

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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No. 42

Meriwether's Plain Talk.

He Delivers Some Stinging Blows To the Republic and the Ring.

Lee Meriwether is causing the St. Louis Republic and the State House Ring much unrest. Although Mr. Meriwether was in New York the first three weeks of the present month, yet every morning the Republic would have long editorials about what the Kerens-Phelps-Meriwether-Allied-Third-Party-Ziegler-Heinrich-Low-Jack-and-the-Games-Seben-er-Leben "combine" were doing.

Mr. Meriwether is not a candidate for any office. He has not asked for, nor has he received, the nomination for any office. And yet the Republic has a two-winged censure daily about Meriwether. It finds a great deal of fault because the Public Ownership platform is silent on silver. Everybody knows what a dyed-in-the-wool silver advocate the Republic is. Its chief owner was a member of Cleveland's cabinet.

The Republic will assail Mr. Meriwether, but will allow him no space to reply. This proves the class of newspaper it is. But there are other newspapers in St. Louis, and Mr. Meriwether addressed the following to the Globe-Democrat:

"The poor, old Republic, like the foolish ostrich of the fable, thinks a thing comes to be because it (the Republic) bats and blinks its bleary eye and refuses to see. While the Republic is walling about silver and other things that are not in the Public Ownership platform—and have no business to be there—sensible persons of Missouri are reflecting on what is in the platform, and are wondering if that platform's caustic arraignment of Democratic corruption is untrue, why the Republic doesn't prove its untruth instead of wasting time in maudlin mutterings about silver and in senseless abuse of private individuals, sensible voters, knowing that I am not a candidate for any office, that I am a private person, pursuing my own private affairs, understanding full well that the Republic is trying to make Meriwether an issue in the present campaign simply because it dares not touch on the real issues. It cannot be repeated too often that those issues are not whether Meriwether or any other Public Ownership man, is a demagogue, a Republican ally, a traitor (to the Democratic ring), or any other pet names which the Republic is pleased to call me. The issues are, is or is not the ring at Jefferson City corrupt? Did or did not Secretary of State Cook deliberately credit as donated by himself \$2,100 given by the Missouri Pacific railroad to the Democratic committee? Did or did not Secretary Cook lobby for an oppressive and unjust bill, as testified by Governor Stephens, because he (Cook) was to get \$5,000 if the said bill became a law? Did or did not our state supreme court twice declare the constitution itself unconstitutional, first in the mortgage amendment case (by the decision owners of mortgages are relieved of taxation), and, secondly, in the election contest case (by this decision the ballot boxes are nailed up in order to conceal wholesale murder of the ballot)? Was or was not the Democratic state committee convicted in the Cardwell case of selling corporations immunity from just taxation in return for large contributions to the Democratic campaign fund?"

"Is the Missouri Democratic ring guilty of these things? It is surely the support of any Democrat. If it is not guilty, why does not the Republic address itself to these vital points instead of indulging in a nonsensical campaign against Meriwether and silver, which are of no earthly interest to the voters of Missouri?"

"Mr. Editor, if my personality is of the slightest concern to any voter, permit me to say that in national politics I am and since childhood have ever been a Democrat. In every campaign since 1888 I have donated my time, my services and some of my money to Democratic committees in behalf of Democratic tickets and in support of Democratic policies. Unless Gov. Dockery and his fellow rogues succeed in reorganizing the Democratic party nationally, as they have done locally in Missouri—if the party nationally remains as Democratic in 1904 as it was in 1896 and in 1900, I shall continue to support the principles laid down at Chicago and reiterated at Kansas City. And precisely for this reason—that I am a Democrat—in I condemn the unscrupulous ring at Jefferson City. I will condemn its operations and

corruption, no matter under what party label it masquerades, as long as I have a pen, a voice and a conscience. I disagree with Republicans on many matters of national policy, but is that a reason for rejecting Republican aid in overthrowing an iniquitous ring that depends upon the Nebit law and ballot box stuffing for its lease of power? Bitter as the pill is to the Republic, and to the other defenders of and apologists for the unspeakable statehouse ring, this pill will have to be swallowed. The average man is a patriot first, a partisan afterward. Republicans who can not indorse Public Ownership will line up with Public Ownership Democrats like myself, who can not indorse Republican national policies. And standing shoulder to shoulder these united forces will put a final quietus to the ring of ballot box stuffers on the 4th of next November. In 1815 the European allies had many differences of opinion, but they wisely waited till after Waterloo before trying to adjust them. In 1892 sensible and patriotic voters recognized that the overshadowing issue in Missouri is to secure honest elections by defeating the ring that depends for success upon force and fraud and the Nebit law. Until that ring has met its Waterloo the Republic will strive in vain to induce Republicans, Public Ownership men and honest Democrats to abandon their alliance against the common foe. We will not neglect the great fundamental issue of honest elections in order to dispute over minor matters that may be safely left for future discussion.

