The Free Press Short Story

LOST AIRPORT

JOHN BOOTT DOUGLAS

nothing until he had passed it. There,

had happened while he had been absent.

"The hangars might have burned down

"flivver." This was strange, indeed.

chaos of his thoughts.

else misjudge me."

remember:

as he said. "Go ahead!"

The sheriff's face was like gray stone

being a pilot since I was a little shaver."

he said tersely. "Worked toward that

end, sheriff. Finally I carned enough

"One man came to my assistance,

OBERT STUARTS lean body My flivver was parked just beyond the stiffened as the following mes- beacon light." through his radio ear phones:

"Robert Stuart - Olympic Skyways. . Robert Stuart - Olympicways. Don't land at airport. Don't land at airport. Robert Stuart. Bootleggers linve knocked out airport manager. Robert Stuart-Olympic Skyways. Don't land-"

The message flowing through his ear while I was gone," he said grimly. "But phones ceased abruptly and in its wake came a blur of static. His thin freckled growing in those embers in one day-" face hardened perceptibly as Robert studied the instruments on his board; altimeter-five thousand feet; bank and turn indicator-level; gasoline- Suddenly his heart quickened its beat. black space almost covered the face of his gasoline indicator. Tank almost empty! He hammered the instrument board angrily. He had ordered that tank at Seattle. He examined the dicator again. Same reading! Did he have a leak? the car.

He turned back to his radio, adjusting it with twitching fingers, but he could ing to reason just what could have hap-Olympic Skyways airdrome. For several radio warning-the burned hangars minutes he sent out tentative messages, the grass in the debris-the lighted in the first place that I was given in- telling of meeting some of the Actor trying to reach the radio operator who beacons-his car-"I feel same, anyway," sufficient gas to reach home. was giving him his directions. No result! he muttered disconsolately. Pinally he removed his ear phones and | Suddenly his "flivver" stopped with a with the one fellow who still believes home again. whut off his radio.

He could only guess what had hap- fully. 'Now I know it's the wrong car, pened at his home airport one hundred I filled my gas tank before I drove out possible; but what about the beacon miles west and south of Spokane, Wash- to the 'drome this morning." ington. Some one had interfered with his course on just such nights as this.

of the Columbia River south of him, spreading a fleecy blanket below him. The moon was a bright silver disk over- weat." head. Small help that would be to him when he had to penetrate that white blanket of fog to make a landing.

He thought again of the message, his throat tightening. "Don't land, Robert Stuart. Don't land!"

"A swell chance I have to do anything else with a nearly empty tank!" he growled. "Why shouldn't I land? knocked out the ulrport manager will take my plane? This is no country to Pairchild and not Milltown!" make forced landings in a fog!"

right! Better chance a landing now CHILD." while he still had a little fuel left! He pushed forward on his control stick, and suddenly started as a white finger of brown-hat-on-a shagey gray head 5at light probed through the fog in ceric before a littered desk. A line of per- called a number which Robert gave him. \$8,436,658; sinc, 208,570,683 pounds valufashion.

Surely he had not travelled sufficiently "I remember you from your pictures!" far to reach the Olympic Skyways! Or had he? He examined his wrist watch voice. "What do you want here, Robert were right. Line's cut, evidently!" by the blue glare of his dash light. He Stuart?" was not due for twenty minutes yet! He must have made excellent time fiving over the Cascades from Seattle or else ance." his watch was slow. There was no other airport.

He cut his "un." giving his two-ceated machine throttle from time to time to prevent flooding as he dived toward the lights. With snarling spasms, the twozeater nosed earthward.

The revolving beacon light made a binding glare of the fog. Robert strained his eyes to see some distinguishing mark on the Olympic Skyways. Presently he was able to distinguish the four flares outlining the corners of the

neared the airport, and struck in a per- it, and got a job with a Scattle air transfect three-point landing, roaring acrass port company," the field. The warning against landing "That all came out in your trial." he had received flashed across his mind, grunted the sheriff. and qualmes seized him for a moment.

gasoline; then he started. The hangars for some time a bootlegging king, Matt to the posse. Standing in a circle the ground. His eyes darted about the plane! He offered me \$500 a monthdescribed field, and his heart grew sud- more than I was getting. I was prottydealy cold. How could that warning mad, and told Grogan I'd hang before happened?

