

# DRAMA AND BRIDGE MASCHKE HOBBIES

Expert at Cards, He Also  
Liked Playing Golf and  
Reading Philosophy.

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as W. Fleming of bribery. Fleming was to Mr. Maschke what "Starlight" Boyd had been, and the blow was bitter.

The "land scandals" then were unearthed in City Hall, and Miller proceeded against several Republican stalwarts. Councilman Liston G. Schooley and his son, Liston, Jr., pleaded guilty to a charge of profiting in a city land contract. Miller also proceeded against City Clerk Fred Thomas and Councilman William E. (Rarin) Bitt. Potter, but the two were acquitted. He proceeded twice against Potter and would have proceeded again but for Potter's murder in circumstances which inevitably turned the mind of the public to the more sordid phases of machine politics.

The indictment of Mr. Maschke and several of his friends in the treasury scandal was the climax of all the assaults on the machine. Acquittals brought no votes to rebuild the machine.

The peak of Mr. Maschke's power was from 1914 to 1923. He was usually canonized by his followers.

Early in his peak years he issued orders from a closed office but in the later years acquired the habit of circulating among the clubs at campaign time and making speeches, in violation of the tradition that a boss is never heard publicly.

During Mr. Maschke's tenure he helped to make Warren G. Harding United States senator and saw Harding go from there to the White House.

In 1924 Mr. Maschke was elected Republican national committeeman from Ohio. This took place at the Cleveland convention at which President Coolidge was nominated. In 1928 at the Kansas City convention Mr. Maschke was re-elected national committeeman without opposition.

It was during this period that he achieved his greatest national prominence. He was naturally gratified by the honor, but he often said, and there is no doubt but that he meant it, that he got more pleasure from attending a meeting of the Western Reserve Republican Club than from being on the national committee.

Quiet, unobtrusive and pleasant, careful in his choice of language, Mr. Maschke never seemed to prove a distinct surprise to those who met him for the first time, to find their pre-conceived ideas of how a political boss should look completely at variance with the man before them.

There was never anything of bluster, braggadocio or charlatanism about the Republican leader. He did not smoke big cigars, wear diamond rings with mammoth settings or roar at his henchmen—things which according to all tradition a political boss is supposed to do.

Mr. Maschke saw the eyes of the nation turned toward him and his local Republican organization in 1927 when he started the boom in Ohio for the nomination of Herbert Hoover as president. When the late Senator Frank B. Willis of Ohio, who himself sought the Republican nomination, expressed surprise at Mr. Maschke's attitude in denying support to a "favorite son" candidate, Mr. Maschke replied that his stand should come as no surprise to Willis and his friends and that he had made known his attitude to them at all times.

Championed Hoover.

Mr. Maschke's stand as the champion of Hoover, who was elected president in the fall of 1928 after the Ohio boom had spread throughout the nation, aroused newspaper comment all over the country. It was said that Mr. Maschke of Ohio jumped from obscurity into national fame by being the first to climb aboard the Hoover band wagon. A Washington columnist wrote:

However, although this was perhaps the first time that the local Republican chieftain had received national attention, he was by no means obscure. An editorial in a Wichita (Kan.) newspaper, concerning the Hoover boom, gave Mr. Maschke a laugh at the time. But he was quite embarrassed over the praise he received. He was used to being called names, he said.

"For weeks the country is to hear much of Maschke," said the Wichita editorial. "He is not leading a revolution in Poland or arranging a new cabinet in Lithuania. He is helping make a president of the United States. Maschke is a household word in Cleveland. He has been for many years. Maschke is a familiar name in Ohio; has been for quite a spell. But Maschke the country generally knows not at all. Never heard of him. Can't spell him."

Drama, Philosophy and Bridge Were Hobbies.

With all of his political activity, Mr. Maschke lived a quiet life. He was exceptionally fond of the drama, numbering among his favorite dramatists, Ibsen, Shakespeare, Hauptmann, Sudermann, Shaw, Maeterlinck and Nordau. Many of their works he knew by heart.

In addition Mr. Maschke was fond of philosophy. He was familiar with works of Kant, Hume, Nietzsche, Berkeley and others.

Mr. Maschke's hobbies were his library, his garden, bridge and golf. Bridge, judging by the part it played in his life, was by far the most important of these.

He was never happier than when he was able to lay aside the cares of his political leadership and sit down at a bridge table with a group of friends.

One of his closest friends, the late Carl T. Roberts, editorial writer for the Plain Dealer, was one of his most constant companions at bridge. With Robertson as his partner Maschke won many championships.

He won his first championship in New York in 1904. At that time he was a member of the Cleveland

Whist Club. He was a member of the team that won the national team championship of the American Whist League at a New York tournament.

Other members of that team were Robertson, A. R. Horr and William E. Taicott.

The trip to New York in 1904 was also Mr. Maschke's wedding trip. Mr. Maschke's next championship was won at Hanover, N. H., in 1922 when his team won the bridge team championship of the American Whist League. Other members of that team were Robertson, C. R. Apthorp and H. P. Sager.

In 1930 at Cleveland, playing with John H. Law, former bridge editor of the Plain Dealer; V. E. Boland, inventor of the famous Boland system, and Robertson, Mr. Maschke's team won the team championship of the American Bridge League.

A Leading Bridge Exponent in Country.

Mr. Maschke was considered one of the leading bridge players in the United States. He was a strong exponent of the Boland system of contract.

In addition to the national championships, Mr. Maschke won many regional, state and local championships.

On many occasions when reporters were scouring the city for the Republican chairman, to ask his opinion on some burning issue, he was finally located at a bridge table in one of the downtown hotels or in one of his clubs. And he never failed to make it clear that he was anxious to get back to the game if the interviewer seemed inclined to ask very many questions.

Of course, he didn't spend all of his time at the bridge table but he always frankly admitted that he liked to spend as much time as he possibly could at the game. He was a firm believer in recreation.

Asked one time how large a part of the day he believed one should devote to recreation, Maschke replied: "All of it if you haven't anything else to do."

At the height of his political career it was Mr. Maschke's custom to sit in his office and receive a steady stream of callers from 9 to the morning until about 1 or 1:30. He took them in the order in which they arrived, listened patiently to what they had to say. He answered all telephone calls, without bothering to inquire who was calling. During this period the door of his office was almost always open.

Last Caller . . . Game Is On.

About 12:30 or 1 Mr. Maschke's bridge cronies would begin to drift into the office. When the last caller had been disposed of, the door of his office would be closed and Mr. Maschke was "out" as far as transacting business was concerned. Would go to the bridge table and the game would start. Intimate friends

were welcome to come in and "kibitz," but there was no conversation about anything except bridge.

Among those who played frequently with Mr. Maschke were Sam Rockwell, Mort Rosenfeld, Walter Cook, Bert Quarrie, Charlie Rini, Dave Evans, Carl Shuler, Sam Bravo, Peggy Parratt, Henry Lefkowitz and Arthur Krause. They not only played a good game, but they talked a good game. No one who ever saw and especially heard a game of bridge being played in Maschke's office ever forgot it.

About 5 in the afternoon Mr. Maschke's barber would come in to shave him and the game would end. The routine was varied only on warm summer afternoons, when Mr. Maschke would play golf at the Oakwood Country Club.

Mr. Maschke never liked to be called a "boss." He wanted to be called a party leader. That he was his party's leader in this country for two years before that 1928 election was no gaudy saying. That he was a "political boss" in the commonly accepted meaning of the term, he never admitted.

His lifelong habit of never going back on a pledge, regardless of consequences, was never more clearly demonstrated than in the race before Arthur H. Day (now a Supreme Court judge) and Miller for prosecutor in 1923.

Kept Promise in Face of Probable Defeat.

Day, with Maschke's endorsement and Republican party backing, was badly defeated by Miller. From the first Mr. Maschke had seen the inevitability of Day's defeat but had given his support nevertheless.

It was said by Maschke's friends that two years before that 1928 election Maschke had promised Day that if he withdrew as a candidate for the nomination against former County Prosecutor Edward C. Stanton, he would support the office two years hence. Day did not run against Stanton. He held Mr. Maschke to his promise in the campaign of 1928 and, although the county chairman felt convinced that Day could not beat Miller, he did not waver, although he might have put a stronger stream of callers from 9 to the morning until about 1 or 1:30. He took them in the order in which they arrived, listened patiently to what they had to say. He answered all telephone calls, without bothering to inquire who was calling. During this period the door of his office was almost always open.

Reporters sent to interview Mr. Maschke usually found him pleasant and affable, but terse in his language. He never talked for the pleasure of hearing his own voice.

