

VANDERGRIFT!

THE SCREENPLAY

By
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INT. - DAY stage casino theatre 1907

The FIVE-HUNDRED SEAT THEATRE is filled with STEELWORKERS, THEIR WIVES, and CHILDREN. The STAGE darkens and GEORGE MCMURTRY, fifties. walks onto the stage. The audience roars with applause and shouting.

MCMURTRY
Ladies, gentlemen, and children.

AUDIENCE
McMurtry! McMurtry!

MCMURTRY
Hear my...

AUDIENCE
George! George! George!

MCMURTRY
Let me introduce....

AUDIENCE
McMurtry !McMurtry! McMurtry!

MCMURTRY
We live in the most unique town in America!

AUDIENCE
You! You! You!

MCMURTRY
No! You! You! You!

AUDIENCE
George! George! George!

He motions for the audience to stop

MCMURTRY
And here is the Board of Managers of the Vandergrift Steel Works!

TWELVE MEN in dark suits run onto the stage. The audience and the Board of Managers all applaud.

AUDIENCE
Yes! Yes! Yes!

MCMURTRY
What is the greatest town in the world.

AUDIENCE
Vandergrift! Vandergrift! Vandergrift!

FIRST MANAGER
In what state!

AUDIENCE
Pennsylvania!

SECOND MANAGER
In what county!

AUDIENCE
Westmoreland!

THIRD MANAGER
How about unions?

AUDIENCE
Boo! Boo! Boo!

FOURTH MANAGER
Are you sure!

AUDIENCE
Yes! Yes! Yes!

FOURTH MANAGER
Are you really sure!

AUDIENCE
Yes! Yes! Yes!

MCMURTRY
And now let us raise our lemonade
glasses...this is Vandergrift
lemonade...better than any other drink.

AUDIENCE
Lemonade!@ Lemonade!

MCMURTRY
Let the show begin

The curtain rises and a marionette show comes on. The audience applauds.

EXT. - DAY FARMLAND FORTY MILES NORTH OF PITTSBURGH 1892

-Plush farmland of hills and valleys.

- FARMER plants seeds.

-A sign reading TOWNSEND FARM appears in the distance.

- GEORGE MCMURTRY, early forties and JJ VANDERGRIFT, mid seventies, overlook the farm.

VANDERGRIFT

Should do.

MCMURTRY

Not enough acreage.

VANDERGRIFT

We'll get more.

EXT. - DAY RIVER

-Several YOUNG BOYS fish along the KISKIMINETAS RIVER.

EXT. - NIGHT APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA 1893

-A TRAIN drives by at high speed, the train siren blowing. SIGN reads: APOLLO, ARMSTRONG COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, POPULATION -578.

-Vandergrift and McMurtry look out the window.

MCMURTRY

We'll show the bastards.

VANDERGRIFT

There are many ways to skin a cat

MCMURTRY

And drive them into bankruptcy.

.

EXT. - DAY AUTUMN LEAVES

-Leaves of yellow and red cover the Allegheny Mountain range outside of Apollo.

- TRAIN travels around the mountain carrying steel and coal.

EXT. - DAY APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA 1894

-NEW SHINY GREEN TRAIN drives through SCENIC MOUNTAINS and VALLEYS. A sign reads KISKIMINETAS VALLEY

-The train goes past a river and bridge, with a plaque reading KISKIMINETAS RIVER.

-The train goes around a bend with a sign which reads TOWNSEND FARM.

-FIELDS OF CROPS appear in the distance. FARMERS harvest the fields.

-The TRAIN CONDUCTOR makes another turn, and sees several GIRLS playing house.

-The train comes to a stop in front of a mill with a sign reading: THE APOLLO IRON AND STEEL COMPANY.

-WORKERS begin loading STEEL and IRON PRODUCTS on to the train.

-STRIKERS carry picket signs saying APOLLO STEEL AND GEORGE MCMURTRY ARE UNFAIR. Another sign reads: WE WANT BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS. ARCHIE DAVIS, JACK MCINTYRE, AND JAMES WHITWORTH, early twenties, face the strikers.

DAVIS

Get back to work.

STRIKER 1

We're on our own time

-FLASHBACK EXT. - DAY HOMESTEAD IRON AND STEEL WORKS,
HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA 1892

STRIKERS and PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARDSMAN battle
ferociously. Police battle works. Shots are fired. JOHN
DUNMORE, 17, tries to fend off several Pennsylvania
guardsmen, knocks several down and tries to escape, but
is felled by a bullet.

-

-GUARDS begin shooting other strikers, several of whom
fall to the ground.

INT. - DAY DUQUESNE CLUB PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JACOB JAY VANDERGRIFT, sixties, and GEORGE M MCMURTRY,
fifties are dining.

VANDERGRIFT

George, you never order mutton.

MCMURTRY

I had too much of it growing up in
Ireland.

VANDERGRIFT

Could you pass the Hollandaise sauce?

MCMURTRY

I don't have much appetite.

VANDERGRIFT

What! You've eaten two prime rib
steaks.

MCMURTRY

I usually eat three.

VANDERGRIFT

Unions?

MCMURTRY

Yep.

INT. - DAY APOLLO INN

Bar filled with MINERS and STEELWORKERS. Jack Dunmore walks in to heavy applause.

MINER 1

Hey, Jack. Come and have a drink.

DUNMORE

Not drinking tonight.

MINER 2

Too much night life, boy.

MINER 1

You gotta keep your pecker in you pants.

MINER 2

He works his ass off all day.

MINER 1

Stay away from those Polock girls.

DUNMORE

Ya' got word.

MINER 1

About fuckhead McMurtry.

DUNMORE

Gonna destroy the Union.

MINER 1

Again! Ha!

DUNMORE

Wants to cut our wages.

MINER 1

He needs you steamrollers too much.

MINER 2

And one of your own countrymen.

DUNMORE

Don't you go insulting my country.

MINER 1

Thought you was an American.

DUNMORE

Still a Scott.

MINER 3

Atta boy.

DUNMORE

This McMurtry's gotta go.

MINER 3

Good luck.

EXT. - DAY FARMLAND ALONG THE KISKIMINITAS RIVER.

MARK , sixties and MARY , fifties are picking squash.
A TRAIN flies by. The SIREN blows

MARY

Hurts my ears.

MARK

We're getting too old to farm this land.

TWO MEN approach them.

FIRST MAN

You guys doing OK.

MARK

Yeah, whatta youns up to

FIRST MAN

Looking for some good farmland to buy.
Know of any?

MARK

Yeah. But they're asking too much.

FIRST MAN

How much?

MARY

Twenty five dollars acre.

FIRST MAN

Is that all?

MARY

Yeah.

FIRST MAN

I know someone who's willing to offer
more.

MARK

Don't believe ya'.

FIRST MAN
I will off you more.

MARY
Yeah.

FIRST MAN
50 an acre.

MARY
Still not interested.

MARK
We been farmers a long time along the
Kiski River.

MARY
Mark, I..

MARK
I run things around here

FIRST MAN
How about 70 an acre.

MARK
Not for sale.

FIRST MAN
A hundred.

MARK
When do we go to closing.

FIRST MAN
In a couple of months.

MARK
Be on your way. I want paid in cash
tomorrow.

FIRST MAN
I will be back with cash, once I get your
signature. Or better yet, how about
closing today.

MARK
Only a title lawyer can do that.

FIRST MAN
I am a title lawyer. Come to my office
this afternoon. . A Cashiers Check
awaits you.

MARK

I want cash.

FIRST MAN

Cash it is.

EXT. APPOLLO STEEL COMPANY DAY

John Dunmore and a group of STEELWORKERS faces JAMES SWANSON WHITWORTH, JACK F. MCINTYRE, AND STEWART ARCHIBALD "ARCHIE" DAVIS, mid-twenties around a smoke filled table.

WHITWORTH

Lay it on the table, Dunmore

DUNMORE

We laid it on the table.

FIRST STEELWORKER

Let me repeat for you once more. Eight hour day. Twelve cents an hour, 40 hour work week, simple health benefits...

WHITWORTH

Stop. I know all the rest.

SECOND STEELWORKER

So the answer's no?

WHITWORTH

Absolutely.

SECOND STEELWORKER

Then we strike.

WHITWORTH

Strike. But this time you will all be fire.

DUNMORE

Yeah, yeah, yeh.

ARCHIE

Don't you have mouths to feed.

DUNMORE

This conversation's over. Look, we'll compromise. But one thing we want.

MCINTYRE

Yeah?

DUNMORE
Safe working conditions.

MCINTYRE
We have second working conditions.

DUNMORE
40 men died this last year.

MCINTYRE
No one forced them to work here.

EXT. KISKIMINITAS RIVER

Mcmurtry and Vandergrift are riding horses. A sign reading TOWNSEND FARM. They ride to a white farmhouse. JANE TOWNSEND, seventies, comes out of the house.

JANE
Can I help you guys.

VANDERGRIFT
Just touring the countryside.

JANE
Might I offer yours a glass of water.

MCMURTRY
That would be mighty fine. What are yours up to.

JANE
You speak like a real western Pennsylvania man

VANDERGRIFT
With a slight brogue!

JANE
I'm from the Townsend clan.

MCMURTRY
Works. You wanna sell.

INT. DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH RAILCAR DAY

Whitworth, Davis, and McIntyre wait by train door ready to exit

WHITWORTH
We're running twenty minutes late.

DAVIS
He accepts no excuses.

The train stops. The tree men jump out.

SHORTLY AFTERWARD DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH DAY

The three men run at high speed. They hurriedly run in front of a trolley car.

INT. BOARDROOM, APOLLO IRON AND STEEL COMPANY SHORTLY AFTER.

George McMurtry is examining documents at a long board table.

WHITWORTH
Hello, Mr. McMurtry

ARCHIE
Sorry we're late.

MCINTYRE
The train was slow in arriving.

MCMURTRY
Have a seat. But first, do you have news?

MCINTYRE
Yes, Sir.

ARCHIE
Yes, Sir.

WHITWORTH
Yes, Sir.

MCMURTRY
Don't speak all at once. Are they planning a strike? And have the speculators been at it?

ALL THREE MEN
Yes!

MCMURTRY

My gut feeling was right? Who are the culprits.

MCINTYRE

The strikers were implacable. The regular ones: Dunmore, Young, Weaver, Stewart, Kunkle, McCutcheon. Twelve cents an hour, safe working conditions....

MCMURTRY

(interrupting) Workman's compensation, eight-hour day?

MCINTYRE

Yes. Six paid holidays a year, time-and-a-half for overtime, health insurance...

MCMURTRY

Stop! When are they planning to strike?

MCINTYRE

Next Monday.

MCMURTRY

All strikers are to be fired. They may re-apply after a year and then be rehired..... with loss of seniority.

WHITWORTH

As you say.

EXT. DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH DAY

Vandergrift and Mcmurtry walk through downtown Pittsburgh

MCMURTRY

May not work this time. Too many strikers.

VANDERGRIFT

How many?

MCMURTRY

A hundred. A third of the work force. And some of the best, this time. And the worst also. The Slovak workers have nearly all joined in.

MCMURTRY

That settles it. No more Eastern Europeans. Off to the coal mines they go, if the coal operators will hire them.

The Germans, Irish, and Italians are grateful, but not these folks.

ARCHIE

Some of them are beginning to join in, too.

MCMURTRY

What about the adjacent land for the plant expansion?

WHITWORTH

The speculators bought all the nearby land...this morning.

MCMURTRY

Same fellas?

WHITWORTH

Who else? They took out a large loan yesterday, offered the farmers twice our price, and went to settlement this morning. Now they want five thousand dollars an acre.