He felt little shivers of apprehension racing down his spine as he walked for- reputation. I'm going to send you to ward on shaking limbs. The charred tall! And when you come out, you'll to catch these fellows." embers of the hangars caught his eyes work for me for anything I want to pay and held them. Something sinister about you, see? this business. Suddenly he shivered and "I laughed at him, sheriff, didn't berubbed a shaking hand across his damp lieve he could do what he threatened! forchead. Grass was growing between But he could-and did! I was bringing a those charred embers, and he had lett passenger over from Victoria. Orogan hijackers were planning to grab his plane the airport just that morning!

Abruptly he laughed. "This can't be of my plane with liquor and then tipped my airport? But still-those beacon and off the officers. I was caught redflare lights are in the right place all hunded!

Robert pushed back his leather helmet old friend of my father's, Horace Jorand run his fingers through his tousled dun, who owns the Olympic Skyways. red hair. The airport at which he had He got detectives to sift out the truth. just landed looked like his own, the They found tinger prints on the turtlebeacon signals must have been lighted, back, none of them mine. The jury freed recently by some one or else left lighted, me; but no one would believe me innoand the hangars looked about the same cent. No one would hire me. Finally size as those of the Olympic Skyways. Jordan came to my ussistance, and of-The grass growing in the charred out- fered me a position. Y've been flying for bers, however, proved it could not be the him for a year." right airport. For a moment his brow wrinkled in thought.

Robert explained the mysterious events of that evening, and a skeptical glint crept into the face of his listener. "You From the Issue of The Free Press expect me to believe all that?"

"Just a minute!" said Robert hurriedly. "I said that I thought I had landed on the Olympic Skywkys 'drome and had found the hangars burned to from the hospital in England this week. the ground. But that ken't where, I Mrs. Coles and Ernks will accompany really landed!"

whole thing coming to town, and that's will remove this month. why I had to tell you past events to make member that a chap named Anthony built up a little airport designed exactly like ours just a few miles outside of

The sheriff's eyes glowed. "You mean Blinded by its brilliance, he could see you landed at that airport? But what about the light? And your car-?" apparently in the same spot where he "All part of Matt Grogan's plot to had left his car that morning, was his make me seem despicable in the eyes of the public so he can break me!" He sat down weakly on the battered Puzzlement came into the sheriff's running board, trying to reason out what

eyes. "But why should Grogan-?" "Listen!" said Robert abruptly. "What I'm going to tell you is pure conjecture, but I think it holds water. Matt Grogan has some design on the Olympic He shuddered. "Perhaps I'm a second Skyways, though what it is, I don't Rip Van Winkle. Askep for some know. He didn't want me to land there because if I started to do so, I might It came to him that this mystery still see comething unusual going on and

might take on a logical aspect of this spread the alarm. was not his "flivver." He jumped eagerly into to the driver's seat and fitted his riving to spread the alarm? - By seeing races were on the list of events and key into the lock with nervous fingers. that I didn't have sufficient gas to reach lunch was partaken of on the school His heart fell when the key fitted per- the Olympic Skyways 'drome! It's pos- grounds. feetly. He shook his head dazedly. "It's sible for a specialist to figure such things beyond me!" he muttered, as he started with pretty fair accuracy. I ordered the mechanic to fill my tank, and I took He drove for perhaps two miles, try- his word for it that he'd done so. He was a new fellow I've never seen benot pick up his broadcast from the pened while he had been absent. That fore; I suspect he was an employee of Matt Grogan's. All right ! We'll assume

> "Grogan wanted my reputation ruined burning," for they will soon be marching choked sound. His heart leaped cheer- in me. Horace Jordan!" The sheriff nodded. "That all sounds

light and the flivver being there?" Robert smiled grimly. "All part of He looked at the license number, Wn the operator who was supposed to direct 2304101 His number all right! Robert the plot to delay me so that it would run his ringers through his unruly mon appear that I was in Grogan's employ Pog crept up from the snakelike thread of red hair, and then his blue eyes When I appeared many hours later with brightened. "If it's my car, there's a the story I've told you, who would begallon of gas in a can under the back lieve it?

"What's more, he wanted me to be-He lifted the back seat, almost hop- lieve it was my own 'drome. He thought ing not to find the can; but it was in its that the mystery of it would hold me place. It was heavy when he lifted it, longer than it. He probably stole my and when he unscrewed the cap, he could fliver and moved it to the drome which smell gasoline. He emptled it into the Anthony built near here. The hangars tank and climbed back into the driver's burned down a year ago.

