# "THE LONG ARM"

By FANNIE HURST

THE long arm of coincidence pokes its way into human destinies and does strange things. There is something always a little unconvincing about a story based on the uncertain sands of coincidence, yet life is filled on all sides with striking examples of such circumstances.

Coincidence undoubtedly played a major role in the lives and destinies of old Colonel Harbor, his son Raymond and a lively young woman named Shirley Lang.

When Shirley was twenty-two, married to a young engineer named Robert Lang, and living with him in a small city in Pennsylvania, she took a short trip to a nearby resort known as Brown's Glen, there to recuperate from a stubborn attack of influenza that had laid her low. It was only fifty miles from her home, so her husband ran down to spend the first weekend with her, and appeared there the second week-end to take her home.

They were a quiet pair of weeks and attuned to Shirley's mood which was one of relaxation and a sense of slowly gathering strength in the period of her recuperation.

Even before her marriage Shirley had shown a predilection for the company of old people. She liked them. She was an intelligent, level-headed girl, and the wisdom and repose and mellow experiences of older people interested her. At parties she could usually be found talking to the mothers and grandmothers of her own generation. This characteristic endeared Shirley to people. Both young and old admired her for it.

It was therefore true to form that on her visit to Brown's Glen Shirley Lang should meet and become interested in the gentle and sagacious personality of old Colonel Harbor. He was not really a colonel. The title had fallen on him because of the fine white-haired dignity of his bearing. He was a retired business man from Ithaca, and was also at Brown's Glen for the benign purpose of regaining his strength after an illness.

Like most old people, he took an immediate fancy to Shirley Lang. She did not treat him with the usual kind of deference that ground into his consciousness the fact that age had shunted him to life's sidelines. Shirley t older people with deference and yet without the broad kind of reverence that makes youth so often selfconscious in its treatment of old age. To Shirley, Colonel Harbor was a mellow, interesting, witty old gentleman with funds of experiences growing out of a full lifetime, and a wisdom that comes with intelligent maturity.

They became great friends. They sat together on the sunny edge of the veranda, walked through the quiet old park surrounding the hotel, took motor excursions together and in the evening played cribbage or gathered a foursome for bridge. A real friendship sprang up between these two.

When Shirley's husband came down week-ends, she showed him off proudly to the old gentleman and he in turn never tired of taking her into the confidence of his own story. The story of the wife who had died serving him was one that Shirley asked to hear again and again. There was one son, a young business man of about thirtytwo who had married a few months before. His choice had been a bit staggering to the old colonel at first. The girl had been a dancer in a musical revue. But he reconciled himself by now, and sometimes showed Shirley the quaint, fullsome, sagacious letters he had written to his son and daughter-in-law.

It was with real regret that the old colonel and young Shirley saw the placid weeks at Brown's Glen come to an end. With the true spirit of the travelers of all times and all places. they exchanged vows to continue the relationship, to keep alive the friendship, and to correspond.

Unfortunately, these well-meant intentions were never to be carried out beyond the two weeks following the visit of the new-made friends to Brown's Glen. True to their promise, one letter was exchanged between them immediately after their return to their respective homes. When no reply came to her second, Shirley, after a wait of a considerable interval, wrote a timid postcard reminding the old gentleman of his promise. A reply came in a short note from a woman who signed herself Deborah Harbor. sister of the colonel. The old gentleman had died in his sleep, two weeks after his return home from Brown's

So much for the rather wistful little incident of this friendship between an old gentleman and a young girl which had taken place during a pair of weeks in a quiet old country spot among the foothills of Pennsylvania.

The long arm of coincidence, its moving finger seeming to write, now swings through time and space.

