

GROWING UP WITH WARREN HARDING

Twenty-four-Hour Work Days

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

IX

They are saying that Warren G. Harding is like William McKinley — like him in looks, disposition, and in other ways. Well, I'll have no quarrel with anybody for saying that, but if it is absolutely necessary that he should be somebody other than W. G. as I knew him, then I am strong for him, being like Benjamin Franklin.

I wonder if I may get ahead of my story to say something about the day McKinley was shot. It developed into a busy afternoon in the Star office. I was taking a vacation, but for some reason I was unable to explain at the time, and have not found it possible to do so since. I dropped the work I was doing at home and started for town. On the way I met an excited man who told me that the president had been shot.

I hurried on to find the Star office upset by the news and found W. G. in the center of the working force, hustling to get the paper out with the story of the Buffalo tragedy. He turned toward me with surprise: "Jack—you here! You must be able to smell n. e. w. s."

Then he suggested that inasmuch as my nose had led me to the office I might as well pitch in and help. The shock of the tragedy affected the Star editor deeply. He had little to say, but wore the strange, pained expression that I have seen hundreds of times when his soul has been wrought with emotion.

But to get back. Sleeping With the Job. As Franklin W. G. fits into the old Star office, setting back there in the Fite block, in Marion, Ohio, better than McKinley. W. G., like Franklin, had a practical industrial philosophy. He believed in the kinship of perspiration and salvation. We stuck close

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not in his philosophy. Minor improvements were made in the equipment as the straggling income justified them.

More Work for Weary Elbows. We still had the Fairhaven elbow power when W. G. incubated the idea that it was possible to make a field for a weekly Star, to circulate in the farming districts and gather in some of the county printing that must be published under the law in two newspapers. He was after the semi-weekly Independent's dry bone.

The Weekly Star was started with an issue of two thousand, which had to be put through the press twice. W. G. and I did the work. He fed the press while I made the wheels go round. Then I would feed while he made the wheels go round. We worked by the hour, many hours, each hour to us being 120 minutes long.

The daily was doing fairly well and the old semi-weekly Independent had about reached the conclusion that we couldn't be ridiculed off the face of the earth; at the same time we were getting able to do a little ridiculing on our own account. The weekly survived and grew and gained some popularity, but was superseded by the daily in a few years through the help of R. F. D. Finally we hitched a little kerosene engine to the old Fairhaven and almost shook it to pieces, sometimes being driven to the necessity of roping the ink rollers to make them function properly. W. G. did most of the tinkering around the presses. In tribulation he was stern and fearful to behold, but the trouble ended, he lapsed into good humor.

This seems to be the place to say that the Star office, no matter how severe its tribulations, was never run by profanity. Patience and perseverance were relied upon for weathering all storms. (Copyright, 1920, by N. Y. Evening Post, Inc.)

Tomorrow Jack Warwick will tell of Harding's struggles as a publisher.

REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

The Story of a Honeymoon

A Wonderful Romance of Married Life Wonderfully Told by ADELE GARRISON.

CHAPTER 665

WHAT ALLEN DRAKE TOLD MADGE ABOUT GRACE DRAKE.

Never in my life have I had such a moment of gratified vanity, of rehabilitated self-esteem, as was mine when Allen Drake's astonished eyes looked at me across the table after I had recited to him the figures I had memorized and his lips made the amende honorable for the slurring words he had uttered concerning feminine mentality.

I paid for it a moment later, however, with a quail of dismay. Mr. Drake's enthusiastic admiring words concerning my memory and his need

of it in his work opened up a troubled vista in my mind. It was one thing to enlist for the secret service under Lillian and to keep my connection with my country's work a secret from Dicky. It would be altogether another thing to promise to Allen Drake with my husband ignorant of my bargain. But I didn't know how much my promise to Lillian entailed, and I was glad, indeed, when Mr. Drake dropped the subject of my memory and began to speak of other things.

"After all," he said, with an utter abandonment of his former position, "I fancy this paper will be safer with you than with any one else, because no one knows you belong to us."

"I am sure Miss Drake suspects that I do," I returned quietly. "Miss Drake?" he countered sharply. "Where does she come in?" I saw that I had startled him, that until this moment he had no suspicion that Grace Drake was other than a remarkably beautiful and fascinating girl who had been impressed by his personality and was more than willing to indulge in a mild flirtation with him. I was conscious of a peculiar feminine willingness to enlighten him as to the girl's real motive in seeking his society.

"Mrs. Underwood believes her to be the leading spirit in the enemy camp of spies," I returned, "and I myself know that the man who followed us tonight and wounded you is under her direction."

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One On Drake.

I obeyed him literally, although I didn't go into the reasons which made her personal enmity for me so bitter a thing. But I outlined minutely her movements since her return from South America, and also told him the story of the man with the scarred hand, and his attempt to enter Lillian's library through the secret door.

He listened attentively, and I was gratified to see a distinct look of chagrin overspread his face, when I spoke of the man who had followed us.

"That explains something," he said with a short laugh, and then he flashed a rather rueful smile at me.

"I guess you're entitled to a comeback at me," he said, "and I'm not the boy who won't give you the chance to laugh at me. What do

you think of the Draper person signalling that man before my eyes?"

"I'm not surprised at anything she might do," I returned. "Well, I certainly have to hand it to her," he said, grudging admiration in his tone. "As I look back now, I see that this Johnny who followed us was in the station in a different get-up after you left. I noticed him eyeing her rather closely, but put it down to pronounced admiration of her beauty, which I would have reproved had it become offensive. But he disappeared, and I thought no more about the matter. Some girl, that! I owe her something for bamboozling me this way."

His tone held no grudge, but I knew that he wouldn't soon forget the incident.

"And now to business," he said, shrugging his broad shoulders as if he were shaking off all thought of Grace Drake.

"Are you afraid to keep this paper?"

I shot a scathing look at him.

"I beg your pardon," he said quickly. "But don't run any foolish risks, and, above all, inspect carefully any messages you may receive purporting to come from your husband or friends. Be sure they're authentic, especially if they name a meeting place unknown to you."

Plans For Parting.

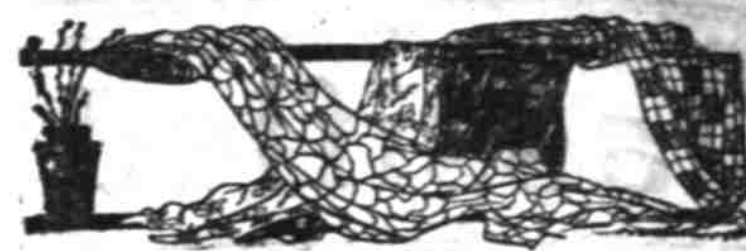
"And now we must get back. I'll

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transfer this to you in the machine, and then I think I'll have George take us both back to New York. I can't take you to Mrs. Underwood's door, for one of the strictest rules is to keep operatives ignorant of each other's identity of possible. George mustn't know who you are, nor dream of Mrs. Underwood. Where can I leave you safely?"

"One of Mrs. Underwood's men, a taxi driver, is waiting at a corner diagonally opposite the Pennsylvania station for any emergency." I answered.

"Good!" Mr. Drake ejaculated. "I'll have George drop you a block from there."

(To be continued)

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