"But there are two places where seat. After a time he got the car started again, trying to reason sense out of the Grogan slipped up. First, he may have cut the lines of telephone communica-At last a grin lighted his freckled face tion to our airport, but the radio operat-Are they afraid those bootleggers who as a solution came to him. "Unless I or was able to send me a warning before really am crazy, this next town will be he was stopped. Secondly, although Grogan drained most of the gas out of my flivver, he forgot a can of gas unde His spirits soared when he reached Again he glanced at his gasoline gauge. the outskirts of a small town. The sign the back seat. So I was able to reach That decided him. Nearly empty was read plainly: "WELCOME TO FAIR- Fairchild in time to sound a warning, which I couldn't have done if I'd come Robert Stuart drove directly to the here on foot. And now if you'll call the Sheriff's office. A man with a battered

The sheriff seized his telephone and plexity cleft his broad forehead for a Presently the operator in Milltown in- ed at \$9,087,571; cobalt, 594,671 pounds It was a beacon light, undoubtedly! moment; then his gray eyes narrowed. formed him that the line must be down. His grizzled face was grim as he said in a gruff, almost unfriendly drews glanced at Robert. "I guess you issued by the Dominion Bureau

> He called the sheriff in Militown next. "Sheriff Andrews, Pairchild, speaking," in Canada during 1934, that of lead cominto a chair. "I came for your assist- he said curtly. "Sheriff Rockwell? Good! prized approximately 4.35 per cent.; zinc, something in common, and so in their cultural Representative at Milton, who Robert winced, dropping his lean body Listen, Rockwell, I have information 4.70 per cent., and silver, 4 per cent. "You'll get no assistance from me!" that Matt Grogan or some other liquor In 1934 a distinct improvement was wit- word of cheer. Some of these cards and donia. snaped the sheriff. "You should be in operators have made a raid on the nessed in lead-zinc-silver production, letters I have not yet answered, not be-Olympic Skyways 'drome for some reason with the output of lead and zinc reaching cause I did not appreciate them, but or other. Could you form a podse and the highest point ever recorded in the go-? Good! I'll drive over to the history of the Canadian mining indus edly. "Be patient for a minute: Sheriff drome myself, but it'll take a couple of try. Silver production for the year Andrews, and let me tell you the facts

in the case in chich you and everyone hours."

he said gruffly. His face was white and twitching as and started driving over the shortest year. Robert leaned forward. "I'd dreamed of route, a dirt road connecting the two

They paused momentarily at the sheriff's office in Militown . It He jerked backward on his stick as he money to take a training course, passed empty. They then hurried along the road leading to the airport. Ten min- with lode and placer free gold; in coputes later they reached the field.

Robert jumped out, and his blue eyes Great Boar Lake Northwest Territorie widened at that which he waw. There "Yes," agreed Robert; "and it was all was a big tri-motored plane standing on He jumped out as the aeroplane came true. But no one believed it. . . . Well, the field, several big trucks, and a numto a stop, drained of its last ounce of after I'd been working for that company ber of cars which undoubtedly belonged which had been on the field when he Grogan, came to me. He said he wanted grim-eyed men were Matt Grogan and had left that morning were burned to to transport liquor across the border. By seven roughly-dressed men, including a

shifty-eyed aeroplane pilot. Horaco Jordan strode forward, his face lighting. "Thank God you're safe, Bob! have come from the radio operator if the I'd go into such a rotten business. Here's The radio operator told me that as soon hangars were burned down? What had what he said to me, as nearly as I can us they knocked me out, he locked himself in his room and gent out a warning "'Stuart, I'm going to wreck your good to you. He thought if you received his warning, you might investigate in time

> "What were they doing here?" demanded Shertif Andrews. "Oh, Matt Grogan's been bringing liquor across the line for some months by tri-motor plane. He learned that and cargo. So he radiced it to land at our 'drome instead, trusting that his rufflans could take possession of

field. This is one time when Matt an Grogan will get what's coming to him." "You wouldn't have caught him if it hadn't been for the guick thinking of your young pilot herel" said Edieriti Andrews, smiling at Robert Stuart. "How's that?" demanded Jordan and

Rockwell ut once. Sheriff Andrews briefly told him the whole story.