Ten years later, a trim, capable, alert-eyed woman in her early thirties is seated in a restaurant in a busy business section of New York city. lunching with another alert young woman of her same type. They are obviously business women. One of er; Pisces, the fishes,

them is Shirley Lang, widow for five years and now buyer for the misses' ready-to-wear department of one of the largest department stores of New York. She has matured, but in a rather self-sufficient, slim way that characterizes the development of the modern girl. She is a little older, but no heavier. She is a little sadder, but no less clever. She is a great deal

wiser. Life for Shirley has been a quick panorama since those days which she spent in recuperation at Brown's Glen. Her marriage, which threatened, toward the end, to turn into disapointment, was abruptly spared what might have been disruption by the sudden death of her husband in a motor accident, when his hand at the wheel was the unsteady one of intoxication. Quick emotional, economic and social changes had resulted. Almost overnight, as it were, Shirley Lang had found herself out in the world. She had made good. The woman in the smart restaurant was a chic, up-todate one. There was about her the sureness that goes with success, the calm deliberation of the executive, the rather cold demeanor of the woman who has learned to hold her own in vast and complicated world.

Two tables removed, a youngish man, dining with one considerably older, forces, with a reiteration that is annoying, his bold dark glance against the eyes of Shirley Lang. It is an insinuating glance, a speculating glance; one of inquiry, not to say imperti-

Shirley Lang, whose experience along these lines has been a long and bitter one, meets his eyes with a cold glitter in her own. She is annoyed, even a little disgusted. She points out the man, with an excoriating remark, to her companion. Her luncheon guest, also a buyer in a large department store, recognizes him as the new general manager.

Her annoyance is so apparent that the young man, laughingly invited by a nod from Shirley's companion, crosses over in the mood of apology.

He is frank and a little boyish about ft. Yes, he had been boldly and unshamedly angling for the eye of Shirley Lang. It might sound absurd and juvenile to admit it, but it had been so long, five years, in fact, since he had felt the slightest flutter of interest in the flutter of a woman's eye. that the emotion was one that got the better of him. It had been five years since his divorce. He had been gathering himself together since.

It was all so simple. Of course, according to the writing finger of the long arm of coincidence, the man was Raymond Harbor. He had heard of Shirley in those two weeks before his father's death. He even had her letter and postcard to the old gentleman tucked away in his packet of precious

The wooing and the mating of Shirley and Raymond is not the point of this story.

The long, long arm is! So much for the pattern of the situation. Scarcely the one to catch up the thread of these two lives into the same fabric. An old colonel at peace in his grave might have chuckled at the weaving fingers of time. In more ways than one it might have gratified the old eyes, long since asleep, to see the eyes of these twe. Shirley and

Raymond, discover each other across

a flock of conventional restaurant ta-

bles, lighten, brighten, flash! A pair of lives had drifted together in much the fashion that most human beings find out their mates, and yet the fact that Shirley had known the father of Raymond, back in the days when an old man delighted in her youth, makes the meeting seem a little

unreal. Just any two, glancing, quickening, uniting after a glance or two in a public place, is romance. Shirley and Raymond, glancing, quickening, uniting after a glance or two in a public place, is coincidence.

But in any event, none of these considerations were to mar the meeting. It all came about quickly, rightly, and with the irrepressible velocity of a gale. There was never hesitancy in the capitulation of Raymond. With a waryness more characteristic of her sex, Shirley fenced a bit. After all, one didn't fall in love over a demi tasse. Not if you were thirty and had tasted the dregs of a bitter experience. But that was only Shirley pretending with herself. She did fall in

love over a demi tasse. But the wooing and mating of Shirley and Raymond is not the point of

this story. The long, long arm is!

# (E) by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.) (WNU Service.)

Soberness Soberness is prescribed for all sorts of persons in the New Testament. It is insisted that old men and women must be sober, that young men and women must be taught to be sober. and the young men are exhorted to sobermindedness-perhaps for the reason that in the nature of the case they were more strongly tempted to go wrong in that matter than others. It is a comprehensive word, worthy of the special study of the classes mentioned-the old folk and the young folk.-Bishop P. Fitzgerald.

