

# Gene Byrnes Says:—"Thanks for the Advice."



## The Unknown Tenor

By MURIEL BLAIR

(© 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)  
 "The way of the transgressor—"  
 The cleric veered, with kindness  
 aforethought, and supplied a crumb of  
 comfort instead of censure.  
 "The way of the transgressor may  
 anon be bordered with roses of sweet  
 peace and solitude. The moments of  
 bygone days may drift back to you and  
 tide your souls heavenward. In your  
 hearts you are not bad. You have  
 perhaps sinned and your sins have  
 identified you. But that does not hold  
 you from about-facing to home and  
 loved ones, who still trust you. There  
 is good ahead. When you have paid  
 the county its penalty be sure you  
 show that sin's identity was not com-  
 plete."

It was song service day at the work-  
 house.  
 "Now," said the minister, "let's sing  
 that good old song, 'Bless'd Be the Tie  
 That Binds.' Everybody sing. Many  
 of you have good voices."  
 The little chapel organ began and  
 the leader pitched the tune. Before  
 the second verse was reached the  
 chapel was filled with music. Then—  
 The visitors bent forward and scan-  
 neded the faces of the prisoners. A  
 voice somewhere among them rang  
 out in rich tenor, clear and clean as  
 a clarion call. It carried its notes as  
 might a super-chorister. The old song  
 echoed and re-echoed through the cell  
 halls, and the tenor led the rest.

There was a voice that might have  
 drawn encore and encore from the  
 most fastidious and critical audience.  
 Yet it was among the prisoners. But  
 where?

Next day music lovers went through  
 the workhouse looking for the man  
 "who sang tenor at the song service."  
 He was not found. They went among  
 the prisoners and asked. No one seem-  
 ed to know.

Could it be that a famous songster  
 had fallen?  
 The critic who had "discovered a  
 voice" would not be satisfied. He  
 imagined a beautiful mystery in the  
 singer's reticence. That he was a  
 prisoner was certain. He had been  
 seen. And he bore the prisoner's  
 label.

So they looked again at prisoner  
 after prisoner and into cell after cell.  
 In the last cell but one a man was  
 reading. They were walking noise-  
 lessly and he did not see them. It  
 was a song book he held. Then he  
 looked up, quietly slipping the book,  
 back-up, on the bunk. He arose and  
 turned to the narrow window's bars.  
 Some one called to him. Apparently  
 he did not hear. They called again.  
 How they wished they had been able  
 to use his name. But how could they  
 know it?

"Step this way—you at the window  
 —we want to speak to you."  
 He started, as if undecided. They  
 knew he heard. Then very, very slowly  
 and timidly he came to them.

It was the tenor.  
 "Where did you get that voice—that  
 tenor?" one asked abruptly.  
 "Oh, I thought you had another war-  
 rant for me—when I got out. Is that  
 all you want? Honest?"

"We have no warrant for you. We  
 do not know anything about you. But  
 we want to know about yourself;  
 about that voice. We've come to  
 help you. That tenor has no place in  
 a workhouse."

They had found a singer who had  
 not found himself. They led him to  
 talk.

"When I was a boy I used to sing  
 in Sunday school. A big fellow from  
 the church choir once told me that I  
 would be a great singer some day;  
 that I had a voice to be envied. But  
 I never tried. When I got grown I  
 followed the boys. I've been here be-  
 fore—after a whiz—and that day was  
 the first time I ever sang like a man.  
 The sky-guide somehow got on my  
 nerves and made me forget. I have  
 been in this time fifty-five days. Just  
 got five now. I'm glad, too, for I'll  
 never be back. Worst time I could  
 have picked."

The singer paused and swallowed  
 hard.  
 "Wife's sick—God's best little woman;  
 little girl—my one best bet—she's  
 got diphtheria. I got to thinking when  
 the fellow said I was not bad, and  
 when he started the old song I had  
 to sing—till you saw me. I've got a  
 good voice? Do you know if I might  
 help—?"

He stopped and turned back to the  
 little window. He looked up through  
 the bars to the sky and his face re-  
 gained some of the soul-light it had  
 when he sang. Then he faced about.

"If my baby can live—"  
 "You will be out tonight," said one  
 who seemed to know. "The mayor  
 will pardon you this afternoon. Sing  
 the sick ones back to health, then  
 come to me some day. I will tell you  
 something worth while."

