

SHORT STORY
The Weed Was Dying
By John Christopher

JOE COLIN looked at the blonde girl behind the counter as if he hadn't seen her for the last 21 years. And he hadn't. Almost to the day, come October 5. Even after 21 years a guy can't forget the birth date of his daughter.

She looked the spitting reflection of her mother, years back when Martha and Joe had decided they had made a mistake in marrying each other. It was too late then, because the kid was on its way, and even Joe knew it took a father and a mother to give it the correct backing. But if the old man hadn't had the same correct backing, Joe had decided, he was like a weed. He had to be pulled out, to let the good seed grow.

Joe had figured he was a weed, and had pulled himself out.

"Evening, mister! Can I help you?" Joe looked up. A lamp settled in his throat. His daughter was smiling at him with stars in her eyes.

Twenty-two years old! When he had last seen her, she was a mere trick of one, a curly-haired kid, learning her first steps. Carrie, they had named her. After nobody in particular. Martha had just liked the name, that was all. One thing, though. Wonder if Martha had done something with "Colin"?

"I used to live here years ago," Joe said, to start conversation.

"You did?" Her blue eyes met his for a moment of sparkling interest. "Thought you'd come back and see how things have changed?"

"Well, sort of. He stroked the beard. "I used to know a lot of people around here. What's your name? I might know your old man."

"Name's Lester," she told him. "Carrie Lester."

Lester. So Martha had ditched "Colin." "Lester," Joe mused. "Heck, I knew your old man! What's he doing now?"

"I don't know," she said. "Mother thinks he's out in California."

"How about you?" he asked finally. "Got a husband—or maybe a boy friend?"

Her face gave off warmth like sunshine. "A boy friend," she said brightly. "But it won't be long before the 'Mr. and Mrs.' If you're here in another 15 minutes, you'll see him. He's coming after me."

Joe grinned. "I'll be here," he said.

She brought in his meal. He just finished it when the door opened and a tall, young man in a brown tweed suit swept into the room like a stray, autumn leaf.

Her eyes brightened but politely she asked Joe his name, and introduced him. The boy, she said, was Harry Bradshaw.

"Years ago," she explained. "Mr. Colin used to live here. We got



Suddenly Joe knew that the weed was dying.

sort of acquainted while he waited for his food.

"So you kids are slated for the long walk up the altar, eh?" Joe remarked.

THE Bradford kid's face split in a long smile.

"Look," Joe said, matter of factly. "I got a few green-backs saved up. I'd like to give it to you two for a wedding present. Two hundred dollars. Maybe you'd like to buy something for the baby—when it comes. Huh?"

"No thanks," Harry said. "We certainly appreciate it, but we both work. It wouldn't be right."

Joe drew out a checkbook. He grinned good-naturedly. "I'll draw up a check, anyway."

The two youngsters looked bewildered.

"Go on," urged Joe. "Take it. It's good. Don't worry about me."

She took it. "You—you're wonderful," she whispered. "And I can't understand why. Thanks—a lot."

Joe smiled and walked out, breathing in the cool, night air.

Funny thing, but now he realized that something had changed in the weed. And suddenly Joe knew that after years of battling harsh winds, snow, cold, and rain, the weed was dying.

And Joe was the weed.

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A SHORTAGE OF BUILDING MATERIAL!



THE KOOTENIA DAM
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posed project leaves them in doubt as to the feasibility of such a plan.

After much discussion by the Great Northern company counsel, the J. Neils counsel and John Myers of the Zonolite company on the relocation of the Great Northern railroad and the added expense involved and uncertainty of the government "shouldering" the re-establishment of this route of transportation the Colonel advised that according to tentative plans, Libby would not have to worry about being left without railway transportation.

The loss of taxable properties was explained by the engineer who stated the government will assume what lost taxes there would be until future industry created by the dam would again build up that income.

