### The Free Press Short Btory

#### FOLLOWING CONVICTIONS

BY STAN J. DAVIS

HE Judge looked hard at the the motorcycle division. There was eted a number of motorists since, no alternative here.

He said, "Case dismissed" quiet for a few seconds before a low, and leaving the scene of an accident. discreet ripple of amusement passed The latter were serious and neces-; Jim touched his cap. "Fine," he among the speciators. "Next case"

lean, wind-burned face coloured. He court

blue-clad motorcycle policeman, one was constitute of a disturbing noise of the recent additions to that givi- at the rear of his machine. On the sion. He knew that Jim Lash would grass of the road's shoulder, he swung he facing him time after time. "He'll off to investigate. He was kneeling learn," thought the judge

reporter fell into step beside the highway. An automobile was apyoung policeman. He glanced nar (proaching at, high speed. The driver

a good lawser though "

flung the case into tens of thousands. He leaped onto his motorcycle, the of homes. The traffic court proceeds thes screamed and he was on the conings were broadcast every morning crete a blur of motion

for one-half hour gustedly

"Yeah, yeah," agreed the grinning of thing though, from the rear."

He headed for the Harper Woods a halt and Jim come dongsite

you're tied hand and foot, Jim ' des you were out tore again Jim I mate. Acton was manager of an oil this? The got a swell excuse a discompany's branch office

the table. When Jim turned, his tacket face was more grim than Acten had. Barry's expression changed "What's

"I am not tied" Fither bands of "A ticket for doing sevents five Judge Lonergan is four-quate. That Barry or I might be more length first case of mine was not fixed My You see of case I had, I looked had when I the maroon car had to admit that I hadn't even iden- "What's this"" Jim's face set into tified the car correctly.",

"Huh!" case or any case was fixed. I'd turn this one up, Jim "It's dangerous"

police experience. Jim replied though- thought. Barry shoved into gear and fully. "Down in Ohio my dad started followed to get at the practical aspects of the a new man on the force

The other was interested 'You've And this time she had re perfectly got something there. But to come good teason for driving fast your study in that direction and still He swong off the red motorcycle and

Barry Acton was persistent "All "Have you your driver's beense" right. So you're a cop. If you go His voice was cold, metallic

Jim had the shower sputtering in with the risk of losing his position. "I was driving seventy-five, your the bathroom. He stuck his head out if Barry was right will. If I can't make an honest char was in Jim's mind and go in with you, if there's a place, at the same speed you passed me? drive fast." But I'd hate to have that happen, questioned Jim. to stay there."

Jim Lash was motoring along the for exceeding that limit were severe, miles an hour." These were listed neatly on yellow sheets, available to the public at the

Almost a month had passed since well-dressed defendant. He Jim's first appearance is court. I looked at Officer Jim Lash of still smarted from it. He had tickthe charges ranging from failure to situted court appearances. The cases said dryly

Judge Lonegran watched the tall to the side of the pavement, Jim frownest and drove off. when the white of a racing motor Outside of the courticom a Times terked his eyes to a curve in the

did not notice Jim He roated past "Too bad." he said, hugrying to; It was Barry Acton Jim's roommatch the other's long strides "Sort mate was headed out of the city. of made a monkey out of you, cop- Within a few minutes he could be per, but you'll learn. You did OK. beyond the jurisdiction of the city up to a certain point. The fella had police. If Jim was to overtake Batis, the would have to hurry. Two courses Jim Lash was builing inside at were open to him at that instant, and himself. His first quit appearance he now had a faint liking of the had been muffed. The papers would temptations that beset the men of The radio had already the law-enforcement agencies

