

GROWING UP WITH WARREN HARDING

The "Star" Acquires a Money Drawer

By Jack Warwick
Boyhood Playmate, School Chum and First Newspaper Associate of the
Republican Presidential Nominee

VII

Since undertaking this work of getting together in chronological sequence some of the simple, everyday things in the life of the Republican nominee for president, things that happened back there in the old days, the following, appearing in the editorial page of a Southern newspaper, has come to my attention.

"We have it on the highest authority that in the fifteenth century B. C. Gamaliel swept the wilderness and carried the districts of Abel-beth-Maachah, Bileam, Megiddo and many others."

Those words, spoken within the walls of the old Star office, in the Miller block, Marion, Ohio, during the winter of 1884, would have created an awful hollow note. There never was a place more generally and particularly unfitted, in all its appointments, for a newspaper office than this second floor front and back which we occupied immediately following the adoption of the sick kitten. Upended, the room in which we worked would have been tailed from the small boy's conception of Alexander the Great. It was long and lean and sepulchral.

It was another step forward, and we took it up unhesitatingly. It was early written in the philosophy of Warren G. Harding that the town or the institution that does not move forward must go backward. The sick kitten must get well and grow sleek or suffer a fatal relapse. No crawfish could have operated his reverse lever in the atmosphere of the Star office in its daring days of incipient growth.

The Star Acquires a Money Drawer

creditors didn't have to hold a stop watch on us; nevertheless, we were making headway in the line of mechanical improvements on a small scale.

I shall always remember the evening a stranger crawled up the narrow stairway to the second floor of the Miller block and tumbled around until he found one of the many doors that opened into the Hollow Mockery. He was a middle-aged man with a benign countenance. We wore a smile that could be freely interpreted as "God bless you!"

The Star had been running along with patent insides guaranteed not to cramp. This stranger came in to sell us a daily page of telegraph plates to be shipped fresh every morning out of Columbus. We bought. As was the custom, the stranger agreed to throw in a saw and mitre box. The work of sawing up the news I found eventually, was not as hard and laborious as pitching hay to keep the old baler from starving to death.

The purchase of the plate service meant printing the paper all at home. It was another step forward, and we took it up unhesitatingly. It was early written in the philosophy of Warren G. Harding that the town or the institution that does not move forward must go backward. The sick kitten must get well and grow sleek or suffer a fatal relapse. No crawfish could have operated his reverse lever in the atmosphere of the Star office in its daring days of incipient growth.

Later the office was moved, not because it was cheaper to move than pay rent, but because we wanted to get into a broader field, a new Abel-beth-Maachah. We went to the Fifth block on Center street, not far from the Star's present location. Here we had a suite of four rooms in a row. Across the front room Harding had a counter built, with a money drawer beneath. We had to have

some place to keep the extra supply of collar buttons, which were forever getting lost in the hustle and bustle of getting out the paper. Incidentally, it may be written that Warren Gamaliel had a penchant, or weakness, for counters. They created the impression that business lurked somewhere near.

This Fifth block location marks the real beginning of the Star's success. It was here that all possibility of failure was put behind us. It was here that I sold my interest in the paper and, having borrowed enough money to pay my board bill, agreed to stay on as hired help and do what I could to see the thing through. It was a good game to play and I was getting interested in writing "pieces for the paper." Although I was not enamored of the town of Marion, it was only nine miles from Saturday night and mother waiting at the gate.

The Star office was always a popular place for tramp printers, who were still abroad in the land in the old days. There was a long list of regulars, nearly of whom were sure to call in the course of a year. The rear room of the "suite" was adapted to the entertainment of the men of the road. It made pretty fair sleeping quarters for them. They were always given work at the Star office. Now and then one would

come and stay with us a month or two, but most of them cut their visits short after getting enough money for their immediate wants which were few.

A Man Of All Work
Warren G. had an abiding companion for these wanderers, and they fared well at his hands. They told interesting tales of men high up in the newspaper business and had entertaining stories of towns throughout the country.

Among the tramp printers who stood out among the rest was Col. Hargot. Tall and dignified, he always wore a high silk hat that was the worse for wear and a Prince Albert coat. The colonel was one who didn't like work, but he liked Warren G. because Warren G.'s clothes fitted Colonel Hargot. The colonel carried a cane to show that the world owed him a living.

During its lean days the Star office always worked beyond its capacity and the old ten-hour day was not long enough. In the busy days and nights the editor and publisher pitched in and looked the part. At distributing type he was not up to the average journeyman, but at distributing ink he was a star of the first magnitude. He loved ink unto the point of taking it unto his bosom. He liked to smell it. He venerated

it and his faith made him its strong advocate in a day when its power was not so generally recognized as now.

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(Tomorrow Jack Warwick will tell of Harding as an advertising solicitor.)
"No," wept Percy Poorguy, "I cannot complain of my father's treatment. The attitude toward me which he constantly maintains in his letter is one of unremitting kindness."—Michigan Gargoyle.

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Patronize these Live Newport and Nye Beach Business Houses

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Front street, one block north of boat landing; large kitchen for use of weekly guests. Rates reasonable.
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Meets all boats—baggage to any place. Camping parties a specialty.
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Furnished apartments and cottages; all newly finished and refurnished; near ocean edge. Best place for children. Address
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LESTER MARTIN
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GOOD ROOMS—FRESH CLEAN BEDS Special Rates by the Week or Month
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Fresh fruits and vegetables, Swift's Premium Bacon and hams; milk, butter, eggs and cheese, fresh fish, clams and crabs. Will serve you at store or supply your shipping order in season.
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Auto service, repairing, actylene welding, vulcanizing, battery service, automobile accessories, tires, tubes, gas and oil
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LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING ROOMS—REASONABLE
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Large pool of warm sea water, kept at an even temperature constantly renewed by circulating system. Prof. C. T. Permot's analysis shows this to be one of the cleanest and most sanitary swimming pools in the west. Bathing can go direct from pool to surf. Expert swimming instructor.
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THE NYE BEACH NATATORIUM
Large pool of warm sea water, kept at an even temperature constantly renewed by circulating system. Prof. C. T. Permot's analysis shows this to be one of the cleanest and most sanitary swimming pools in the west. Bathing can go direct from pool to surf. Expert swimming instructor.
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"Features of Quality"
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Everything for your comfort
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Everything for the family needs
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Two stories of solid comfort
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