Former Lincoln County Att'y Thomas Lonz made several pointed remarks, not necessarily endorsing or opposing the plan. He expressed the opinion that much of the arguments had taken on the appearance of "red herring" and that Libbyites must help to make their own future and not necessarily depend on one man or one power to pull them through to a bright future. He made a comparison with the time a "dead Kalispell" was predicted following its loss of the main line of the Great Northern some years ago and how that city demonstrated that if people have the courage they can overcome what might seem insurmountable obstacles, and that potential possibilities of the dam should be considered.

During discussion Colonel Hewitt explained that a report of the meeting will be sent to Washington D. C. engineers, who will study the feasibility of both physical and economic aspects, as well as the opinion of the public. Further opinions, favoring or in opposition to the project will be received by the U. S. Engineers Corps and carefully co-ordinated with what data has already been collected for final decisions.

MILLION DOLLAR BUILDING
(Continued from Page One)

recently completed by The J. Neils Lumber Company down town on Maine. Other remodeling also includes apartments being made from the Gale Weidner garage at 502 Montana Avenue.

Included in new business buildings are the recently completed Electric Store on Third and California belonging to Ray Pival, the new Dome Theatre, now open and nearing completion, Tinker's Drive-In Cafe, The Surprise, the new building south of The Dome Theatre, being built by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brinton, and the building which is being completed by Mr. and Mrs. Geringer on Mineral Avenue between Fourth and Fifth. This fine building now houses the staff of the Kootenai Forest in spacious quarters on the second floor, and when completed will be the new home of the Geringer Hardware. A number of other houses and business buildings have been completed during the past 18 months.

Many of the new buildings have beautiful scenic outlooks, with several rare opportunities for installing special "window framed" views of mountain grandness.

Helena — (U.P.) — The monetary value of the State of Montana is increasing, according to State Auditor John J. Holmes.

Net balance in all State funds on June 1 was \$49,355,583, compared with \$35,330,060 a year ago, he said.

TURNING AROUND

Stops are numbered and line shows path of front of car.

WRITES OF KOOTENAI FLOOD IN 1894

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ambara River to Santa Domingo gold mine at 3000 feet.

There a fine camp was established, native miners had good living quarters, and there was gold, enough for everybody. "Swiftwater Bill" (whom Woods had known in Alaska) offered \$1,000,000 for the property which was refused, and \$3,000,000 was taken out in two years.

However, Clarence and Swiftwater made a trip down the river in August, during low water, into the Indian country, where natives traded fish for tin cans! The pictures indicated they were a friendly people and longed for the good things of life. Well, reader, if a gourd were your best possession, how would you like to have a tin can?

Winter rains raise the Inambara about 50 feet and each year that swirling torrent brings down more gold, leaving much of it above the low water mark. That has been the main source of Inca gold for generations. Woods believes that 50 miles of the river could be successfully dredged.

Capital, transportation and thousands of young men are needs, as Woods sees it, for the modern development of that great land, where his son is carrying on operations. Aircraft should play a dominant part in the new look soon to be given our neighbors to the south.

The Incas built roads connecting Cuzco with Quito, 2000 miles — a distance comparable to that from El Paso to Portland, Ore.—one mountain and the other along the ocean; also temples, observatories and huge forts with 800-ton stones placed in their walls. How were they moved into position? Don't ask me and don't ask construction engineers. They don't know either.

T. L. McCULLOUGH.
Riverside.

THREE MONTANA QUINTS CELEBRATE FIRST BIRTHDAY
Baker — (U.P.) — Delores, Dorothy and Dean Randash—the three survivors of the Randash quintuplets born a year ago in a Miles City hospital, recently celebrated their first birthday.

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RANKIN FAVORS ROAD EQUALITY AND BETTER ROADS

Wellington D. Rankin said: "Montana is discriminated against by the Federal government when it comes to roads."

"Why should not the Federal government give to Montana as large a percentage of Federal funds as the Federal government gives to neighboring states?"

"Why should Montana receive only 57 per cent and Nevada 82 per cent of the cost of construction, Utah 73 per cent, Arizona 71 and Idaho 62 per cent? If Nevada puts up \$1.00, it gets \$4.55 in Federal money. If Montana puts up \$1.00, it gets only \$1.33 in Federal money."

