

CALL ME LIZ

by Rene Ryerson Mart Copyright, 1946, NEA Service, Inc.

THE STORY: Red McFan, army pilot, comes home with a chestful of ribbons and a cocky swagger. He visits the warlike plant where he worked before the war as a laboratory helper. Old Man Condon, the big boss, greets him warmly. Red had saved his son's life in combat. Condon offers Red a chance to finish school and a job when he gets through. Red declines. The prospect of getting along on \$85 a month subsistence allowance after his \$400 a month flying pay doesn't sound so hot.

RED shook his head doubtfully. "I don't know," he said. "I—" But Russel had foreseen Red's difficulty. "Wait a minute, Red," he said. "We haven't outlined the whole set-up yet. I told Dad I thought it would be a good idea for you to work part time in the laboratory here while going to school. That way you'll be right in touch with our problems and the new points we're developing. And once you get the old sheepskin you're all set to step right into the head job. You'll be well paid for the time you put in, in the lab. Don't worry about the money part of it."

That put a different complexion on the deal. Red knew he couldn't refuse to give it a try at least. "Well, I guess all I can say is— is thanks."

"Don't mention that, you big goon," Russ said affectionately. "When do I start?" Red asked. "Go up to the university and get your schedule fixed first," Arthur Condon said. "Then you can report in here for work."

"Wait a minute," Russ said as Red stood up to leave. "I'm all tied up tonight, darn it. But we've got to celebrate now that you're back. What about tomorrow night—Saturday?" "All right with me," Red grinned. "But I don't know any girls here, now."

"Leave that to me," Russ said. "I'll fix you up. Blonde or brunette?" Red made a clicking sound with

his tongue against his cheek. "You know me," he wisecracked. "Blonde, of course."

ELISE VARNEY stripped off her black slacks and white blouse and stepped, leaving them in a huddle on the bathroom floor and sank into the steaming tub she had drawn. She let out a sigh of sheer relief. Occasionally there were days when she lost some of her fine fervor for her job.

For instance this one. It had made her heart ache to see Jim Gary leave. Not that there was any romantic attachment between them. It was rather that Jim to her was a pathetic figure. He had been her helper during the two years she had worked in the laboratory, and she had suspected long before any one else knew, that there was something serious behind his rejection by the Army.

And then on the very day when he was saying goodby to have that great hulking brute of a pilot barge in and taunt Jim with his failure to get into the Army. Her hands curled in hot anger at the remembrance. She'd have liked to have throttled him. The big bully!

She got out of the bath and dried herself and wrapped a white chemise robe about herself and went into the adjoining room and lay down. Presently she'd dress and go out and get something to eat, but for the moment she was too tired.

It was a nice enough room as rented sleeping rooms go. In fact above the average. Only at times like this, when she was tired, her thoughts stole longingly back to the home she had grown up in. The big white frame house—her room in white paneling and blue satin paper with the taffeta drapes and bedspread and dainty skirted vanity. She had had everything until her father died.

It was sheer luck that Elise had liked chemistry and had majored in it at the smart women's college she had attended with Janice Condon. So when Janice Condon's father had offered a job in his laboratory she could take it without feeling that she was accepting charity.

Elise liked her job. She knew she gave a good account of herself in it and she knew Arthur Condon was satisfied. And she liked the feeling of independence it gave her. It was even more exciting now that Russel Condon was back from the war and showing an interest in her.

She heard the telephone ring in the downstairs hall and a moment later the landlady called up to say it was for her. Elise ran down the stairs to answer. It was Russel calling to remind her of their date for Saturday night. And he had something else on his mind. A pal of his had just got back from overseas. They'd have to celebrate. Could she dig up a girl for him?

"Who—Red McFan?" Elise's voice fell. "Oh, yes, I met him today in the lab."

Her first impulse was to tell Russel that she didn't care about Red McFan—that she didn't care to inflict him even for one evening on any of her girl friends. But if he was a friend of Russel's that wouldn't do.

She listened. Russel was saying something else. "Oh, he's particular, is he? She has to be a blonde!"

A mischievous smile spread over Elise's face. "Yes, I know some one," she said sweetly. "I know just the girl for him."

