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SHORT STORY

Waiting For Something

By TED M. RIDER

UNCLE JAN twisted in his wicker chair on the front porch when he heard Carol's heels clicking swiftly on the sidewalk. Bax Hammond towered one step behind her and was pretty mad because the thin scar on his cheek looked twisted under the blazing light of the street lamp.

"Then the storm broke. 'What's gotten into your niece, Jan? Yesterday, she insisted on buying her own ticket to the burn dance. Tonight, she paid her own way into the movies. Now, I ask you—'"

Bax paused to settle his blue eyes indignantly on Carol's bowed, red head, but she said in a very bored tone, "Girls are becoming pretty independent now-a-days, aren't they, Uncle Jan?"

"Well, for the love of Pete!" Bax gasped explosively. "We're engaged aren't we, Carol? And you'll be dependent on me for the rest of your life, won't you? Why, that's taken for granted, and that's the way I want it!"

"Oh, you do? Well, thanks for letting me know that, Mr. Boss Hammond. Now I'll tell you something. Here's your ring back."

She jerked the sparkling diamond from her finger and shoved it into the stunned young man's palm, then slammed through the screen door with a speed that made Uncle Jan blink.

"Bax, why didn't you and Carol get hitched right after your army discharge?"

"How could I marry her, then, Jan? I was stone broke and had to start my automobile agency on a flyer. And you, know how that went. First, I couldn't get any stock. Then, my garage burned down and I had to start from scratch again. We're through!"

UNCLE JAN stopped his departure by quickly asking for a match. He had to untangle things somehow. Why, Carol had always wanted to marry Bax. Even ten years ago she'd come right out and asked if marriage wasn't a partnership where each person shared rain or shine as it came.

"Bax hadn't wanted her when things were going bad for him, so she was wondering why he wanted her now when he was a success. After five long years of waiting, fear had replaced confidence, and her sudden desire to be independent was nothing but a cover-up to hide that fear. Maybe she was fearful that Bax just considered her another step up the ladder for himself, something to be bossed around because he was paying the bills. She wanted proof of his love."

Suddenly, he had an idea for a cure. It would be a pretty drastic one but it would show them how much they really cared for each other.

HE TURNED to the door and beckoned. "Did you say Carol won't marry you because of that bullet scar on your cheek, Bax?"



"Bax," Carol said, simply, "your scar stands for everything fine."

Well, that's something to think about."

In a second, the screen door flew open and Carol stood there, her hand on his shoulder and her heart in her eyes staring down at Bax's white strained face. He'd taken the remark seriously, and Uncle Jan felt suddenly frightened. If Carol didn't handle things right, now

"Bax," she said, simply, "your scar stands for everything fine; for duty, for glory, sacrifice—for everything fine I love in you."

Her hands rose to tremble on the muscles ridging his jaw grimly. Then, as he stiffened, she stood on tip-toe and kissed the scar.

When he still stood like a granite statue and Carol started to cry, Uncle Jan roared in high dudgeon. "You going to wait five more years to kiss my back, you dumb galoot? That's why she busted the engagement. When a guy makes a girl wait that long she wants something he does words to prove he loves her. Get it?"

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HORNBY CHRISTMAS

(contributed)

The United Church, Sunday School and the Public School here cooperate at Christmas time in remembering the birthday of Christ. One year we meet in the Orange Hall with the church school being responsible, the next we meet in the school with the teachers in charge.

This year it was in the school with Miss Nellie Jardine taking the responsibility, and the music teacher Mr. Buchanan assisting with the music. Rev. Fred Alsworth acted as chairman.

The programme began with a chorus, Bells of Christmas, by the school children. Then two children introduced us to the Christmas customs of other lands. For variety the Junior Rhythm Band played a couple of selections. Then two scenes from the Bird's Christmas Carol, in which a girl invited a poor family of children to her home for Christmas. Leoné Russell, Bob Pearson, and Gwendy Nelson took the leading parts in this.

Selections by the Senior Rhythm Band came in between this and a Cantata, Pardon Me, Santa. This called for a rather large cast of players, numbered amongst whom were Joan Wrigglesworth, Ralda

Nelson, Mickey McCarron, Doreen Howden, Norman Pearson, Jimmy Learmont, and John Cunningham, supported by several others.

The weather was good and the schoolhouse was filled with parents and friends of the children. It was a good performance, as is always the case at the Hornby School under the able leadership of Miss Nellie Jardine, and all went home with a preview of Christmas likely to carry over for a while.

Christmas sermons were preached in the United Church churches with special music and a good congregation at Bethel, with now its Sunday School during the sermon time. The Anglican Church held its Christmas service last Sunday. The Bethel church held a Congregational Supper and program which was well attended, though the night was stormy. The Hornby Young People's Society held its Christmas meeting at the home of Jack Simpson.

The English New Year celebration was changed from December 25 by William the Conqueror, because he was crowned on January 1.

Norval Young People Have Saturday Night Club

As a means of entertainment for the young people in Norval, a Saturday Night Club has been organized under the guidance of a committee composed of Mrs. J. T. Cascadden, who is committee convenor, Mrs. Bert Carney, Miss Doree Hazell, Aubrey Hudson and Duncan Robinson. The club, which comprises mainly teenagers and high school students, was formed as a means of providing organized recreation and entertainment for young people in the district. It meets every Saturday evening in St. Paul's Church Parish Hall, where up to the present dancing has been the main event, with music provided by a record player and recordings loaned by interested citizens.

The club idea is stressed and only members are admitted to the meetings. The present membership is about fifty, and in the spring it is hoped to extend activities beyond dancing. A fund-raising event is being planned and the club is interested in having tennis courts at the Recreation Centre this summer.

Don't forget the Firemen's Ball, Friday night.

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ONTARIO

NOTICE TO ONTARIO MOTORISTS

Re Unsatisfied Judgment Fund Fee

Under an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act enacted in 1947, provision was made for the creation of an Unsatisfied Judgment Fund out of which will be paid, in the manner prescribed, judgments for personal injuries and property damage sustained by reason of the operation of motor vehicles, which cannot be collected in the ordinary manner from the judgment debtors.

The method prescribed for creating the Fund is the collection of a special fee, when required, from each person to whom is issued either an operator's or a chauffeur's license.

Although to date no fees have been collected from those operating motor vehicles, the legislation has been in effect since the 1st of July, 1947, and many judgments have been paid by the Department pending the creation of the Fund.

Effective with the issue of 1949 motor vehicle operators' and chauffeurs' licenses, an additional fee of 50 cents (50c) will be collected from each person to whom is issued a 1949 license, which fee will be known as the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund fee and will be set aside solely for the purpose of creating the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund.

This is not an annual fee and no further fee will be collected from motor vehicle drivers for this purpose until the Fund is exhausted or so nearly so as to indicate that there is not sufficient in the Fund to pay judgments for a period of at least one year.

ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
GEO. H. DOUCETT, Minister