

The Great Stork Derby: The Baby-Making Contest That Turned Out to Be a Hoax

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · July 3, 2023

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? The year was 1926, and the world was captivated by a remarkable and audacious contest that promised a fortune to the family that could produce the greatest number of children within a ten-year period. Known as "The Great Stork Derby," this bizarre competition took place in Toronto, Canada, capturing the attention of eager participants and curious onlookers alike. ??

? It all began on April 1st, 1926, when Charles Vance Millar, a wealthy and eccentric lawyer, passed away. Little did anyone know that his will, read a few weeks later, contained an extraordinary clause that would stir controversy and excitement across the nation. Millar bequeathed the majority of his substantial estate to the Toronto woman who could give birth to the most children within the next decade. ??

? The news spread like wildfire, with newspapers worldwide reporting on this peculiar event. The prospect of immense wealth lured hundreds of couples into the race, each hoping to secure their financial future. The rules were simple: the couple had to be legally married, and any child born within the specified ten-year period would be eligible to receive a share of the estate. ??

? Couples from all walks of life flocked to Toronto, creating a vibrant atmosphere in the city. Local hospitals experienced a sudden surge in maternity patients, with doctors and nurses working tirelessly to accommodate the influx of expectant mothers. Citizens eagerly followed the progress of the participants, speculating about who would ultimately claim Millar's fortune. ??

? Years passed, and as the competition intensified, suspicions began to arise. Rumors circulated that some of the leading contenders were attempting to manipulate the outcome by adopting children or arranging sham marriages. The once-friendly atmosphere turned sour as allegations of cheating and fraud tarnished the contest's reputation. ????

? Finally, in 1936, the ten-year deadline arrived, and the truth was revealed. Millar's will was unveiled as an elaborate prank, an April Fools' Day joke on a grand scale. The contest had never been legitimate, and the fortune Millar had promised did not even exist. ??

? The revelation shocked the nation and left many participants devastated. The families who had invested years of their lives and countless resources were left empty-handed, while others felt a sense of relief, having never taken part in what turned out to be an elaborate ruse. The Great Stork Derby had fooled an entire city, leaving behind a legacy of deception and dashed dreams. ???

? Despite the heartbreak and disappointment, the Great Stork Derby left an indelible mark on history. It serves as a reminder of the power of human ambition, the allure

of wealth, and the lengths people will go to chase their dreams. The hoax forever changed the way society viewed such contests, instilling a sense of skepticism and caution when it came to extraordinary promises. So, let the Great Stork Derby stand as a testament to human folly and a lesson learned through tears and laughter. ???

? The End ?

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