She was still smiling when she hung up. Sally Clark. Perfect! Perfect! Red would be sure to be a sucker for Sally's looks and then when he found out about Sally...

(To Be Continued)

the prediction of "calamity-howlers" who claim that all United States oil reserves will have disappeared by 1962.

In a week's tour of the oil fields and refinery centers of Texas and Louisiana, this correspondent inquired into the origin of the prediction that all the oil in the United States would vanish in 15 years.

Basis of Predictions
The answer was that those who made the prediction have simply divided the amount of "proved reserves" in the United States—22,000,000,000 barrels, by the amount consumed yearly—1,200,000,000 barrels. The result is 14 2/3 years, so on that basis, they estimate the depletion.

Oil men here said that such predictions fail to take into account the fact that more oil is being found all the time, and that conservation measures are becoming increasingly popular. In that connection, they point to the advances of an increased use of natural gas, either by liquifying it, or by using it as fuel.

Texas, which has been a big oil producing state since 1911, is now busy with further explorations. The fabulous King Ranch is being developed as an oil field. Louisiana also has long been producing oil, but new fields are being found there—on land, and under water in rivers, swamps and marsh. The same is true in other states with long-producing records. But new ones, such as Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, are coming into the picture. And even on bleak Cape Hatteras, N. C., exploratory work is going on.

Drilling Under Water
Here in the rich mid-continent area, one learns the truth of the old adage that "oil is where you find it." In Galveston Bay, we saw drilling for oil, 40 feet under water—an operation which engineers told us was complicated, but nothing very much out of the ordinary, for at Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, they get oil 100 feet under water.

At the town of Kilgore, Texas, we saw where a bank building had been torn down to make way

for the digging of an oil well. We saw a well dug at an angle to get under a church. We saw oil wells on the right of way of railroads. In some bays of Louisiana, artificial islands have been built to keep the derricks and boilers on during operations. There already are two wells under the Mississippi River, drilled from the banks, at an angle.

The fact that oil might be under an ocean, bay, marsh, swamp river or other inaccessible places does not deter the oil men from going after it.

Off The Street Parking Urged
SAN FRANCISCO.—Delegates to the American Automobile Association's convention agreed today that the solution to the Urban Parking problem is for cities and towns to provide off-the-street facilities.

At a panel discussion on the parking problem, speakers said that such facilities must be permanent and that they must be sponsored by City governments.

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GOP Congress Will Tighten Loans Abroad

NEW YORK (UP)—The Republican 80th Congress, it appears certain Thursday, will tighten American Foreign Loan policy, challenge the reciprocal trade program and support a firm stand toward Russia.

An examination of GOP voting records and speeches indicates the new Congress will study closely any proposals for further large loans to foreign countries, particularly Russia.

The record also shows that

powerful Republican Senators and some members have urged revision or elimination of the reciprocal trade agreements act, that authorizes the President to cut tariffs up to 50 per cent.

On one point, however, Mr. Truman had a promise of cooperation. The new congress, only a few hours after its election, was pledged by the men who will be its leaders to support a continued bipartisan approach to world problems.

This appears to rule out any probability of a repetition of what happened after World War I as a Republican Senate rejected a Democratic President's efforts to write peace and establish international Peace machinery.

Both this does not mean that

Republicans will not feel free to vote changes in the administration of Foreign policy, particularly in loans and tariffs.

A majority of GOP senators in the past have favored elimination of the reciprocal trade program, written by the late president Roosevelt and former Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Only a year ago Republican members voted 16 to 14 against extension of the program's basic act.

The unofficial tabulation shows that only 56 House and six Senate candidates supported by the CIO political action committee were victorious. In 1944 PAC claimed it was instrumental in electing 180 representatives and senators. It had predicted it would swing the decision this year in 100 close districts but fell far short.

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Oil Men Scoff At Idea U. S. Is Depleted

By William H. Lander United Press Staff Correspondent HOUSTON, Texas (UP)—Exploration for new oil fields in the United States is actively under way.

At the same time the industry is busy trying to find new uses for natural gas, which in Texas is found in enormous quantities. Also most oil states are enforcing conservation measures.

Here in the center of the "mid-continent" oil section, experienced oil men place no credence in

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