

# BIG BILL AND LEN'S CRUISE DRAWS SCORN

Hilarious Effect Achieved  
by Campaign Party on  
U. S. Barge, Showboat.

BY RAY TUCKER  
Times Staff Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Oct. 5.—The broad boom of the Mississippi has borne many strange craft since it was discovered by the Jesuits, and rediscovered by ex-Mayor William Hale Thompson when his exhibition of white rats in a cage became a bit showboat as a Chicago political issue.

But residents along the river doubt whether this stream ever has witnessed a more grotesque voyage than that taken by Len Small, Republican candidate for Governor, in company with his political sponsor, "Big Bill."

The voyage was made possible by Patrick J. Hurley, secretary of war, who loaned the federal barge that was towed up and down the stream in this water carnival by the famous yellow and white showboat, "Cape Girardeau."

Though it started with the most serious of intentions, the showboat's part in the presidential campaign has had a hilarious effect.

Even Republican newspaper condemn it, and satirize such a venture in a year when grave economic issues should occupy the attention of all candidates.

Sponsors Are Gay

Even those who danced on the flat deck of the barge in the light of swaying Japanese lanterns, and to the music of an excellent orchestra from a Chicago night club, seemed to feel they might well have remained on shore.

But no such misgivings worried the gay sponsors of the trip—Messrs. Small and Thompson and Frank L. Smith, national committeeman.

Of course, although the first two sat on deck as the craft left Chicago, they sent below the crooners, dancers, the band, and other paraphernalia of the sideshow. This restraint did not last long.

Soon, outdressing his parades of donkeys and camels through the streets of Chicago, Big Bill proved he had lost nothing of his originality or imagination since his defeat a few years ago.

Bill Cuts Capers

When, during the first part of the tour, crowds refused to step aboard the barge, Big Bill sang and danced and cut capers. He shook hands with himself.

The lights were strung up and their yellow gleams fell across the waters, even though no voters crossed the gang plank from the wharf. But as the vessel proceeded down the river, where opportunities for entertainment are fewer, the show became a paying proposition.

Each night the Cape Girardeau and its barge tied up to a wharf. The whistle tooted, the band blared, the performers sang and danced, the mayor's husky bass boomed out—and the crowds came.

The boys and girls along the quiet reaches of the river clambered aboard the barge and danced till the early morning hours, while Len and Big Bill looked on and beamed.

Now and then the barge was towed alongside the showboat, and if political speeches drowned out the tooting and blaring, the swinging and the scraping of heavy boots, the dancers did not seem to mind.

"All was happy, and why bite the hand that's paying the bill? This was life—this was politics!"

Called Cheap, Tawdry

Some there were, of course, who thought the performance a "cheap and tawdry spectacle" as witness a few excerpts from an editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"There is no more reason why the United States government should furnish a barge for this political cruise than there would be for getting Jimmie Walker out of the country on a warship."

"But if the cruise is politics reduced to the ridiculous, it is also a disgrace to the state which produced Abraham Lincoln."

Construction of cinder paths along Thirty-fourth and Thirty-eighth streets, in the vicinity of Keystone avenue, for benefit of school children will be sought by the Northeast Civic League, it was decided Tuesday night.

It was voted to ask the street railway company to use new buses on the Keystone-Millersville route.

Other suggestions included building of small bridges across streets in the vicinity for use of children; razing of the old school at Orchard and Thirty-fourth streets, erection of an automobile traffic signal at that corner, cutting away of a high bank there which obstructs motorists' vision, and installation of lighting at Thirty-eighth and Orchard streets.

Northwest Civic League Also Suggests Other Improvements.

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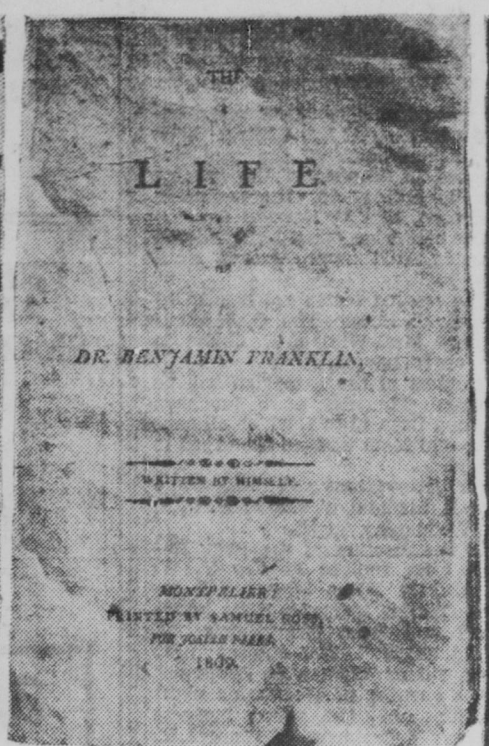
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# Ben Franklin Tried to Steal Pal's Girl Friend, Old Volume Reveals



Upper Left—James R. Cole, 65, collector of rare books, in the library at his store at Indiana avenue and North street.