Star Constellations Some of the better known constellations of the stars are: Andromeda, the chained lady: Cassiopela, lady seated in chair, holding up arms in supplication; Aquila, eagle; Auriga, waggoner; Cygnus, swan; Lyra, lyre; Pegasus, winged horse; Sagitta, arrow; Ursa Major, great bear; Aquarius, water bearer; Canis Major, great dog; Crux, cross; Orion, great hunt-

## Red Squill Now Popular Poison

Effective Powder in Control of Rats Does Not Harm Other Animals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)—WNU Service. An onion-like plant that grows wild along the Mediterranean coast produces the safest rat poison yet known. It is called red squill, and it produces large bulbs that are made into the red squill powder that has proved so effective in killing rats. So says a leaflet on "Red-Squill Powders in Rat Control," just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Powder Uniformly Poisonous. Red squill had been known in Europe for many years, says the leaflet, but apparently its use had not become popular, owing to extreme variation in the toxicity of the products available. Studies by the bureau of blological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, however, showed that drying red-squill bulbs under controlled temperature conditions makes it possible to produce a powder that is uniformly poisonous. The powder, although effective in destroying rats, does not seriously endanger other animal life. Reports of the progress of the investigation and the excellent results obtained in the early stages stimulated interest and powdered red squill is now manufactured in quantity in the United States. So far as known, the first of these commercial red-squill powders was placed on the American market in 1926, and In five years these products have taken a leading place among rat poisons.

Preparing Baits. More than a year ago the department published a technical bulletin, "Red Squill Powders as Raticides," giving in detail the results of the investigations. The new leaflet summarizes in popular form the technical bulletin and gives directions for preparing and exposing red-squill baits for rat control. It also discusses the effect of red squill on animals other than rats, showing that this poison is relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals. As a test, one of the authors of the leaflet swallowed 15 grains of a toxic red-squill powder with no apparent harm, and later took 40 grains, which caused nausea and vomiting within 15 minutes, but no other effect. "Red-squill powder, when mixed with food in the concentration recommended for rat control, is not likely," it is stated, "to cause serious harm to farm animals in good health. It is possible that the irritant may cause death under certain conditions; so far as possible, therefore, red-squill baits for rats should be kept out of

reach of other animals. Copies of Leaflet 65-L, just published, may be had free on request to Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and copies of the longer report, Technical Bulletin 134-T, may be purchased for 10 cents each from the Superintendents of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washing-

## Poultry in Confinement

Thrived Unusually Well Bluegrass range does not benefit poultry to any appreciable extent if they are properly fed while in confinement. This is the conclusion of the Ohlo experiment station after raising three lots of 100 pullets each under different conditions last year. The first lot had free access to bluegrass range throughout the test. The second lot had access to a wire screen porch but no range, while the third lot was kept indoors at all times, They were given plenty of sunlight whenever the weather permitted. The average ten-month egg production was 122 in the case of the lot which had free range, 127 in the case of the lot which had access to the screen porch, and 132 in the case of the lot kept in confinement. The feed consumption was in direct proportion to the eggs produced.

## Proper Care and Feed

for Very Young Geese Do not feed your goslings for 48 hours. Give them milk and old bread for the first feeding. They must be fed often and not too much at a time. Their best food is bread and milk or corn bread and milk with a small amount of very fine young grass. If put on the grass or clover at the end of the first week they will certainly thrive after that. Let them have some sunlight, but too much of the hot sun will kill the small geese. It is not good to let them run with the old geese until they are nearly grown, as the old geese will take them far away and dangers in form of turtles and weasels lurk in swampy places. If possible keep them in some large yard where you can feed and water them regularly and watch them

## Feed for Goslings

Stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed nearly dry and mixed with chopped boiled eggs makes a good first feed for goslings. A little tender grass chopped fine and a sprinkling of sand can be added. If the goslings have a grass range they will require little additional feed after they are two weeks old. But better results can be obtained by using a mash once each day. It can be made of two parts middlings and one part corn meal. Water is essential.

## Grain Supplement Is Big Aid for Steers

Produces Bigger Gains and More Tender Meat.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)—WNU Service. Grain fed as a supplement to grass for fattening three-year-old steers produces heavier gains and somewhat better finished carcasses than those of steers fattened on grass alone. The meat of the supplement-fed cattle is slightly more tender and contains a higher percentage of fat. These were conclusions drawn from a three-year experiment conducted jointly by the West Virginia Experiment station and the United States Department of Agriculture. The studies were a part of the national meat-investigation project. in which the department is associated with 28 state agricultural experiment stations. Details of the experiment are given in Technical Bulletin 217-T, Beef Production and Quality as Affected by Grade of Steer and Feeding Grain Supplement on Grass, just issued by the Department of Agriculture.

