

The Free Press Short Story

VACATION ORGANIST

By ARCHIE JOSELYN

WITH a rapt expression Edgar Blaine, the young doctor, viewed the shining new pipe organ...

"It's a dream come true, for this little community," he said softly. "A wonderful dream. A chance to have the finest in music..."

"Why, it's like a co-incidence isn't it?" The smile that brightly Arley Warren turned on Mildred Clements was tinged with mockery...

"It is lovely," assented Doctor Blaine. "And you could play for us for a month, perhaps teach some of our own aspiring talent..."

"Arley, if you say a word to that young doctor, or to anyone..." "He is handsome, isn't he? It might not be such a bad place to spend a month, at that..."

"The people were appreciative on the morning there was no doubt of that, as the strong, sure touch of Mildred's fingers. Miss Clements could play any organ or piano in a way that few could equal..."

"When you've had your fling," she said, "your old side-whisper will be waiting for you with glowing open arms..."

remote. She was again transported back to the days of her young girlhood. Though this vacation, which had been slated as a sight-seeing tour and for the purpose of rest, was filled with crowded days, she was happier than she had been in years...

"The days slipped by. A letter came from Arley, who was going on her way, inconspicuous way, wondering plaintively how long Mildred was going to stay in Milburn. Other occasional events set her thinking of that larger—or so it seemed—field which she had left behind..."

"We understand that you're looking 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..."

"The call of the world that she had known was pervasively stronger, now that the time for decision had come. A few weeks ago she would not even have considered such an offer as had been made to her here..."

"Another reminder of the outside world came. A long, legal-looking envelope, with a name in the corner which carried Mildred back, caused her to catch her breath. That name meant something. This letter was sent, now, because Arley had been saying a good word for her..."

"The offer meant an opportunity to go on with that for which she had prepared, for which, as the letter conceded, she was admirably fitted, with her playing, her gay improvisations, and her singing..."

"It'll be right down," agreed Mildred, and slipped on her coat. For a little while longer, at least, she could crowd this problem into the background. The envelope, with its offer and contract, she slipped back into her pocket...

SAFETY EXPERTS ADVISE PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS

Symposium Reveals How Death and Injuries May Be Greatly Reduced

Six prominent safety officials, outstanding in their efforts to bring about a reduction of traffic deaths and injuries, were interviewed in Toronto over the week-end in connection with the highway safety campaign being conducted by the Ontario Department of Highways...

"Get 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 hall, had fallen. Mildred unheeded one short candle. That it proved, was all that was available. The young doctor glanced at it, and his face set grimly..."

"We'll have to make it do," he declared. "You'll have to hold it in order to give me light where I most need it. There's not a minute to spare, now." In that barren room, with only a candle for light, a strange, even an awesome, tableau was enacted as the young doctor prepared to operate. Nerving himself to the task, Mildred held the candle steadily. Watching the sure, deft fingers, she realized as never before what a great surgeon he might be in a big city. Somehow, though she knew she should not interrupt, she voiced the thought, "You could do so much, win so much fame..."

"INSPECTOR EDWARD O. DUNN, Traffic Division, Toronto Police Department, records reveal that about 50 per cent. of the causes of accidents may be attributed to 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 signals, by keeping in the proper lane of traffic and driving at all times at a speed that is safe, having due regard to traffic and weather conditions..."

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

JUST LIKE HUMANS Mrs. Glowworm—I hate you! I never want to see your face again! Mr. Glowworm—All right. You glow your way and I'll glow mine.

Potatoes 5 Home Grown NEW DELICIOUS FLAVOR 19c lbs. for

Tomatoes 2 Imported 19c lbs. for

Lettuce 2 Iceberg—Large Size Hard Heads, for 9c

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