

VOLUME V MUSINGS  
BY GENE EARNER  
SPRING OF 2008

FARCE #1: WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL JIMMY CLAUSEN COMING IN A LIMO TO SOUTH BEND TO ANNOUNCE HE IS GOING TO ENROLL AT NOTRE DAME. IN HIS FRESHMAN YEAR AT NOTRE DAME HE PLAYED LIKE HE WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. DID KNUTE ROCKNE ARRIVE IN A LIMO?

IN MY OPINION ANY YOUNG MAN WHO IS ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE TO PLAY COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL WOULD BE FOOLISH NOT TO CONSIDER NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. NORTHWESTERN IS THE CLASS OF ALL DIVISION I UNIVERSITIES. NO WONDER!! THEIR COACH, PAT FITZGERALD IS THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL. IN OTHER WORDS THE HIGHEST CLASS COACH IN THE COUNTRY. ALSO NORTHWESTERN HAS AN IMPECCABLE N.C.A.A. RATING, HOPE TO SEE 4 GAMES THIS YEAR.

I HAVE HAD AN ARTIFICIAL LEFT EYE SINCE 1967. DOCTORS SAY TO CHANGE THEM (GET A NEW ONE) EVERY 5 TO 6 YEARS. I AM COMTEMPLATING ON GETTING A NEW ONE AFTER 41 YEARS.

FARCE #2: SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING RAISE WAS 2 ½ PERCENT THIS YEAR. I FEEL SORRY FOR A-ROD ONLY GETTING 10% FOR COST OF LIVING EXPENSES THIS YEAR.

MOST T.V. COMMERCIALS ARE BAD, BUT THE ONE USING A HARRY CARAY IMPERSONATOR IS ONE OF THE WORST. A.T. & T. SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES TO USE SOMEONE TO MIMIC A DEAD PERSON.

WITH THE APPROACHING COST OF OVER 4 DOLLARS A GALLON FOR GAS I MAY POSTPONE MY TRIP TO MONTANA AND YELLOWSTONE PARK. I COULD PROBABLY MAKE MY 5<sup>TH</sup> TRIP TO IRELAND FOR ABOUT THE SAME COST.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH JOHNNY CHAPPELLO AND HIS RICHARDS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE STATE OF ILLINOIS 4-A (LARGE SCHOOL DIVISION) CHAMPIONSHIP. JOHNNY WAS A NEIGHBOR OF OURS. JOHNNY AND HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS WENT TO HOLY REDEEMER GRADE SCHOOL WITH OUR CHILDREN. GREAT FAMILY!!! I SAW 4 GAMES LIVE AND 2 ON T.V.

FARCE#3: "FREE AGENCY" HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES TRANSFERRING FROM ONE SCHOOL TO ANOTHER SCHOOL SHOULD CEASE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RULE OF BEING INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR ONE YEAR AT THE VARSITY LEVEL?

I WAS VERY PLEASED TO SEE DAIRY OWNER, ANTI UNION, JIM OBERWEIS GET DEFEATED FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TIME. MY FATHER WAS A UNION STEWARD FOR THE BORDEN DAIRY COMPANY. IN 1934 MEADOWMOOR DAIRY WOULD NOT PERMIT THEIR EMPLOYEES TO JOIN THE MILK DRIVERS UNION. IN 1934 MY FATHER STOLE 2 FULLY LOADED HOUSE DELIVERY TRUCKS (HIS FRIEND TONY

CHRISTIANO STOLE 3) IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THEY DROVE THE MEADOWMOOR DAIRY TRUCKS TO 121<sup>ST</sup> AND VINCENNES AND DEPOSITED THEM IN THE QUARRY ABOUT 100 FEET DOWN THE HILL. IN A VERY SHORT TIME MEADOWMOOR HAD THEIR EMPLOYEES JOIN THE MILK DRIVERS UNION (LOCAL 753). I GET PROUDER AND PROUDER OF MY FATHER EVERY TIME I TELL THAT STORY.

IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY CLOTHING MADE IN THE U.S.A. ARNOLD PALMER AND JACK NICKLAUS ETC. SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO HAVE THEIR NAMES PUT ON FOREIGN PRODUCTS.

THE NEXT CONGRESS SHOULD CHANGE THE UNEVEN PLAYING FIELDS THAT U.S. MANUFACTURERS HAVE TO PLAY ON. TARIFFS ARE MUCH HIGHER GOING TO THE ORIENT THAN THEY ARE COMING FROM THE ORIENT TO OUR SHORES. BILL CLINTON'S NAFTA AND HIS GLOBAL ECONOMY STINK!!! TOO MANY U.S. COMPANIES GO OUT OF BUSINESS AND TOO MANY HARD WORKING CITIZENS ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS.