"This may be carrying it a bit "Any policeman who mistakes a too far," muttered Jim, crouching low 1936 Oldsmebile for a 1936 Butck behind his windshield. "But Barry ought to be kicked" growled Jim dis- passed a school sign. There might be kids out. I'm here to stop that seit

reporter "They do book alike, Jim's motorcycle gained stead is Now he could read the hiense num Then Jim was out of the Shelly bers on Barra's car. Then Barra's Tower He walked two blocks to the slackened. To continue would only police garage ! A moment later his mean more trouble. He knew that motoreycle folled out into the street, he was snight. He car puried to

district where he was to partel Har. The driver stated blankly. A good cracked across les charced friendly One month in a police uniform and face threat stakes. I do not know clared Barry Acton, friend and reone what do you thate on doing about

trut meeting in Jim continued to pull off his blue. Jim's level eves were cool and un-His holstered is Colt lay on wavering. He was writing out a

feet! The police department, for the miles an hour in the city." I'm, it most part is straight as a string plied quietly. "You passed a school

own stupidity and lack of observation. The words never same A marconfurnished the loophole that won for colored sedan sped past, going as the lawyer. He jumped at that flaw fast as Barry had been driving. The in my report. No matter what kind short blast of a siren came back from

hard, grim lines "A game" "Take it easy, take it easy," urged "Listen, Barry If I thought that Barry "You'll never get her. Pass

in my badge and revolver tomorrow" "I'll get her whoever she is' Stay "All I know is what I read in the here. I'll be back with your ticket." paper." Barry continued. "Jim, why. Barry stared at the swiftly dimindon't you come in with my company? Ishing motorcyle. He was genuinely There's a swell opening right now." concerned That's Sara Hastings, the "Because I've always wanted to have police commissioner's daughter, he

as a patrolman, and when he finished. Sain Hastings saw Jim coming he was police commissioner. That She saw in her tear-view mirror the was his life, and I guess its in the square jaw beneath the black goggles, wielded tremendous political force, blood. I'm studying to become a traf- and she knew that this cop was young fic expert, Barry, and the best way and determined and angry, evidently Judge Lonergan's, campaign of the

problem is to join the police force. I'd better stop, she thought a little Traffic conditions in our bigger cities smile curving her attractive mouth are taking a terrific toll in human liv. Her foot present the brake pedat There are opportunities for men Sara was not nervous. Sara bad been He saw the Police Commissioner watwho specialize in traffic problems. Do stopped before, but nothing more than ching. He saw Lash waiting you think I'm on the wrong track." a stiff warning had been given tier

noted the car's beense numbers on "Nope," Jim smiled. "I'm a cop his pad. Then he strode to the 1-in et's side face expressionless

mind about the police force, possibly like her very much.

"That's fair enough," returned Bar- cided not to attempt to excuse herself away with it." "I think so," she said coldly.

Jim's pencil moved down the pad. Harper Highway. His speedometer noting the weather, condition of the indicated forty miles an hour, five pavement, and the amount of traffic.

enty-five. One mile an hour makes portant and to hurry. As far as the

"Sorry about that Miss," returned permitted on Father's car. seventy-five if you wanted to save that thing out right in front of him. had angle, you might think about to say Officer Lash. I assume that crossing the highway.

ou know who I am?"

it on your ticket." Jim handed her led to meet a couple of festeral men a carbon copy, He shoved the original fit Detroit " Please do not misunder-

half at a stop street through all of understand that you have your trou-That was all. The traffic court was the violations up to reckless driving bles in court. I'll see you there on

had been clearly defined, and Jim's - He took his motorcycle in a wide Officer Lash saw the smiles. His charges had been supported by the circle and aggin came up to Barry's car Sara Hastings watched him with turned away, strode out of the room. For some minutes before he pulled quickening interest, then suddenly

"Here's your ticket, Barry"

"What's this going to cost me" "Twenty dollars if you pay it at the violations bureau. If you light the thing in toutt, prove that your resord is good up to date, the judge may let you off

"Twenty bucks is a lot of money to me right now

"I hope you'll understand " "O K. Jim . I'll see you in court." Jun Lash watched his friend pass beyond the city limits

The following morning, as Jun strode into Allen Station to report Inspector Tiernan motioned him into his office. Tiernan was in charge of the presinct

Without preliminates the towering inspector said, "Understand you lick eted Sara Hastings vesterday, Pretty stiff charge for

"Nothing more than the deserved inspector stated Jim flatts waited for Liernan somewhat deturbed. Was Barry's prediction com-

The inspector grinned and his eyes were calculating. "I like you, Lash You're an asset to my station. Commissioner Hastings has been hounding me to stop the speeders. It's right back in his own tap now. We'll see if the howly That's all, Lash."

Jum left the room with a feeling

Com and Barry did not mention the speeding medent to one another I i almost a week. Then one evening Barry said, "I paid the fine to-day."

