

## How It Happened

By VIRGINIA E. STRONG  
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WNU Service.

JOE BLAINE sat in the program director's office of the small radio station in Massachusetts.

At the director's first mention of "Twilight Reveries," Joe's mind had automatically flown to those smart friends of his who would, he had guessed, rename the program "Twilight Slush." He writhed, mentally, as he imagined their cynical remarks. "Where's the flowing line, Omar?" or "Won't your hair grow, Byron-me-boy?"

Worriedly glancing at his boss' profile, Joe's voice belied his attempt at casualness. "For the last time, my revered Chief, I refuse. Not that I don't appreciate the honor, of course," he hastily added. After all, from ordinary announcer to star in one hour, he offered a fellow every day. Now, if it were anything but . . . but poetry! The word glided from his mouth in a flood of contempt.

He rose from his chair preparing to leave the room. "No, no, a thousand times no," he sang, walking to the door.

"Joe!"

Blaine stopped with a suddenness that matched the program director's incisive command. He had heard that tone before.

"Boston has started using poetry," the radio station's czar announced. "So has New York. You know that as well as I do. What you don't know is this." His smooth, deliberate words became tinged with a threat. "Twilight Reveries" is going on the air, a combination of organ and poetry. You're the only guy in the place whose voice is good enough to put it over."

That is how it happened that Joe Blaine became "Joseph," the reader on the "Twilight Reveries" hour, in spite of his friends' joshing. That is how it happened that his pleasing, vibrant voice carried homely, sentimental poems to places near and far. And that is why Joe received a good many fan letters from the despised element which goes in for "that stuff."

One of them read like this:

"My dear Mr. Blaine: My daughter has been a patient in City Hospital for several months. We despaired of her life because she gave up the battle. Some weeks ago she first heard your program and although she seemed to show no particular interest, the next day she asked to have it tided in and has listened to you every day since."

"Your inspirational readings have brought my daughter renewed hope and ambition. Her condition has been changed for the better and the doctors are now sure she will pull through. We feel you have been instrumental in saving her life. I just wanted you to know."

"Her mother."

"Roberta Jennings."

The Program Director couldn't afford to keep secret a situation so deserving of publicity. That is how it happened that the newspapers first printed stories of Mrs. Jennings' daughter, Carolyn, and of the hard-boiled announcer. And that led to Blaine's visiting Miss Jennings in order to give her a huge bouquet of roses sent by the radio station.

Joe's angry nervousness gave way to an unaccustomed quiet on entering the hospital, for his impression of white-walls, the uniforms of doctors and nurses, and the calm violence of his mood until his whole being was, strangely toned down.

Joe attempted to smile when he was introduced to Mrs. Roberta Jennings and her daughter. Perhaps it was a failure, because Mrs. Jennings, although still grateful, modestly (and ineffectually) objected to any additional publicity. Or perhaps it was because Carolyn, so white herself, lay there in a white gown on a white bed; a frail little thing, awfully quiet as she watched and listened.

Or it might have been her quick, courageous smile as she said, "Oh, how beautiful! Thank you so much," when Joe handed her the roses and the flashlight picture was taken. In any event, the photograph appearing in the newspapers showed a young lady smilingly at ease, receiving flowers from an unsmiling, obviously embarrassed, young man.

Fan mail increased after that, of course, for the story was carried in the Boston papers as well. And in order to forestall the offer he had heard was coming from a larger station, the program director again talked with Joe.

"Twilight slush" has clicked pretty well, hasn't it?" he began, sarcastically.

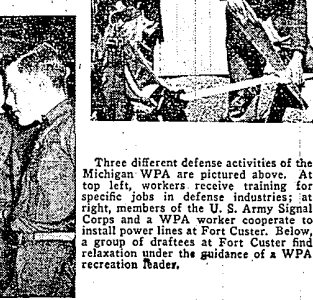
"I . . . ah . . . it seems so." His humble tone gave the czar quite a shock. When Joe failed in modern repartee, it was the man-bit-the-dog kind of news.

After a puzzled pause, he continued. "If you want to keep it up there'll be a substantial raise in your next pay."

Well, Joe not only continued to read poems but started to write them, too. The "hope springs eternal" style, so that Miss Jennings would hear them and get well quicker.

He also drove to the hospital again—carrying roses he had himself bought.

## WPA's PART IN DEFENSE PROGRAM



Three different defense activities of the Michigan WPA are pictured above. At top left, workers receive training for specific jobs in defense industries; at right, members of the U. S. Army Signal Corps and a WPA worker cooperate to install power lines at Fort Custer. Below a group of draftees at Fort Custer find relaxation under the guidance of a WPA recreation leader.