MCMURTRY

Forty-nine hundred dollars more than the inflated price we offered the farmers. And what happens to the speculators if we don't buy? (smiles)

WHITWORTH

Bankruptcy!

MCMURTRY

A few suicides might follow. J. J. Vandergrift and I have our own plan. And damned to the parasite strikers and speculators. (beat) WE MOVE!

ALL

Move!

ARCHIE

How do you move a plant?

MCMURTRY

(beat) We keep this damned Apollo plant open for a few years. But open up a whole new plant. Only a few miles, a whole county away. Damned be Apollo and Armstrong county.

MCINTYRE

Where?

MCMURTRY

The Townsend farm.

WHITWORTH

I am sure my future father-in-law would accept a reasonable offer..

MCMURTRY

Already done. We offered 50 dollars an acre, and he took it.

ARCHIE

It's worth at least fifty-five.

MCMURTRY

Right. We are both good Christians. We then told him we would give him more for a total of sixty dollars. We went to closing in minutes. Within a week, we begin work on the most modern, efficient and largest steel plant in the world.

ALL

THE LARGEST!

MCMURTRY

You heard it! THE largest!

ARCHIE

And the Apollo plant?

MCMURTRY

Will be closed a few years after the new one opens. And of course no strikers will be hired at the new plant. If necessary we will follow the route of our friend, Henry Clay Frick, and call the Pennsylvania National Guard to close them down. The Westmorland County government will be our best friend. Not like these rogues in Armstrong County.

ARCHIE

How many workers?

MCMURTRY

Five thousand.

WHITWORTH

And where do we get the workers?

MCMURTRY

ELLIS ISLAND. And Alabama if we need to. New immigrants are more grateful, work harder, and are too afraid to join unions. The native born will behave better when they are replaced by these immigrants.

ARCHIE

Do you really want all these immigrants?

MCMURTRY

Not in my home, but in my factories. And Whitworth, please draft a new piece of legislation to improve our immigration laws.

MCINTYRE

Most people don't want any more immigrants.

MCMURTRY

I'm one myself. Proud to say that we Scotch-Irish are the best!

MCINTYRE

They object to the ones from Southern and Eastern Europe.

MCMURTRY

Tough luck! We need their bodies. Our Pennsylvania Senators and congressmen will do as told. We pay them enough.

Everyone laughs.

MCMURTRY

And the best is yet to come.

MCINTYRE

You have us in suspense.

MCMURTRY

We will build a whole new town with it.

ARCHIE

A company town?

MCMURTRY

I never want to hear that word again. No. A workers' town. A town BETTER THAN THE BEST. The most beautiful worker's town in the world.

With parks, schools, fine houses,
shopping, many churches, and paved
streets. And cheap prices.

ARCHIE

How do we pay for this?

WHITWORTH

Better yet. How do the workers pay for
this?

MCMURTRY

Lots will be sold cheaply. One part of
town for the workers, another for
management. Part of the town for
immigrants, (except Poles and Slavs, of
course), and we are all one happy town.
We are now looking for an architect.

WHITWORTH

May I make a suggestion, Sir? Have you
ever heard of Frederick Law Olmsted?

MCMURTRY

I can't say that I have.

WHITWORTH

He is the Nation's preeminent architect.
He designed Central Park, buildings at
Harvard, Yale...

MCMURTRY

Enough! He's our man!

WHITWORTH

And I am sure he would love to have
something to show off the World's Fair in
Chicago. A worker's paradise built by
company for its workers!

MCMURTRY

And guess what I have decided to call the
town.

ARCHIE

McMurtry, Pennsylvania sounds very nice.

MCMURTRY

I want to name the town for the one man
who took a penniless Scotch-Irish
immigrant boy, and taught him everything
he know about the iron and steel
business. Captain Jacob J. Vandergrift.
How does Vandergrift, Pennsylvania sound.

And hopefully we and the new town will
live up to his ideals.

ALL
To Vandergrift! Hip-hip-hooray!

MCMURTRY
Goodbye to Apollo!

ALL
Bye-bye Apollo!

MCMURTRY
Hello, Vandergrift!

ALL
Long live Vandergrift!

T. - DAY VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF GEORGE
MCMURTRY, AT THE APOLLO IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, 1895

George McMurtry, stands before a huge hanging map of the newly incorporated borough of Vandergrift. The SIGNATURE reveals that FREDERICK LAW OLMSTEAD is the architect. George carefully examines different parts of the map. Four large PHOTOGRAPHS adorn the wall: ANDREW CARNEGIE, John D. Rockefeller, Jacob J. Vandergrift, and Henry Clay Frick. A large bible is on his desk. A sign hangs from the wall saying "VANDERGRIFT: BETTER THAN THE BEST" He puffs on his cigar and takes another drink from his large whiskey glass and then raises it to a toast.

MCMURTRY
To my town. VANDERGRIFT: BETTER THAN
THE BEST. The world's largest steel mill!

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, Jr., early twenties, enters.

OLMSTED
You deserve that drink.

MCMURTRY
Mr. Tarbell?

OLMSTED
No? A familiar name however.

MCMURTRY
Some newspaper man for a Titusville
newspaper.

OLMSTED

Mmm. I recall the name from something I read at Harvard.

MCMURTRY

A Harvard man?

OLMSTED

Yes. And you?

MCMURTRY

No college? Not even grade school.

OLMSTED

The American dream?

MCMURTRY

And an orphan at six to boot.

OLMSTED

Up by your bootstraps. I admire that. I'm Fred Olmsted.

MCMURTRY

Vandergrift's architect! You are not he.

OLMSTED

But I am.

MCMURTRY

I met with the great designer myself, three times. And you are not he.

OLMSTED

That's right.

MCMURTRY

But the signature said Frederick Law Olmsted. Look at the letter.

OLMSTED

You missed the Jr. Besides, I did the work. It's all in the family. I am Frederick Law Olmsted, JR. . My father is too ill to be here. So I come in his place.

McMurtry examines him closely .

MCMURTRY

A chip off the old block, then.

OLMSTED

Actually, I'm his stepson. He adopted both my brother and I. In no way does this diminish our love for him. I did most of the Vandergrift design.

MCMURTRY

What! A college student?

OLMSTED

Under the supervision of Charles Eliot.

MCMURTRY

That other partner?

OLMSTED

He's more than "that other partner" He is equal to my father. And surely you are aware that his father has been president of Harvard since 1869.

MCMURTRY

Indeed! My town was designed by none other than the son of Harvard's president! Wait till the Vandergrift Land and Improvement Company's Board get's a load of this.

OLMSTED

But not too hastily, Mr. McMurtry. I have some news that may change your opinion.

MCMURTRY

Yes?

OLMSTED

Mr. Eliot and my father may want our name removed from this project.

MCMURTRY

Why!

OLMSTED

Mr. Eliot feels he town bears little resemblance to the original plan.

MCMURTRY

The removal of a few parks, a couple of bushes!

OLMSTED

He feels the design bears no similarity to what the town now looks like.

MCMURTRY

What is different!

OLMSTED

The location of the Casino Theatre has changed. It now faces the steel mill. The village green is not where it is supposed to be. The trees do not...

MCMURTRY

Blah, blah, blah. So what. A couple of bushes and a damned park! No! Tell him to forget it. My lawyers will beat the living daylights out of his lawyers. And now there is something else I would like for you to do.

OLMSTED

Under these conditions...

MCMURTRY

I want you to design the Sherman Inn.

OLMSTED

What.

MCMURTRY

Look out the window and you can see the vacant corner lot on Sherman and Washington Streets.

OLMSTED

But, Sir. I'm a landscape architect, not a building architect.

MCMURTRY

So what! Can you provide a drawing?

OLMSTED

I would not be doing you justice.

MCMURTRY

Just do it!

OLMSTED

I should get the approval of the main office.

MCMURTRY

There is no time.

OLMSTED

I can't even fit this into my schedule.
I would need a year before I could get
started.

MCMURTRY

Won't do. The fee is 250 dollars, for a
simple workable drawing.

OLMSTED

If you insist, Sir, I'll do it.

MCMURTRY

When can you complete the drawing.

OLMSTED

If I begin next week, I can finish it in
a week.

MCMURTRY

Absolutely not.

OLMSTED

When do you need it?

MCMURTRY

Within the next half hour.

OLMSTED

No architectural drawings in the history
of mankind have ever...

MCMURTRY

I don't care. Just go in the other room.
Return it in half an hour.

OLMSTED

You are cheating yourself. I shall miss
my train to Pittsburgh and will then miss
my train to Boston, and will have ...

MCMURTRY

No you won't. I will be calling the
President of the Pennsylvania Railroad.
Now get started.

A knock is heard at the door.

MCMURTRY (cont'd)

At last. Come in, Mr. Tarbell.

Ida Minerva "Ida Mae" Tarbell, early forties, enters.

MCMURTRY (cont'd)
I'm sorry. I was expecting a MR. I. M. Tarbell.

TARBELL
My name is Ida Minerva Tarbell. Ida Mae, to my friends and colleagues.

MCMURTRY
Accept my apologies. "I.M. Tarbell"? I was expecting a man, Mrs. Tarbell.

TARBELL
I'm a woman. Intend to stay that way. And I am Miss Tarbell.

MCMURTRY
Ah, Miss Tarbell. Let me present you with...

TARBELL
(interrupting) Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

OLMSTED
An honor indeed, Miss Tarbell. How do you know my name?

MCMURTRY
Shall we begin the tour.

TARBELL
At once.

SCENE EXT. - - DAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REVEREND SMITH shows plans to George McMurtry.

SMITH
Construction begins next week.

MCMURTRY
Fifteen thousand dollars is yours.

SCENE UNION HALL 1935

VOTE COUNT is taking place.

VOTE COUNTER
And the winner is John Dunmore.

Heavy applause and shouting.

Dunmore

SCENE MARRIAGE OF KATHERINE AND WHITWORTH PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH 1908

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. Katherine comes down the aisle with her FATHER. George McMurtry and HIS WIFE look on from their pews. The church is filled. Ida looks on from the seat behind them

MCMURTRY

I'll have you know that the Ford which awaits them on Grant Avenue was made at the Vandergrift Plant.

TARBELL

Henry Ford?

MCMURTRY

A scoundrel too.

TARBELL

He'll do.

SCENE VANDERGRIFT 1917 STEEL PLANT

Carnegie Steel Plant. WORKERS LEAVE THE STEEL PLANT.
BANNER READS: UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU. HELP THE WAR.

SCENE

Depression scene

EXT. - DAY VANDERGRIFT WASHINGTON AVENUE 1895

Workers are building the road.

EXT. - DAY

Ida arrives at train station

EXT. - DAY

McMurdo stand in front of steel plant

EXT. - DAY

Vandergrift land and Title company

INT. - DAY ELLIS IALND

Immigrants

INT. NIGHT

Cross burning

EXT. - DAY GRANT AVENUE 1895

Stores opening

EXT. - DAY WASHINGTON AVNENUE 1895

Houses being built

EXT. - DAY CASINO THEATRE 1915

Fourth of July

EXT. - DAY RAILAROAD STATION 1915

To Valhalla

INT. - NIGHT UNION HALL, VANDERGRIFT 1915

Funeral No flowers

EXT. - DAY USS STEEL - DEPRESSION

Mill closed

EXT. - DAY GERMAN COUNTRYSIDE 1892

George McMurtry

EXT. - DAY VANDERGRIFT 1895

Yellow brick

EXT.- DAY 1895

Cont Van Aubery plants trees.

EXT. - DAY

Workers reconstruct fence.

EXT. - - DAY

Church choirs sing.