Jun looked up from his newstrapet. surprised "I thought you intended to appear in court next Tuesday "I did, but I've got to be away for

som time beginning tomortow in tice eastern region and well, I can torget about it now

"That's tough. The fine, I mean." "Yep I deserved the lesson though ben't be sorry for me"

Jim looked closely at his filend Listen, pal, if you're broke or even low, let me help you cut cas and oil for a trip don't grow on trees Did you get your last expense check yet?" Barry grinned and slapped Jim's

wide shoulder affectionately. "I'll. check my finances, Jim, and if I really need any thing, I'll borrow"

"Promise?"

"Sure"

Barry drummed the table with his finger tips "That job I mentioned to. you is taken. They sent us a man from Chicago yesterday How do things look on the Hastings' case?" " I haven't heard a word I'll know

more after next Tuesday." Police Commissioner Hastings was in the courtroom on Tuesday. spare man of military bearing, he

and had been a staunch supporter in preceding year The judge calmly rendered decision after decision that morning until fin-

ally Jim Lash's report lay before him "Next case "

The charge is driving at the exessive speed of seventy-six miles an back to this job, you can continue. Jim pulled in front of the sodan hour on Harper Highway Eurther, a pointe siren was blown. What have you to say. Miss Hastings, Do you consider the officer's statements

Sara faced the judge. Jim realized that she was nersous, but was makabsolutely straight, no favors to any. Sara handed him her leather her ing a strenuous effort to appear one including the 'right' people, and container. One glance told Jim that calm. He noticed a number of things you find yourself in trouble or you this was Police commissioner Hast- about Sara that morning, and they find that somehow your charges don't ings' daughter. Here was his oppor- all added up to one conclusion, that, stick, will you then come in with tunity to settle any doubts in his if given the opportunity, he could

Honor," she admitted in low, but disof the open doorway. "I'h-huh, I Barry drew up He guessed what tinct tones." The policeman's charge. is true and I suppose it was his duty go stick in court, I'll quit the force. "Did you mass the Harper School to stop me. However, I had reason to

"The case is fixed," thought Jim I'm in the work I like and I want Sara hesitated. The position was grimly, his eyes narrowing in a tharnot favorable. She was netted and de- acteristic manner. "They can't get

Judge Lonergan studied Sara one: instant before he asked, "What was your reason?"

"Father had felephoned me from miles under the limit. The penalties "I'm writing this up as seventy-six Lakewood, asking that I bring him his car. He was to meet with some F.B.I. "Seventy-six!" exclaimed the girl. men in Detroit, and there were no "That, carries a twenty-five dollar available trains that would get him City Violations Bureau in the Shelby fine. You might at least make it sev- there in time. He said that it was inter-

ot that I care, because it won't be warn a woman who was about to ward, waiting for the decision.

five dollars. Instead of thinking about "Let the court hear what you have the children who might have been you had no knowledge of these con-pairing going, policeman. I hope you

Sara's eyes sparkled angrily "Do "I did not, your Honor!" Jim's at-, that school " titude, while not defiant, was deter-"Yes, Miss." Mawled the young mined "But regardless of these things. officer. "I assume you let loose a can a speed of seventy-five miles an blast on the siren to tell me. That's hour he condoned because the police also a violation you know. I've noted commissioner wishes, or had been culstand me, the situation at Detroit "Thanks, Officer Lash. I see that might have been very grave I admit the court date is May eleventh. I Even so, my point is this, your Honor, the saving in minutes per mile, when compared to the legal speed limit to the speed at which the young lady was driving, amounts to about one half minute per mile, or a total saying of five minutes for the ten miles

Jim paused, and the courtroom face was impassive. Many a person. glanced at the police commissioner to determine how he was taking it Their curiousity was not satisfied. The court proceedings were now on the air which made it doubly interesting.