"If I am elected to the United States Senate I will fight for a better percentage of road money to match ours. I will fight to get as many dollars in money for Montana for those we put up as any other state gets. The Government has a formula, but I do not agree with the formula. I say, treat Montana the same as Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming and Idaho."

STATE RAISES 42.1% SECURITY BONDS

Security Loan Bond sales in Montana so far reported total \$5,998,000 or 42.1 per cent of the state quota, Arthur Nelson, state director for Montana's U. S. Savings bonds division, has reported.

Eight counties have now attained 60 per cent or better of E Bond quotas, while seven counties have exceeded 60 per cent of total quotas.

STRYKER

Glen Berg, daughter Geneva and son Gene, from Renton, Wash., are visiting relatives and friends here at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Thompson from Kalispell and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roedel celebrated their double wedding anniversary Sunday June 27 at the home of the latter here. Other guests from Kalispell were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Case and children.

George Allen Jr., operator at the depot in Valcour, and Mike Lennon from Eureka were fishing in Bull Lake Tuesday evening and just another case of bad luck. "No fish!"

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson were brief callers in Eureka Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Wilfred Deseve from Eureka and daughter Helen from Spokane stopped on their way Monday from shopping in Kalispell and visited with old neighbors and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw. Helen was a graduate in the class of '45 from the Lincoln County High School in Eureka, finished her schooling in Spokane and at present has a position as secretary. Her many friends sincerely wish her continued success in her chosen work.

Roy and Clarence Swanson from Trego were last weekend guests at the Thomas White home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Ellis have

purchase a cabin in Warland closer to their work and will move there in the near future.

Patsy Berg from Devon is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Thomas White, and family this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Nordtome are the proud parents of a baby daughter born July 2 at the Kalispell General hospital. The baby's name is Doris Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Baer and daughter Betty Jo from Helena and Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Toble from Ogden, Utah, were over-the-Fourth guests at O. K. Iversons.

The county grader did excellent work on the road Thursday. Many thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kirby from Seattle are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson and renewing old acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Shaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Ellis are moving to Warland this week and Mr. and Mrs. Art Martin will move in the Ellis house later.

Grandma Calvert from Great Falls is visiting her son William and family at Trego and other relatives in Stryker.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Berg and children from Devon enjoyed the Fourth with relatives and friends here and at Eureka.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Case and children, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Roedel, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson and children and Mr. and Mrs. Art Webster and children from Kalispell, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Roedel and son and Mr. and Mrs. Billie Roedel from Great Falls, Leslie Tillman and girl friend and Leslie's brother Jackie from Columbia Falls were guests at the Harry Roedel home over the Fourth.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlson left Friday evening for a trip east by car. They will visit relatives and friends in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Mooseheart, Ill., on their way to meet their son Raymond, his wife and baby, who left Regensburg, Germany, July 6, and will arrive in Hamilton, New York, July 15.

Hlene Teske accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlson as far as Laramore, N. D., where she will visit relatives.

Carl A. Johnson of Culver City, Calif., has been here visiting his sister, Mrs. J. Starry, leaving Wednesday, July 7.

Circle A will meet in the church parlors for a potluck picnic and social hour Friday, July 16, at 2:30 p. m. All members please come.—Ruth Austin, Acting Secretary.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Kimpel of Hingham, came Wednesday of last week to visit till Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Mitchell. The Kimpels are Mrs. Mitchell's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Barr and family are spending a week's vacation at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Robt. Lyon, in Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Christensen of Spokane are visiting at the home of Mrs. Christensen's mother, Mrs. Rosella Burke.

Miss Elsie Elgas, assistant photographer at the Parker Studio, moved to Libby this week from Big Timber.

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SUNSHINE CRACKERS 2 Pounds	49c
CHEESE Tasty Loaf 2 Pounds	1.10
CLEANSER Old Dutch 3 for	29c
Pen Jell PECTIN 2 For	23c
BISQUICK Package	45c

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