LEE MERIWETHER."

TWO MEN SHOT.

A Race War Between Railroad Hands Near Benton.

For some time there has been trouble brewing between the whites and blacks at work putting down the steel on the Peavine. About 50 or 60 men are employed at this work and until recently all worked under Mr. Swift.

According to the story of the negroes the whites became so offensive that they applied for a separate foreman so as to work in a gang to themselves. This request was complied with and John Payne was sent to take charge of the negro crew.

Tuesday forenoon it rained and the negroes took shelter under the grain shed at the depot. Some of the whites got among them and got very offensive. The negroes claim that they resented none of the insults.

After noon some of the whites "laid off" and came to Benton. Jim Jackson, Tom Brassfield and Mann Rodes, all colored, say that a white man named Jackson took them to one side and informed them that they had better leave; that a mob was forming at Benton to run them out of the country.

After awhile Foreman Payne sent Bill Scott to the pump at the depot for water. By this time the men who laid off had returned from Benton and were guarding the pump. They informed Scott that "no d—n nigger could get water there."

Scott returned and reported to the foreman. Mr. Payne ordered Tom Thomas and Jim Jackson to accompany Scott and get water.

Returning to the pump they were met by, they say, seven white men armed with picks and their pockets full of bolts. The white men began abusing and threatening the negroes and hurled bolts at them. The negroes turned and ran. But one of the negroes fired two shots as he retreated—one ball taking effect in the knee of one of the white men and the other found lodging in the calf of the leg of another.

The negroes then stampeded—a majority of them breaking for their homes at Commerce. Eight or ten of them came to Benton and asked the authorities for protection—claiming that they were afraid of being waylaid on their way home.

These men come and go from their work by bands. The white crew numbers about 35 and the colored crew about 25. The white crew was between the negroes and Commerce with their cars, and the negroes could not pass.

Sheriff Henderson gathered up a posse consisting of the Democratic party nationally, as they have done locally in Missouri—if the party nationally remains as Democratic in 1904 as it was in 1896 and in 1900, I shall continue to support the principles laid down at Chicago and reiterated at Kansas City. And precisely for this reason—that I am a Democrat—in I condemn the unscrupulous ring at Jefferson City. I will condemn its operations and

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Kicking Agast Haves

Missouri State Republic

Harry Haves, vice commissioner and Dockery's boss of the state Democratic committee has established "schools of instruction" in which it is designed to teach "old war horses of the Democrats" just what they shall say, and why they shall not say, during the campaign. It is unnecessary to add that the list of subjects who shall not be discussed exceeds the list of "lies" on which Mr. Haves hopes to take the campaign.

The presumption of you, man Haves in introducing St. Iles police and election methods into affairs, and endeavoring to take the rural Democrats dance to music, is resented by those members of the party who still retain a shred of independence and are owned body and soul by the machine.

The lofty Haves comprised the attendance of the Democratic congressional candidates and United States senators at one of his lectures on "How to Run a Campaign." Senator Jockrell was in tizzy and showed his contempt for the high-handed proceedings by taking the first train out of town.

Congressman Vandive Cochran and Shackelford and indidates Hamlin and Lamar obey the summons, but in a rebellious spirit. Haves had the brass to tell these men, who are candidates for national offices, that they must confine themselves to state issues and, above all, they must urge organization of Jefferson club throughout their districts, and at defend the Nebit law.

It never occurred to Young Napoleon of Disorder, that country elections are not carried the same means as city elections and that he is not authority on the fact.

Congressman Vandive fought Seibert, Joseph Russell, the state machine and won against other candidates present, the old young Mr. Haves a few things.

It was pointed out to the country people did not want a man club because they knew how policemen who composed the St. Iles Jefferson club were blackmailed to contributing to the campaign for the support of political riggers.

It was also suggested that as Mr. Rothwell, and not Mr. Haves, was chairman of the state committee, it might be well to let Rothwell sign all the letters sent out into the country from state headquarters. The country people of confidence in Rothwell, when they knew Haves as the man who had elected Rolla Wells, a Republican voter, mayor of St. Louis.