Horace Jordan turned to his young in the state who can any longer enterpilot. "Y knew you were straight as they tain the belief that you and Grogan The sheriff's gray eyes softened make 'em, Bob," he said warmly. "But were over connected in any way! You perceptibly under the spell of the youth's when it gets out in all the papers to- will come pretty close to being a public Suddenly Robert grinned. "I know evident sincerity. "Why did you come morrow that you're responsible for Matt hero to-morrow, old son. I'm mighty

TWENTY YEARS AGO Chronicles of Thursday, October 7th, 1815 Ginger Farm

Written Specially for

(Name of Paper) by

GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

There, now, I can sit down and write,

back and an ache in my head. And the

"housecleaning" the pantry-a job I have

are jobs everywhere-in fact, there are

Jobs to the left of me,

Jobs to the right of me,

(Yes) volley and thunder

One reader sent me some good advice.

it right here and now, because I know

or have been or perhaps will be-al-

though I hope not-in the same pre-

dicament in which I now find myself.

IN CONVALESCENCE

For then I thought to see Thee face to

And now I ask (Lord, 'tis a weakling's

And not to nag, nor fret because the

Twill take at least a month to get them

And all the milk has boiled away to

And-no, I resolutely will not think

About the caucepans, nor about the sink

These light afflictions are but temporal

To rice above them, wilt Thou lend m

Then I shall smile when Jane, with

And lumpy gruel-clatters up the stair.

Besides that little book of poems

which has done so much to help me

writing I was obliged to do. I absolutely

could not do any more. Many people

writing!" How I wish I had! But now,

wondering why I did not make better

buzzing in your top storey from morning

and gone, and perchance I may do some

ally get answered.

for your friendly interest.

tell you what I have road.

"Yellow Briar." by Patrick Blater.

writing yet! At any nite, those lovely.

All these weeks and weeks I have been

bore you, who read, to tears, when it

made it their headquarters. Now, I ask and Ian Lang-an informat history of

since confession is good for the soul

That Thou wilt give me grace to

"Not long ago. I prayed for dying grac-

Jobs in front of me,

about every two days. .

The poem is called-

not die.

behind.

waste!

things-

towzled halr

reason for it is that I have just been

even though I have got a kink in

Sergt. W. P. Coles, who has been incapacitated for service, is expected home

Mr. James Rath, of the fifth line, has "No! I think I've figured out the purchased a farm at St. George, and At 'the County Council last week

> Pair, and \$75 each to Acton, Burlington Oakville and Georgetown. Lieut. John Henderson, Jr., of the 61s Battallon, Winnipeg, spent a day or ut the home of his grandfather. D.

Henderson, M. P. Messrs. Edward Ryder and John Mowat formed a partnership and commenced the manufacture of leather gloves and mitts in the premises over Caldwell's machinery warerooms, on Mill Street.

The Epworth League gave a large audience a very enjoyable evening on Tuesday, the occasion of their autumn rally. An excellent program was given, concluding with a delectable ple social. With the Town of Burlington still to report, Halton has contributed \$42,-107.75 to the Patriotic Pund.

The second annual Field Day at the Public and High Echools was held on "How could be prevent me from ar- Priday afternoon. Baseball matches and Mr. H. R. Swackhamer, of the Wal-

laceburg Knitting Co., has been inter-

viewing the Council with regard to establishing a knitting factory in Acton. THE PREE PRESS received a letter from Sergt, M. S. Harwood, who is in the hospital at Shornellife, for the second time, boys, and says, "Keep the home fires

COLE-In Acton, on Saturday, 18th September, 1915, to Mr. and Mrs. John Cole, a son.

HALL-At the home of her parents. Church Street, Acton, on Wednesday, Scotember 20th, 1915, Ethel Hunter, Lord help me-help me not to see the wife of George Hall. RAMSEY-At Eden Mills, on Friday, October 1st, 1915, John Ramsey, in

his Olst year.

Its Quality Sells It .- The fact that so many thousands of intelligent people continue to use Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil speaks volumes for its healing efficiency. Ever since it was first introduced it has grown steadily in public favor, owing entirely to its manifold useful-And that last coood had a smoky tast ness in relieving and healing sickness As a specific for cuts, bruns, scalds, and various inflammatory pains its record is beyond reproach.