If there was something in connection with a political situation or on a current matter on which his opinion was sought that Mr. Maschke cared to talk about he readily answered questions. If he wasn't ready to talk about amount of questioning could cause him to do so. He would talk about almost anything but the question at issue.

Regardless of what the newspapers

were saying about him editorially, whether they were asking that he resign as county chairman or were bombarding him in some other fashion, he was always kind and considerate to newspaper representatives who came to his office or elsewhere. He won the respect of all and the admiration of most.

Although a forceful speaker, provided he had something to say that he considered of vital interest and importance to his party, Mr. Maschke had the appearance of the speaker's platform of being somewhat shy and timid. He never pushed himself forward at political rallies he attended but seldom escaped being asked to say a few words.

Although Mr. Maschke made radio talks on one or two occasions, he never entirely overcame his aversion to appearing before a microphone. Attending an overflow meeting of the First Ward Republican Club early in 1931, Mr. Maschke stepped to the opposite end of the platform when a club official placed a microphone in front of him.

Fight Against Hopkins Was a Highlight.

"I don't want to talk into that thing," he said. And he wouldn't—and didn't.

In his later years Mr. Maschke upset nearly all of the time-honored traditions as to what a political "boss" should do. Notable in this connection was his appearance Oct. 24, 1931, before the City Club to give an address entitled "The Masquerader." He lambasted former City Manager William E. Hopkins, former close friend and later political enemy, who was a candidate for City Council.

It was in this speech that Maschke made the much repeated and startling statement that in ousting Hopkins as manager he merely had "put Hopkins back on the street where I found him."

Beneath the split with Hopkins the city manager asserted during their quarrel and Maschke qualifying admitted, was the van Sweringen interest in Cleveland, which Maschke always attempted to help, just as he was a successful legislative agent here and in Columbus for public utilities and railroads.

Maschke, Hopkins said, told him at the start of the city manager operation that he owed allegiance to the Van Sweringens and that Hopkins must remember that. And it was when Hopkins split with the Maschke-controlled City Council on the river straightening plan which would have compelled the Van Sweringens to rebuild the Union Terminal railroad bridge that the trouble between him and Maschke actually began.

Perhaps one of the most interesting chapters of Mr. Maschke's career might be written about the period in which Hopkins figured, first as Mr. Maschke's choice for city manager

and later as the county chairman's most bitter enemy.

After fighting to the last ditch to prevent the overthrow of the mayor form of government and failing when the city manager-proportional representation plan was approved by the voters, Mr. Maschke still maintained his control of the city government by putting across a City Council with a Republican majority. This City Council, largely through Mr. Maschke's influence, chose Hopkins as the city manager.

Split With Chief.

Kept in that post for five years, Hopkins finally split with the county Republican chieftain. It was generally conceded that Mr. Maschke had decided that Hopkins must go. A Republican City Council ousted him, replacing him with another man of Maschke's choice, Daniel E. Morgan, who held the post for two years.

Expressing himself as well satisfied with Morgan's rule at City Hall, Mr. Maschke in 1931 opposed an amendment to the city charter providing for return of the mayor form of government. But the city manager plan was overturned and Morgan, through urgings of the Maschke-controlled Republican organization, became a candidate for mayor.

More than one man with political aspirations starting out with the idea of wresting control and leadership from Mr. Maschke, and perhaps succeeding for a number of years in causing considerable embarrassment to the Maschke organization, wound up by going back into the fold or sinking back into obscurity, much chastened in spirit.

Mr. Maschke seldom resented attempts by younger Republicans to gain a following and often grinned complacently when reports reached him that some young hopeful was beginning to buck the organization.

"He's all right," Maschke would say. "He's got good stuff in him. I can make something out of a fellow like that."

And usually the recalcitrant decided to pull with Maschke rather than against him after a few bitter experiences.

Split With Harris, Then With Davis.

At the time, nearly twenty years ago, when the Republican board of strategy was composed of Mr.

