with us. You stay, you may have the regular tob organist, at ten dollars a week. And as a teacher of music you can do quite well We realise, of course, that there might he larger opportunities in earning else-

Mildred did not give any answer at that time. Somehow it had been almost as if Arley's face was looking over her shoulder, and she had almost felt inclined to laugh at the offer. Opportunisalidred gave no promise. She did not ties elsewhere to earn more—these people had not even suspected the possibilities which lay before her in comparison with

> Mildred knew the offer which they made was sincere. Ten dollars a week as organist was a lot for them to raise. Other opportunities were here, aside from the money.

The call of the world that she had known was perversely stronger, now weeks ago she would not even have considered such an offer as had been made to her here. She would not have felt the need for a decision. With this feeling came one almost of impatience, as

She believed it took no greatly discerning eye to see that he, potentially, was a great man. He had the eduction, the skill, to work in any of the greatest clinica of the greater cities. He could sepcialize practice. He was well loved here, it was city, with its greater opportunities, he "Arley, if you say a word to that young could easily amass a fortune with his

Another reminder of the outside world with a name in the corner which carried The people were appreciative on the Mildred back, caused her to catch Her

The offer meant an opportunity to go improvisations, and her singing. A short Arley, in the ensuing week, was popu- period of special programs in which she

The memory of the other offer, to stay "Want to go out with me?" he asked.

Mildred emphatically replied that she "I warn you, it may be a long, hard had decided to spend the rest of her grind. The Jenkins boy is fast apmonth there. Ariey, after a half-amus- proaching the crisis; no telling what may

"I'll be right down," agreed Mildred, in token of farewell; and presently de- | and slipped on her cost. For a little while longer, at least, she could crowd "When you've had your fling," she said, this problem into the background. The

talk it over with Doctor Blaine, Arky was nice, there was not any real. The drive was a stient one. It was a

deftly. After one glance at like regular HAPETY EXPERTS ADVISE. nations, little Ted Jenkins, sick now for nearly a week, the young doctor's face had grown white, but the mother had Symposium Mercale . How Death required emergency care.

Mildred had assisted-him as well as possible. With Mrs. Jenkins cared for, the young doctor turned to her.

The crisis came sooner than I expected it, in Ted's case," he said. "It's here now. And instead of being-as-good as I hoped, it's fully as bad as I leared I've got, to operate, and at once, It's the only chance of saving his life." Doctor Blaine glanced around anxious-

ly. Outside it was dusky, inside it was getting dark. "Do you think that you can help me?" he saked, "I must have an assistant, and there's no one clae." "I can do it," replied Mildred steadi-

"My father was a doctor." "Clet a lamp, please, and hot water." No lamp could be found in the home. The only one which the Jenkins' owned had been broken when Mrs. Jenkins, carrying it into the cellar, had fallen. That, it proved, was all that was available. The young doctor glanced at it,

that was oddly fascinating. Long ago die for light, a strange, even an awe some, tableau was enacted as the young doctor prepared to operate. Nerving her-The days alipped by. A letter came self to the task, Mildred held the candle Milburn. Other occasional events set her how, though she knew she should not could do so much, win so much fame."

The young doctor smiled faintly. His tached from his voice. "What is for-"We understand that you're looking tune," he asked, "compared to service? If I save this one life in all my days, give this little boy a chance at life, as we have had our chance, what else mat ters? And who knows? He may be another Edison, or Lincoln, or John Wesley. perfectly, Miss Clements. If you will in saving him I may save for the world the gentus of the ages."

Mildred's eyes grew misty. In sudden dismay she noted that the candle was growing short, was almost at the end. Doctor Blaine saw it. too. "It won't last," he said hoursely. "I need it only a little longer-just seconds will tell the tale. But I must have good light now. To her surprise, Mildred heard her

steady reply, "Don't worry." Holding the candle with one hand, all reached with the other into her cos pocket, withdrew the big envelope. letter, in two sheets, she rolled deftly into two tapers. The envelope made third, and the contract a fourth.

As the candle came to its end, ignited one of the sheets. It burned briefly, but its light was good; then she took the other, and next the envelope Those precious seconds were passing, but the doctor was completing the grave part of his work. The contract itself made brief but brilliant light.

