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Old Man Burdett's Daughter

By LUCY FOX

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WNU Service

IT WAS an unwritten law in the Burdett family that male college students were not to be considered as possible husbands—at least in Luke college where Doctor Burdett had held office as president for twenty years. The four oldest daughters of the Burdett family had observed this rule and had secured their husbands outside the Luke college limits. Only Jane Burdett remained at home unmarried. At twenty she led a rather uneventful existence in the big white house on the hill with only her father and a housekeeper.

Jane had for some time ignored all the college students. She figured that if they weren't eligible for her to marry, there was no good reason why she should waste time getting to know them. Of course she couldn't avoid seeing them at college functions. And she was forced to meet and talk with some of them at the informal receptions which took place regularly as a matter of form at the president's house once or twice each month.

Naturally Jane's tact pleased Old Man Burdett, as the president, Jane's father, was commonly known around the campus.

Jane in spite of her rather secluded life on the Luke campus liked to be with men.

It was when she was having a day dream of that variety one fall evening that she heard a lot of noise and commotion outside the house. There were male voices—students' voices she knew. In the window she could see the reflection of red torches of some sort. Then she could make out what the gang was yelling. It was: "Down with Old Man Burdett, down with Prexy Burdett. We're here to kick him out!"

Jane didn't know what to do. What made the situation so complex for her was that her father was out of town giving a lecture in Boston.

Fortunately the housekeeper, Mrs. Dodd, was quite deaf and she lived in the back of the house so that she wouldn't hear the disturbance. It was up to Jane to do something besides watch what was going on from an upstairs window.

Suddenly she went downstairs, turned the porch lights on and then went outside to see what could be done to quiet the howling mob. Facing her were about fifty or sixty young men. When they saw what a good-looking girl was before them, they ceased their clamor to see what the Old Man's daughter had to say for herself.

"My father is out of town," she told them. "I don't know what you want or what all the excitement means, but I'm glad my father isn't here to feel the humiliation that you have made me feel."

There was a continued silence from the crowd. Then Benny Hayland, a good-looking, red-headed fellow, captain of the football team, jumped up on the top step of the veranda.

"Fellows, I think we've gone a little far," he said. He was supported by cheers from the crowd. "I think it's up to us to apologize to Miss Burdett and then clear out. We can put our case before Prexy when he gets back and in a more orderly fashion. Am I right?"

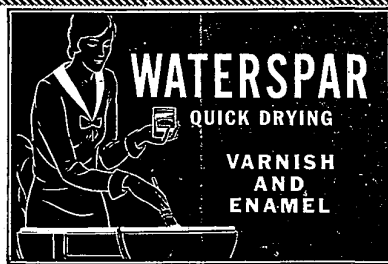
The loud chorus of male voices seemed unanimous in sanctioning his suggestion. Almost immediately the crowd began to disperse and inside of ten minutes Jane and Benny Hayland were on the porch looking at each other. Benny was explaining the situation the best he could. He found it easy, yet quite difficult, to keep his thoughts on the subject when he looked at Jane.

The trouble was President Burdett had expelled four of the best athletes in the college on some lame excuse. In a mass meeting the students had appealed to the president to reinstate the four expelled men. Doctor Burdett had ignored their appeal except that he barred some of the outstanding men who had signed a petition from participating in any form of outside activities whatever for the duration of the first semester. This had created a furor.

Jane had known none of the details but she realized now that perhaps they were the cause for her father's sudden departure for Boston where most of the members of the board of trustees of Luke resided. Jane thanked Benny for his apology and said that she would exert any influence possible to try and get things straightened out. So when her father returned the next day before requesting him to reinstate the expelled men, she waited until she heard what he had been doing in Boston.

Eventually he talked outright to his daughter and told her what had happened and why he had deemed it wise to go to Boston so suddenly. He had seen the chairman of the trustees and a couple of members of the board. They had advised him to reinstate the fellows and to reverse his harsh decision for the petitioners. Jane held her peace and didn't mention the mass meeting of the previous night.

But anyway the first meeting of Jane and Benny had been an event of importance. It started a romance that old man Burdett was ignorant of so he couldn't stop it in the bud. When spring rolled around and Benny graduated, Jane had to confess to her father that she was engaged. But Doctor Burdett, angered as he may have been, had no protest to make except that Benny was a Luke graduate.



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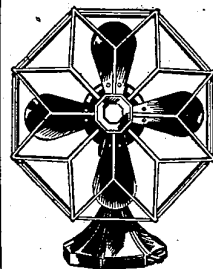
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Longest Way 'Round Sometimes Proves Shortest Telephone Route in Storm

On September 29, 1927, telephone service was to be opened between the United States and Mexico. President Coolidge in Washington was to talk to President Calles in Mexico City. Circuits had been set up between Washington and Mexico City by way of St. Louis and Dallas.