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## Letter

plenty of reinforcements had come in, so we did not have to go out, except to keep an eye on the roof for incendiary, and help load ambulances, with gear.

Scouts Assist During Raids  
"I got a lot of mail from messengers in leading patients, and the Scouts generally have worked wonders in all the raids. One tunnelled for many yards under debris to locate trapped people, and to lead the rescue squads. Some of the boys who are too old to continue with the messengers are now transferring to the First Aid Services, as they passed the St. John examination in their spare time. We are always ready for recruits, as the army is steadily draining off the younger men, though we have a valuable core of old soldiers who are by this time very well trained, and very keen first-aiders."

"I have spent all my spare time in sleep during the week-ends I have been home, so have not been to Troop Meetings, but I have seen some of the Scouts and my fellow Scouts, and it seems that everything is going well. Two of our lads have just done their First-Class hike, and several more are ready to go as soon as they can find a safe spot. It is very dangerous to camp in the fields as usual, owing to the risk of being mistaken for a military target. All tents have to be camouflaged and many favourite camp sites are in prohibited areas. Even so, it is probably safer than being at home, but the responsibility at camp weighs on the scouts' minds. Besides the messengers, don't like leaving the City in case anything happens."

Plenty of Food  
"I had a wild thrill today. I went in a shop for some cigarettes, and they told me to get some of a decent brand, but was actually offered some MILK chocolate—a whole two-ounce block. That is the

best I have had for many months. Even my wife said how clever I was. We have plenty of food, and we get a hot meal every third night when we go on duty. It is the little things we miss. It is astonishing what a craving I get sometimes for jam. We get a pound of jam and marmalade a month when supplies are available, but we seem to be all right for tea and margarine. I can't tell the difference between margarine and butter, anyway. Cooking fat is a little scarce, though we always get our ration. We don't worry about odds and ends like tinny stuff from overseas, as we have been eating something that men have had to get torpedoes to bring. Cigarettes are of weird and wonderful brands, and some smell very queer, but we can generally get something or other to smoke. We get about a shillingworth of meat each week, and don't notice any lack of it. Eggs are easy to get. So you see, we are not too badly off. I wish we could get some tinned sheep. Clothes are a bit expensive, but we are well supplied. If we don't get bombed, we have enough clothes and boots to last two years. A fellow's wife now has no excuse to give away his coat just as it has got nicely broken in, and that is a lot to be thankful for, you will agree."

Reports Reliable  
"Jerry's night plane losses have been high lately—from nine to over thirty every night this month. You can absolutely rely on our reports of enemy losses, for the Press never give the figures until the Government has cross-checked them as far as they are possible. Day-raids are now very rare. We had a warning yesterday morning, but nothing seemed to be about. I have not had to go to the school shelter for many weeks now."

Well, I think that is all the news this time. Best wishes to you and your family. I would like to see you all one day.

Yours in Scotland,  
E. R. Haywood."

## Building Profitable Pastures on Michigan Farms

CHICAGO.—Michigan farmers can obtain the most profitable results from so-called pastures was described in a statement issued here by the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee.

"The farmer's primary job," says the statement, "is to get a good stand of legumes and grasses. To accomplish this it is important, first of all, to prepare the seed bed early so as to kill as many weeds as possible."

"Next, it is vital to have the soil tested for acidity and to determine whether it is adequately supplied with phosphorus and potash. Whether the stand is good or poor one will be determined by the presence or absence of plant food."

State Colleges Co-operate  
"Agriculturists at state colleges, or county agents are prepared to cooperate in making these tests and providing recommendations on pasture crops in a rotation."

"In general, where a permanent pasture crop is planned, farmers will find that a top dressing of a complete fertilizer in the fall will pay for itself many times over in producing earlier and more succulent grass for spring grazing, as well as a more sturdy root system, encouraging heavier growth."

Need Fertilization  
"The value of a program of legumes and grasses is manifold. Thou-



Lush, productive pastures that are the result of careful soil management and fertilization are among a farm's greatest assets.

sands of acres of farm land throughout the Middle West have been seriously depleted of their life-giving plant elements by years of grain cropping without the regular and frequent production of legumes and without a program of fertilization which returns nutrients to the soil removed by growing crops. Decreased yields and a serious erosion problem have resulted from this condition."