EXT. - DAY

Men going to work

EXT. - DAY

Funeral Scene

EXT. - DAY VALHALLA CEMETERY

Men install the casino mausoleum over McMurtry's grave

EXT. - DAY

Union organizers go through Vandergrift

EXT. - DAY

Fourth of July Celebrating

EXT. - DAY 2006

For Sale signs go up

EXT. - DAY LATER

Frederica rides through town in motorcycle. Goes through red light.

EXT. - DAY

Frederica at Allegheny College

EXT. - DAY

Men leave for war and signs go up for women

EXT. - DAY LATER

Allegheny Ludlum plant.

INT. - NIGHT

Plan for vandergrift. Mosher p.2

EXT. - - DAY

Famine in Ireland

EXT. - DAY

Apollo Mill

EXT. - NIGHT

Scotland George Mcurtry arrives

EXT. - NIGHT

Civil war begins

EXT. - NIGHT

Mcmurtry signs up for service.

EXT. - NIGHT

Levittown.

SCENE

Funeral of JJ Vandergrift.

SCENE

Italian family

SCENE

Dunmores Used car Service "I dun more than anyone

SCENE

Italian American wedding

1908

Immigrants begin arriving int own.

EXT. - DAY GRANT AVENUE

Workers are constructing stores and shops.

TARBELL

I met you at your father's office in Boston, when you were a freshman at Harvard. That's what piqued my interest in this place.

OLMSTED

How's that?

TARBELL

A mill town designed by the Nation's preeminent architectural firm.

MCMURTRY

A MILL TOWN indeed! This is not a MILL TOWN.

TARBELL

What is it then?

MCMURTRY

It is a town that will be a new unique experience with schools, parks, churches, ball fields, shopping...

TARBELL

(Interrupting) Built around a mill by a steel company. No mill, no town. Sounds like a fancy company town.

MCMURTRY

I BEG YOUR PARDON!

OLMSTED

Let me clarify, Miss Tarbell. This new concept of a town is near and dear to Mr. McMurtry and executives in the steel industry.

TARBELL

Some say the only thing near and dear to these folks is the almighty dollar. What's the story about?

MCMURTRY

Did you receive the notice from our public relations department.?

TARBELL

Releases from the steel and oil Companies go into the trash can.

MCMURTRY

Are you a spy from the labor unions?

TARBELL

You're one of the captains in the steel industry and have never seen my writings in McClures or Iron Age magazines?

MCMURTRY

I'm too busy making steel to do much reading.

OLMSTED

I loved your pieces on Napoleon Bonaparte.

MCMURTRY

Napoleon The savage. That's what you write about. What brings you HERE? Miss Tarbell?

TARBELL

Vandergrift.

MCMURTRY

Now we're speaking.

TARBELL

I like the idea. The first time anyone has mentioned a workers paradise as an incentive to workers.

MCMURTRY

Now you're talking.

TARBELL

And I intend to run a series for both McClures Magazine. That is why I am here.

MCMURTRY

You deserve a guided tour.

TARBELL

I accept.

MCMURTRY

A British delegation visit me to see this town. They want to adopt the idea in England. Have to get their ideas from a Scotch- Irishman. And now this young man wants to have his name removed from the credits.

OLMSTED

Mr. McMurtry!

TARBELL

Now why would your company want to remove it's name?

OLMSTED

Mr. Eliot thinks the plans have been too compromised the name of economy.

TARBELL

That would be sad indeed. Mr. Olmsted. You want to remove the OLMSTED name from this beautiful town of curvilinear streets, green spaces, and the first steel workers ever to aesthetically designed? You would remove your name from a lasting monument designed to help the working man. Some of your father's monuments to the wealthy have been much less graceful. Of course you can do what you want. This is my unsolicited opinion.

OLMSTED

I shall speak to Mr. Elliot and my father and ..

MCMURTRY

Off to complete the plans for the Sherman Inn. No more than one half an hour, young man.

OLMSTED

Yes, sir. (exits)

TARBELL

Plans in half an hour? Impossible!

MCMURTRY

You are invited to a dance at the Sherman inn on February 28.

TARBELL

I am busy that night.

MCMURTRY

Don't you want to meet some nice young man?

TARBELL

No.

MCMURTRY

Miss Tarbell, don't you want to meet and marry some nice man.

TARBELL

I am married to my work.

MCMURTRY

Have you ever fallen in love?

TARBELL

I fell in love with Paris.

MCMURTRY

Why didn't you marry this guy Paris?

TARBELL

I mean the city Paris.

MCMURTRY

Well you can't marry a city and have kids. You like Paris?

TARBELL

My heart belongs to Paris. And you?

MCINTYRE

Was there once. Never again. The people smell, the Eifel Tower is useless, and they still like that pot-bellied Napoleon. How did a nice woman like you become a journalist.

TARBELL

Once I thought I could not reconstruct the world because I AM A WOMAN. And then I decided that I could reconstruct the world because I AM A WOMAN. .

MCMURTRY

Ah, a feminist and a suffragette.

TARBELL

You're half right. (Pointing to the three portraits on the wall). I see you have a portrait of President Lincoln. I am currently writing his biography.

MCMURTRY

Indeed! You write biographies of both Bonaparte and Lincoln. The worst and the best. Lincoln saved our country.

I was here but three years when as a young man of twenty three, enlisted in the American Army to save the union and free the Negroes. A good man.

TARBELL

And the other four felons?

MCMURTRY

Felons! You call John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and Jacob J. Vandergrift felons!

TARBELL

Rockefeller has committed the most massive grand larceny in U.S. history.

MCMURTRY

You like that no good Napoleon Bonaparte, and you call John D. Rockefeller a thief!

TARBELL

The oil snake dealers son is a m predator to boot. He destroyed his competitors, including my father, and gouged the American public.

MCMURTRY

Your wrong, but what does that have to do with this town.

TARBELL

You named this town after his henchman.

MCMURTRY

Henchman! Captain Jacob J. Vandergrift merely worked for John D. ...

TARBELL

Vandergrift was the chief predator in forcing honest small independent oil drillers like my father and other friends from Titusville to sell out. In fact your sweet JJ helped JD defraud his own brothers.

MCINTYRE

Vandergrift is in the steel business now a philanthropist. And the Carnegie and Frick?

TARBELL

Have you forgotten the Homestead strike.

MCMURTRY

The strikers got what they deserved.

TARBELL

We differ.

MCMURTRY

Rockefeller is a fine Baptist.

TARBELL

He is a Baptist. But he is not fine.

MCMURTRY

He has given millions to Baptist and other charitable causes.

TARBELL

Shame on the Baptists.

MCMURTRY

Fine people they are. I say this as a Presbyterian. And you? A Methodist?

TARBELL

I'm a (beat) biol-o-gist.

MCMURTRY

So you're a non-believer?

TARBELL

Giving up heaven wasn't easy. Came to me during my sophomore year at Allegheny College where I majored in biology.

MCMURTRY

You're a smart gal but we gotta straighten your head out.

TARBELL

And you "gotta" stop cavorting with skunks.

MCMURTRY

Skunks! The Pittsburgh newspapers say of Captain Vandergrift that his entire life is marked by strict integrity and honesty of both principle and practice.

TARBELL

They know where their bread is buttered.

MCMURTRY

They also say he has been generous to his church and philanthropic causes.

TARBELL

Has Philanthropist Vandergrift ever visited Vandergrift?

MCMURTRY

He is a busy man. Even today.

TARBELL

Busy philanthropizing?

MCMURTRY

Perhaps.

TARBELL

I'm sure he is either in bed or playing golf.

Olmsted enters the room.

OLMSTED

Here are the initial drawings.

MCMURTRY

Let me see. Perfect. You can do the specs on your train ride to Pittsburgh. And here is your check.

OLMSTED

You made a mistake. The check is for \$500.

MCMURTRY

A bonus for doing it in half the time. Now hurry. Or you'll miss your train.

OLMSTED

Miss Tarbell, I hear you are writing a history of the Standard Oil Company. When will it be finished?

TARBELL

Years. I am doing very careful research.

OLMSTED

Good luck.

Telephone rings.

MCMURTRY

So you're now investigating Rockefeller?
Perhaps you can accompany our Boston
visitor to the door.

Tarbell and Olmsted exit.

MCMURTRY

Hello....JJ, I'm so glad you called
.....Ever hear of Ida Tarbell?.....Are
you still there?What does she want?
She's doing a story on the town....I
know...I agree. She's hell on
wheels.....What can I DO?.....MURDER
Her?....I can't....Why not?Because,
I'm a good Presbyterian....Then , STOP
being a good Presbyterian? ... Short of
murder, what do I do with this Miss
TARHELL? Sweeten her up?....Sounds
good. Here she comes. I'll talk later.

TARBELL

I am ready for the tour. Shall we begin.

MCMURTRY

(taking her arm) Perhaps I spoke too
soon. I think we should have an
examination of Rockefeller's domination
of the oil market.

TARBELL

Let's get back to Vandergrift. A town
built for workers. It seems to good to
be true. Some say the town was created to
destroy labor unions.

MCMURTRY

That's right. Unions will destroy the
steel industry and this country. Happy
workers who own their own homes in a nice
setting and earn good money will not be
swallowed up by labor unions.

TARBELL

So then the reports are true?

MCMURTRY

Absolutely.

TARBELL

But the I received two letters that were
disconcerting.

MCMURTRY

Like what.

TARBELL

One said that there is a sign separating Vandergrift from East Vandergrift saying "Pollocks and stray dogs not welcome."

MCMURTRY

I would never put up one of those signs.

TARBELL

The second said "if you don't buy our lots, you don't need to work in our mill"

MCMURTRY

I have no idea what this is all about. On the other hand I can't control what every single resident of this town says and does. We live in a democracy.

TARBELL

Do any Poles work here.

MCMURTRY

As few as possible. Unlike other foreigners they want to be unionized. There's no ethnic discrimination, however.

TARBELL

And Jews?

MCMURTRY

The more the merrier. We need merchants. My friend Izzy Rubin will be opening a clothing store, and more are coming. I'll even build them a synagog if enough come.

TARBELL

Interesting indeed.

MCMURTRY

Of course, in Belfast being a Jew is not what counts. What's important is whether you're a Protestant Jew or a Catholic Jew. Protestant Jews are of a much huger order than Catholic Jews.

TARBELL

And Negroes.

MCMURTRY

Very welcome. They make excellent strike breakers. Remember, I fought to free them from slavery.

TARBELL

So all are welcome except Poles.

MCMURTRY

This plant will employ five thousand workers. I like Ellis Island, but I will do whatever it takes to destroy labor unions.

TARBELL

Meaning?

MCMURTRY

We need workers.

TARBELL

So Ellis Island is your way to break the unions.

MCMURTRY

Opening our doors to the hungry and the needy is American. Labor unions are not. Let us first view the map? Any questions?

TARBELL

I think it is charming that the streets are named after Presidents, poets, and Statesmen.

MCMURTRY

My wife's idea.

TARBELL

But you named the main street after Ulysses Grant.

MCMURTRY

Our finest President.

TARBELL

A drunk at best.

MCMURTRY

The man who saved the Nation. I fought under him to save this country.

TARBELL

You name the town after a thief and the main street after a drunk? Nice beginnings.

MCMURTRY

What should I have named this town. Napoleon-ville!

TARBELL

Of course not but..

MCMURTRY

Or call the main street after that French pervert, what's his name? ...Voltaire!

TARBELL

Mr. McMurtry. You have a myopic view of things.

MCMURTRY

What does myopic mean?

TARBELL

Little.

MCMURTRY

Because I won't name my streets after French dictators and perverts? You have too much education! Maybe your head's too big. Try to make your head myopic. Do you object to Washington, Jefferson, and Madison Avenues?