CANADA'S SILVER MYNING INDUS-TRY

Primary production of silver, lead, zinc, cobalt, and arsenic in 1934 was: silver, 16.415.282 fine ounces, valued at \$7.790 .-840; lead, 346,275,576 pounds valued at valued at \$592,497, and arsenic, 1,659,513 pounds at \$56,652, according to a report

Of the total value of metal production

realized an 8.1 per cent gain over 1933 have said, "I suppose, with so much time The sheriff arose. "Come on, Stuart," and its value at \$7,79,840 reflects the 25.5 on your hands, you have done lots of orphan boys, mummy." per cent, increase in the price per ounce They climbed into the sheriff's car of fine silver over that for the preceding Silver mining in Canada is not a dis

tlnct mining industry, as silver or silverbearing minerals usually occur in association with other metals of economic value: with cobalt, nickel and arsenic; per gold and nickel-copper ores, and with uranium and radium. Silver-lead zinc mining is a very important industry in British Columbia and to a lesser to night? extent in the Yukon Territory. There is no production of aliver-lead-zinc ores in Eastern Canada at the present time, but during past years this industry occupied a position of importance in Ontario Quebec und Nova-Scotla, -Tho-mining of silver-colbalt-argenic ores is confined to Northern Ontarlo,

THRIFTY SCOTCH

Sandy MacGregory's fliver had be

"Too bad, Sandy," sympathized "Have you no trace of the "Aye," admitted Sandy, "I know the

"And you have made no effort "Not yet. Dinna ye kin the tires w

old? Well. I am waiting until the rogue

HE THOUGHT SO, ANYWAY

Wife: "Don't you think a man more sense after he's married?" "Yes, but it's too late then."

SLATS DIARY BY ROSS FARQUHAR

Priday-pa and me got a good laff the country to get a few Tirnips to eat. They was a woman drivelng a ottomobeel in frunt of us and when whe comes to a cross Rode she made a signal for a Right hand tirn, and then she made a rite hand tirn.

Saterday-Pa went to a bankwet witch vas gave by the men with whom he wirks the rong fork and ect. they wassent embuddy there witch new the differ-

been Jiching to got at ever since I got onto my feet. But last week I had Sunday-Pa was figgering up a sttlypickles to do and this week pears to can ticks today and he lernt that out of evry and so it didn't get done. Of course, 100 men I becums rich and 4 becums well cleaning the pantry isn't the only job to Do and 30 becums Independent and I can see walting to be done. There sixty 5 are supported by there relashung. so he says it looks like he woodent have nuthing to wirry about. Hardly. Munday-Doc Younce and his wife

planned a trip East this weak. & they was going until there munny was 14 gone then they was going to start back And some of them almost need to be and Doc found out they was a Bearing 'stormed 'at with shot and shell" to move burnt out and the clutch was slipping them at all. But I try not to see all and they had to have 3 new Tires and the work there is, because "that way when there munny was 1/2 gone they madness lies," sinch the most Y can do, haddent started yet. Mrs. Younce sed besides getting meals, is one extra job it was a lovely trip. If they had tuk it.

Tousday-Pa was a speaking of his unkle witch went in to Bankrupcy last which I try to put into practice, but I week. he sed I good thing about him find it terribly hard work. The advice was he started at the Bottom. But he was embodied in a small poem of Pay mover rot enny further down. Inchfawn's, and I am going to repeat

Wensday-Pa was tawking about a air Plane witch landed acrost the crick tothere are plenty of other women who are day and he called it a He and ma sed they most genrelly all ways referred to air Planes as She. na all ways has to have his little joak and he laffed and sed. This was a Mail Plane. Thinday-Joe Hix told ma they nover

was a male man witch was the boss in his own house after he reaches two yrs.

Quick action saves trouble, worry. Keep Douglas' Egyptian Liniment 'always handy. Stops bleeding instantly. Cauterizes wounds. Quickly relieves Barber's Such foolish prayers! I know. Yet pray Itch and Ringworm,