Under the circumstances, it might be well for Haves to "go" back and hide himself in the campaign was over.

Not one of those sent came to Haves' defense. Haves has since shared, that as the Jefferson club pushed 65 per cent of the campaign funds under his management, he fairly believed he should have something to say about running party machinery.

COMMITTEE MEETS.

Public Owners Organize For State Campaign.

The members of the executive committee of the Public Ownership party met in St. Louis last of the week to organize and adopt a plan of campaign.

Lee Meriwether was chosen chairman; Jno. T. App of Clayton, vice chairman, and F. Kowalski, of St. Louis as secretary and treasurer.

The legal committee, to which was referred the matter of fusion with the Republicans the extent of indorsing the Republican nominees for the supreme court, reported that fusion would not be one of the members, however, assented from this opinion.

Since the executive committee was instructed by convention to enter into a fusion agreement in case the legal committee reported favorably the question of fusion is practically settled as the supreme court nominees are concerned, and the old ring may as well begin to pack their cars for, without a supreme court to protect them in their nefarious work they are powerless. Is it any won that the Republic howls?

Dedication of New School.

The Catholic of Kelso celebrated the anniversary of the patron saint of their church—St. Augustine—Thursday, addition to the usual festivities the new school house was dedicated. Several visiting priests were present and took part in the ceremony. Attendance was very large. A full account will appear next week.

Tell your neighbors of the Kicker.

'ROUND-ABOUT.

An adjourned term of county court meets here next Monday. Perkins citizens will picnic Saturday (today), August 30th. Well, it rained. And the editor does not now have to toast water.

David Stehr of New Hamburg was in Benton Tuesday on business. Charles Griffith and wife of Commerce, are visiting in Benton. August Weber and Felix Herzog came over from Commerce Monday. Miss Georgia Cannon, of St. Louis, visited her parents here Sunday.

Judge Reeder went over to Kentucky last week to visit old acquaintances. The all-day-steady rain Tuesday delayed outside work on buildings in Benton. Charles Lewis, stock claim adjuster for the Peavine, was in Benton last Thursday.

Joseph Miller of Manning was here Monday and reported a fine rain and some hail in his locality. Many beautiful roses and varieties of lovely flowers are blooming in the gardens of Benton citizens.

Vanduser will have a ball at Layton's hall on Tuesday evening, Sept. 9. A nice time is anticipated. J. F. Watkins, Democratic nominee for sheriff of this county, drove over from Diehlstadt Monday.

John Uttag called Monday and said the rain was a good thing for hay, but late for most corn. Postmaster Williams of Blodgett was in Benton Monday transacting business about the Court House.

They say when a Democrat will "not stand for the domination of the bosses that he is no Democrat"! E. E. Donne, in the hickory business a few miles from Benton, was in Benton on Monday attending court.

We are informed that Mrs. Joe M. Smith, of Bleda, has purchased some good land in Cape Girardeau county. The extremely delightful weather Sunday was one of the reasons such good congregations attended church services.

Another rain fell Tuesday in token of the wicked dust and heat that were and the moisture and coolness that are. Scott county watermelons come in Benton by wagonloads, selling from 50 cents to a dollar a load, some being led to stock.

Mr. J. D. Gillespie of Oran called Monday morning, and in the course of his conversation said that Oran was rather on the boom. The editor was in St. Louis the first of the week attending a meeting of the executive committee of the Public Ownership party.

President Roosevelt said in a New England States speech Saturday—"All corporations should be controlled by the Government."

"The average man is a patriot first, a partisan afterward."—An extract from Mr. Meriwether's article published in this Kicker. W. E. Heiseker informs us that 96 of the 150 shares in the proposed bank at Benton have been taken. Hence a bank for Benton is not at all improbable.

There is no place in Missouri that the rainstorm of the 21st was more appreciated and welcomed than in Benton and the immediately surrounding country. The session of the probate court Monday and Tuesday brought lots of Scott county citizens to the county seat, and the teams were numerous around the square.

The Benton mills were running Saturday last, and the noise of the whistling fell on the ear of the farmer several miles out. It is enterprising, and should be sounded oftener. Charles Robert and his son Peter of Kelso were in Benton Saturday. Mr. Robert is making preparations to leave the farm and move to Cape. Peter will take charge of the home place.