TARBELL

Our founding fathers. It's a brilliant idea.

MCMURTRY

So you like slaveholders? Means you like slavery.

TARBELL

McMurtry, you're irascible. Of course...

MCMURTRY

Ha! Ida M. Tarbell loves slavery.

TARBELL

Nonsense. And you know it. I noticed many churches have already been built.

MCMURTRY

I want more. That's why we only have two policeman.

TARBELL

What's one got to do with the other?

MCMURTRY

Everything. The more churches you have, the fewer policeman you need.

TARBELL

Does this mean that if you build two more churches you won't need any police at all?

MCMURTRY

Stop being a smart-alec.

TARBELL

Well if what you say holds, Rome with all of its churches should be the safest city in the world . I had two handbags stolen there.

MCMURTRY

That's Rome. Not Vandergrift.

TARBELL

Is it also true that Churches here are not permitted to have bells?

MCMURTRY

That's right. We have thousands of men working three shifts. I don't want my workers losing any sleep.

TARBELL

Well if your workers don't have to go to church won't they become criminals.

MCMURTRY

God wants workers to get their sleep.

TARBELL

So that means only women and children, as potential criminals need to go to church. This is a strange town indeed.

MCMURTRY

Maybe you should begin going to church again.

TARBELL

I'm not a criminal.

Jack Dunmore, mid-twenties, appears at the door.

DUNMORE

Ah, my fellow Scotch-Irishman, George McMurtry himself is here.

MCMURTRY

What are you doing in my office, you useless union rabble rouser?

DUNMORE

I came for a social visit. Some Scotch?

MCMURTRY

Dunmore, you're drunk! There's one thing worse than an Irish drunk, and that's a Scotch-Irish drunk.

DUNMORE

Who's the fine lady? Or is she one of your own ladies.

MCMURTRY

Ida Mae Tarbell. Show respect.

DUNMORE

Management's flower girl?

MCMURTRY

I'll break every bone in your body.

DUNMORE

You and who else, old man. (Pulls out Sign) Look what the Amalgamated Union found at Ellis Island. Read it in six languages. Translated: "Come to Vandergrift. Many Jobs." You're trying to ruin unions.

MCMURTRY

We're trying to help the Statue of Liberty, that's all. Lend me your poor...

DUNMORE

You're inviting immigrants.

MCMURTRY

That's right. So what. Aren't you an immigrant too, like me.

DUNMORE

So what! So you think you're better than me?

MCMURTRY

I do.

DUNMORE

You think I have no worth!

MCMURTRY

That is correct. You have no worth.

David, McIntyre, and Whitworth rush into the room

DUNMORE

Go fuck yourself.

MCMURTRY

You're fired.

DUNMORE

Kiss my...

MCMURTRY

I said you're fired.

The three men grab Dunmore and drag him from the room.

DUNMORE

And remember this King George!
Vandergrift will someday be an all-union town.

MCMURTRY

Not in my day.

Whitworth and McIntyre drag Dunmore off.

ARCHIE

Shall I make out one week's severance pay.

MCMURTRY

No. DOCK one week's pay. He's been drinking on the job.

ARCHIE

We've had reports to that effect.

MCMURTRY

Off to the coal mines he goes, if they'll have him.

ARCHIE

As you say, sir. (exits)

TARBELL

Maybe you should close down a few churches and hire a few more policemen.

MCMURTRY

Perhaps we need even more churches.

TARBELL

I think Mr. Dunmore needs some human compassion. I think he feels inadequate.

MCMURTRY

That's because HE is inadequate. Any comments on the town.

TARBELL

It's a delightful town. But one change.

MCMURTRY

What's that?

TARBELL

Some say the town needs a new founder.

MCMURTRY

Isn't that like asking Columbus to find someone else to discover America.

TARBELL

Ya' got me. I'm surprised mean you actually landed on Ellis Island?

MCMURTRY

I didn't swim across the Atlantic.
(beat) Good luck on your Vandergrift story for Iron Age. The publishers are my friends and colleagues.

TARBELL

But this is for McClures, and they are not your friends and colleagues

MCMURTRY

Write what you wish. And remember one thing, Tarbell. One day, long after I'm gone, the Dunmores will have their way and that will be the beginning of the end of the Steel Industry. And maybe the town.

TARBELL

Time will tell.

MCMURTRY

But I'll be looking down from heaven.

TARBELL

Let us begin our tour. I want to see the rest of this beautiful city and its curvilinear streets.

MCMURTRY

Please take my arm. Miss Tarbell.

TARBELL

Mr. McMurtry. I admit, I ain't perfect.

MCMURTRY

You know, Miss Tarbell, I admit. I ain't perfect either.

INT SHERMAN INN BALLROOM FEBRUARY 28 1897

THIRTY COUPLES dance around the floor. McMurtry does a lively dance with MRS. GEORGE MCMURTRY, late thirties. Ida Tarbell watches from a side entrance and is noticed by McMurtry. He stops dancing and walks towards her.

MCMURTRY

Miss Tarbell! What a pleasant surprise. You come unannounced again. But welcome indeed.

TARBELL

I came to write a story about this long planned inn.

MCMURTRY

We're behind schedule. The curtains have not yet arrived. The Mrs. insisted that they come from England. Pittsburgh curtains are fine with me.

MRS. MCMURTRY

Pleased to meet you Miss. Tarbell.

MCMURTRY

May I have this dance with Miss Tarbell, dear.

MRS. MCMURTRY

By all means.

She gives Tarbell a hard look.

MCMURTRY

Archie. Can you dance with Mrs. McMurtry.
And then you, Whitworth. And then you,
McIntyre.

Archie begins dancing with Mrs. McMurtry who seems to be displeased. McMurtry and Tarbell begin dancing.

TARBELL

You dance well, Mr. McMurtry.

MCMURTRY

Are you pleased with the Sherman Inn?

TARBELL

I noticed no workers here.

MCMURTRY

They don't know how to dance and

TARBELL

(interrupting)

I thought this was a worker's town.

MCMURTRY

Why don't you have them come into your
Park Avenue apartment.

TARBELL

That was not built as a worker's
paradise.

MCMURTRY

Hey Archie. Go and find an Italian
steelworker for this woman to dance with.

TARBELL

Mr. McMurtry, you are a crude Scot.

MCMURTRY

Make that three Italians, two Irish,
and..

Tarbell rushes out of the dance hall, while onlookers
whisper. McMurtry runs after her.

FADE TO:

EXT. SHERMAN AVENUE

SNOW covers the ground. SNOWFLAKES fall. FIRE gushes from the steel plant. Tarbell runs out followed by McMurtry. She stops. The Open Hearth blows a large blast of fire. The street is deserted

TARBELL

Leave me alone.

MCMURTRY

You have a temper lady.

TARBELL

I must go.

MCMURTRY

You came the whole way from

TARBELL

You embarrassed me.

MCMURTRY

Come and dance.

TARBELL

I will never see you again. I am leaving in the morning.

She runs off.

WORLD'S FAIR ST. LOUIS 1904

VAST PANORAMA OF THE ST. LOUIS FAIR. Colorful OUTFITS.
A model of the town of Vandergrift

ARCHIE (O.S.)

Hey McIntyre, Jamie. Look at what Ida Tarbell says about Vandergrift: .

TARBELL (O.S.)

"McClure's Magazine. Winter Issue, 1897. Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. A town of homes and gardens may well become the world's most beautiful industrial city in the world. George McMurtry has proved that good homes make good workmen.

ARCHIE (O.S.)

And the rest of the story gets even better. You never know what to expect.

WHITWORTH (O.S.)

This note to the old man might explain some things:

TARBELL (O.S.)

"Mr. McMurtry: The namesake is flawed. The town is not. I love Vandergrift. Perhaps you ARE a good Presbyterian. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. You have ventured much, you have gained much. Society has won. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. You're tough. I have learned not to judge a book by its cover.. Sincerely, MISS IDA MAE TARBELL."

ARCHIE

Seems like a change of heart.

WHITWORTH

Or...I maybe she just knows where her bread is butter, after all.

EXT. - DAY, RAILROAD STATION, TEN YEARS LATER

Elbert Gary(fifties), McMurtry, Whitworth, ARCHIE,McIntyre are waiting at the Vandergrift Train depot. A short distance away, Whitworth and Carolyn Townsend(twenties), carrying a floral bouquet, are holding hands.

MCMURTRY

What, oh what, am I doing here! We have work to do.

GARY

Now, now. George. We await the most powerful journalist in America. We should adopt the attitude that what is good for US. Steel is good for its management, and what is good for its management is good for US. Steel. As President of US. Steel , I too have a busy schedule.

MCMURTRY

If you want to wait for Tarhell, you can. But why drag me into it.

GARY

Because she loves YOUR city. And now comes back for a return visit. Hopefully she will be as kind in this write-up as she was in the last one. And please don't call her Tarhell. After all Miss Tarbell did... in the vernacular..kick John D. Rockefeller in the balls. It's only a matter of time before the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey is dissolved. Do you want her to do likewise to us.

MCMURTRY

She did kick us. The History of the Standard Oil Company has many unkind references to Captain JJ Vandergrift, may his soul rest in peace. Surely he is in heaven.

GARY

Perhaps. (beat) But all she said was that and as one of JD Rockefeller's, partners he was indicted by a grand jury for price fixing , helped drive independent oil drillers out of the oil business, and a few other unsavory practices.

MCMURTRY

He was found not guilty! JJ Vandergrift. She speaks of a saint, a Protestant saint.

GARY

More or less. (Beat) Well, a Protestant certainly. A saint, well we just don't know about. Now do you want her to do to US Steel what she did to Standard Oil? It could only be a matter of time before she does the same to us.

You know our enemies in the press and the judiciary system want nothing more than to break us up. Now remember what my mother also told me.. You can attract more bees with sugar than you can with vinegar.

MCMURTRY

You're doing an about face.

GARY

Mother also taught me that if you can't fight em join em. Also there's the matter of my biography. She would make a worthy biographer.

MCMURTRY

Biographer! They named the city of Gary, Indiana after you, what more do you want? Perhaps a state named after you. Like Gary, USA.

GARY

You know, McMurtry, the board of US Steel has many members who would like to ring your neck. I am not one of those people. Often we disagree, and sometimes you are right, sometimes you are not. You have an independent streak which brings out the worst in people. Now, I will admit that had gone bonkers when you decided to build a paradise for workers, but now I see you were right. Being the darling of the St. Louis World Fair and all the worldwide acclaim has done US Steel no harm. But let us not undo what you worked so hard to accomplish.

The train arrives

MCMURTRY

At last.

ARCHIE

Carolyn, be ready with the flowers.

The train stops, but no passengers exit.

MCMURTRY

A no show. Time to get back to the office.

ARCHIE

Maybe she's already here. There's a Minerva Bell and a Fred Holmes who registered at the Sherman Inn, separate rooms of course. And they've been going through town, and the townspeople say that this Bell woman has been asking all types of snoopy questions.

MCMURTRY

TARBELL is here. I knew it.

Tarbell and Olmsted suddenly appear.

GARY

Miss Tarbell, you come at last. And what a pleasant surprise. You arrive a day early.

TARBELL

Am I being welcomed by none less than the President of the US Steel Corporation.

GARY

The pleasure is totally mine...ours. Right George?

TARBELL

We meet again.

MCMURTRY

We meet again.

TARBELL

And you remember, Mr. Olmsted.

GARY

Mr. Olmsted, thank you for designing our town.

OLMSTED

I loved sleeping at the Inn I designed a decade ago.