The big tenor's face stared wonder-  
 fully into the future.  
 They shook hands with him and  
 passed down the corridors. No one  
 spoke. But as they neared the end of  
 the cell rows they heard a song follow-  
 ing, passing, leading them. It seemed  
 on its way to the former derelict's  
 home.

And as they passed out the groaning  
 gates the silvery tenor notes bore  
 to them the benediction:  
 "Bless'd be the tie that binds."

That he should be buried in a wicker  
 basket was the expressed wish of  
 a Werthing (England) barrister.

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### LAKESIDE

Mr. and Mrs. Todd Whaley and Mr. and Mrs. McCormack of Alliance were guests at the I. D. Whaley home Monday.

Bill Bowen did some repair work on Mr. Whaley's Nash car Monday.

Edward Jameson and Roy Skiles drove to Alliance Monday afternoon.

J. L. Roy purchased a nice new Buick car Monday from parties in Alliance.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rattler and son were in town Tuesday.

Miss Janette Scholtz was an east bound passenger Tuesday.

Abe Underhill went to Alliance on Wednesday to attend the race meet. Roy Hudson worked in his place on the east section.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris went to Alliance Tuesday.

Grant Keith was in town the first of the week from the Harry Brown ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Shaffenburg and little Mable Kennedy drove in from the VanAalstine ranch Tuesday.

Edward Kennedy of Ellsworth was a Lakeside visitor Tuesday between trains.

Mr. and Mrs. VanAalstine arrived from Omaha the forepart of the week.

John Moscrip came up from the Pawlette ranch and was a west bound passenger to Alliance Wednesday to visit home folks and attend the race meet.

Walter House went to Alliance on Wednesday on No. 43 to attend the race meet.

William H. Richardson arrived in Lakeside Wednesday for a couple of days' visit.

Mrs. Ora Phillips and baby and mother, Mrs. Smith, drove over from their home 40 miles south and went to Whitman Wednesday to visit at the L. Grubb home a few days.

### FOWLING

A nice little shower visited this vicinity Wednesday afternoon. It was quite a help to the gardens but a disappointment to the people who were planning on going to the race meet.

John Caha is moving the remainder of his furniture to Hemingford this week. Joe Caha and family are going to move into their big house.

We understand that Mrs. Curran of Alliance is going to move into the house vacated by her brother, for the summer, with the hope of benefiting her health.

Mrs. Norie Hurlbut has just recovered from a severe attack of the chicken pox.

Miss Agnes Kennedy is home from Hemingford where she attended high school last winter. She has been staying with her grandmother Winter since school let out, while Mr. Winter was at Mayo Brothers at Rochester, Minn.

Messrs. Banks and Kilpatrick were callers at Peterson Wednesday morning.  
 Miss Clara Brus is home from a two weeks' stay at Lou Hood's, where she was assisting with the work and caring for Mrs. Hood and the new boy.

A large number of young people gathered at the Wampler home Sunday afternoon, where some of the boys rode several bronchos.

A Sunday school was organized at the Johnson school house several weeks ago. Rev. Mearl C. Smith of Alliance came out and they had preaching last Sunday with a good attendance.

Mrs. Anna Hall and children spent a couple of days at her mother's the first of the week.

Ross Wright, wife and baby, came up to her mother's, Mrs. Brus, Tuesday afternoon from the Nerud ranch, where they have been staying for the past month.

Mrs. Brus and son Carl were callers

at C. P. Mann's Wednesday morning.

Miss Iva Wilkins is in Alliance, attending summer school.

Frank Hall has just recovered from an attack of la grippe.

Mrs. Dick Henderson was called to Hemingford Monday on account of the death of her father, Mr. Friel. We did not learn the particulars.

### NOTICE

MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

To Members of Pioneer Lodge No. 758, N. B. A. of Alliance:

A special meeting will be held at the community club rooms on Saturday, June 18. Our Supreme Secretary will be here and speak. The public is also invited to attend the meeting. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.  
 (Signed) T. E. SANDERS, President.  
 E. L. LAWRENCE, Secretary.

J. E. Nolan, at one time a rancher in the hills southeast of Alliance, but now of Torrington, Wyo., arrived in

the city Sunday night for a week's stay in attendance at the stockmen's convention and the race meet. Some eight years ago Mr. Nolan was an Alliance resident, and he has been renewing old acquaintances. He says that crops in the Platte valley are the best in history. The river is not doing much damage by reason of flood waters, he says. It is high, but it has been considerably higher in the past. The newcomers are the only ones who are worrying, he says.

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