

The Great Stork Derby: A Peculiar Contest for Baby-Making Supremacy

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · July 3, 2023

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? April 1, 1926

? Once upon a time in the vibrant city of Toronto, a peculiar contest for baby-making supremacy unfolded. This extraordinary event, known as "The Great Stork Derby," captivated the entire nation with its audacity and quirkiness.

? It all began with Charles Vance Millar, an eccentric lawyer and notorious prankster. Upon his passing in 1926, Millar left behind a controversial will that would forever change the lives of several unsuspecting recipients.

? As per his unconventional testament, Millar bequeathed his vast fortune to the woman in Toronto who could give birth to the most children within a span of ten years after his demise. Yes, you read that right - the eccentric lawyer wanted to determine who would claim his wealth by influencing the very miracle of life! ?

? The announcement of this bizarre challenge sent shockwaves throughout the city, sparking both excitement and disbelief. Newspapers eagerly reported on the "Baby-Making Supremacy Contest," and Torontonians couldn't help but wonder who would rise to Millar's unique challenge.

? Among the contenders was Allan A. MacDougall, a prominent lawyer, who quickly married his secretary, Winnifred Trainor, in hopes of securing his share of Millar's fortune. The couple wasted no time and welcomed their first child just a month before the contest officially began. ?????

? The Great Stork Derby soon captured the attention of the entire country, with media outlets reporting on the latest pregnancy updates and speculating who would ultimately claim the grand prize. The contest took on an almost carnival-like atmosphere, with citizens eagerly awaiting news of new arrivals.

? But fate had a different plan. In 1930, four years after the contest began, all three families died tragically within months of each other. Suddenly, the Great Stork Derby turned from a lighthearted competition to a heartbreaking tale of loss and shattered dreams. ?

? In the end, Charles Vance Millar's wealth was distributed among various charitable organizations, fulfilling another one of his peculiar wishes. Though the contest had a surprising and somber ending, the Great Stork Derby remains a fascinating anecdote in Canadian history, highlighting the eccentricity and unpredictability of one unique individual's desire to leave a lasting legacy.

? The Great Stork Derby will forever be remembered as a testament to the human desire for adventure, the longing to leave a mark, and the unanticipated twists and turns that life so often presents.

