
Skirting The River Saint Joe. (A melodrama)

TIME: Night after "Brooklyn Bessie" came out. About 8:30 P.M.

PLACE: Prefect of Religion office.

CHARACTERS: Father; two discussion club members, Jack and Jim, Brick McGutzky and an innocent Freshman.

(Father has just put the receiver of his French phone back in place, picks up his cigarette again and resumes conversation with Jack and Jim who are participating along with six other Notre Dame men in the Catechetical Congress at St. Mary's this weekend.)

FATHER: Well, you're right, at that. Sister Madeleva tells me every student who's genuinely interested in the general sessions is quite welcome.

JIM: I'm taking a couple of crackerjack Freshmen over Friday night at 8:00 to hear the origin and history of this confraternity business. Bishop O'Hara is the expert on vacation schools. He'll prove the need of the confraternity in every parish.

JACK: We take our bow in the second general session Saturday afternoon at 2:00. I've got a lot out of examining study club procedure, but I hate the idea of appearing before those blamed girls! (Someone punches the door as though with a muffled brick-bat) Wonder who that could be?

FATHER: Who else could it be? (loudly) Come in (Enter McGutzky, a plain envelope in his right hand.)

McGUTZKY: (eyebing Father) Say, Father, what's the idea no blow in the Bulletin the other night? Who is this "Two-Time" Tom? I'm no second fiddle.

JIM: (offering Brick a cigarette) You're sore because Mishawaka Mabel didn't burst into print. (Jack gets on Brick's other ear.)

JACK: S'pose you're going to the Congress this weekend, aren't you?

McGUTZKY: You're doggone tootin' I am. It's the only way I can break in over there. (Turns to Father, throws the plain envelope on the desk) A little fodder for your Bulletin, Father. (He screams. As he does the buzzer rings).

FATHER: Say, Jack, hop into the chapel for a second and tell that fellow I'll be in to hear his confession in two minutes.

JIM: (Alone with Father) You know I think that talk at 8:00 Saturday night ought to be a humdinger. Bishop Noll sure knows how much the Church needs an articulate laity. And Father Mooney will be good on college men in parish life.

FATHER: That's right, but the best part of this convention is going to be the students themselves. Zealous young men and women from eighteen midwest colleges I want to hear them. You know how earnestly our fellows have been preparing.

(Jack returns from the chapel. Close at his heels is an innocent Freshman.)

INNOCENT FRESHMAN: (Pays no attention to Jack and Jim) Look at this, Father. (He hands Father a plain envelope.) There's twenty names in there. I'm taking this note over to St. Mary's, asking Janet and Mary to reserve seats for us Sunday afternoon at 2:00 for last general session. (Phone rings, Father puts letter down.)

FATHER: Hello....Yes, those marriage Bulletins have been off the press a week now. Tell him \$2.00 for a hundred sets..... Yes, the reprint of "Our Greatest Glory" is ready too. (Puts the phone aside and picks up the wrong letter.) Well, you're pretty lucky to know the right people over there. Hope you get good seats. (Exit Innocent Freshman.)

JACK: Say, Father, didn't you forget about the fellow in chapel?

FATHER: Jeepers, that's right. I'll see you tomorrow. (turns toward chapel, then looks back) If you have a little spare time, why not drop downstairs and help the NO SMUT committee? They're packing till midnight. They've sent out about 32,000 copies already. (Finally gets into chapel. Jack and Jim go downstairs to help out on NO SMUT.)

PROLOGUE.

INNOCENT FRESHMAN visited St. Mary's this p.m., delivered the note penned by McGutzky. JANET and MARY read it aloud to a circle.

"Dear Father: I liked all you said about Sad South Bend Sue and Brooklyn Bessie. Keep my "Two-Time" Tommy away from them. Gratefully. (signed) Blue Belle of St. Mary's."

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Dick Benedict (Scrin); grandfather of Bernie Tech (Dillon); Edmund J. Brouillette, friend of Jim Newland (Carroll). Ill, Gene Polette (Lyons); friend of Don Smith (Dil.); uncle of Fred Digby (Walsh); friend of Bill O'Brien. 2 spec.ints.