

POORER BUT WISER

Flora King was taking her daily walk on a beautiful spring day, completely lost in thought about her upcoming visit to Hawaii, when she was alerted to a car which stopped at the curb next to her.

Two ladies were seated in the front seat. The one on the passenger side extended her arm, holding a large letter-sized envelope. She inquired if Flora knew the location of the address inscribed thereon. Flora examined it and replied she was unfamiliar with it. The passenger informed Flora that she was walking this same street about an hour ago when she noticed the envelope on the ground, picked it up and thought it would be an act of kindness if she were able to deliver it. Flora suggested that she seek assistance of the Police Department, to which the passenger replied, "No thank you, I don't trust the police."

Both of the ladies kept flattering Flora on her kindness and eagerness to assist. They felt this meeting had tremendous significance and predicted that a beautiful permanent relationship would result therefrom. Flora was flattered and proceeded to make her contribution to attempt to achieve its success.

After circling the area for a period of time, the passenger, the one who had found the envelope, suggested that she would consult with her employer about his suggestion as to the disposition of the contents of the envelope, since she was not able to find the rightful owner. She directed the driver to her place of employment, and when arriving there she left the car and entered a large automobile establishment.

She was gone for only a few minutes and returned with this solution: Her employer suggested that since all three ladies were involved in this endeavor, they should share their find – the finder to receive one half of the contents and the two ladies to share the remaining half. He made this promise – to assure that the two ladies would preserve the secrecy of the deal, and in order to prove to the finder that they were financially secure, they first exhibit to her evidence of this financial condition.

The driver of the car had no difficulty in meeting this requirement. She reached into her bosom and extracted therefrom what appeared to be a was of money encased in a handkerchief. To explain this, she stated that she was on her way to an attorney's office to make a down payment on a house she was in the process of purchasing. Being convinced of this evidence, the finder of the envelope told the driver to visit her employer, who was prepared to dole out her share. She proceeded to accomplish this and returned with an additional envelope which ostensibly contained her share.

The attention of the ladies was now directed to Flora. She explained that she had no difficult in accomplishing this. If the ladies would accompany her to her home, she would obtain her money Markey account passbook from a local bank, and gratify the requirement. She was driven to her home. The driver of the car accompanied her to her apartment. Flora obtained her passbook and the three ladies proceeded to Flora's bank.

On the way, the finder suggested that Flora withdraw the sum of \$5,000, which would be sufficient to meet her requirement. Flora agreed and entered her bank. The two ladies remained in the car. Flora told the bank manager what she intended to do. When he asked for details, Flora became mysterious and with a knowing look assured the manager she was well aware of her action, and that he too would become aware when she returned in a few minutes with the original withdrawal and her share of the found money.

The manager was dubious and watched Flora enter the car. He noted the license plate number of the car in case it was needed.

The three ladies proceeded, apparently for Flora to receive her share. They arrived at the place of employment. Flora was about to leave the car with her money in hand when the driver suggested that the envelope was not secured closely enough. She reached for it, brought it to the front seat and appeared to close it more securely. She returned the envelope to flora, who proceeded to the place of employment.

Flora inquired for a Mr. Wright. The receptionist informed her there was no such gentleman in their employ and suggested perhaps he was part of the other section across the street. Flora then proceeded across the street and received the same reply. She became suspicious, opened the envelope and discovered it contained a lot of paper cut into the size of dollar bills. She then realized she had been duped. She revealed her findings to the receptionist, who told her to contact the police and report the incident immediately. When Flora attempted to direct her attention to the car and its contents, she discovered it was no longer in evidence.

The police arrived, recorded all the information and informed Flora they would do all they could do locate the perpetrators. To this day they have not succeeded.

Flora is probably a little wiser but still deprived of this substantial sum of money.