"I'll find something else-right away. "It doesn't matter, now. We've won. The crisis is past." "Yes," agreed Mildred, "It's past, And,

oh-I just wanted to tell you. I'm ac cepting, as organist. I'm staying on to

JUST LIKE HUMANS

Miss Glowworm-I hate vout want to see your face again! Mr. Glowworm-All right. You glow

dix prominent safety officials. the week-end in connection with aupplemented by vigorous and impartial lighway safety campaign being conduct-

J. P. Bickell, Registrar of Motor. Vehicles for the Province commenting on the statements made by these officials. was warm in his praise for the work done in promoting safety on the highways and said: "Their statements and opinions on what motorists and pedestrians can do as individuals in reducink

accidents and fatalities may be taken as authoritative and sound, for their knowledge is based on many years of active and expert study of the problems of highway safety."

W. O. Robertson, General Manager, Ontario Motor League: "Less haste on he part of drivers and less heedlessness the part of pedestrians would greatly reduce the prevailing traffic accident Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians like must realize that the way to escape

from traffic socidents lies in siertness and the proper spirit of give and takewith considerable more give than takebetween all classes of road users, together with exercise by all of that sound ommon sense necessary to safety on the streets and highways. Only by constant virilance on the part of each individual. whether driving or walking, can traffic accidents be avoided."

INSPECTOR EDWARD G. DUNN Traffic Division, Toronto Police Department: "Ontario and Toronto accident scords reveal that about 60 per cent, of causes of accidents, may be attributto carelessness and neglect on the part of motorists and the thoughtless actions of pedestrians. Motorists may extend the required co-operation in reducing accidents by obeying traffic aignals, by keeping in the proper lane of traffic and driving at all times at speed that is safe, having due regard to traffic and weather conditions. They to be considerably reduced." should extend every possible courtesy to pedestrians, especially elderly people and children, and particularly those crossing

at street intersections. "Pedestrians can co-operate by crossing at street intersections and, where there are traffic signs, cross with the green light only. They should refrain from jay-walking and crossing intersections diagonally, and should never step our from behind a parked car without first making sure that the way is clear."

A. E. Lewis, Provincial Secretary, Garage Operators' Association of Ontario: reduce motor vehicle accidents. notorists should have their brakes, steering mechanism, lights and tires inspected periodically. If adjustments consistent with safety are required, they should be made at once. Motorists can definitely aid in reducing accidents by having such inspection work done periodically by a reliable garage.

"Pedestrians should realize that a motor car travelling at only 20 miles an hour is still covering 30 feet per second - about six times as much distance as the person who is walking. Ability to judge distance and speed is something every pedestrian can develop, and when valking near motor vehicle traffic make due allowance for speed and distance." H. O. Pester, General Manager, Ontario Safety League: "Most traffic ac

cidents are caused by momentary inst-PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS tention or impatience on the part of motorists and pedestrians. In the case of the former, it may be due to day-Interior May Be Greatly Reduced dreaming, back-seat driving, alcohol, business or family worries. The remedy for such conditions can only be found in standing in their efforts to bring about the field of systematic safety, education; a reduction of traffic deaths and in- beginning in the early school years and furiss, were interviewed in Toronto over carried on to maturity. This must be

enforcement of traffic laws." ed by the Ontario Department of High-R. B. Morley, General Manager, In dustrial Accident Prevention Associafidna: "For atreet and highway safety, there are three rules. The first is look. the around is Look, and the third is LOOK, and those rules may be applied these men and their organizations have with equal force to indestrians, cyclists, motoriate and the drivers of horse-drawn

"The requisites for a good accidentprevention campaign, so far as highways are concerned, must include good automobiles that are maintained in proper mechanical condition. Next is an adequate policing of all highways, coupled with an effort to check minor infractions so that major infractions may be reduced Beyond this, a constant campaign of education is desirable and that should include all of the schools, coupled with education in the mechanism of a motor car and the principles of safe driving in the higher grades of our schools."

Warren Hastings, editor, "Canadian Motorist": "Over 30 years ago, the fathers of the Ontario Motor League in their wisdom wrote into its charter that a reasonable regard for the rights of others' would preclude discourteous, unsporting, anti-social behavior at the wheel, which includes all but a fraction of the manifold forms of reckless and otherwise dangerous driving. It would preclude, too, jaywalking and other practices of pedestrians that are menaces to themselves and others. Therefore, realistic attempts to curtail traffic casualties will include provisions designed to discourage the dangerous 'laissex-faire' practices of pedestrians.

"Because we are all either appradically or habitually unreasonable, Mr. Average Good Citizen causes 85 per cent. of the traffic accidents. It is apparent then that all of us must be more prudent in our behaviour on the streets and highways if the ismentable toll of traffic is

#### NONE OVERLOOKED

The children had been photographed and the teacher was trying to persuade them to buy copies. "Just think how nice it will be to look at the photograph when you're all grown

up," she said, "and say: 'There's Rosie, she's married,' or "That's Billy, he's s sailor."

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19c

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