Upper Right—The fly-leaf of one of his oldest and most prized volumes.

Lower Photo—A page from the life of Benjamin Franklin, written by himself. The page tells of his wedlock plans.

Benjamin Franklin tried to steal the girl friend of his pal, the writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac," one of the most quoted books of the universe, was by his own admission living in possible bigamy at the time he gained fame as a statesman and publisher.

Out of dusty bookshelves and the reek of bottles of drugs in a back room in the pharmacy of James R. Cole, Indiana avenue and North street, comes this pertinent sidelight on "Poor Richard" from a book written by Franklin and published following his death.

The memoirs of The First Printer of the Land, dated as being published in 1790, is just one of many valuable books and first editions collected by Cole in the last thirty-five years.

Turns Hobby Into Profit

Always a pharmacist by trade, Cole in the last few months of the depression, has turned his hobby, collecting rare volumes, into a business of buying and selling, with the result that he finds book shelves of impoverished families and those of the unemployed finding their way to his store.

He seeks for antiquated bindings, out-of-date works, like a fisherman on the White river.

"And I wouldn't take \$5,000 for my catch," Cole asserts as he refuses to place definite sale prices on such works as "Suppressed Poems of Lord Byron" and "Perpetual Laws of Commonwealth of Massachusetts," printed in 1788.

"A book to be valuable must be wanted by some one," he added as he fingered several of the 500 first editions in his possession.

Human Side Is Shown

The human side of the philosopher who has served as a library of wisecracks over one hundred and fifty odd years is aptly demonstrated in the yellowed volume kept in Cole's safe.

It was printed in Montpelier, Vt., by Samuel Goss for Josiah Paine. The title page announces that it is "The Life of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, written by himself."

Historians and biographers of Franklin who have declared his fondness for the feminine gender is borne out in Cole's book by Franklin's own writings.

He tells of one episode where a friend of his, called "Ralph," left a Mrs. T— in his care. The woman's name is discreetly left in doubt with the typographical dash.

Franklin says of the episode, "Meanwhile Mrs. T— having lost on his account (Ralph), both her friends and her business, was frequently in distress. In this dilemma she had recourse to me, and to extricate her from difficulties I lent her all the money I could spare. I felt a little too much fondness for her."

She informed Ralph of my conduct, and the affair occasioned a breach between us. When he returned from London he gave me to understand that he considered all obligations he owed me as annihilated by this proceeding.

"Poor Richard," however, consoles himself with the loss of his friend through his attempt to swipe his girl with, "I was the less afflicted at this, as he was unable to pay me, and as by losing his friendship I was relieved at the same time of a heavy burden."

The penurious slant to many of the adages of "Poor Richard" creep from the memoirs.

On one occasion he became enamoured with a miss, and obtained a Mrs. Godfrey to act as go-between in the match-making.

He told her to tell the girl's parents that he would marry her providing she brought him a dowry of 100 pounds, English money.

"She brought me for answer that they had no such sum at their disposal. I observed that it might easily be obtained by a mortgage on their house," the aged book collector writes.

But the country of Franklin's day hadn't even the pretense of a home loan bank, so the mortgage suggestion of the printer-sweetheart failed to find a welcome ear.

Franklin then decided that the printer's trade was a poor one for marriage alliances with, "This affair having turned my thoughts to marriage, I looked around me, and made overtures of alliance in other quarters; but I soon found that the profession of a printer is a poor trade. I could expect no money with a wife at least if I wished her to possess some charm."

Eventually the love-life of Franklin returned to his old flame, a Miss

Deborah Reed. But wedlock with her was fraught with clouds as he admits in the following lines from Cole's book:

"Our mutual affection revived; but there existed great obstacles to our union. Her marriage (a former marriage) was considered as not being valid, the man having, it is said, a former wife living in England; but of this it was difficult to obtain proof at so great a distance, and though a report prevailed to his being dead yet we had no certainty of it."

Then Benjamin declared that the lost husband had left debts behind him which furthered the legal possibility of "his successor might be sued."

But the heart affair was too strong for the canny printer and he says in his memoirs, "We ventured nevertheless, in spite of all these difficulties, and I married her on the first of September, 1730."

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# WOMAN LAWYER REFUSES NAME OF 'DRUNK COP'

Tells Safety Board to Make  
Own Investigation of  
'Intoxicated Sergeant.'