Improving Soil Tillage  
"A good sturdy stand of legumes will improve the soil with, promote nitrogen fixation, add materially to the active organic matter in the soil and increase the yield of corn

or grain crops which follow in the rotation."

"Every farmer knows that his soil 'works' better at some times than at others. Some years a good, firm seed bed is easy to secure. At such times the soil is said to have good physical condition or is in good till. At other times only a cloddy field can be obtained. Then the soil is in poor till. While the degree of till in a soil is a somewhat intangible factor, experience has proved that a good stand of legumes or grasses definitely promotes good physical condition, fertility and improves the yield of crops which follow."

## LOCALS

Mrs. Bertha Westfall spent Saturday night and Sunday with her daughter, Mrs. Basil Mulholland at West Point Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Addison Comstock of Grand River avenue are entertaining their two grandchildren, Joyce and John Reale of Detroit, while their parents are in Mexico.

Mrs. S. D. Harger spent Saturday in Amherstburg, Canada with Mrs. Alice Altman and Miss Surby. The former has charge of the oldest church in the dominion and Mrs. Surby is president of the Business University of Canada.

Mrs. Clarence Bickling is in Pontiac General Hospital for an operation.

The Glenn Leland family entertained a number of friends at a picnic at their home Saturday night.

L. L. Joy of Kalamazoo is expected to arrive here Friday to spend a couple of weeks with his daughter, Mrs. Richard Taylor and family, on Shawnessy street.

Robert Jack, Howell and David Heffron of Adrian are spending a couple of days with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Pierce.

Little Donald Osmus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Osmus, had his tonsils removed Thursday by Dr. Z. H. Aschmeider.

Muriel Colliau of Detroit is spending a few days this week with Mrs. David Edwards of Parkview avenue.

Freddie McClelland of Lake Orion is staying this week with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ross.

Mrs. Florence Ramsey and daughter Ann Marie left Tuesday morning for a two weeks visit with Mrs. Ramsey's mother in Florida.

Mrs. Finn of Detroit is staying with her father, W. F. Perry, during the death of his wife on June 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Alexander spent Sunday with Mrs. Alexander's brother Lewis Murphy and family at Wyandotte.

Mrs. T. H. McGee attended the funeral of Mrs. Albert Conn in Detroit Tuesday.

Mrs. Lyman Strang and her daughter, Mrs. Lettie Strang, spent last week Thursday with the former's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Conroy, in their home at Lake Orion.

Mrs. James N. Erwin spent Thursday morning in Detroit.

Tuesday afternoon Clifton Wilber took Mrs. Fred Simmons of Northville to the Ann Arbor Hospital to see her husband, Mr. Simmons had an operation there on Monday morning.

Judge John J. Schulte is in University Hospital, following an operation on Wednesday.

Jack Gutsch of Los Angeles, California, is visiting his aunt, Mrs. Nye Humphrey, and Mr. Humphrey.

Mrs. Charles Muether and Betty Lee visited relatives at Milford Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Auten entertained at a six o'clock surprise birthday dinner Tuesday evening honoring the sixteenth birthday anniversary of their son, Mr. J. A. Auten. Sixteen persons were present.

Miss John J. Schulte underwent an operation at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor Wednesday and is now reported to be getting along fine.

Miss Mabel Grant and C. Newcomb of Flint visited Wednesday evening at the home of Miss Lettie Strang, Mrs. Ralph Strang and family.

Forest Fire Hazard  
Runs High in Michigan

Though tourists in record numbers visited Michigan's forests, fields and streams on the Independence Day weekend when the forest fire hazard was high because of the general dryness, the conservation department reports the state's fire loss was held to 534 acres over the holidays, an average of three and one-half acres for 153 fires.

Three districts in the lower peninsula reported losses of more than 100 acres each, with heaviest losses in the Traverse City district. In the upper peninsula, the loss in 24 fires was held to 28 acres.

The season's statewide total for state and private forest and land stands at 4,745 acres burned over.

Rain, fairly general throughout the state early in the week, reduced the hazard somewhat, but conservation department officials say a few warm days will make conditions dangerous again.

Home Industry on Farm  
Hard-pressed farmers in various parts of the country are supplementing their incomes from crops by operating novel home industries in off seasons. In Arkansas, for example, is a resourceful farmer, Riley Miller, who makes his mule split shingles.

As the mule works on a home-made treadmill it raises and lowers a large knife that shaves off a shingle each time it drops. The mule thus produces 7,000 shingles a day which net its owner a clear profit of \$12.

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