

Bill Risks Life And Limb To Join Rug Cutters At Giant Jitterbug Jamboree

By Bill Averill February 24, 1939

Dear Dad, After observing my funny antics around the ringroom at home while Artie Shaw or Jan Savitt or some other swing king was on the air, you undoubtedly have come to the conclusion that you have, for more than eighteen years, raised nothing more than those disgusting jitterbugs. Personally, Dad, although I claim that I have something more in me than merely cannibalistic rhythm, I do like to get out once in a while and do a little hopping about.

Last Tuesday evening I had a desire to attend the "Jitterbug Jamboree" that was being staged down at the Chicago Stadium. It was a big affair, with more than 15 bands and orchestras of every description, from swing organizations to symphonic orchestras. I practically took my life in my hands that evening, for you know that freshmen living in the house are not allowed to get out on week nights. But regardless of what such action might bring about, I was determined to go. With four other boys, I proceeded to venture forth.

And what a sight awaited us! Hundreds of automobiles driving in, with all these people surging forward, the ushers were hard pressed to keep us at a distance. The problem got so bad that I was nearly smothered by the crowd. I was dispatched to aid the attendants. But this additional protection seemed to be of no avail, for the crowd became thicker and those at the front were jostled slowly but surely crowded together. Soon a woman, undoubtedly due to the heat and closeness of the pack, fainted and was carried out by an usher, whom the crowd cheered. Another woman went down only a few feet away from me, and she also was taken out of the mob.

Now the crowd toward the rear began to press forward, making those at the front wince back and forth rather shockingly. You know what it's like, Dad—first you are sprawled all over the person in front of you, then the next thing you know you are supporting someone on your chest while you yourself are leaning on the person behind you. After a minute of this I firmly decided that I did not want to be walked over; and as soon as the crowd relaxed its feet, I literally fought my way to the rear. And what a fight. In less than half an hour the floor became so crowded that I had to plow for about 75 feet before I obtained enough room to turn around. I had remained long enough to get a close glimpse of Ina Ray Hutton and her dancing partner Fletcher Henderson and his rag ensemble. The problem facing me was to find a seat somewhere, anywhere, from which I could obtain a good view of the whole atmosphere. And how I looked! All I could see were my accursed—1,000 of them—the floor was packed, and so were the aisles. Towards eleven o'clock, Kenny Franklyn and Roy Cashman, two of the fellows from the house I was with, and I finally located three places to sit under the seats. Although they were in the aisle, we were able to get a good panorama of the stadium.

Here and there on the floor of the building were small open spots, in the middle of which two couples could be seen wildy hopping about. There was one couple who insisted on dancing in the middle of the floor, and the intricate stunts of a Veloz and Yolanda. After dancing in one part of the floor, they would move to another part. Soon the audience got tired of them and kept making caustic remarks about their type of dancing. Up in my lofty position I was able to observe more than just the dancers. As I looked about, I could see just who came to watch this dance. And you would be surprised to know that elderly men and women were present, as well as the young high school crowd. These old folks sat and watched the dancing on with more than a faint interest. Mothers and sons, fathers and daughters, in fact all ages were represented.

But the orchestra was the main center of attraction. As the evening gathered on, the orchestra began to swing on out. Although the Chicago Symphony played three or four well-known numbers, the roof was raised by the cheers and whoops that went up when Bob Crosby and his Bob Cats were introduced. Now the jitterbugs had a real opportunity to show their stuff. Couples began showing each other over their heads, over their backs, and a good deal more strenuous antics. I don't think that the boys were the only ones losing their partners over their heads—I saw a girl grab her partner and flip him over her head.

You've probably never heard of Ray Badue, but all those who follow the swing bands know him. Ray is the drummer with Bob Crosby and his orchestra, who is currently playing in the Blackhawk in Chicago. After Crosby took over the band stand about 11:30, he played several numbers, then took them solo by Badue. You should have seen the crowd. They went wild and re-

fused to become quiet until Ray had done another solo. And he gave the audience a very good opportunity to hear some wonderful arrangements. Although he tried his best to bring his orchestra or choral group, Fred Waring himself appeared to lead the WGN orchestra. He tried his best to have them play Waring style, but they couldn't put enough into the pieces.