Both good and medium grade steers made decidedly better gains when fed grain on grass than similar steers finished on grass alone, the bulletin shows. The feeding of grain also increased the selling price of both grades of steers more than 10 per cent over those fattened on grass alone. The supplement-fed cattle outdressed the grass-alone lots, though the carcasses from the latter group carried considerable finish.

In regard to the cost of finishing the steers with the grain supplement, the experiments indicate that the gains and finish of three-year-old steers on good pasture can be increased sufficiently by the feeding of a supplement to more than offset the additional expense. The bulletin points out, however, that good judgment in buying and selling cattle may have a greater bearing than feed cost on profits, Copies of Technical Bulletin 217-T may be obtained on application to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## Carbon Dioxide Useful

to Check Fruit Spoilage Solid carbon dioxide may prove a possible aid in reducing the spoilage of fruits and vegetables in transit. The United States Department of Agriculture says that the carbon dioxide gas from this refrigeration gives added protection, when supplementing ice.

Dr. Charles Brooks, plant pathologist of the bureau of plant industry, found that about 300 pounds of solid carbon dioxide placed in a refrigerator car loaded with warm fruit will increase the carbon dioxide content of the air sufficiently within an hour to check rotting and softening as much as would a drop of 20 degrees to 30 degrees in the temperature of the fruit. The action of the gas in checking spoilage ceases after normal atmosphere is restored, but by that time the car has been fairly well cooled by ice and further spoilage is prevented by the usual methods of refrig-

If the gas has largely escaped from the car within 18 to 24 hours, no objectionable flavor is likely to result, although peaches, strawberries, apricots, and red raspberries easily lose flavor and become "flat" and insipid under extreme treatments.

## Round Brooder House Is

Becoming Quite Popular Round brooder houses have become quite popular in the past few years. This is especially true for small broods of chicks.

The brooder houses are usually built of wood, although metal and tile are also extensively used.

Plenty of windows are provided for to allow for proper ventilation and light. The roof is usually from 6 to 61/2 feet from the floor at the sides and from 10 to 12 feet high in the center of the house. These dimensions are used for a house 20 feet in diameter and which is used for about 1,000 chicks. The frame is best sawed at a lumber plant, many of which specialize in his kind of work.

Get pepper, eggplant, tomato, early cabbage and cucumber seed started.

Don't forget a packet of Italian broccoli. You can grow it easily.

Birds destroy many destructive insects and rodents and devour much

Sugar sirup, made by dissolving 21/2 parts of sugar in one part of water, is a good food for bees. Try better peas this year than you

planted last year. Some of the new types are great improvements. Such weeds as mustard and shepherd's purse will harbor and carry

serious diseases infesting cabbage. Leeks are worth growing as a vegetable as well as for flavoring soups and stews. Try steaming them and

serving with melted butter sauce. In order to get the most efficient and economical use of a piece of farm machinery, it is important to keep it working as many days in the year as

# Scraps

#### SLANDER

An orator, warming to his task, took off his coat, which rather disconcerted one of the stewards of the meeting, who thought that a reporter would make a sensation out of the incident. Toward the close, he said to the speaker, "I don't suppose you knew. when you removed your coat, that a newspaper man was present?"

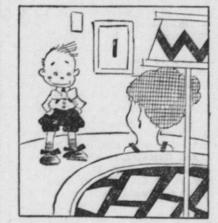
"Yes, I did," was the reply. "I kept my eye on the coat all the time."-Humorist.

#### Treating All Alike

"Do you feel resentful toward the policeman who arrested you for parking overtime?"

"No," answered Mr. Chuggins. "He has within the past month arrested every other citizen in our block. None of us felt very guilty, but we think that, according to his lights, he was trying to be fair."-Washington Star.

#### LET HIM WAIT



Bobby-Mr. Jones is waiting outside. Big Sister-Well, tell him to keep vaiting. He told me last night he would wait a lifetime for me.

#### Natural

"How does the leading lady act," He asked the maiden at his side, "In her new aviation play?"
"Rather flighty," she replied.

#### Something Cheaper

Ship Owner-We must have governnent aid! The people must be made to realize the expense of operating ships. Why, barnacles alone cost our ships \$100,000,000 a year.

