

SPOTLIGHT
BY
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CHAPTER ONE

MOST stories of chorus girls begin at the dressing room mirror. Alas for Sheila Shayne! Sheila hadn't been inside a dressing room for weeks. Grease paint was a memory for her. Waiting for a cue was just a phrase.

She hadn't worked last week, nor the week before. Nor for four weeks before that? No longer did Sheila call this forced leisure being "at liberty" or "resting."

She called it the very worst kind of luck.

Sheila wasn't expecting sympathy, however. So many others seemed to be having the same experience.

Sheila really wasn't a chorus girl, though she would have been glad indeed for a place in the chorus just then. Born in a dressing room eighteen years ago, she had lived in the theater almost all of her short life.

She had been born in a dressing room and cradled in a trunk tray because Dolly Desmond, her mother, just couldn't stay behind at the hotel while Johnny went on with the act.

Afterward the parents firmly declined the suggestion of Johnny's mother (Dolly was an orphan) that the baby should stay behind in Ottumwa, Ia., while they finished the season.

So from the first Sheila was a stage baby—educated in day coaches during jumps, carried on in her first part of 3 months, and on in her second part at 2 years. Then the Gerry Society started interfering.

Thereafter Sheila's knowledge of the stage was confined to the wings, where she watched father and mother go through the act. Sheila knew the lines as well as her parents.

At 14 she played her first real role. It was none too soon, for presently her father and mother, known as "the Dancing Desmonds," died in a train wreck. It happened during the summer when Sheila had been left behind with a friend who had a cottage at Rye, N. Y.

Johnny and Dolly took their last bow hand in hand. Their daughter was left to make the grade alone.

And at 15 Sheila was known for what Johnny's and Dolly's friends had guessed all along—she was to be a dancer. Not a "hooper," but a dancer. A bit of this, a bit of that, a sunbeam with little feet flitting, stamping, clicking, waving in perfect time. A flower in the wind.

Many a poet or composer, pen in hand, could have done worse than put Sheila's dancing to music.

Old troupers looked strangely grave when they saw the child, face flushed and radiant, whirling and twirling to the tuneless old boarding house piano, while some second-rate vaudeville musician supplied the accompaniment.

From some remote ancestor Sheila had inherited a loveliness that far exceeded good-hearted little Dolly's attractiveness. Tall, well-built, slim as a sickle moon, with delicately curved, slender throat, dark hair sleek as satin, creamy gardenia skin. That was Sheila. She herself had selected the name, Shayne.

Watching her dance, one thought of blackberries and cream, marble and ebony. Sheila's eyes were set in with the proverbial sooty finger. She had up-curving lashes and a proud fling of the head that Ma Lowell, proprietress of the theatrical boarding house, said would take her before royalty.

WHICH was all very well, but Sheila had no job, very little money, and scarcely anything in the way of encouraging prospects. Today rent was due. Of course Ma Lowell would not be insistent, but Ma, like every one else these days, needed her money.

The Flying Fosters were "out." So were Sally and Tim. The Melody Trio was "resting." Timmy in the back room went to Joe Paris' place daily to pick up what he could as an accompanist. And Myrt—well, Myrt hadn't worked for weeks. As Ma put it, it was time for Myrt to be getting out of the profession and into some sort of a shop.

Ma herself had sold lingerie while her daughter, Flossie, briefly graced the "Follies." Mrs. Lowell's rooming house would have been far more profitable if she had been less sympathetic and her memory of what it is like to be down on one's luck less strong.

Yes, Sheila certainly wanted to pay her room rent.

Her clothes were becoming shabby, even though they had been well cut, good clothes in their time. However, her blouse was frothy and as white as careful laundering could make it.

Her gloves were worn, too, but her feet were neat and trim. Sheila's feet always were neat and trim. They were her fortune.

Twinkling, twining, tapping, daz-zling feet! She flew down the stairs now and paused at Myrt's door. "Come on, Myrt. I'll blow you to breakfast. 'Em lonesome."

Myrt's door opened cautiously. One eye peered out and the crack widened to admit Sheila. "Oh, it's you," Myrt said rather unnecessarily. Within the room was dark, close, disordered. As Sheila dropped into a chair, quickly unbundled for her use, her hostess raised the shade, catching a (Turn to Page 12)

IDENTIFY BODY FOUND OCT. 6; HOLD HUSBAND

Freeman Baldwin, Fortville Man, Is Arrested as Slayer Suspect.