Leaving the Drake Hotel for an hour or so, Wayne King played for the jitterbugs; and since Wayne is a Chicago boy, he drew the biggest hand from the audience that evening. At 12:30 Kay Kysner's orchestra came over the public address system. Due to the snowstorm that night, all planes were grounded, so Kay and his boys were forced to remain in New York. It had been arranged, however, to have a two-way radio between the Stadium and the Pennsylvania Hotel. He played for us although he could not be present in person.

Before entering the Stadium Tuesday night, I had expected that the program was being prepared for the idea of giving the people of Chicago and vicinity an opportunity of seeing Wayne and his orchestra at the same time. But as soon as I had entered the building, I immediately saw signs that said "Bill Kelly's Show." So it was nothing more than a mass meeting planned by Kelly's committee for political purposes. I haven't been at Northwestern very long and I don't know very much about Chicago politics, but I judge from what I have heard and read that Kelly is the head of a powerful political machine in Chicago, and is doing nothing but good for Chicago.

Although the papers reported the cheering—mostly jeering—of the audience as a demand for more music than political speeches, my own opinion is that the cheering was not in his favor. Mr. Kelly, and they showed it.

At a quarter after one, the crowd was still going strong. Wayne and his orchestra were at a quarter of two and into bed at three, thoroughly satisfied that the evening was all right.

In another couple of weeks I'll drop you another letter about more of my activities at good 'n' U. N. Dad.

Lots of Love, from your son, BILL.

UNMARRIED JUROR ANN ARBOR (M.P.A.)—When Herbert A. Daulte went into the court house here recently to get a marriage license, he stayed right there as a juror in the court. A panel of 30 jurors had been exhausted, and three more were needed. Daulte was drafted by the deputy sheriff. During noon recess he found time enough to obtain the marriage application, but he had to wait until he was over before he could get married.

Jokes of Yesterday Courting done on a tandem outfit to result in a double safety match.—(Judge 1900).

THE ANSWERS

- 1. In the U. S. about \$5,500, 000.
2. About 7,000,000.
3. No; often they hatch early and are destroyed.
4. About one-third.
5. Not yet.
6. Many observers think so.
7. Yes.
8. One estimate: 7,500,000 tons in 5 years.
9. As a general rule, no.
10. About 300,000.

Gets War Medal 34 Years Late

Proudly wearing a British medal, awarded for heroism in the Boer War, is W. G. Shanbelta, WPA stenographer at Chaner, Kan. The medal was officially awarded in 1904, but the British war office was unable to locate Shanbelta until he wrote for his discharge papers this year.

Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING—A haunting shadow of the "Blue Eagle" of 1933 NRA days is being seen in Michigan legislative halls today.

Recall your American history of six years ago. How hectic, feverish days. Capital and labor rallied behind President Roosevelt to battle the depression and bring back recovery. Business men of every kind flocked to Washington. More than 700 code authorities were established. Fair trade regulations were decreed. Anti-monopoly laws were temporarily suspended by the federal government in the name of decent profits. We present the information without interpretation other than to call attention to the fact that it represents a trend which dates back to "Blue Eagle" days.

Economy-Minded The state deficit will exceed \$26,000,000 by the close of the present fiscal year on July 1, according to estimates announced by Governor Fitzgerald. Demands for spending are \$55,000,000 in excess of anticipated revenues.

Alarmed by this gloomy financial picture, legislators are beginning to consider economy-minded Senator Miles Callaghan warns that Michigan has a "Scotch legislative" character. The state's plea for a \$2,500,000 emergency school appropriation telling spokesmen for the Michigan Education association that the state's cupboard is bare.