Efficiency Expert-Well, why don't cheaper grade of barnacles-or get along with fewer of them.

## My, How Cold!

He-I dreamt of you last night. She (coldly)-Really!

He-Yes; then I woke up, shut the window, and put an extra blanket op

## SMALL FLAT



"So you've been up to see the Browns. Is their new flat very small?" "Well, they've had to exchange all their statuettes for bas-reliefs."

## A Passing Parody

He drove a golf ball through the air, It fell to earth, he knew not where Until he heard the luckless yell Of him upon whose head it fell,

## Hit Something Cheap

"What is the best thing to do when the brakes of one's car give way?" asks a motoring correspondent. Hit something cheap.-Everybody's Week-

#### Most Miserly Man "Who is the most miserly man you

know?" "Old Smith. When there's a crowd at the station and the people are standing in a queue waiting for their tickets, he always goes last so that he can keep his money in his pocket as

#### long as possible." Read All About It Cora-What's the Latter?

Student-Nothin'. Just a bit dizzy from reading a circular letter, that's

#### Also Braved Dangers Big-Game Hunter-Oh, yes, I've been nearly eaten by lions many times; but

life without a little risk would be a very tame affair. Mr. Subbubs-1 agree-I agree! How often when the weather has

#### seemed doubtful have I deliberately gone out without my umbrella! He Knew Feet!

"What do you mean by saying you expect a 'big kick' from this poem?' "Well, didn't you say there were six feet to a line?"

## **Dragging Days** and **Restless Nights**

Lack of pep is frequently caused by clogged-up systems. Feen-a-mint is thorough, dependable yet gentle in action. Effective in smaller doses because you chew it. Modern, scientific, safe, non-habit-forming.



An Accidental Fall

Senator Norris, discussing a statesman's fall, said at a Washington tea: "A hopeless fall, and it wasn't the poor chap's fault, either. The way it happened, it reminds me of a story. "They were all playing blind man's buff in the parlor round the Christ-

Finally he made a catch. "'Aha, I know who I've caught,' he

mas tree, and little Jack was 'it.'

"'Who, dear?' laughed his mother. "'Mr. Wister. I can feel his

beard. "And rich old Grandma Gains cut little Jack out of her will."



A New Exterminator that Won't Kill Livestock, Poultry, Dogs, Cats, or even Baby Chicks K.R.Ocan be used about the home, barn or poul-try yard with absolute safety as it contains no deadly poison. K.R.O is made of Squill, as recom-mended by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, oven-dried under the Connable process which insures maz-imum strength. Used by County Agents in most rat-killing campaigns. Money. Back Gazaratea. Insist upon K.R.O. the original Squille xtermin-stor. All druggists, 75c, \$1.25, \$2.90. Direct if dealer cannot supply you. K.R.O.Co., Springfield, Ohio

Long Skirts Patriotic

Australian girls have been asked to wear dresses an inch or two longer than maidens in other parts of the world to help their country. Sheep farmers of Australia, pointing out that country's greatest industry is threatened by the current lower consumption and price of wool, have urged that fashions should be disregarded and dresses worn as long as possible-always. Paris or patriotism, is the cry.

## DON'T LET WORMS TORTURE CHILDREN

Children who have worms have not a chance of being healthy. Watch for the symptoms. Gritting the teeth, picking the nostrils, disordered

Rid your child's body of these ruin-ous parasites. Give him Frey's Ver-mifuge—America's safe, vegetable worm medicine for 75 years. Buy it today. At all drug stores.

## Frey's Vermifuge Expels Worms

Not Worth Keeping First Golfer (telling fishing story) -He was about as long as that last drive of yours.

"Yes, so I threw him back."-Stray

Stories. A diplomat is a man who knows

Second Golfer-Oh, really!

how to hold his job.



Children need not steal

your health There should be no health penalty attached to motherhood. There isn't attached to motherhood. There isn't among really healthy women. Expectant mothers who think of the baby's health as well as their own, should take a good vegetable tonic to protect the two lives—Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. All dealers.

Every package of it contains a Symptom Blank. Fill it out and mail it to Dr. Pierce's Clinic Ruffele N. Y. for FREE medical advice.