GARY

How delightful. The idea was totally mine. You must have spent a long time in drawing up the plans.

OLMSTED

Weeks and months.

MCMURTRY

You see the town a decade later. Are you happy with the results, Junior?.

OLMSTED

Much so, sir.

MCMURTRY

And to think you almost removed the Olmsted and Eliot names. How is this son of Harvard's President.

OLMSTED

Oh, you don't know about the tragedy! He suddenly died of spinal meningitis in 1899. His father, in addition to remaining Harvard's president, does what must be the most dreadful thing for a man to do. Write his dead son's biography.

MCMURTRY

Sorry to hear that? And you Miss Tarhell..I mean Miss Tarbell.

TARBELL

I heard you right the first time. So nice to meet again, Mr. McMurtry.

GARY

And Miss Tarbell, I must commend you on your outstanding work on the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Price fixing is a dreadful thing.

TARBELL

I agree.

GARY

That is why we at US. Steel are so upset about the allegations that...

TARBELL

But now I am here to visit Vandergrift.

TOWNSEND

Miss Tarbell, these flowers are from the people of Vandergrift.

TARBELL

Now who is this lovely young lady.

WHITWORTH

This is Carolyn Townsend. About to be Mrs. James Whitworth.

TARBELL

How lovely. Like the Townsend farm.

TOWNSEND

My grandfather.

TARBELL

I always say that the family is at the core of American life. And only the American woman can keep the family together.

TOWNSEND

You shall have to visit our home often.

GARY

I must now be off. May we give you a lift to Pittsburgh. You may wish to stay at the DUQUESNE Club as my guest.

TARBELL

No, I will stay at the Sherman Inn. Mr. Olmsted may accept your invitation. I will spend another day here.

GARY

As you wish. Mr. Olmsted will be my guest. And can you drop by my office sometime. Our company needs your services to prepare some biographical material.

TARBELL

I shall be pleased to stop by. In the meantime I shall meet with Mr. McMurry and Burgess McIntyre. .

Olmsted , Gary and all others exit.

MCMURTRY

Ten years is a long time. What has your snooping uncovered?

TARBELL

Much.

MCMURTRY

Like the job on JJ.

TARBELL

The portrayal was fair and balanced. Even Mr. Rockefeller agrees.

MCMURTRY
Fair and balanced!

TARBELL
I only reported court findings and facts.

MCMURTRY
Shall we change the subject. What will your report on Vandergrift say this time?

TARBELL
Now I am writing for Iron Age Magazine. But my writing is always fair and balanced.

MCMURTRY
Look up on the hill/ Do you see the Casino Theatre. The Municipal Center

TARBELL
Looks fine.

MCINTYRE
That's all you have to say?

TARBELL
I like it.

MCMURTRY
That's all.

TARBELL
I've seen pictures before.

MCINTYRE
And does it look like the Acropolis

TARBELL
It looks like a Scotch Irish Acropolis.

MCMURTRY
Even better. MY Scottish Acropolis.

Bells begin ringing

TARBELL
The bells are ringing. They will awaken your workers. You'd better go and arrest the offending priest

MCMURTRY
Catholics always do it their own way. Now we're at the Municipal center.

It's all there. The jail, the library, the mayor's office, the Casino Theatre, Council Chambers, all in one package.

TARBELL

Well at least the Catholics will have fewer criminals.

MCMURTRY

Back to my Scottish Irish Municipal center.

TARBELL

Unique indeed. So you mean someone can get out of jail, then go to the library? Then visit city council, and then do some shopping.

MCMURTRY

A convenient town, as they say.

Dunmore appears.

MCINTYRE

Mr. Dunmore? What are you doing in this fine town?

DUNMORE

I live here now.

MCMURTRY

Who let you in?

DUNMORE

My lovely bride and her father. Ellen and John Painter.

MCINTYRE

My finest steam roller. How would he allow his daughter to marry you!

DUNMORE

He welcomed me with open arms shall we say. He insisted on it...if you know what I mean. Ellen and I decided to start a family earlier than we thought. And she doesn't want to leave her mother. You know what these Vandergrift girls are like.

MCMURTRY

Remember that this is a non-union town.

DUNMORE

That might change. You see I work for the CIO...out of New Kensington.

MCMURTRY

We've beat the unions twice. This is a non union town.

DUNMORE

These poor underpaid folks from Vandergrift know all that. Is this Miss Ida Tarbell again? THE Muckraker. After ten years absence! Let me welcome you to this fine town. Union guys all love you. You exposed Rockefeller...and Captain Vandergrift.

MCMURTRY

Be on you way!

DUNMORE

Remember Miss Tarbell. Your work is not done til you do the same to these steel guys.

MCINTYRE

On your way!

DUNMORE

Just a joke, ole boy. What type of Scottish fellas are you.

MCINTYRE

Honest and straight.

DUNMORE

Me too. I now reckon I'll become more civic minded, not that I live in the worker's paradise.

MCMURTRY

A good sign, indeed.

DUNMORE

Maybe I someday run for city council. Burgess McIntyre here needs help. I love this town. Even if it's named after a thief, like Miss Tarbell says. (laughs)

TARBELL

No thief. I was fair and balanced. Mr. Rockefeller, with the able assistance of water boat Captain Vandergrift, developed the American oil industry.

Their ways may have been questionable,
but they committed no crime.

DUNMORE

You said they was indicted.

TARBELL

But not convicted.

DUNMORE

Where there's smoke, there's fire, like
my mother in Belfast says. Now I must be
on my way. My baby's to be born
tomorrow.

MCMURTRY

Now be one your way. And behave
yourself.

DUNMORE

Have a fine day, and long live the...
Union. (exits)

MCMURTRY

(with lips) Bastard!

TARBELL

Don't say it.

MCMURTRY

And now, Miss Tarbell, you spoke of the
Scottish Acropolis. Here you have
something Greek.

TARBELL

A church?

MCMURTRY

The first Greek Orthodox church in the
Commonwealth.

TARBELL

I am impressed indeed. And now I noticed
two cemeteries when I entered the town.

MCINTYRE

One Catholic. They want their own
cemetery. Don't want to be tainted by
other folks.

TARBELL

And the other?

MCINTYRE

For other folks. Protestants, non believers, throw-away Catholics.

TARBELL

Throw-away Catholics?

MCMURTRY

Those that haven't bellied up to the priest when they were alive.

TARBELL

The townspeople say you, the burgess, and the other ministers met with Father Wirtner.

MCINTYRE

We did. A cordial meeting.

TARBELL

Any hypocrisy?

MCMURTRY

How could it be a cordial meeting if there wasn't any hypocrisy. They go hand in hand. But I did offer them 15000 dollars for the construction of their St. Gertrude's Church. And they promised not to ring their bells.

TARBELL

This has got to be the only town in the world where churches are not supposed to ring their bells.

MCMURTRY

Why did you have to snoop around the town?

TARBELL

That's my job.

MCMURTRY

You think I would lie.

TARBELL

Of course not. But I have to get other perspectives.

MCMURTRY

Ask me whatever you want.

TARBELL

Why is the 14 foot fence still up?

MCINTYRE

We tore it down. But the townspeople put it back up.

TARBELL

And look at this. (Pulls out sign from her bag) "Pollocks and stray dogs not welcome"

MCINTYRE

A shame that those signs are still up.

TARBELL

Can you hire more police to tear them down?

MCMURTRY

We are not living in a police state.

TARBELL

This is the only town I have ever visited with a fourteen foot fence and offensive signs like this one.

MCMURTRY

Perhaps you're not searching enough.

Church bells ringing three times

TARBELL

Did Father Wirtner break the treaty. Will you penalize the church by \$15000.

MCMURTRY

Down to \$12000!

Bell rings three more times

MCMURTRY (cont'd)

\$9000!

Bell rings three more times.

MCMURTRY

\$6000.

TARBELL

They stopped. A nine thousand dollar penalty for ringing church bells. Newspapers across the country will love this. I can see the headlines: "Steel tycoon penalizes church for ringing bells."

MCMURTRY

I speak with tongue in cheek. You do not know Scottish people.

TARBELL

Maybe a little less hypocrisy next time.

MCMURTRY

That would mean less cordiality too.

MCINTYRE

M-m-m. I just remembered something. I heard Dunmore just converted with his marriage and all that.

MCMURTRY

Good riddens?

MCINTYRE

He's in charge of the bells at St. Gertrude's.

MCMURTRY

BASTARD!

EXT. - DAY VANDERGRIFT, IN FRONT OF THE CASINO THEATRE, 1915

Tarbell, McMurtry, Whitworth, Townsend, and McIntyre stand before a marquee which reads Marquee reads "VANDERGRIFT, HAPPY TWENTIETH." A covered canvass stands nearby.

TOWNSEND

We are dying to see what is beneath the canvass.

MCMURTRY

Curiosity killed the cat. We must wait for Olmsted to arrive from Pittsburgh.

TOWNSEND

The train must be running late. Vandergrift is twenty years old tomorrow.

ARCHIE

And people are grumbling because they can not see their silent films at the Casino Theatre for two days.

MCINTYRE

But they have the esteemed internationally known journalist MISS IDA TARBELL to help us celebrate!

TARBELL

I have come to love this town and its people.

MCINTYRE

How many dinner invitations have you received?

TARBELL

About a dozen. Could only accept two?

WHITWORTH

Surely you will dine with Caroline and I this evening.

TARBELL

Why of course. I savor seeing the two children.

TOWNSEND

Is it true that John D. Rockefeller not only held a door open for you, but actually ordered a cab for you in New York City?

TARBELL

Mr. Rockefeller is a very kind man.

TOWNSEND

And how often have president and Mrs. Wilson invited you to the White House?

TARBELL

Not worth mentioning.

TOWNSEND

Six times for official state dinners, and twice for interviews, is what the Pittsburg newspapers reported.

MCMURTRY

The suffragettes must be suffering when they read that.

TARBELL

Is that Mr. Olmsted I see in the distance?

MCINTYRE

With Elbert Gary?

TARBELL

What a surprise to see Dear Elbert and Mr. Olmsted.

MCMURTRY

Dear Elbert? Are you writing his autobiography?

TARBELL

Just some preliminary work on the US Steel Company and as it's president.

ARCHIE

I had no idea Gary was coming. He was invited but never responded.

MCMURTRY

Olmsted, welcome. Seems like you hired an expensive chauffeur.

GARY

Ida, so pleasant to see you here.

MCMURTRY

What brings the President of US Steel to our town? Twice in less than ten years.

GARY

Our joint venture-- Vandergrift. I personally picked up Mr. Olmsted at the Pittsburgh railroad station and we have travelled here by automobile. My new Ford.

MCMURTRY

Then you shall see the latest work by Mr. Olmsted.

OLMSTED

Shall we lift the curtain?

MCMURTRY

No need to lose time. Please draw the curtain, Caroline.

She draws the curtain revealing a large mausoleum which resembles the Casino Theatre.

OLMSTED

It's a mausoleum!

ARCHIE
Resembling the Casino Theatre.

OLMSTED
And not bad.

GARY
Whose is it?

MCMURTRY
Mine.

ALL
Yours?

TARBELL
Are you planning an imminent departure of
some kind?

MCMURTRY
We all have a departure of some kind. We
just never know when.

GARY
I thought surely you would have wanted a
simple headstone.

MCMURTRY
I want my mausoleum to reflect me, and
the design which Olmsted here made.

GARY
(Smiling devilishly) How about a steel
mill?

MCMURTRY
That's not my lasting legacy. It's the
municipal center that faces the plant.

GARY
Well you are to be commended.

MCMURTRY
Mr. Olmsted. What do you think of the
town you designed twenty years ago?