J. E. Warner has been appointed surveyor of Scott county, vice L. E. Decker, resigned. Mr. Warner went over to Commerce Wednesday to tell Mrs. Warner about it. Mrs. Warner is visiting her parents there. Geo. Burgund and Al Adkins, of Perkins were here last week. Mr. Burgund came to have bills printed for his picnic Aug. 30, and Mr. Adkins is making an effort to secure license to open a saloon at Perkins.

Master Rosco Steek left Benton on Sunday evening to visit relatives at Cape and Jackson, and upon his return home will make preparations to go to Fulton to resume his studies at the institute there, which opens September 24th.

If a man be or be not a Democrat, the reading of the article from Mr. Meriwether's pen, published in the Kicker this week, will show him precisely what kind of a Christian gentleman and a scholar—and what kind of a Democrat—Mr. Meriwether really and honestly is.

KILLED BY FALLING TREE

Theodore Ourth Loses His Life During Storm. While moving his belongings to one of Ben Marshall's farms between here and Blodgett, during the storm on Thursday afternoon, Theo. Ourth was caught by a falling tree and killed.

Mr. Ourth had rented a place from Ben Marshall and was moving his household goods thither. There were three wagons. Henry Westrich was driving the front wagon, Theodore Ourth the second, and Simon Blattl the rear or third wagon.

The rainstorm came up, and as they were passing Mrs. Lane's place, about three miles south of Benton, a tree from the Lane place was blown down and a limb struck Mr. Ourth on the head, knocking him forward on the doubletree.

Simon Blattl, who was driving the team just behind, rushed to Mr. Ourth's assistance, but found him unconscious and bleeding. He removed the injured man from the debris and a runner was immediately sent to Benton for medical aid. Mr. Ourth was taken to the home of John Hallmark, on the Reese Allen farm.

Doctors Freeling and Wade went hastily to the scene, but before their arrival the unfortunate man had expired. The wife of the deceased, who was at her former home, about four miles north of New Hamburg, on the Kelso road, was notified and the body was taken there Thursday night and buried at Kelso Friday afternoon.

Mr. Ourth was about 27 years old. About a year ago he married the daughter of Conrad Blattl. To them was born one child. The grief to the young mother, with her infant child, was very great.

AN APPEAL TO VOTERS.

Partisanship Should Not Blind Citizens Next November. The following appeal to the voters of Missouri was read by Hon. W. O. Cardwell, of Kansas City, (the man who had dealings with "Brown") to the Public Ownership Convention assembled in St. Louis, July 31:

"To the people of all political parties in the State of Missouri: "When your house is on fire you do not stop to ask your neighbor's politics or religion; you drop such discussion and urge him to help extinguish the fire.

"The political house of the people of Missouri is on fire; its very existence is threatened. Men may vote, but their votes are counted solely by the appointees of the head of a single political party. And through his standing army of 1,300 police in St. Louis the governor possesses—and exerts—the physical power to protect "Indian" repeaters in their shameful rape of the people's ballot. In the last St. Louis mayoralty election 19,000 fictitious names were placed on the registration list, and were voted by "Indians" acting under the protection of the governor's police.

"Bands of these "Indians" drove in large furniture vans from polling place to polling place, each "Indian" voting at each place from six to ten times. When honest citizens urged the police to arrest these "Indians" the police shrugged their shoulders and said their instructions were NOT to interfere with Rolla Wells voters. In many cases the police actually arrested the citizens because they protested.

The police who thus connive at crime are paid by the people; but they are members of one political club and must do that club's bidding in order to hold their positions or gain promotions.

"The grand jury has denounced this infamous system; it must now be denounced by that greater jury—the whole people. "It is useless to discuss mere political questions when the very right to vote is denied us.

"Under these circumstances, while abating not one jot or tittle from the principles set forth in our 1901 platform, we declare the fundamental, paramount issues of 1902 to be:

"1. Repeat the present infamous election and police laws, and enact such legislation as will secure an honest count of the people's ballots and abolish police interference in elections.

"2. Public ownership of public utilities.

"3. Direct legislation (referendum)

"4. A free municipal bridge across the Mississippi river at St. Louis.

"5. Equal taxation. "All who agree on these great issues are invited to co-operate with the Public Ownership party in the present campaign. After November next, return to your old parties if

you must, but while the house is burning think only of putting out the fire. Our party, occupying neutral ground as regards national politics, is the best means at hand with which to secure this vital reform of honest elections and freedom from military rule in St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph. Democrats will not vote the Republican ticket; Republicans will not vote the Democratic ticket; but both Democrats and Republicans will vote for a neutral ticket composed of both Democrats and Republicans who represent their just desire for this fundamental reform.

