

Luck counts when you're heading for the top

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

Why should Irwin Cohn resign? After all, he's only 85 years old. This energetic West Bloomfield resident leaves his home every morning, driving himself 30 miles to his Detroit law office: Holzman, Miller, Schwartz & Cohn.

Brown eyes sparkling like a 20-year-old's under bushy salt and pepper brows, Cohn introduces his wife Sadie.

"We've been married 60 years. I'm captured. She's married," he said.

When he first laid eyes on Sadie

across a river, he told a friend, "I'm going to marry her."

They made next day. He proposed two weeks later.

Cohn hasn't uncommonly successful at nearly everything he's turned to, but he insists calling it "luck."

He describes his philosophy: "I have faith. You overcome many obstacles in spite of yourself. I was a son-of-a-pup lawyer. I wasn't afraid of anybody. I was interested in real estate, business and law."

"You've had of the Wesleyan super-markets (in Great Scott)," said Cohn. He founded, ran it and put it on its feet.

People who think they're smart because they're successful are full of bugs. Without the element of luck, you're not worth a dime. I call it common sense, not brains," said Cohn, who's now worth a lot of dimes.

A 1917 GRADUATE of the University of Michigan law school, Cohn returned to school as a lecturer.

"I lectured not from books but from my own experiences," he said. "You've got to have opportunities, and it comes by luck. If you've got 60 percent luck, you're all right. When opportunity knocks, you've got to open the door and

say, 'come in,' not sit on your fanny."

He points toward Pine Lake through a picture window. "See that little white house there? I bought it for \$4,500 in 1932. I've been out here 54 years. I bought another lot on Pine Lake for \$1,000."

"My kids, my wife and I probably have 10 lakes in Oakland County I bought because I like lakes," said Cohn, an avid fisherman. He and his 87-year-old houseman Perry Jarrett already have their 1983 fishing licenses.

Many years ago Cohn bought the 51-acre Evans Lake property off Middlebelt Road in West Bloomfield. He had climbed over a fence to fish and imme-

diately caught a four-pound bass.

"I said, 'Boy, that's the lake I want! It's all luck. How did I know if I bought a lake for \$20,000 that 30 years later it would be worth a million?'" asked Cohn.

COHN HAS RECEIVED numerous honors and awards for his compassion and generosity.

There is a 13,000-tree forest in Israel named for the Cohns. A religious man, he credits his mother with his belief in the Ten Commandments.

"My mother was 100 percent religious all her life," he said. She and Cohn's father immigrated from

Lithuania in the 1880s. Samuel Cohn had a dry goods store on Gratiot in Detroit.

Cohn is interrupted from his spell-binding story-telling by Sadie, who just has had a phone call. She tells her husband his cousin's four children want to go to college, but are having some problems.

"So what's going to happen?" Cohn asked her with a wink.

"You're going to send them," said his wife.

End of questions.

Cohn gave West Bloomfield the land for its present main library and money to the West Bloomfield High School for its FM radio station. He helped found Sinai Hospital, was president of the Detroit House of Correction, served on the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and received the President's Club award of B'nai B'rith.

The list could go on for pages.

His empathy and charity extends to all groups regardless of race or religion. He has served twice as president of the Detroit Urban League, an organization of blacks. His black houseman is one of his best friends after many years.

It's not false modesty that leads him to call his accomplishments luck. He really believes it. He keeps up with local, state and world issues.

Irwin Cohn, born in the last century, is very much a man for today — and the next century.

State's legal chief blasts recall movement

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

The nation is losing world recognition because of the American public's growing disenchantment with its government, fostered by media criticism, undermine the country, the state and the nation's cities, Kelley said.

While not specifically mentioning the recall movement against Gov. James Blanchard, Kelley rapped the procedure in general.

"Recall movements are launched by

frustrated, ill-majority activists who are incapable of dealing with government. These campaigns are for the sake of minority who don't get their way."

"Some people don't realize in dealing with government officials that they have to be firm, frugal. They expect leaders to be supermen and superwomen. God forbid they make a mistake, it's off with their heads."

AS THE 64th presidential campaign revs up, politicians have announced their candidacies, Kelley said. An equal number of Republicans are positioning themselves to run if President Ronald Reagan decides not to seek re-election.

"There's a need for innovative leaders, willingness to take chances and represent the man and his people as a total

entity — whose appeal is to the majority consensus."

"In my view, it's not enough for a candidate to be a good speaker. Rhetoric, no matter how moving, will not get this country moving."

"I'm not impressed by candidates who know the ropes of government. It's assumed that to lead is to fight. But it's well to remember that the boxer who knows the ropes best is usually the one in trouble — the one being battered into submission."

Kelley said he doesn't favor one-issue candidates and he isn't willing to turn over to the media the decision on who national leaders will be.

"The media sells the notorious side of leadership to out-sensationalize the competition and titillate audiences."

"All dead patriots are considered

demi-Gods. Nobody measures up to God, but aided and abetted by the media, that's what people expect. History will look at us as a bunch of damn fools because we thought there were perfect leaders."

IT'S FASHIONABLE to run against government, but people have nothing to unify them except government, he contended.

Government's role is of an umpire, an impartial arbitrator to make sure the game is kept honest and all have an equal chance to participate, he said.

No one will for long give free consent to a government in which he has no confidence, Kelley said. Mistakes and incompetence shouldn't be overlooked, but neither should perfection be

expected, he maintained.

"The riskless society that sometimes may seem desirable is dull as dishwater. We are a people whose whole background was one of freedom to plan, to invent, to bargain, to construct, to dream and to compete freely."

"Those who seek elective office should be subject to searching and critical scrutiny. But the ascent of man, as John Broderick wrote, isn't made by lovable people. It's made by people with an immense integrity and at least a little genius."

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The beneficial effect of the spa depends on three elements: moist heat, rest and time. In this country, an individual who needs a slow pace and frequent rest is not encouraged to pursue that course. Spending hours in the atmosphere and warm waters of a spa is looked upon as something frivolous. Rather, patients and the public often expect medicine and surgery to provide a cure and do it quickly.

In the case of arthritis, medicine and surgery cannot meet these expectations. However, heat and rest can result in substantial relief. American society needs to develop an attitude of patience in order to give such therapy the opportunity to work. Only when such a change in attitude occurs will the spas regain their good repute.

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