Soll Testing Service Offered to Hallon

As the years roll by more and more

farmers are confronted with soil prob-

Hangs crooked, and the curtain sages Tems which do not respond to the general farm practice now in operation. But oh! the kitchen cupboards! What every farmer is aware soils do vary considerably in the same community, or the same farm and quite frequently in the same field. An analysis of the soil will quite often give a solution to-this problem. The Department of Chemistry O. A. C. Guelph, provides this service at all times. At the Provincial Plowing Match to be held near Caledonia, just south of Hamilton, the Department of Chemistry is planning to maintain a soil testing laboratory in the Agricultural College Tent which will be located close to the Headquarters and Hydro Tents. Halton farmers who are meeting with soil problems are invited to take half pint samples of soil with them and have it tested for nitrogen, available phosphoric acid, potash and life. At the

same time advice will be given as soil when I have felt particularly restless, treatment. A sample should be taken of I have had letters, postcards and pictures both of the top soil and also of the subsent to me by people whom I have never soil. In the event it is not convenient met, but who, in following these Chron- for you to attend the Provincial Match, icles, have felt that they and I had soil samples can be left with the Agrikindness they have written to send me a will be glad to transport them to Cala-

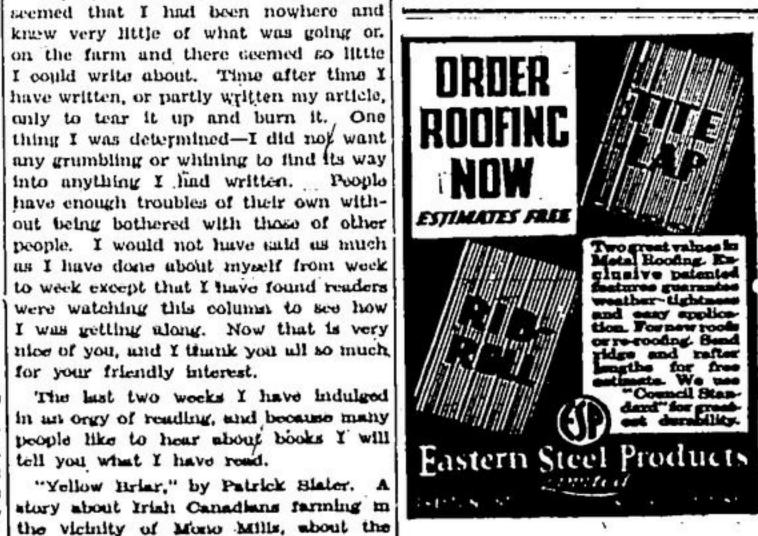
VERY THOUGHTFUL

Mother, to son aliding down banisters: "What are you doing there, Cyril?" Cyril: "Making troucers for poor

and I find friends and readers are still year 1847. An interesting book. "Across the River," by John Galsuse of my time, let me explain. All worthy. A book that will only be apthrough my illness—that is ever since preciated by broad-minded people and last Easter—the doctor has been dosing particularly interesting to those who me with a certain medicine, which be- have read "The Forsyte Saga," a story sides having a depressing effect, makes of English society people. my head feel as if a swarm of bees had | "Just the Other Day," by John Collies

on could you write even though it be Great Britain times the war. A little only answering letters - if bees were heavy in spots, but otherwise quite good. "Testament of Youth," by Vera Brittain. A book I have read before and Glad I am to say that the dosage had have told you about, and which I am been decreased, so now it only feels as now reading again, because I consider if one lonely bee is left buzzing alone, it the best book I have read since the

all his noisy companions are dead now War. "The Good Earth," by Pearl Buck-a Chinese story and one to which many letters that were sent to me will eventu- people-object, because of its plain speaking, but which I feel the author has thought necessary in order to give a so terribly afraid these Ohronicles would true picture of the Chinese in the class of which she writes.



TIME TABLES

ANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AT ACTON

Going East Daily, except Sunday 7.06 s.m. Daily except Sunday 10.07 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 6.13 p.m. Sunday only The Chicago flier, that passes through here at 9.31 p. m., eastbound, stops at Georgetown at 0.40 p. m.

Going West Dally, except Sunday 8.55 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 2.23 p.m. Daily, except Sunday 7.04 p.m. Daily, except Sunday 12.31 a.m. STANDARD TIME



ARROW BUS SCHEDULE LEAVE WESTBOUND

9.45 m. m. - 11.45 m. m. (except Saturday) - 2.15 p. m. - 3.15 p. m. (Saturday only) - 5.15 p. m. - 7.15 p. m. - 11.15 p. m. -1.05 a. m. Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

LEAVE EASTBOUND

7.00 a. m. (daily, except Sunday) - 9.10 a. m. - 12.45 p. m. - 4.30 p. m. - 6.45 p. m. - 9.00 p. m. TTINEBARIES PLANNED TO ALL POINTS IN CANADA. UNITED STATES & MEXICO

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