OLMSTED
It's lovely.

MCMURTRY
What do you really think?

OLMSTED

Well the town is filled with smoke and fog.

MCMURTRY

It's actually good for you.

OLMSTED

I believe it can be harmful to the environment.

MCMURTRY

What's that?

OLMSTED

The air we breath, the destruction of the atmosphere.

MCMURTRY

So how are we to become the most powerful nation on earth?

OLMSTED

That's a separate issue. You asked about the town.

MCMURTRY

Well you don't like the air and the smoke. Anything else?

OLMSTED

The municipal center faces the mill. This still bothers me.

MCMURTRY

That's the towns bread and butter. WE are now the world's largest steel producing plant

OLMSTED

True. But I had to point out what I thought was negative. On the overall, you town has been a success. Grant Avenue is a delight.

MCMURTRY

Miss Tarbell once called the Municipal Center the Scottish-Irish Acropolis. Do you agree?

OLMSTED

Not quite. I thank that the Casino Theatre with all of its soot actually looks more like the Kiski Acropolis.

This way you combine the Greek architecture with the historic origins of the town.

MCMURTRY

Mmm. I never thought of that.

Suddenly a chorus of demonstrators is heard.

DEMONSTRATORS (O.S.)

We want unions. We want unions.

MCMURTRY

Dunmore's people.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATORS

(O.S.)

We love Vandergrift.

TARBELL

McMurtry's people.

DEMONSTRATORS (O.S.)

Kiss our but.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATORS

Leave Vandergrift.

DEMONSTRATORS

Higher wages! Better working conditions.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATORS

Communists!

Police sirens are heard.

MCMURTRY

Arrest the Union demonstrators for disturbing the peace.

MCINTYRE

Immediately.

MCMURTRY

One thing you were right about, Miss Tarbell.

TARBELL

Yes.

MCMURTRY

More churches don't necessarily mean fewer police.

The bell begins ringing

EXT. - DAY GRANT AVENUE, 1925

Whitworth lawn. Store Signs reading Manganello's Fruits, Rubin's, Peggy Ann Shop , Sweet Lane, Ross Drug Store, Altmire's, can be seen. Ida, Caroline, and James are seated on swings. Flapper music is heard in the background

TARBELL

Are both children now in college. ?

CAROLYN

Henry at Allegheny, Ann at Washington and Jefferson. .

TARBELL

Time flies. Can it really be thirty years since the founding of the town?

CAROLYN

Yes. And surely George McMurtry is looking down from somewhere in that great beyond and must be pleased by what he sees. A high school, a town of twenty thousand, and 5000 employees at the US Steel plant. Of course the smoke, the rise of the labor unions, and Dunmore beyond city council chairman could not please.

TARBELL

I regretfully missed his funeral. President Wilson insisted that I chair one of his committees that day.

CAROLYN

We went to New York for the funeral. Over a thousand people attend .a conference.

TARBELL

I paid my respects at Valhalla cemetery, and the Mausoleum of the Casino Theatre is truly impressive.

CAROLYN

Archie, James, and the Burgess accompanied the body from Atlantic City to New York.

His last words were that his living legacy would be the town he created. And what you have done for the town is remarkable.

TARBELL

The town I once visited as subject material for an article is now a place near and dear to me. All the families I have come to know on a personal basis. I have always said that families take first priority, and that is what our American lifestyle is all about.

CAROLYN

Well so nice of you to testify at tonight's Council hearing.

WHITWORTH

It's outrageous that ten years after his death we still do not have a monument of any kind to the memory of George McMurtry.

TARBELL

Hopefully tonight will change that.

WHITWORTH

Dunmore is now city council chair.

TARBELL

Surely he will respect the dead.

WHITWORTH

He does. But one exception.

CAROLYN

Let us think of more pleasant things. Shall we take a walk up Grant Avenue to see the newest stores which have opened. I must make a few calls first.

WHITWORTH

And I must go back to the office.

TARBELL

I would love to swing for a while.

Carolyn and Whitworth exit. The music gets louder and cars go by the street. Horns are honking. Tarbell begins fanning herself. Suddenly George McMurtry appears.

MCMURTRY

Hello, Ida Mae.

TARBELL

A ghost!

MCMURTRY

Don't use that word. It sounds too ghoulish.

TARBELL

But you died ten years ago.

MCMURTRY

I am well aware of that.

TARBELL

Then who are you.

MCMURTRY

I'm George McMurtry. Either real or in your mind. Now quiet down. You are the only person who can see me. And if you lips move too much, people might think you're crazy.

TARBELL

Well what are you doing here!

MCMURTRY

I came to see you. We still have some reckoning to do. Does the town work?

TARBELL

Of course it does.

MCMURTRY

But is it different from any other mill town.

TARBELL

You once told me never to use that term.

MCMURTRY

I was hoping you would say it IS different from any other mill town.

TARBELL

It is. And we don't need to hash that over again. But I have questions to ask you. Where are you.

MCMURTRY

I'm here.

TARBELL
I know that, but tell me what it's like.

MCMURTRY
My lips are sealed.

TARBELL
Please.

MCMURTRY
I can discuss your world. I am forbidden
to discuss my world.

TARBELL
Please.

MCMURTRY
My lips are sealed.

TARBELL
Are you in heaven?

MCMURTRY
You now believe in heave? Interesting.

TARBELL
Well tell me.

MCMURTRY
My lips are sealed. But I'll give you a
hint.

TARBELL
Please.

MCMURTRY
Become a good Presbyterian.

TARBELL
That means...

MCMURTRY
Don't try to second guess.

TARBELL
And President Wilson?

MCMURTRY
Snoopy Ida! My lips are sealed!

TARBELL
Please...

MCMURTRY

Ask once more and you will never see me again!

TARBELL

ANSWER ME. Are you there or in my mind!

MCMURTRY

You don't know? Ha. You're a disappointment to me, Ida Mae.

TARBELL

What! Why!

MCMURTRY

You sold yourself.

TARBELL

Me! Never!

MCMURTRY

You slew John D. Rockefeller and you set up Elbert Gary for adoration in that dumb biography.

TARBELL

I was fair and balanced!

MCMURTRY

And the newspapers had a field day on you! "St. Elbert of the Clouds" they said.

TARBELL

Drop dead!

MCMURTRY

I am dead!

TARBELL

Then drop dead again!

MCMURTRY

Have you visited my mausoleum.

TARBELL

I have and that's why I am here tonight. To put up a lasting memorial to you.

MCMURTRY

No need. The town is my memorial.

TARBELL
Jack Dunmore is now City Council
chairman.

MCMURTRY
What scum!

TARBELL
We may succeed.

MCMURTRY
Don't bet on it.

Vandergrift Council Chambers. Dark.

DEMONSTRATORS (O.S.)
Yes. Yes. Yes.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATORS
(O.S.)
No! No! No!

MCINTYRE
Now comes the question of a memorial to
George W. McMurtry, which some of you on
this council have long awaited. Mr.
Dunmore will give his report.

DUNMORE
Mr. Mayor and members of Council. The
committee has worked hard on this project
and we have voted 4 to 3 to postpone any
action at this time.

ARCHIE
This is the fourth time action has been
postponed.

DUNMORE
We can act too precipitously.

ARCHIE
Is a statue to the town's founder out of
our reach.

DUNMORE
We have no funds.

ARCHIE
Our treasury is filled.

DUNMORE
We have schools to build, fire
departments to assist, and so on

WHITWORTH

Private funds can be raised.

DUNMORE

That is out of the question. We have no space to put such a statue. Also, union members are opposed to a statue.

WHITWORTH

How about naming a street after him.

DUNMORE

What street?

WHITWORTH

How about Holland Street.

DUNMORE

Holland street. Holland is my favorite country.

ARCHIE

Most of the residents are Italian.

DUNMORE

All the more reason not to change the name of the street. The Dutch love the Italians and the Italians love the Dutch.

ARCHIE

I wasn't aware of that. In fact, I've spoken to some of the residents and none objected to a name change.

DUNMORE

Holland Street has some liars living there. You must have spoken to some of the liars.

WHITWORTH

Mr. Chairman, I must point out that Holland Street was not named after the country but the writer. Are you familiar with his work.

DUNMORE

I knew that. He's one of my favorite novelists. All the more reason not to name the street.

WHITWORTH

Oh, you've read his works.

DUNMORE

Yes.

WHITWORTH

Which ones.

DUNMORE

I can't recall. What is this a trial.

WHITWORTH

Are you willing to abandon any lasting memorial to the man who built this town?

DUNMORE

No. I do have a solution. How about naming the alley behind Holland Avenue after him.

MCINTYRE

An alley? That runs by the town dump.

DUNMORE

We can call it McMurtry's Court. If I can get my committee to go along with it.

MCINTYRE

Absolutely not.

DUNMORE

Then I have another idea. Perhaps we can name the city dump after him.

MCINTYRE

The Dump!

DUNMORE

A dump is very important to Vandergrift. How would you like to have a town without a place to put its garbage.

MCINTYRE

I see the motion is going nowhere. Perhaps we can hear a few words from our distinguished visitor whom some call the Nation's most preeminent journalist. Ida Tarbell has taken an interest in this town since its inception.

DUNMORE

Let us hear from Miss Tarbell herself.

MCMURTRY (O.S.)

Ida Mae, don't say anything.

TARBELL

Hush.

Everyone begins laughing.

DUNMORE

Are you telling me to shut up!

TARBELL

No, I was just clearing my throat.
Please accept my apology

DUNMORE

You better watch that, dear Ida Mae.
Some folks saw you talking to yourself
today.

TARBELL

People are always saying that about me.

ARCHIE

Let us hear Miss Tarbell

TARBELL

Vandergrift is a unique town indeed.
There is no other city in the country
quite like it. Thirty years after its
creation, it is a thriving city built
around one man's ideal of a workers
paradise. A town of homes and gardens,
the resolute of one man's deliberate
attempt to make a better town than there
s in the world for physical health and
comfort. How many other such cities have
been designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.
Each time I return, I see the lovely
streets, gardens, parks, play areas,
trees, streets named for poets,
statesman, and trees. The city is a
living ideal to a man of dreams. That
man is George McMurtry. One small
memorial like a street or statue would be
an appropriate way to honor his
contribution.

DUNMORE

Dear Miss Tarbell. You forget one thing.
He made a bundle of money when he sold
the lots.

TARBELL

Mr. Dunmore, that too is an American
ideal.

DUNMORE

And he tried to destroy labor unions.

TARBELL

He could have chosen many other routes to do this. Please have your committee reconsider, Mr. Dunmore.

DUNMORE

Who can turn down the one and only Ida Tarbell. I am now a college graduate. I just read your Rockefeller book. JJ Vandergrift seems like an unsavory person.

TARBELL

I am not asking you to honor Captain Vandergrift. Only George McMurtry.

DUNMORE

OK. My committee will reconsider and come up with a report in a couple of years.

MCINTYRE

George McMurtry. Rest in peace.

DUNMORE

And remember, he already has a fire company named after him. They could have called it something else, like the Mae West fire company but they chose to name it after George.

MCINTYRE

Let the dead rest in peace.

DUNMORE

I will.

MCMURTRY (O.S.)

Bastard!

EXT. - DAY VANDERGRIFT, DAVIS FIELD, 1935

Archie and Ida are standing on Davis Field. Ida's eyes are closed.

ARCHIE

Turn on the lights.

The lights come on.

ARCHIE (cont'd)
You can open your eyes now.

TARBELL
Wow! Your dream come true.

ARCHIE
My next dream is to have a professional
baseball team here.

TARBELL
The Vandergrift Steelers?