Just a few hours before the official opening, a tornado near St. Louis caused a failure of the wires. An alternate circuit was immediately set up by way of Chicago and Omaha, and, as an extra precaution, another via Atlanta, New Orleans and Dallas. These points were outside the storm area, and the program was carried out without delay. The speakers never knew the difference.

This was a spectacular though little known demonstration of the way in which the nation's present network of long distance telephone lines makes it possible to complete a telephone call between two points, if not by one route then by another.

First Long Line 50 Years Ago
Long distance telephony in the United States dates back to 1836. Four years later the first New York-Boston line was completed. The next year a line was built between New York and Philadelphia, but it was not until 1851, in time for the opening of the Columbian Exposition, that a line connected New York and Chicago.

The first transcontinental telephone line giving direct connections between the east and west coasts, was placed in service in 1915.

When the country's first long telephone systems were laid out, they consisted of single lines connecting various cities and, of course, their surrounding territories. With the development and expansion of long distance telephone service, and improved transmission facilities, a new problem arose.

Alternate Lines Are Built
Demand for the service increased, and as the lines were lengthened their exposure to heat, tornado, fire, flood or other temporary interruption became greater. Before long, it became apparent that single lines connecting various sections of the country were insufficient, no matter how well designed and soundly constructed they might be.

To maintain communication at all times, it became necessary to construct more than one line between

cities and sections of the country, and to have the lines so located that storms or accidents which might affect one of them would be unlikely to interrupt service on the other or others at the same time.

There has gradually been constructed a system of lines which has been so planned as to make many alternate routes available. Today scarcely any large part or section of the country is dependent for long distance telephone service upon any one set of lines alone. Alternate routes are usually made up of lines which are direct connections between points other than those located on the primary route.

Four Transcontinental Lines
For example, seven telephone circuits are routed in a group between Pittsburgh and St. Louis in direct cables by way of Columbus and Indianapolis. There exists, however, an alternate cable route by way of Cleveland, Toledo and Chicago, so that if any interruption of traffic should occur on the one route service could be maintained over the other.

This is true not only between Pittsburgh and St. Louis; but, as a result of foresight and careful planning throughout the Bell system, it is applicable likewise to almost any section of any state in the Union.

The first transcontinental telephone line ran westward from Chicago through Denver and Salt Lake City. To the north there now exists another transcontinental line which runs by way of Minneapolis, Fargo, Helena and Spokane to Seattle, while to the south it is possible to route transcontinental messages through to Los Angeles not only by way of Salt Lake City, but also by a route which goes through El Paso and another route through Albuquerque.

These transcontinental lines are also linked with each other and with other cities at various points throughout their length. If weather or other conditions cause temporary interruption to the service at any point, messages can still be routed so that in the great majority of instances, they will reach their destinations without delay.

They Crisscross the Country
The provision of alternate routes includes not only the transcontinental telephone lines, but all other sections of the country. Through New England, for example, two different cable routes exist between New

York and Boston. One of them is by way of Hartford and Providence, while a second is by way of Hartford, Springfield and Worcester. A third route to Boston is by way of Albany, Springfield and Worcester.

Between New York and Washington, the normal route is via Philadelphia and Baltimore in underground cable, but there is an alternate cable by way of Harrisburg and Baltimore. From Chicago, for instance, the normal route to Florida points is by way of Cincinnati or Louisville and through Atlanta, but it is possible to route Chicago calls to Florida by way of Baltimore and Washington.

Demonstrate Their Value

In the earlier days of the telephone, in the era of the one-line system, if through storm damage or other causes, a direct route between two points failed, it was necessary to wait until the damage could be repaired before service could be continued. With the advent of the alternate routes, the maintenance of uninterrupted long distance telephone service entered upon a new era.

If it were not for this network of alternate routes and there were still only one transcontinental line, it might be a good many hours before service between New York and San Francisco could be restored in case of damage by storm.

On November 20, 1920, an unusually widespread windy storm broke down sections of three of the transcontinental lines, leaving the southern line, by way of El Paso, as the only connection to the Pacific Coast, but telephone service was continued without interruption.

Now a System of Lines

As a result of the nationwide network of direct and alternate routes, reference no longer is made to long distance telephone lines merely as lines. The New York-Chicago line, as one example, is now a system of lines connecting these points, while the transcontinental line of 1915 has become a system of lines widely separated and traversing the country from the Canadian to the Mexican borders.

Such a system of long telephone lines, supplementing the local telephone service and the immovable circuits interconnecting nearby cities and towns, furnishes the public with a nationwide telephone service of a high degree of reliability.

Housework is quickly reduced to a science when a woman gets interested in bridge.

When the ordinary person tries to make some easy money, he loses his shirt.

By the time a husband will stand without hitching, he's hardly worth owning.