TRACED BY HER TEETH

Dentists Give Evidence That Helps in Solution of Death Mystery.

By Times Special
GREENFIELD, Ind., Jan. 3.—Suspected of slaying his wife, Freeman Baldwin, 54, Fortville, is held today in the Hancock county jail.

The unclothed body of his wife, Margaret, 32, wrapped in a cheap, new tent, was found Oct. 6, at the intersection of Road 40 and the Ft. Wayne road, near Lewisville.

Identified by three Fortville dentists, each of whom had filled a tooth for Mrs. Baldwin.

Baldwin was granted a divorce here Dec. 18, and on Dec. 20 married. The divorce was granted on a non-resident publication notice.

Hancock county officials refuse to disclose information in their possession which led to Baldwin's arrest.

Today Sheriff Frank Stottlemeyer made a trip to Monticello, the purpose of which he would not reveal, other than that it had some connection with the death.

The body of Mrs. Baldwin, in a badly decomposed condition, was found by Jesse Conrad, 72, and his son, Eli, 32. There were two wounds on the head, which officials believed were inflicted with a hammer or the butt of a revolver.

Arrest of Baldwin followed a long investigation by three state police officers, Lieutenant Bert A. Davis, and patrolmen Russell Coons and Joseph E. Rudi, assisted by John Dent, Hancock county, deputy sheriff.

PHIL ZOERCHER NEW TAX BOARD CHAIRMAN

Veteran Member Becomes First Democratic Head of Commission.

Philip Zoercher, veteran member of the state board of tax commissioners, became its chairman today as Democrats began taking over the reins of state government.

He is the first Democrat to be chairman since the board became a full time body in 1919. He became a member in 1918. James E. Shewalter, Republican, resigned as chairman to aid Zoercher.

John J. Brown, former chairman of the highway commission, became a member of the board today, and L. O. Chasey, former secretary to Governor Harry G. Leslie, was chosen board secretary, succeeding Harold Bowman.

DEBT CLASH IS SEEN

Hiram Johnson to Speak Wednesday on Subject in Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Senator Hiram Johnson (Rep., Cal.) announced in the senate today he would speak Wednesday at the earliest possible moment on the subject of debts owed the United States by foreign governments.

Start the New Year Right

Why not start the New Year right and get your vacation money? The ideal medium through which to obtain it is by reading the Times. A rent, at ad in The Times is read each evening by more than a quarter million readers.

Your ad in The Times is easy to read, every word is printed in large type. The most is ever so small—only 3 cents a word, with liberal discount for prompt payment.

Just call RI. 5551 and get the tenants coming your way, or you can bring your ad to Times Want Ad Headquarters, 214 W. Maryland St.

James Lang, Ex-Banker of Sullivan, Is Dead

By Times Special
SULLIVAN, Ind., Jan. 3.—From the slums to a bank presidency, and then to disgrace—that is the life story of James M. (Colonel Jim) Lang, who died here New Year's night of heart disease at the age of 76.

Once head of the now defunct Citizens Trust Company of Sullivan, Lang for more than half a century was a leading citizen of this town until he disappeared in 1928 to be returned a year later to face two trials in connection with failure of the bank of which he was head.

Lang was born in the slums of New York. His real name was Alois Teavitch. When he was 5, he was picked up by a children's aid society, and with five other boys was shipped to Indiana to James Wesley Lang, a farmer, whose name the lad assumed.

Thirty Face Gang Firing Squad Peril

Holdup Victims Lined Up, Shotguns Discharged; Three Wounded.

By United Press
NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Seven bandits subjected thirty men patrons of a club to a firing squad ordeal today, raking them with shotgun fire, after stripping them of money and jewelry.

The victims were lined up against a wall while they were searched. Then the leader of the gang stepped back with four others, all armed with shotguns.

He gave the command, "Let them have it."

Five charges of shot were discharged into the line of men. Three fell wounded.

The wanton cruelty of the bandits aroused the unwounded men to a frenzy, and they attacked the bandits with their fists.

Two were clubbed down by bandits, using the stocks of their shotguns.

As the melee became fiercer, the bandits retreated. They finally ran out of the club to a waiting automobile.

The wounded men were Samuel Crocasi, 24; James Adams, 24, and Stanley Tableski, 36, all of Brooklyn.

Loot was estimated at about \$400 cash and jewelry, police said.

LAWYERS MAP WATER BATTLE

City Attorneys Meet to Decide Plans for Fight on High Rates.