Efforts of the board of safety to obtain information regarding the alleged drunkenness of a police sergeant has resulted in refusal of the information and a challenge for the board to conduct its own investigation, it was learned today.

At the trial of Mrs. Margaret Osborn, policeman, on charges neglect of duty and unbecoming conduct last week before the board, Mrs. Florence K. Thacker, defense attorney, charged an unnamed police sergeant with drunkenness.

"Why didn't you report the sergeant who was drunk in a south side cafeteria on Saturday night?" Mrs. Thacker asked Chief Mike Morrissey in a heated examination in which the defense attempted to show discrimination between men and women officers.

Ask for Information

Morrissey replied that the matter had not been called to his attention.

On Friday, following the Tuesday board meeting, Charles R. Myers, board president, wrote Mrs. Thacker asking for information, and inviting her to file charges as "your duty as a citizen of Indianapolis."

"The record of the board of safety in the past in making promotions and reductions in both the police and fire departments," Mrs. Thacker replied by letter, "leads me to believe that you are not sincere in asking for the information."

Won't Disclose Information

The information was obtained from a client, and for professional reasons can not be disclosed, according to Mrs. Thacker's letter.

"If you really desire this information about police officers, of high rank and low rank, and their activities, in my opinion, you have plenty on the force who would be willing to give you this information if they could be assured of protection from the board," the letter concludes.

NURSES HOLD PARLEY

State Association's Conclave Opens in City.

Miss Lucy Minnigerode, superintendent of nurses of the United States public health service, is here to attend meetings of the American Nurses Association and the Indiana State Nurses Association, which opened today.

Miss Gladys Crain of the national organization for Public Health Nursing is to conduct an institute in social hygiene today and Thursday at the I. U. hospital.

False Alarm Brings Sentence

John Thomas, Negro, 38, of 1015 Colton street, was fined \$10 and sentenced to thirty days in jail by Municipal Judge Clifton R. Cameron, Tuesday, on conviction of turning in a false fire alarm.

# Speaks Here



Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam

Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam, president of De Pauw university, will speak Friday at 6:30 at the annual officers banquet of the Indianapolis Epworth League at the Roberts Park M. E. church.

The invocation will be pronounced by the Rev. A. H. Kenna of Roberts Park church, and a musical program will be furnished by the Washington high school sextet, and a quartet from Indiana Central college.

R. F. C. FUND OF LITTLE  
AID IN OUSTING SLUMS

Special Laws Must Be Passed by States to Get Help.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—Until and unless special laws are enacted by state legislatures next year regulating housing corporations, little Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds will be available for housing projects to substitute for city slums, it was said today.

Construction of modern, airy apartments at low rentals in areas now tenanted by alley dwellings and ancient buildings was visualized by city planners as one of the substantial group of "self-liquidating" projects which could benefit from the \$1,500,000,000 fund in the relief law.

An investigation by the corporation, however, has disclosed that only New York has a state law governing housing corporations, and funds can not be loaned except where there is a law regulating such corporations, their earnings, rentals, charges, capital structure, rate of return and method of operation.

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# GIANT BIRTHDAY PARTY WILL BE HELD BY SOVIET

Unparalleled Celebration to  
Mark 15th Anniversary  
of Regime.

By United Press

MOSCOW, Oct. 5.—Notwithstanding the economic difficulties which beset the land, the Soviet capital is preparing for a celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the revolution, Nov. 7, without peer in Russian history.

Boris Malkin, a member of the special Moscow Soviet commission to arrange the celebration, has indicated the elaborate preparations already under way.

All the leading artists and architects, Malkin declared, have been mobilized and organized into brigades to decorate the city.

The Moscow Soviet has placed ample funds at the disposal of the commission to make an unparalleled transformation.

Monuments to Be Retained

Malkin indicated that the adornment is being planned with a view to retaining many of the innovations permanently.

Six or eight sculptural works on a monumental scale are expected to be ready and to remain as permanent additions to the Moscow street-scapes.

Certain of the lighting effects, such as commemorative tablets, likewise will remain after the celebration is over.

One of the objectives will be to record graphically the high spots of revolutionary history.

At points where important skirmishes, meetings or other events took place, placards, paintings and sculptures reproducing those occurrences will appear.

Huge Portraits Are Prepared

Immense portraits of Stalin and other leaders are being painted for exhibition. The theaters are

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organizing "agitation brigades," which will perform propagandist sketches in the open air during the holidays.

The demonstration through Red Square is expected to be the most striking in many years.

Similar preparations, of course, are being made in every city, town and village in the Soviet Union.