

# Observer-land FEATURES

Wednesday, September 28, 1966

## Just Chattin'

A Few Lines Bring Back Memories

by W. W. EDGAR

A few simple lines, hidden away in the public prints a few weeks ago, awakened many fond memories of the late 20's and early 30's when all the world was gay and we were enjoying a period that now is recalled as the days of hilarious nonsense.

The few lines told of the death of Jack Laiken, who died penniless and whose body was being held at Wayne University Medical Center until someone came to claim it.

The name of Jack Laiken may mean nothing to the present generation, but he was one of the well known characters in the "days of hilarious nonsense" who had an utter hatred for work and enjoyed living by his wits instead of working with his hands.

Jack was small in stature but a giant when it came to providing humorous fodder for the fight fans when boxing was in its hey-day.

Only slightly more than five feet tall he was a midget compared to the so-called fighters he managed or "guided." But he was a big man once inside the ring and one never knew at what moment he might provide an incident that might even overshadow the performance of his boxers.

For instance, there was a night in the Olympia when one of his fighters engaged in a close, grueling match, and as soon as the final bell rang, little Jack leaped into the ring, with a loud cry that his fighter "wasn't been" robbed. Told that the decision was being made in favor of his fighter, Jack turned to the crowd and shouted, "The boxing commission has just ordered the decision to my man." What a laugh he provided.

But my best memory of him was far removed from the fight game. One evening he sauntered into the sports department of the Detroit Free Press and surprised everyone with his appearance as there were no fights scheduled at Olympia.

"What are you doing in town?" he was asked.

"Whatinell has happened to this town," he countered, "it used to be a good town, but it sure has gone to the dogs."

He didn't wait for an answer, but just kept on.

"Now that the fight game has gone down hill I have a new racket. I am promoting a marathon dance out at the Naval Armory, but I can't get to first base. Nobody is opposing it. And marathon dancing is like publishing a book in Boston. If you can't get somebody opposing it, you're sunk."

We sat chatting for a few moments about various and sundry things, such as "what happened to the fight game," when, of a sudden, he spun around in his chair and asked, "do you know any minister in a poor church around here—any badly in need of help?"

This seemed a most peculiar question as Jack never was one to talk about church and religion.

Told that we knew several, especially on the near east side, but by the Naval Armory where he was trying to promote the marathon dance, his eyes lit up.

"Get one of them on the phone," he said, "I want to talk with him."

In a few seconds the contact was made and we introduced them over the phone.

"Reverend," Jack began with a sly wink, "I have just been told that your Church could use some funds. I've got to make a sizable donation if you would do something for me."

Jack listened for a moment, but kept nodding his head in the affirmative and we knew the conversation must have been interesting.

"Tell you what I want you to do for me—if you will," he told the good minister. "I understand they are attempting to hold a marathon dance over near you at the Naval Armory and I'd like you to help stop it by preaching a sermon against it. You know, Rev. marathon dancing is terrible. It wrecks you physically and actually makes dopes out of the people."

Jack hung up the phone. "He's going to do it," he said, "and he's going to get all the ministers on the east side to preach against it. What a break."

A week later, the marathon dance played to a packed house.

Little Jack had done it again. What a character!

## Would You Believe A 1900 Lb. Moose?

A 2,200 mile trans-Canada auto trip linked with a 1,000 mile Pacific Western Airlines flight to the Arctic Circle were the stepping stones to a life-time hunting adventure for a lifetime for Richard F. Donna, of Yale Avenue in Livonia.

Combining the game reserves of Canada's great north-west territories, with the cooperative efforts of Stan Burrell, operator of the Hungry Horse Camp, yielded a fly-in, back-packing wilderness trek that would be hard to equal on any continent.

Only recently opened to hunting, this area of the Northwest Territories and Burrell's success to operate a full scale outfitting operation, received considerable acclaim in several national publications.

Knowledge of this plus an avid interest in big game hunting prompted Donna to arrange for 10 to 14 days arctic hunt for Dall Sheep, Barren Ground Caribou (wild reindeer) and Moose. After a flight through mountain passes and canyons, filled with clouds and snow storms, game country was reached.

Then followed 10 days of hunting during which a Dall Ram with horns nearly a full curl and half was taken during a heavy snow squall that obliterated normal vision.

A caribou with near perfect antler proportions added an early bonus to the hunt. However, for Donna it was a bonus with complications. Did you ever try back-packing, with a regular survival gear, 150 pounds of sheep and caribou antlers. Plus additional trips for meat, which was later turned over to local Indians for making into "jerky."

Resting up from this sort of work consisted of hiking nine miles to fish in the Godlin River for Grayling and Dolly Varden Trout, (up to five pounds). Donna said they kept only as many as it was possible to carry back to their base at Hungry Horse Camp.

The last days of the hunt were spent in pursuit of one of the large Bull Moose known to live among the ageless six foot Arctic willows that cover the high treeless plateaus. Enduring the still silent Arctic nights and the snappy mornings requiring an axe to break ice to get breakfast water paid off for the hunt party.

A Moose was taken that was considered enormous by any standard. Live weight was estimated by a Canadian Wildlife Service Representative to be over 1,900 pounds. The animal measured seven feet from bottom of front foot to the top of its shoulder. Antler spread was 5' 4".

Although Donna has hunted in western sections of Canada and the United States since 1957 this was the first trip to the remote sections. The only things missing from the full bag tally was a Grizzly Bear.

Special arrangements were made for flying service to the general area early last spring. All equipment was of the lightest, portable design. Usually Alpine Mountain climbing items.

An unusual highlight of the trip was that Donna brought his own specially

## \$ \$ Investing Inquiries \$ \$ (Special Situations)

Q. I have a relative who has done quite well in the stock market. In discussing her success I have determined that she invests in those companies which she considers to be Special Situations.

A. Special situations are considered a form of speculation. They exist where some unique part of a company's operations is likely to have a substantial effect on the price of the stock. When these successful operations become well known the price action of the stock usually out performs the market.

Typical special situations might exist where: A successful company has or is about to split its stock, incur a large profit increase or has developed a quality product which holds strong promise. A good example of a special situation involving the above three characteristics is Michigan's Kelsey Hayes.

Another special situation could exist when an unprofitable company has had a change of management and is undergoing extensive product and operating reorganization. A few years ago Chrysler Corporation fell into this classification. Other special situations develop when a company spins off some of its assets to the shareholders, or when a law suit, long pending, is to be settled in the company's favor or the market price of a corporation stock is selling well below book value.

By Laurence A. Wyson—  
Stockbroker

(Send your inquiries on investments to The Observer, "Investing Inquiries," 3300 Fairview Road, Livonia. The answers are the opinion of Laurence A. Wyson, who is highly qualified on the subject and is a member of the Finance, Real Estate and Securities Councils.)

## The Alert Look at 14



Viola Schuldt, 34055 Dorais, Livonia

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