City attorneys and associated counsel, with the common objective of obtaining lower water rates, met today at city hall to map plans to oppose the Indianapolis Water Company's federal court action which seeks still higher rates than the \$125 minimum scale recently set by the public service commission.

Those at the conference included James E. Deery, city attorney; Edward H. Knight, corporation counsel; A. B. Cronk and Harry K. Cuthbertson, attorneys representing two apartment operating firms, and Walter C. Rothermel, representing civic groups.

Jack Pickford, Star of Films, Is Dead in Paris

Entered Hospital Oct. 14 for Treatment for Nervous Breakdown; Star in Many Pictures.

By United Press
PARIS, Jan. 3.—Jack Pickford, screen star and brother of Mary Pickford, died at the American hospital today.

Although inactive on the screen recently, he starred in many pictures since beginning his film career in 1919. He was born in Toronto in 1896.

SOUTH BEND BANK LOOTED OF \$15,000

Three Bandits Make Raid, and Flee With Cash.

By United Press
SOUTH BEND, Ind., Jan. 3.—Three men today held up the Western State bank of South Bend and escaped with approximately \$15,000 cash.

Two employees and a customer were in the bank when two of the three holdup men entered.

Electric Rate Cut Asked

Reduction, "if possible," of electric rates of the public Service Company of Indiana and of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company is asked in a petition filed today with the public service commission by sixty residents of St. John, Lake county.

learned, he kept secret his identity by working in restaurants and at menial tasks in Cincinnati, Atlanta and many towns in the south. He was arrested at Morgantown, N. C., and returned here for trial.

After two juries had failed to agree on charges that Lang forged notes and placed them in the bank's vault as substitutes for "good" ones he is alleged to have taken, prosecution was dropped.

JAPANESE HURLED BACK IN BATTLE AT CHINA GATEWAY

UNCLE SAM'S ANNUAL 'SAD NEWS' IS MAILED 78,000 INCOME TAXPAYERS



STATE'S FLOOD WATERS DROP

Only Seven Roads Closed, Is Report of Highway Commission.

Crest of high water had passed at several points in Indiana today, according to the weather bureau, and the state highway commission reported only seven roads closed.

Rain is forecast for Wednesday, but the fall will not be heavy enough to greatly effect flood conditions.

Roads closed today are 50 at Medora; 450 between Bedford and Shoals; 62 west of Mt. Vernon; 67 north of Spencer; 65 northeast of Princeton; 145 south of French Lick, and 58 west of Bedford.

Water is over parts of three other roads, but highway commission trucks are pulling automobiles through. These roads are 31, near Seymour, and 67, between Freedom and Spencer.

100 FEARED LOST ON SOVIET ICE-BREAKER

Arctic Ship Collides With Iceberg; Radio Reports Cease.

By United Press
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 3.—One hundred members of the crew of the Soviet ice breaker Malygin were feared lost today after the ship collided with an iceberg in northern waters.

The Malygin was one of the most famous of Soviet ships engaged in exploration in the Arctic. It took many scientific expeditions into the north.

The Malygin reported the collision by radio Monday night. The signals ceased suddenly this morning.

'FLASH!' IT IS FAST

Small Plane Designed in Illinois Speeds 150 Miles an Hour.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Jan. 3.—Two local aviation enthusiasts have designed one of the smallest planes in the United States.

It is known as the "Flash," and was built by Owen Tibbary and Cecil Fundy. It has a wing span of only fourteen feet, is eleven and a half feet high.

A speed of 150 miles an hour on straight-away flights is claimed for it.

Defenders Fight Gallantly to Thwart Nipponese Attack, Made by Land, Sea and Air Forces.

INVADERS SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES

Renewed Assault Expected; Barricades Strengthened; War on Large Scale Again Threatens.

By H. R. ELKINS
United Press Staff Correspondent

PEIPING, Jan. 3.—The Shanhaikwan Chinese garrison today repulsed a formidable Japanese attack from land, sea, and air. It was an emulation of the brilliant defense of Shanghai by the Chinese Nineteenth Route army last year.

The Japanese assembled seven airplanes, nineteen field guns, two destroyers, and 5,000 infantry at Shanhaikwan, reports received here said, but withdrew after suffering heavy losses in an hour of fighting.

Dispatches to the United Press from Changchun, capital of the Manchukuo government, quoted Manchukuo officials as saying that peace negotiations were opened at Shanhaikwan after the Chinese asked that fighting cease.