"The copper's shoving the commissioner around a little," whispered a

reporter gleefully. "This is gone"" Jim concluded with, "Five minutes, your Honor! It takes five seconds to kill or maim a child Five years or fifty years cannot heal the suffering caused. The extent of the loss of one small life can never be calculated! Part of my duties are to patrol the highway in the vicinity of Harper School Those kids rely on me sometimes I'm afraid too much and I'm seeing to it that no driver gets away with any violation of the law on that stretch of the road white I'm on

an additional live dollars in the fine, siren was concerned, I blew that to The police commissioner leaned forcross the road Of course a siren is: Judge Lamergan said, "I feel, Miss Hastings, that you should be penal-

Jim, apparently without interest. 'Jim felt as if he had been slapped | ized the maximum fine for this of-"You should have held it down to in the face. The whole case was fir- fense twenty-five dollars "Next case"

When Jim left the room, a Times reporter fell into step with him keep your job on Harper My tot's in

Jim only snated. He had been more vehement, possibly, than was neversary, but he was not sorry. He felt strongly on the subject of the needless sacrifice of human life on the streets and toads of the nation

"Lash" It was the police commissioner, and beside him was Sara-

"I'm proud to have you as one of my men. You opened my eyes, Lash When the chance comes and if you. record is good, you're going up. Well, good luck, Lash" "Thank you, commissioner"

Sara lingered "I have a silly favor to ask of you, and you may not waited, intensies interested Hastings' Hartings," Jim offered, mystified inequired new scientific and technical "What's the matter ""

party tomorrow night, and we're have found influence on the Dominion's ing one of those seavenger hunts I ability to maintain a logici s'andaid know that one of the things each of of living and compete in internationus is to bring back is a policeman, a all markets. In a competitive world, live policeman. Dad won't agree to a constant search for better methods go, and he isn't a policeman answay

made the attangements

That afternoon on Harper Highway, Jim's whistling could sometimes be heard above the put-put-put of his jests sought employment elsewhere bemotorcycle

#### WOMAN EDITOR RETIRES

COMMERCE COM COPY Many Idell Intilarly the United States Rogers recently announced her rethement as editor of the Cobourg World after nearly 50 years on the staff of the weekly paper. She started her newspaper career as a corres-Jun stepped back. He was finished pondent of the World in 1896.

#### Exodus of Experts Worries Officials

Scientific and Technical Workers Lured to Lucrative John in U.S.

OTTAWA: (CI') The possibility if a man aventus of Canada's wientthe and technical workers to more lucrative pasts in the United States and other countries is viewed with oncern by officials here.

Fruzen in Canada by wartime regulations, these highly skilled experts n various fields of industrial and fundamental research now may consafer leaving the Dominion because of the attraction of higher salaries cise-

The National Research Council, 44 a recent preliminary report on 1945 activities, referred to its continuing efforts to competate in the "retention in Canada of trained wientific personnel through grants in aid of gradunte research in universities and allotment of scholarships

"I'll help you in any way I can, Miss | As a result of the war. Canada has skills and an army of expert workers "Well, our girls' club is having a which, if retained, may have a proof production and new products to place on the market is required to "Of course" he laughest and they maintain Canada's economic position,

the report stated Before the war a considerable proportion of Canadian graduate scientause salaries were not commensurate with the years of preparation requited and far below those paid for similar work in other countries, par-

It is the prespect of a resumption of the draming off of Canadian brains that has officials concerned over our fulgre initiative in research, which has become such a vital necessity in the mostern world

# IT'S THE

## Touch Local THAT REALLY COUNTS

The magnetic power of local news to win and hold people's attention is as fundamental as human nature itself. Local news begins to play its part in a man's life with a one-line notice announcing his birth. Progress in school, participation in sports, graduation, engagement, marriage follows...each likely to figure somehow in local news.

Then comes the upward climb in business, perhaps an entry into politics, almost surely some activity in civic, religious and social affairs . . . each step productive of news that's of vital interest to self, to family, to friends, and fellow townspeople. So it goes till death itself writes the final story.

Only in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers can people satisfy their craying for this kind of news, their unceasing curiosity about what goes on close to home. And only there can they find every day the local buying information they need. Which explains very largely why people read their Hometown Weekly Newspapers so eagerly and thoroughly, and why such weekly newspaper advertising produces such-satisfactory return.

You can't afford to neglect the buyers who live in the towns, villages and townships of Canada and are so well served by their weekly newspapers.

### The Acton Free Press is one of those Important Newspapers

SERVING THOSE IMPORTANT PARTS OF CANADA THAT LIE OUTSIDE THE CITIES

and is a member of the

CANADIAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS