

Indiana Daily Times

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—“THIS IS THE YEAR”—

IT LOOKS as if Babe Ruth will need more than a bulky contract and a press agent to get by with the New York fans.

WHAT has become of the old-fashioned man who carried a potato in his pocket in order to ward off rheumatism? Had to turn it in, we suppose.

Roger Sullivan

Last week Roger Sullivan was buried in Chicago. His was the largest funeral ever held in the city, yet he started as a poor boy on a farm near Chicago and did not come to the city until he was 17 years of age. For three or four years he worked in a machine shop, in the days when the cost of living took all the money he could earn. He realized that he must get a stake ahead before he could succeed, so Sullivan went to South Dakota and took up a claim. Moreover, he lived on it and proved it up, no easy task in any case, and this afterward was the achievement of which he was most proud. This claim was his first stake. When he died he was worth millions.

Sullivan loved the political game and because he had a pleasant, sympathetic manner he gained the confidence of his fellowmen, the greatest asset a political leader can have. As he grew older he made the acquaintance of successful politicians who recognized this quality in him and used him on primary days to gain delegates among the people who liked him and on election days to get votes for their candidates. Sullivan, in his turn, got political jobs for his friends and they, in turn, enabled him to get more delegates and more votes. So Roger Sullivan grew and grew until no man could be nominated on the democratic ticket in Chicago or Illinois without his support.

Sullivan did not always get his own way, but he never admitted defeat. He had the ability to twist defeat into a victory, too. The delegates to the democratic national convention in Baltimore in 1912 were instructed for Champ Clark of Missouri, yet, although Sullivan was known to support Woodrow Wilson, he headed the delegation. After voting two or three times for Clark, as instructed, Sullivan swung the whole delegation over to Wilson and nominated him. Sullivan once was nominated for United States senator by his party, but was defeated for election because the state usually goes republican by more than 100,000. Sullivan was not defeated, but his party was.

At the Sullivan funeral there were mourners from every walk of life. Representatives of the national administration at Washington, the republican governor of Illinois, the republican mayor and council of Chicago were present, the courts closed for the day and I believe the schools would have closed if the funeral had been held on a school day.

Lots of people believe Sullivan made his money out of politics, through franchises granted public service corporations, which his friends in the legislature or council voted to make possible. I don't believe these stories because I know that Sullivan had a big income from the manufacture of crackers. He was the largest independent cracker maker in the United States and his friends humorously referred to him as "Sir Roger, the biscuit maker."

Roger Sullivan was a success because he worked day and night and helped thousands of other persons to succeed and they never forgot. He paid the penalty of overwork, however, because he died before he was 60 years of age. A loafer might have lived to be 80 and never accumulated anything.—W. D. Boyce, in the Saturday Blade, Chicago.

An Indignation Meeting

The recent demonstration in the streets of Indianapolis, which fortunately terminated in nothing more serious than the wounding of one negro, was in the nature of a huge indignation meeting, staged by unanimous sentiment against the manner in which the republican administration has been handling the problems of law violation in this community.

It was a distinct warning to the officials of Indianapolis and Marion county that the temper of the people has been tried almost to the limit by the wholly senseless manner in which law violators of both the white and black races have been pampered, petted and favored by officials whose interest in law enforcement is transcended by their interest in politics.

Indianapolis does not wish mob violence.

It would be a senseless shame to have bloodshed over the fate of one negro murderer whose mentality is so low that he is not fit to be unrestrained.

It is hardly to be conceived that the thousands of persons who milled about the streets of the city until late into the night were concerned with the fate of this negro.

It is easy to see, however, that they were concerned with the conditions that have resulted from lack of vigorous law enforcement in the city. Their concern came almost taking the form of an open defiance, not of the law, but of the authorities representing the law, respect for whom is lessened every day by indifference on their part to the demands of good government.

A young negro whom the police say they can connect with attempted assault on white girls as long as six weeks ago, has finally been taken into custody as the murderer of a 14-year-old white girl.

He is declared to have confessed and the police have corroborative evidence that seems to fix the crime on him beyond question of doubt.

Unfortunately, we can not with any degree of certainty forecast the ultimate disposition of the case of this young negro.

In times gone by he would have been hanged by the neck until dead, with due dispatch, by the sheriff, with due regard to his rights to legal protection.

But today it is not legal that this should be his fate.

Indiana no longer hangs its convicts, and, in fact, does not inflict the death penalty, although its statutes still call for capital punishment in cases of this kind.

It is a far cry from the days of swift and summary punishment for murder to the present era of suspended sentences and multitudinous paroles and there is much to sustain the theory that the present day toleration of murder and assault has a dangerous influence on such potential criminals as this young negro.

When the governor of Indiana rides about in a state-owned automobile driven by a murderer released from the state's prison for the express purpose of acting as his chauffeur, can it be denied that fear of punishment for murder is materially lessened in the community?

We wonder what the colored people of Indiana want done with this negro.

Are they willing that a man who has disgraced their race should be protected from punishment by the invocation of such practices as pettifogging lawyers sometimes use in courts where suspended sentences are common or through the political manipulations which are not infrequently relied on to get a parole from the governor as the best means of "taking care of" the client?

Has this community any assurance that this young negro murderer will not be free to menace the little children of the state within a few months during which he will enjoy the limelight of trial and furnish a subject for remarkable "orations" by politically ambitious lawyers?

We regret that the record of innumerable suspended sentences from our criminal court, together with an unreasonably long list of unjustifiable paroles on the part of the governor, tends rather to alarm than to assure the mothers and fathers of Indianapolis when contemplated in connection with this misfit.

Nor is there assurance of protection either against this criminal or any similar criminal in the long list of martyred policemen who have been done to death by lawless negroes in this community.

It is well-known that crime begets crime.

Temporizing with the lawless in petty violations has invariably led to gross offenses.

This lesson was learned at Terre Haute, at Muncie and in other parts of Indiana.

But it does not seem yet to have permeated the reason of the powers that be in Indianapolis.

Perhaps all that we may expect in the history of this latest atrocious murder is that the murderer will be confined in a way that will protect society until society has forgotten his menace from this particular source in contemplation of the many similar menaces that result from deliberate condonement of law violations.

Stage and Screen



EMMA DUNN

You may not recognize this picture. It is Emma Dunn who appeared in this city in the stage production of "Old Lady in the Attic."

She has now created the same part for the movies. "Old Lady 31" opens Sunday at the Ohio.

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