STEVE RULING REPORTED DUE

State Supreme Court to Decide on Plea Today, Rumor Says.

Possibility that the state supreme court this afternoon will rule on the case of D. C. Stephenson, former Klan dragon, serving a life term for murder in the Indiana state prison, was reported at the statehouse.

Reports that a ruling would be handed down on Stephenson's petition for a writ of coram nobis, opening avenues for new evidence in the case, became rife because Justice Julius C. Travis will retire from the bench tonight.

Stephenson's petition asks leave to produce evidence, which, it is charged, was denied admission at his Noblesville trial when he was convicted of slaying Madge Oberholzer, Indianapolis woman.

Parents and 5 Children Are Dead in Home Blaze

Father Succumbs in Hospital of Burns in Attempt to Rescue His Family.

By Times Special
SHELBY, O., Jan. 3.—A mother and her five children were burned to death in their home near here today. The father died of burns after a futile attempt to rescue his family.

The dead are James Miller, 31; his wife, Beatrice, 26; James Jr., 8; Ethel, 5; Eunice, 4; Evelyn, 2, and an infant, age 12 days.

The fire followed an explosion of kerosene which Miller was using to start a fire in a stove.

Miller poured the kerosene into a stove in which he thought there was no fire. Live coals ignited it and caused the explosion, he said before he died.

The family occupied a two-room cottage. All were sleeping three beds in one room.

Miller said the flaming kerosene spread over the bedroom so quickly he had no chance to rescue his family.

He ran from the building with his clothes aflame, and called to neighbors for help before he collapsed.

HARRY S. SWANSON IS TAKEN BY DEATH

Former Auto Advertising Man Victim of Pneumonia.

Harry S. Swanson, 33, former automobile advertising man on The Times and Star, died today of pneumonia at the home of his parents, 1224 Sturm avenue. He had been ill only a short time.

He leaves a son, George, 2 years old, whose mother, formerly Miss Clara Weber, Valley Mills, died a few days after the child's birth. Other survivors are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Swanson.

Government Costs Slash First Job for Roosevelt

Following is the first of a series of dispatches by Raymond Clapper, chief of the Washington Bureau of the United Press, which will report some of the ways in which the taxpayer's dollar is spent.

After giving a general picture of the world's largest business in action, these dispatches will report objectively some of the ways in which this money is being spent. Specific items will be described because of their general interest, and without regard to whether they might be considered meritorious or otherwise.

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER

United Press Staff Correspondent
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Reduction of government costs commanded attention today as a prime object of the incoming Roosevelt administration.

House and senate Democratic leaders, who are preparing to confer with the President-Elect in New York Thursday, are known to regard the cutting down of government expenditures from the boom period levels as one of the first jobs to be tackled.

They are ready to grant Mr. Roosevelt almost dictatorial powers to do it. They see this as the chief alternative to still heavier taxes.

Speaker John N. Garner estimates government revenues are falling behind expenses \$100,000,000 a month. This is \$3,333,000 a day.

It is \$140,000 an hour. It is \$2,300 a minute. Within the coming year \$7,000,000,000 in government securities come due. That is more than half the amount of the European war debt. It represents \$7 for every minute that has elapsed since the birth of Christ.

When a farmer or a home owner goes to the money lenders to renew his mortgage, the banker wants to know whether he is keeping up with his expenses. If he can't earn what it costs him to live, then his credit goes bad.

Government now is in the position of the man who has let his expenses get out of hand, and can't turn to Page Two

History Is Repeated

Chinese recalled rather glumly that the Japanese military in Manchuria made similar charges last winter, when they extended their occupations from Tsitsihar on the north to Chinchow on the south.

Japanese charged that Chinese had violated the neutrality of the Chinchow area, established after Japan's troops were withdrawn from the Shanhaikwan area last year.

Colonel Ibara, commandant of the Japanese legion guard here, delivered an ultimatum to Marshal Chang, demanding that he remove his soldiers from the frontier. Chang refused, on the ground that his men were in Chinese territory.

Fighting followed. The Japanese sought reinforcements from the north, and Chang stood his ground.

ASK SUPER-CABINET

Creation of High Stability-Welfare Board Proposed in Bill.

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Creation of a super-cabinet to advise the President and congress on all problems affecting national stability and welfare was proposed today in a bill sponsored by Senator Millard Tydings (Dem., Md.) and Walter F. George (Dem., Ga.).