2 MAXWELL STREET MERCHANTS MET ON THE STREET. THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MERCHANT ASKED THE OTHER, "WHY DIDN'T HE ASK HOW HIS BUSINESS WAS DOING." THE SECOND ONE SAID, "O.K. HOW IS BUSINESS?" THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ONE SAID IN A DEJECTED TONE, "DON'T ASK."

I READ THE NEWSPAPER THAT BOBBY KNIGHT HAD SOME UNCOMPLIMENTARY COMMENTS ABOUT DICK VITALE. I WOULD BET THAT THE FEELING IS MUTUAL.

BAD MATH: KEN HARRELSON BAD MOUTHING WRIGLEY FIELD AS BEING TOO SMALL. THE FOUL BALL LINES ARE 20 FEET LONGER AT WRIGLEY FIELD THAN SOX PARK WHERE HE DOES MOST OF HIS WORK. SISTER ADORA WOULD MAKE HIM STAY AFTER SCHOOL FOR THAT REMARK. (DUMB!!!)

WRONG ADDRESS: JESSIE JACKSON AND FATHER MICHAEL PFLEGER PICKETING A GUN SHOP THAT SELLS GUNS ONLY TO POLICE OFFICERS. (DUMBER!!!)

AN OLDE IRISH STORY: A TEACHER IN IRELAND ASKED MICKEY MURPHY, "WHO KNOCKED DOWN THE WALLS OF JERICO?" MICKEY SAID THAT HE DIDN'T DO IT. MICKEY'S MOTHER TOLD THE TEACHER IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IF MY SON SAID HE DIDN'T DO IT THEN HE DIDN'T DO IT. MICKEY'S FATHER CONFRONTED THE TEACHER AND SAID HER VICIOUS RUMOR COULD HURT HIS FAMILY'S GOOD NAME. TO STOP THE RUMOR JUST SEND US A BILL AND WE'LL PAY FOR THE DAMN WALL.

I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE DAILY SOUTHTOWN DROPPED ANDREW GREELEY'S WEEKLY COLUMN. I DEALT WITH HIM 40 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE. HE WAS NEWLY ORDAINED AND A NUT CASE, THEN ALSO.

I REALLY ENJOY READING CAROL MARIN'S COLUMNS AS POLITICAL EDITOR OF THE SUN-TIMES. CAROL HAS PLENTY OF MATERIAL THESE DAYS WRITING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, TONY REZKO, OUR "BRILLIANT" GOVERNOR, ETC. ALSO HER MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY APPEARANCES ON

W.T.T.W. WITH GUESTS CAN BE VERY ENTERTAINING. CAROL SEEMS TO BE STILL TAKING "CUTE PILLS." LIKE HER NEW STYLE OF BANGS.

I WORKED FOR THE A.J. CANFIELD BEVERAGE COMPANY FAMILY FOR 25 YEARS. ONE OF THE NICEST FAMILIES I HAVE EVER MET. I ENJOYED MY EMPLOYMENT THERE MORE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- EASTER - ABOUT 40 PEOPLE OR MORE
- APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> - ANDRE RIEU SHOW ( 4 PEOPLE)
- MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> - MY SON JOEY'S WEDDING (300 PEOPLE)
- SUMMER OF 2008 - POSSIBLE VACATION TRIP?
- ALL OF MY OTHER DAYS ARE DEVOTED TO DAILY TRIPS TO THE CEMETERY, DAILY NAPS, AND DAILY DAYDREAMING OF MY ALMOST 76 YEARS ON EARTH. PEOPLE OFTEN ASK WHEN MY BIRTHDAY IS. I USUALLY TELL THEM IT IS JUNE 31<sup>ST</sup>. DON'T WANT ANY SURPRISE PARTIES OR GIFTS, ETC.

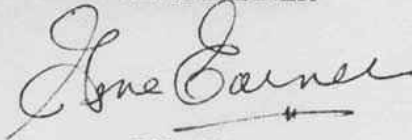
I BOUGHT A CREAM COLORED SINGLE BREASTED SPORT COAT FOR JOEY'S WEDDING, MADE IN POLAND. GEORGIE ZIMMER'S MEN'S WEARHOUSE CLOTHING. (MY WYWMY PO PULSKU)

SOMEDAY I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE A STORY AND SPELL EVERYTHING PHONETICALLY INSTEAD OF SPELLING EVERYTHING CORRECTLY.

IN A SPARE MOMENT PLEASE SAY A PRAYER FOR DONNA AS I KNOW SHE IS PRAYING FOR US. "I HOPE SOMEDAY TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN. UNTIL THEN I'LL HEAR YOU TALKING TO ME IN THE SILENCE OF THE STARS."

THAT'S A WRAP.

GENE EARNER

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Earner". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a horizontal line with a small flourish at the end.

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