ARCHIE
Might cause a problem with the Pittsburgh
football team.

TARBELL
How about the Vandergrift Pioneers?

ARCHIE
A thought. And you have to come back for
one of the Vandergrift High School Lancer
football games.

TARBELL
My schedule has quieted as I approach 80.

ARCHIE
You've never looked so good Miss Tarbell.
Shall we play ball.

Pulls out softball and bat.

I!

McMurtry appears.

MCMURTRY
Thought I had forgotten you. Do it, Ida
Mae.

ARCHIE
I can always say Ida Tarbell played ball
on Davis Field.

DUNMORE (O.S.)
Miss Tarbell is always playing ball. But
with the wrong people

Dunmore appears on stage.

ARCHIE

What brings you here at this time of night?

DUNMORE

The lights from Davis Field came straight through my window. I was wondering what type of creature would be here at night.

ARCHIE

Come and play ball with us.

DUNMORE

You're using city electricity.

ARCHIE

With the Burgess' approval. And n my own ball field?

DUNMORE

Don't you realize there's a depression?

ARCHIE

If you play ball, will that make the depression worse?

DUNMORE

No. But it's symbolic.

ARCHIE

Of what?

DUNMORE

One out of every four residents of the Workers Utopia is being foreclosed upon.

TARBELL

Sad indeed. But that rate is much lower than for the rest of the country.

DUNMORE

That doesn't help. People are starving. Where is McMurtry's dream now.

TARBELL

Very much alive. The town is now 40 years old ,

DUNMORE

And unionized.

ARCHIE

George McMurtry is turning over in his grave.

MCMURTRY

He is not.

DUNMORE

Wherever in hell he's burning. Five thousand men are now out of work. Some people are starving.

TARBELL

(To McMurtry) Well are you?

ARCHIE

(To Tarbell) Am I what?

MCMURTRY

(To Tarbell) My lips are sealed.

ARCHIE

Well join us in a little practice. Dunmore.

DUNMORE

What the heck.

ARCHIE

Take this bat, Ida. I'll pitch. You catch, Dunmore.

TARBELL

I have never hit a ball in my life before. And here I go at age 78. ..

They get in position. Ida raises the bat, and McMurtry puts his arms around her and holds the bat with her.

ARCHIE

First pitch.

She hits the ball into left field.

MCINTYRE

That a girl, Ida Mae.

ARCHIE

What's your secret.

DUNMORE

That's at least a single.

ARCHIE

Here's the second pitch.

She and McMurtry hit the ball into right field.

DUNMORE

That's at least a double.

ARCHIE

Here's the third pitch.

She and McMurtry hits the ball into center field.

TARBELL

Now it's your turn Mr. Dunmore.

ARCHIE

Come on Dunmore.

DUNMORE

What the heck.

ARCHIE

Here's the first pitch.Strike One.

DUNMORE

Try again.

ARCHIE

Strike two.

DUNMORE

Try again.

The ball goes over the fence for a home run.

ARCHIE

A home run, old man.

DUNMORE

That proves that it's not over till it's over.

ARCHIE

There are many more innings to this game.

A fire siren is heard and a fire truck whizzes by with the name GEORGE MCMURTRY FIRE ENGINE COMPANY emblazed on the side.

TARBELL

Oh, dear, a fire.

ARCHIE

Na. That means the fire is over. But the name is a reminder of the George Mcmurtry's contribution to this town.

DUNMORE

Don't say that too loudly, Archie ole boy. You might be tarred and feathered.

ARCHIE

I don't think so.

DUNMORE

Gotta go. (exits)

ARCHIE

What's your verdict on our fortieth anniversary?

TARBELL

The town is delightful even though the smoke, smog, noise, and the stream of workers is like that of any other town in Pennsylvania or Ohio. But Olmsted's design will not change. And he hopes to be here for the towns fiftieth. But I have one problem.

ARCHIE

What is that?

TARBELL

Davis Field.

ARCHIE

You don't like it!

TARBELL

I do. But it is a segregating line. Davis Field is a natural barrier between the desirable part of Vandergrift and Vandergrift Heights and the Park Plan. And then East Vandergrift is divided from Vandergrift.

ARCHIE

Sure it is. But what's wrong with segregation.

TARBELL

We are one country. This town is divided by class and ethnicity,

ARCHIE

What's wrong with that?

TARBELL

We are one country.

ARCHIE

With many parts. That's what gives the town its charm. Good solid segregation. I haven't seen anybody cry about it.

TARBELL

It seems unjust.

ARCHIE

Our schools are not segregated. In terms of living, Spaghetti, mashed potatoes, and holopki do not mix well.

TARBELL

If that's the way you look at it.

ARCHIE

Don't you spend most of your year in your Central Park Apartment in New York City.

TARBELL

I do.

ARCHIE

And that isn't segregated?

TARBELL

But..

ARCHIE

Now let us head back home.

TARBELL

I would like to walk back to the Whitworth house alone. Just a relaxing walk.

ARCHIE

Do you feel safe.

TARBELL

If you are not safe in Vandergrift, where are you safe.

ARCHIE

Good night. And I will drive you to Pittsburgh in the morning.. Adieu.
(exits)

MCINTYRE

You stayed back for me, didn't you?

TARBELL

The truth be known. Yes. I have a question I've been dying to know?

MCMURTRY

Yeah?

TARBELL

Is President Wilson in Heaven?

MCMURTRY

My lips...

TARBELL

Are sealed.

MCMURTRY

Some people feel that Democrats should never go to heaven. How about Hoover, Coolidge and Harding? Seems as if they all rolled out the red carpet for you.

TARBELL

If your darned LIPS ARE SEALED, what good would it do me? Are you happy with your town.

MCMURTRY

Nope. It's a union town.

TARBELL

Things could be worse.

MCMURTRY

Nope. Now Vandergrift is in the Union's palm. A fate worse than ---, and I won't say the word. Maybe the union will just go away.

TARBELL

Perhaps the depression too.

MCMURTRY

Maybe. Come back for the fiftieth and find out.

TARBELL

I doubt that I will make it.

MCMURTRY

I think you will. Good night, Ida Mae.

EXT. - DAY VANDERGRIFT, GRANT AVENUE, 1945

Banners reading RETURN HOME BOYS, BUY WAR BONDS, OLMSTED'S DREAM COME TRUE, and VANDERGRIFT AT 50 are flying from telephone poles. Grant Avenue is flooded with people as Ida Tarbell, Frederic Law Olmsted, Jr., Carolyn and James Whitworth, Archie Davis and Burgess McIntyre are on a platform listen to the Star Spangled Banner

MCINTYRE

Happy Fiftieth.

CROWD

Happy Fiftieth.

MCINTYRE

We celebrate our fiftieth anniversary today. In a time of War. We pray first that all of our servicemen come home safely. We also take great pride in that

CROWD

Amen.

MCINTYRE

We are one nation, undivided, under God.

CROWD

Amen.

MCINTYRE

Young men of every ethnicity, Polish, Italian, Greek, Slavic, Irish, German and Lebanese Americans have given their lives up in this war. Many were sons of very recently arrived immigrants. Their parents had barely unpacked. But they reflected a love we all have for this great country.

CROWD

Yes.

MCINTYRE

And now the St. Gertrude's bells will ring ___times in memory of all those residents of Vandergrift who lost their lives fighting our enemies. .

The bells ring __Times

MCINTYRE (cont'd)

And now we will hear from two speakers of national significance who have know a lot about Vandergrift. First is Ida Tarbell, who wrote about our town, and the second is Fred Olmsted who designed the town. Miss Tarbell, first.

Ida Tarbell rises. Her hands are shaking.

TARBELL

Ladies and Gentleman. I first visited Vandergrift nearly fifty years ago. Then I wrote about the beautiful streets, sloping hills, distinguished homes, delightful shops, and the historical significance of a town built as a workers Utopia. But the most important thing about this town are the people, a people I have come to love. Let me sum it up as did George McMurtry: We have something here that is better than the best. Thank you so much. Now, Mr. Olmsted.

OLMSTED

About fifty years ago, George McMurtry, Miss Tarbell, and I met not far from this spot as this new town of Vandergrift became a reality. A model and picturesque workingman's town created along advanced ideas. Beautiful residences and streets. A working force of 5000 men and women. The town has lived up to the ideals and goals of George W. McMurtry. God bless you.

Crowd applauds wildly.

TARBELL

(whispering) Aren't you proud.

MCMURTRY

Yes.

MCINTYRE

(whispering) Poor Ida Tarbell is talking to herself.

ARCHIE

She's been doing it for years.

WHITWORTH

But only in Vandergrift, they say.

CAROLYN

Men don't gossip, do they?

WHITWORTH

Maybe it's just her unknown disease.

OLMSTED

We drove in. I would now like to see the Sherman Inn.

WHITWORTH

I regret to inform you that it has been torn down.

OLMSTED

Torn down!

WHITWORTH

To make way for some needed wartime housing.

OLMSTED

Shucks. I spent months and years designing that inn.

Everyone laughs.

MCINTYRE

Now let us mingle with the crowd.

TARBELL

And where is Mr. Dunmore today? Surely
....

MCINTYRE

It's very sad. His favorite Grandson was killed in France. He is a changed, perhaps destroyed man.

TARBELL

Oh Dear. Shall I pay my respects.

ARCHIE

Perhaps not. His health is not good.

WHITWORTH

He is a broken and humbled man. He just contributed several inspiring books to the Vandergrift Library in his grandson's memory.

MCINTYRE

And an anonymous donation was made to the Vandergrift Library in honor of George McMurtry. And there are rumors....

TARBELL

Yes?

MCINTYRE

Its the best kept secret in town. The books were donated by Jack Dunmore. A now shall we mix in with the crowd? I think I shall take a small walk alone.

WHITWORTH

Alone. Ida! Your health...

TARBELL

I want to walk alone. I am fine. These old age shakes are really nothing to worry about. Even though they're trying to give them a name, Parkinson's or something. I will be fine. I will return shortly. (She walks up the street)

CAROLYN

Jamie, follow her from a distance. Her niece will be very upset.

TARBELL

(turning to McMurtry) Are you pleased with these last ten years.

MCMURTRY

Very proud. But not so proud of you.

TARBELL

There you go upsetting me again! What this time?

MCMURTRY

You have a fetish for fat Italians. Kissing Benito's but.

TARBELL

I interviewed him six years ago, we were not even at war.

MCMURTRY

He kissed your hand?

TARBELL

He did.

MCMURTRY

You'll never change, Ida Mae. First Napoleon, now Mussolini. And you sandwiched Abe Lincoln in between. Ha.

TARBELL

I'd like to kill you.

MCMURTRY

You can't. I died thirty years ago.

TARBELL

Are you real or in my mind?

MCMURTRY

My lips are sealed.

TARBELL

That again!

MCMURTRY

Tell me, Ida Mae. You have travelled throughout the world, you have shaken the hands of kings and queens, every 'American president since Teddy Roosevelt has shaken your hands, you kicked Rockefeller you know where, you have written three biographies, and the list is endless.

TARBELL

That's right. So what?

MCMURTRY

So why did you take such an interest in Vandergrift.

TARBELL

At first it was work. Remember, I once said that Vandergrift was the most important industrial town in America. And then the people..

MCMURTRY

But you never lived here.

TARBELL

Did you! I recall that you and Clare moved to New York City shortly before the turn of the century.

MCMURTRY

My work was in New York. And there was no way I could live above the store so to speak. But its still my town. Visit my mausoleum.

TARBELL

And what happens when the industrial age is over.

MCMURTRY

The industrial age will never end.

TARBELL

God won't curse this country like that. The industrial age will end.