There is increasing evidence that pressure of home groups for the state will be resisted more actively this year than in 1937 when legislative appropriations went \$17,000,000 beyond budget revenues.

Even the highway department, controlled by the No. 1 Democrat Senator, has been asked to cooperate in an retrenchment program. As a result of this cooperation, Fitzgerald is said not to look for a veto upon legislative moves to out Commissioner Van Wagener and, in doing so, to put the department on a non-partisan commission basis.

Civil Service Repal The outlook for the present civil service law is, indeed, dark. Prospects are rising that the house of representatives will repeal the present law as the first move to overhaul the act and adopt some kind of a substitute. Sentiment among legislators is not over-enthusiastic as to civil service in general, but it is doubtful whether they will go so far as to leave the government at the end of a limb by refusing to preserve it.

The labor relations bill, also before the house, must be drastically changed before the end of the session. The measure has few friends, according to testimony given at hearings, chiefly because of the labor relations set up for both capital and labor.

Obituary William R. Hathaway Death Monday William R. Hathaway at his home 539 Townsend avenue, Mr. Hathaway had been a resident of Birmingham for 46 years. He was born May 2, 1855 at White Lake.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Anna Hathaway, his sons, Earl of Traverse City and William A. of Southfield; a daughter, Mrs. Edward Fox of Waterford, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held Wednesday at 11 a. m. from the residence with the Rev. Peter MacKay officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Harry B. Wattles Funeral services were held Tuesday for Harry B. Wattles of Troy township from his residence at 3864 Livorno road. Mr. Wattles died Saturday morning at the age of three months.

Mr. Wattles was born March 26, 1856 in Troy township, where he spent his entire life. His wife, the one of Silas B. and Helen M. Harris Wattles. In 1876 he married Jennie Bingham in Troy township. Following her death in 1890, Mr. Wattles married in 1892, Mattie E. Axell at Macomb corners. During his governmental career he was in charge of the regulation of business activities there also can be no doubt. Each measure is aimed in some degree at the control of competition in the name of fair trade.

Without attempting to pass judgment on the merits of these legislative measures, we believe this 1939 legislative trend to be the clearest and most direct revival of the NRA objectives in behalf of special business groups. How far should state government go to regulate private business?

If the government sets up bureaus to regulate retailers, painters, decorators, mason contractors, watchmakers, auto denturiers and so on, should it not also do the same for other groups?

What do you think? Milk Control In the field of agriculture the farmers already regulate and compensated by federal government in the name of soil conservation.

State control of milk is proposed by Senate Bill 48 which would authorize the state commissioner of agriculture to determine the peg and basic production cost and to license milk dealers accordingly.

The commissioner would be required to estimate the total volume of production of milk products for each year and also to estimate the volume of milk and milk products "that is needed for consumption within the state."

The name official would prescribe the audit accounts, reports, etc., necessary for milk dealers and would otherwise fix requirements for state license.

The above bill falls into the same NRA category of seeking to regulate competition in the name of decent profits. We present the information without interpretation other than to call attention to the fact that it represents a trend which dates back to "Blue Eagle" days.

Legislative Ethics House bill 173 would set up a state license board for painters and decorators. Contracting painters would have to pay \$500 initial license fee. A code of ethics, backed by state law, would protect the consumer.

House bill 148 would establish a state board of examiners for watchmaking, requiring for the years apprenticeship and \$5 annual license fee.

House bill 87 creates a state board of examiners in disarming with license of \$100. The auto wreckers must submit signatures of at least \$51 per car of property within radius of 500 feet, enclosure property with "suitably painted" tight board fence at least 6 feet high and all popvise sanitary toilet facilities.

Centralized Control That each of the five above-mentioned bills would tend to increase centralized control of industry there can be no question. That there is considerable demand today (as there was in 1935) for a return to governmental regulation of business activities there also can be no doubt. Each measure is aimed in some degree at the control of competition in the name of fair trade.

