

Class Prophecy

As we gaze in our crystal ball twenty years in the future, we find that the majority of Carlisle's 1953 graduates have settled down in Slaughter's Alley, the crustiest, vice-ridden mile in Bowerytown, U. S. A.

As we pass the corner, we hear newsboy Clancy trying to sell last week's *Bugle*. Then we drop in Nick Economos' "Greasy Spoon" Cafe for a refreshing breakfast of oatmeal and grease balls. Much to our surprise we see perched at the end of the counter, "Cats" Lessig, Lancy, and Moore, drinking a combination of tomato juice and Alka-Seltzer, using White Lightning as a chaser to relieve "the morning after the night before" blues.

We stroll out of the cafe and meet Jimmy Hunter and Ed Steele, who by their combined efforts manage to bum a buck to buy a gallon of Vila's imported Vodka. Next door we find McKain's Loan Shop, where Noel is trying to hock a pair of diamond studded spurs. We hear a mighty roar, as a big black "Cad" with dual Hollywood muffs slides past us, driven by getaway man, Herbie Hill. In the back seat is that gangland boss, "Boondocker" Threatt, with his torpedoes, the Duggan twins, gats in hand, shooting their way through Chief Agnew's police force, after a daring heist of C. J. Kuipers' money bin.

After the excitement has cooled down we are approached by Delgo "Daddy" Dorn, who attempts to sell us a couple of reefers that were smuggled into the States from Bernardo Carbonell's marijuana farm by Big Jim Doonan, the Florida narcotics king. As we wander down the alley we notice that Frazier Lyon, the dope addict, has already had his daily lift.

We saunter across the street to Andy Jumper's Black Mountain Lodge, where we see by the sign out in front, that "Dub" Baker's Rhythm Ramblers, featuring Roger Lowery on the mandolin, John MacDonald, second guitar, and that sensational new vocalist, Jim Baxter, fresh from Duckworth County, Tennessee, on the bill tonight. We go inside and are shown to a table by head waiter, J. C. Gilliam. While we are ordering our dinner he tells us that Weisner and Rivera are working as dishwashers since their run of bad luck on the Guam pineapple market.

We hear a mighty din from next door, so we hustle over to see what the fuss is about. Up on the band stand of Joe Pinner's and Frank Boykin's night club, is Pete Grinnell and his battered horn blowing some low down jazz to the rhythm of Charlie Fox's drums. Drinking it in (along with their stale

beer) are Jimmy Bremer and Kay Leonhardt, newly arrived from a rugged trip through the mountains from the desert.

Back out on the street we find Bert Summey bargaining with Harvey Owen for his shoeshine stand so he can use it to start his street corner Tooth Pullery. Holding up the nearby lamp post is Tommy Brunson who is mumbling to himself, "Why, oh Why, didn't I listen to Capt. Drymon?"

By this time, we're getting a little foot weary, and catch the local street car, owned and operated by "Boongie" Garner. "Boongie" drops us off at Elking's Gymnasium. Here we watch Walter Miller's High Lifers lose their fiftieth straight game. High scorer for the game is "Old Grandad" Harmon, with two points (for the other team). This amazing feat was accomplished by the constant feeding of "Smokey" Shadle and "Church Key" Escue.

"Rudolph" Ramsey, a capable substitute, is on the sidelines telling a small group of youngsters about Shadle's . . . fine playing ability. As the game progresses, we observe Charley McNeil bumming pennies from the crowd (Leland Austin and Henry Shaw, by name). Once out of the gym, Glen White is seen flying by, rushing Henry Stuckey to Griffin's Memorial Hospital for a nose operation. The noise that comes thundering from down the street is caused by the tragic crash of an airplane flown by Perry Wilson and Everett Kerr, which has completely demolished Jimmy Osteen's Holy Roller tent.

Simpson's barber shop is our next stop, where "Drip" Waldrop and Marshall Nowell are getting their bi-monthly peach fuzz clipping. "Little Crow" Stoller and "Hayseed" Paine drive up in William Miller's newly designed pick-up and go into Norman Dabney's grocery to buy their monthly supply of snuff. On the next corner is Bullard's Business College where Capt. Risher's son is trying vainly to teach Larry White and Denny McCarthy the fundamentals of college algebra, aided by that great brain of mathematics, Tommy Wilson. The last building is the local clink, where jailer Richard Williams is keeping an eye on "Speedy" McCaskill and Thomas Roberts, the latter a permanent boarder because of a habit formed at C. M. S. VanNess says he'll bail them out if they promise to guide him back across the Mason-Dixon Line.

The image in our crystal ball fades into oblivion and we remind ourselves "to check later" in about twenty more years, and see if the Class of '53 has yet settled down to life in the outside world.