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## The LINDNER Coy

1331 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland



Pre-holiday

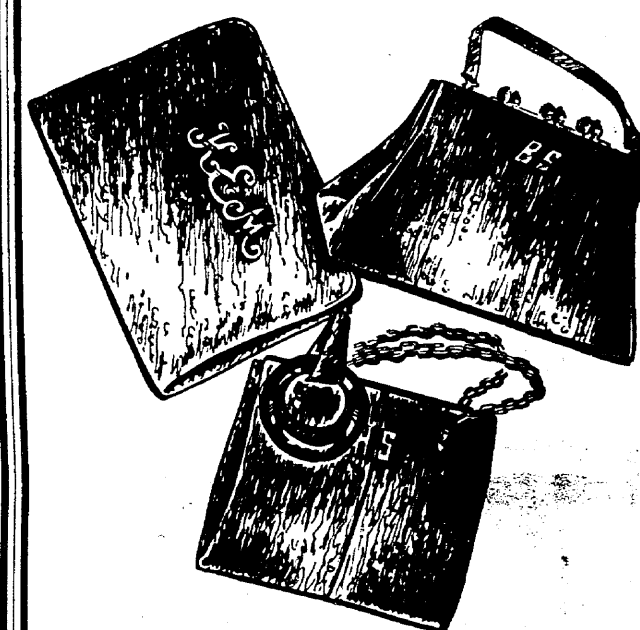
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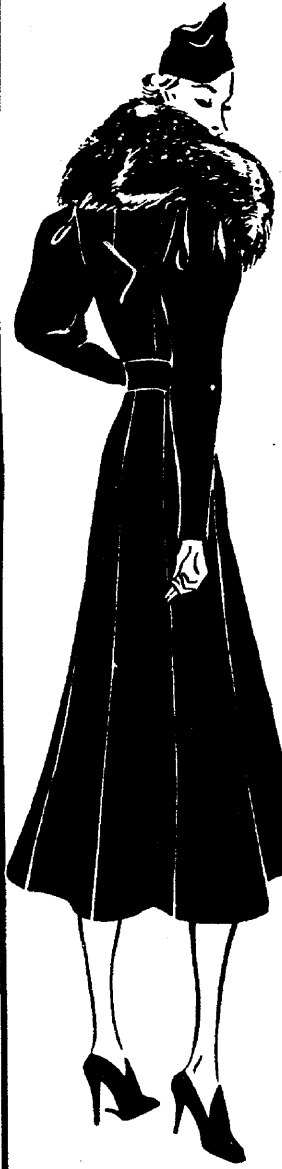
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Fur Shop, second floor

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HAIR

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Coat Shop, second floor

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1331 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

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Three years ago Lindner's established its first Night Life Shop. In it we assembled all the evening fashions. We've done it again, because you liked the convenience it afforded, and we've decorated the shop in the spirit of the moment . . . Victorian gay and how amusing! You are most cordially invited to see the fashions and the shop today!

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C—Green chiffon with gold braid motif to outline the Vionnet neckline. Misses' sizes. . . . . \$39.95

D—Black velvet wrap with white ermine collar and bracelet cuffs to match. Misses' sizes . . . . . \$29.95

Night Life Shop, third floor.

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- 2.00 Queen Dido's Treasure . . . . . 89c
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- 1.00 The Small and Tall Man . . . . . 49c
- 1.00 Brave Mr. Buckingham . . . . . 49c
- 1.50 The Pussios and the Purr . . . . . 49c
- 2.50 Indestructible English . . . . . 1.25
- Imports . . . . . 1.25
- 50c Dorothy Dainty Series . . . . . 4 for \$1
- 50c Little Queen Esther . . . . . 4 for \$1
- 50c The Other Sylvia . . . . . 4 for \$1
- 50c Making Mary Lizzie . . . . . 4 for \$1
- Happy . . . . . 4 for \$1
- 1.50 Roving Lobster . . . . . 75c
- 75c Dave Porter on Cave Island . . . . . 38c
- 75c Paleface and Redskin . . . . . 38c
- 2.00 In Singapore . . . . . 49c
- 1.50 Pursuit of Happiness . . . . . 59c
- 1.50 Pigskin Soldier . . . . . 69c
- 1.50 La La Man in Music Land . . . . . 69c
- 1.50 Mothers' Rhymes for Story Time . . . . . 59c
- 2.00 Rhyme Time for Children . . . . . 75c
- 2.00 Girl Reporter . . . . . 89c
- 1.75 Under the Admiral's Stars . . . . . 49c
- 1.00 William Walker, Filibuster . . . . . 49c
- 1.50 Zorra . . . . . 59c
- 2.00 Grand Buffalo . . . . . 75c
- 1.75 52 More Stories for Girls . . . . . 75c
- 1.00 Joaquin Miller . . . . . 49c
- 75c Wampum Belt . . . . . 38c
- 1.50 Strange Adv. of Capt. Marwhistle . . . . . 75c
- 2.00 King's Spurs . . . . . 89c

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