MCMURTRY

What do you have against the industrial age. Can I believe that THE Ida Tarbell wants to destroy jobs.

TARBELL

Of course not.

MCMURTRY

Then why?

TARBELL

The same reason I once, perhaps mistakenly opposed women's right to vote. I believe in the family. And the woman's role is pivotal in the family. And hopefully we can go back to an agrarian society. I'm like that slaveholder named Thomas Jefferson.

MCMURTRY

Go back to the Townsend farm? That would mean destroying the town.

TARBELL

Not quite. But what happens if the mill closes.

MCMURTRY

That will never happen.

TARBELL

Ah you have insights into the future.

MCMURTRY

I do not. But there is a woman who does.

TARBELL
Violet, the Columbia Avenue fortune teller?

MCMURTRY
How did you know?

TARBELL
There are no secrets in Vandergrift. How did you know.

MCMURTRY
My lips are sealed. And you believe in fortune tellers.

TARBELL
That's always been one of my weaknesses. Could you give me some directions.

MCMURTRY
You're standing in front of her house. And now I must go.

TARBELL
Perhaps we'll meet again.

MCMURTRY
You're better than the best, Ida Mae. Goodbye. (exits) We'll be seeing you.

Ida knocks on the door. VIOLET, forties, answers from behind the door.

VIOLET
Yes?

TARBELL
Is this Violet's home?

VIOLET
Yes. Who are you? Another one of them Holy Rollers?

TARBELL
No, I am not.

VIOLET
I see you through the peep hole. You look like an old Holy Roller.

TARBELL
I am old but I am not a Holy Roller. I am neither holy nor a roller.

VIOLET
That's funny. Come in, sweetie pie.

TARBELL
Are you a fortune teller?

VIOLET
Are you working for the police?

TARBELL
Indeed, no.

VIOLET
Wait a minute. I sense something fishy.
(Walks around Ida) Have you been around
a Presbyterian.

TARBELL
Not that I know of.

VIOLET
I sense something. Tell me the truth.

TARBELL
I always tell the truth.

VIOLET
I believe you. You look like a nice old
lady.

TARBELL
I understand you are a very good fortune
teller.

VIOLET
I'm the best, honey.

TARBELL
Can you do a reading for me?

VIOLET
Yes, honey, I charge ten dollars.

TARBELL
I pay only \$5 in Titusville.

VIOLET
That's Titusville. This is Vandergrift.

TARBELL
All right.

VIOLET
What's your name, sweetie

TARBELL

Ida Tarbell

VIOLET

(Laughing) It sounds like a cow.

TARBELL

I am not a cow. Do I smell cats?

VIOLET

You bet, sixteen of them.

TARBELL

Your husband must also like cats.

VIOLET

No husbands. All three said it was choosing them or the cats. The cats are still here. What do you want to know? Honey.

TARBELL

What is going to happen to the steel business.

VIOLET

Strange question. (Pulls out crystal ball) Abracadabra. Abracadabra

TARBELL

This seems suspicious.

VIOLET

Want your money back?

TARBELL

No thank you, proceed.

VIOLET

Abracadabra abracadabra. I look into the future. And I see men and women making steel.

TARBELL

Women?

VIOLET

Yes. And I see steel being made by foreigners. They look like Germans and Japanese.

TARBELL

I think you may be confusing our war enemies with future steel producers.

VIOLET
I don't make too many mistakes.

TARBELL
And the Vandergrift steel plant.

VIOLET
It's closed.

TARBELL
Closed?

VIOLET
And there's a white sheet over it.

TARBELL
Surprising indeed.

VIOLET
Is there anything else you want to know.

TARBELL
No thank you.

VIOLET
Wanna die how much longer you've got.

TARBELL
No. Thank you. Now I must go.

VIOLET
You're so nice, sweetie. Here's two dollars back for you. That's a Vandergrift thing.

TARBELL
No, keep the two dollars sweetie pie. I appreciate your service. One question for you. Have you ever heard of George McMurtry?

VIOLET
No. Who is he?

TARBELL
He once lived in this town.

VIOLET
Did he work in the mill.

TARBELL
You might say that.

VIOLET

No...Wait a minute. There's a fire truck named McMurtry. Was he a fireman?

TARBELL

No.

VIOLET

And the next time you come I'll have some coffee for you. And you know, I'd like to name my next cat after you. Cat Tarbell. Sounds nice.

TARBELL

Sort of.

VIOLET

You're such a sweetie pie.

TARBELL

You are a sweetie pie too. Now I must go...Honey.

Ida exits and Jim Whitworth is waiting for her.

WHITWORTH

We've been looking all over town for you. Where have you been?

TARBELL

I visited an old friend.

WHITWORTH

Someone said you visited that fortune teller. Did you.

TARBELL

Of course not.

WHITWORTH

Your niece called. She is picking you up tomorrow after lunch.

TARBELL

Good. I want to go to church tomorrow.

WHITWORTH

You?

TARBELL

Yes indeed. And I think I will go to the Methodist Church.

WHITWORTH

Just a short distance away.

TARBELL

No on second thought, I think I will go to the Presbyterian Church.

WHITWORTH

Even better. That is the church we belong to.

TARBELL

I shall like seeing the Tiffany windows.

WHITWORTH

Presbyterian? Must be George McMurtry's ghost?

TARBELL

My lips are sealed.

Dark. St. Gertrude Church's bells begin ringing.

MAYOR (O.S.)

Violet was right. But not immediately. US Steel, or USX, permanently closed its doors in 1986. The town that was built as a workers utopia, no longer had need for steel workers. The head of the local union arrived at the plant to find the doors barred. George McMurtry was winking. The mill was closed. Now what happens to George McMurtry's dream, Ida Tarbell's ideals, and Frederick Olmsted's design?

EXT. - DAY THE BANKS OF THE KISKI RIVER, 2005

Fredericka Olmsted dismounts from her motorcycle. Vandergrift's mayor approaches her.

FREDERICKA

Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR

Ms. Olmsted?

FREDERICKA

What a charming place Only one stoplight in the whole town.

MAYOR

They say an attractive young lady on a motorcycle just went through the red light.

FREDERICKA

You already know?

MAYOR

Only a citation, this time. But welcome. We like your name here. Your ancestor?

FREDERICKA

Great-great grandfather.

MAYOR

And you want to know more about him?

FREDERICKA

I'm primarily about Ida Tarbell. My junior thesis at Allegheny College.

MAYOR

As I recall, she went there.

FREDERICKA

And when I learned of the association between the two, not via New York or London or Paris or Cambridge, but by way of Vandergrift, I became truly excited.

MAYOR

Had you ever heard of Vandergrift before?

FREDERICKA

No, but Miss Tarbell had. The whole idea of a workingman's paradise. Do you mind if I smoke.

MAYOR

Go ahead.

FREDERICKA

The mill is gone. The town's still here.

MAYOR

It's been here for a hundred and ten years, and hopefully for another one hundred ten years.

FREDERICKA

But can the town ever be the same.

MAYOR

Hopefully not.

FREDERICKA

What? Five thousand jobs are gone.

MAYOR

That's right. But how does the air smell?

FREDERICKA

Fine. Other than my cigarette.

MAYOR

When I was a child, the air was filled with smoke. Faithfully each day, 1500 workers entered the plant at 8 AM and 1500 workers exited the plant at 8 AM. Then a repeat at four in the afternoon, and then again at midnight. Not a happy site.

FREDERICKA

But the economic base? I notice an Allegheny Ludlum plant.

MAYOR

Yep. We make as much steel as ever. Two hundred workers produce as much as 5000 workers produced fifty years ago. Machines do the rest, the work of 4800 men and women.

FREDERICKA

That's a big loss.

MAYOR

We're still here. What happens in America happens in Vandergrift. A hundred years ago, millions of Americans engaged in farming. Now only 1 percent of those farmers are feeding the Nation and the world. Mining is mostly gone too. Now manufacturing is gone. Now most of our steel is made in foreign countries.

FREDERICKA

Like automobile, computers,

MAYOR

Televisions, radios, textiles and so on. The list is endless. But somehow America survives, and so does Vandergrift and all of the manufacturing belt from New England to Illinois.

But America adjusts and so does
Vandergrift. We're smaller and better.

FREDERICKA

And the downtown?

MAYOR

It's still there.

FREDERICKA

But empty.

MAYOR

Go to the malls outside of town, and
they're full. Same as any other town in
America.

FREDERICKA

And what would Miss Tarbell say if she
came here today? That's the title of my
thesis: Ida Tarbell's Visit to
Vandergrift, 2005.

MAYOR

Now you really have me interested.

FREDERICKA

The town was founded to destroy to house
workers and destroy unions. Now there
are no workers and no unions. Why the
town?

MAYOR

Miss Tarbell would find a cleaner more
environmentally friendly town. Unlike
much of America, she would not find any
traffic congestion. Reasonable housing
prices and a whole bunch of good stuff.
We can even go fishing and swimming in
the Kiski River. What do you say,
Fredericka?

FREDERICKA

The Scotch-Irish Acropolis still stands,
Grant Avenue is still intact, Washington
and Hancock Avenues still retain their
Victorian charm, the parks and
playgrounds are delightful, the churches
are almost picturesque like. Some say
the Greek Orthodox church and the Sons of
Italy Hall are empty and should become
designated landmarks.

MAYOR

Frederick Law Olmsted would be pleased.
The town will always bear his landscape
design.

Ida Tarbell appears.

FREDERICKA

To be sure. But my subject Miss Tarbell?

George McMurtry appears

MAYOR

She always said that she awaited the end
of the industrial age. It's happened.
But the family was what it was all about
she said. And that's where we excel.
We're here.

Frederick Law Olmsted appears.

FREDERICKA

Right.

Whitworth, Carolyn, Archie, McIntyre, Gary, and Dunmore
appear.

MAYOR

Because, like McMurtry once said: WE'RE
BETTER THAN THE BEST.

FREDERICKA

Do I hear a spirit of Tarbell, Olmsted
and McMurtry.

ALL

(waving to audience)
(except Mayor and Fredericka) Yes.
BECAUSE WE'RE BETTER THAN THE BEST.

FREDERICKA

Do I hear voices?

MAYOR

Maybe.

ALL

(waving to audience)
(except mayor and Fredericka) Welcome to
Vandergrift. Come Back! Because we are
better than the best. And so are you.

St. Gertrude's Bells begin ringing.

TARBELL

(to audience)

We hope you like the Scotch-Irish
Acropolis.

ARCHIE

(to audience)

Are you playing ball on Davis field

WHITWORTH

(to audience)

Apollo will NOT die.

DUNMORE

(to audience)

I loved ringing those bells. If you're
asleep, wake up.

MCINTYRE

(to audience)

Vandergrift's the best borough in the
world. My honest-to-goodness, unbiased
opinion.

CAROLYN

(to audience)

I really never thought Miss Tarbell was
talking to herself. People from
Vandergrift do not gossip.

OLMSTED

(to audience)

Please find my plans for the Sherman Inn
and rebuild it.

VIOLET

(to audience)

Abracadabra. Abracadabra. Does anyone
have any cats?

GARY

(to audience)

Please read Miss Tarbell's superb
biography of Elbert Gary. It's must
reading.

FREDERICKA

(to audience)

Only one traffic light. Charming. But
don't ignore it.

MCMURTRY

(to audience)

And if you get a chance, Visit my
mausoleum in Valhalla, New York. Or
better yet, come and support the Casino
Theater. The Scotch Irish Acropolis is
now designated a historic landmark. I'm
proud.

ALL

(To audience)

Thanks for coming. And remember: YOU'RE
BETTER THAN THE BEST. Come to
Vandergrift again.