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KROGER'S SPOTLIGHT COFFEE. ROASTER FRESH, GROUND FRESH, AMAZING LOW PRICE! NOW! AT THIS NEW LOW PRICE 3 lb. bag 39c

ROLL BUTTER COUNTRY CLUB 90 SCORE 1 lb. 28c

COFFEE COUNTRY CLUB VACUUM-SEALED 2 1-LB. CANS 45c. SALAD DRESSING KROGER'S EMBASSY BRAND 1 qt. 21c. GOLD MEDAL FLOUR 2 1/2-lb. sack 81c. PILLSBURY'S FLOUR 2 1/2-lb. sack 79c. FLOUR COUNTRY CLUB—BACKED BY OUR AMAZING GUARANTEE! 2 1/2-lb. sack 65c. ANGEL FOOD CAKE DELICIOUS 13 EGG—each 39c. TWINKLE SIX FLAVORS—GELATIN DESSERT 3 pkgs. 10c. GUARANTEED EGGS doz. 20c

LENTEN VALUES FANCY GULF KIST SHRIMP large can 15c. NEW HOR SALMON 16-oz. can 10c. KAFFA for Quality—Spaghetti 15c. SPAGHETTI 2 16-oz. 19c. BAKED BEANS 2 1/2-lb. 29c. CRACKERS 2 1/2-lb. 14c. HOT CROSS BUNS 12-oz. doz. 12c. FRIED CAKES 12-oz. doz. 10c.

Marshmallow Cream COUNTRY CLUB 1 jar 15c. Chocolate Drops 1 lb. 10c. Campbell's Soups EXCEPT 3 VARIETIES 3 cans 25c. Wheat Puffs COUNTRY CLUB GUARANTEED BRAND 3 1/2-lb. 25c. Soda Crackers WESCO CRISPY FRESH 2 lb. 14c. Salt and Pepper IN SHAKERS 1 1/2-oz. 2 for 15c. Jell-O SIX DELICIOUS FLAVORS 1 1/2-lb. 5c. Shoe Polish SHINOLA BLACK BIRBY'S JET OIL 2 1/2-oz. bot. 13c. Fels-Naptha Soap 6 bars 25c.

ARMOUR'S STAR QUALITY SHORT SHANK CELLO WRAPPED 1 lb. 17c. RING BOLOGNA KROGER'S FAMOUS HIGH QUALITY 1 lb. 15c.

HORMEL'S DELICIOUS CHICKEN SOUP 2 1/2-lb. 29c. SALMON STEAKS 1 lb. 27c. HALIBUT STEAKS 1 lb. 25c. FILET O' SOLE 1 lb. 21c. PERCH FILET 1 lb. 25c. PAN FISH 3 lbs. 25c.

ALL FOR 59c. FANCY, LARGE, WHITE HEADS CAULIFLOWER 15c. FANCY TEXAS—54 SIZE GRAPEFRUIT SEEDLESS each 5c. MOR-JUCE VARIETY—LARGE 150 SIZE FLORIDA ORANGES doz. 25c.

FANCY, Machee Brushed Maine Potatoes 15 lb. 35c. DELICIOUS APPLES 3 lb. 20c. Michigan Potatoes 15 lb. 24c. CELERY large stalk 5c. Beets—Carrots bunch 5c. Turnips large 5c.

TUNE IN "LINDA'S FIRST LOVE", WJR 2 P. M.—"THE EDITOR'S DAUGHTER WJR 4:45 P. M. DAILY. ACCEPT THIS AMAZING GUARANTEE BUY ANY Kroger Items, EXCEPT as well as better. OR return unused portion in original container and we will replace, or FREE with any other brand sold with the same item, regardless of price.

WALDORF TISSUE 6 ROLLS 25c. SCOT TISSUE 3 rolls 23c. TOWEL HOLDER Your choice of Cream, Red or Green. SCOT TOWELS One Regular Size Roll of Scot Towel. ALL FOR 25c.

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