"In 1901 we polled nearly 60,000 votes in the single city of St. Louis; of these 30,500 were counted by our opponents. Let the vote this year be so overwhelming that not even the State Administration ring of ballot box stuffers will be able to rob the people of victory."

The man who read the above appeal from the stage at Ulrich's save to the convention was a Democratic member of the Missouri legislature and also president of the Jackson Club, a Democratic organization in Kansas City. On one occasion he made a speech to the members of his club and told how things were done in and around Jefferson City. His exposure of the ring methods stirred the entire state. Sam Cook saw the wave of indignation spreading and sought to check it by calling Mr. Cardwell a "liar and a disgrace to the Democratic party" in a letter to the Republic.

No doubt Mr. Cardwell could have borne the stigma of being called a liar, but to accuse him of being "a disgrace to the Democratic party" as this is understood in Missouri, was too much for him. So he brought suit against the Republic for libel, and then Sam Cook took the witness stand, and, under oath, admitted all or practically all that Mr. Cardwell had said was true.

There were a few important details that Cook checked up to Seibert. Seibert realized what a monkey Cook had made of himself and refused to take the witness stand. When an officer appeared in St. Louis to take Seibert, a man who gave his name as "Brown" appeared in Kansas City and compromised the suit by giving Mr. Cardwell \$7,500.

No one has seen nor heard of Mr. "Brown" since.

From Oran. Mrs. R. F. Hollingshead, who has been sick for some time is better. Mrs. W. H. Westcott has returned from a visit at Farmington. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Williams are making home folks a visit.

A trained nurse from St. Louis arrived today (Monday) to nurse Miss Margaret Hobbs, who has been sick for the past three weeks. Mrs. J. W. Clawson and daughter, Jennie, have returned from a visit to friends and relatives in Fulton, Ky., and Union City, Tenn.

The dump of the new railroad is near completion. Miss Verdia Tuck, who has been ill for the past week, is up again. Reverend Rudolph was called to the bedside of his wife, who is visiting her mother in Paducah, Ky.

We are sorry to learn of Miss May Myers illness. 'Tis reported she has typhoid fever. The two ball games played here Sunday were well attended, Oran leading both games. Married on last Tuesday evening at the Catholic church, Mr. Charles Meritt and Miss Bertha Holder.

Miss Clara Diruberger will leave Sunday for Cape Girardeau, where she will attend school at the convent. Mr. Julius Wiener and a Miss Sologger, of the mining district of Missouri were married by Mr. Finley, Aug. 28th. We wish them much happiness.

Died—At her residence Tuesday evening, Aug. 26th, of pneumonia and brain fever, Mrs. Hayden. She was a faithful wife and mother, and leaves a husband and three children and many friends, who deeply deplore her loss. Funeral took place Wednesday, Aug. 27th, from her late residence.

Mrs. Noble is spending a month in Michigan and at the lakes. Mr. Dillingham has gone to White Springs for his health.

Painting or anything in art is solicited for the Oran fair. Premiums awarded. Mrs. J. W. Clemson, supt. For Sale or Rent—My dwelling house and wagon shop in New Hamburg. Good barn, cistern and out buildings. On reasonable terms.

JOHN P. WESTRICH, New Hamburg.

Notice. The note signed by me to Lederer Brothers of St. Louis for \$296 has been returned to me and all business pertaining to it has been satisfactorily settled. R. C. MOORE, Commerce, Mo., Aug. 27, 1902.

From New Hamburg.

Rev. Joseph Cruise, of St. Louis, is spending the week with Fr. Moenig. The Misses Winkelman, of St. Louis, who have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. Schulte, returned home Saturday. Rev. Helmbacher spent Wednesday in New Hamburg.

The Misses Lena and Martha Schulte returned to their home at Fredericktown Saturday, after a week's visit to their sister, Miss Katie Schulte.

Our festival was a great success. The gross receipts \$1,983. Prizes were drawn by the following parties: Wm. V. Miller, set of harness; lamp, Louis Schitter; basket, L. A. Legrand; pair shoes, Anton Amrhein; basket, Nick Mens; hat, David Stehr; basket, Frank Bollinger; cook stove, Mrs. Joseph Witt; bedstead, Y. Heisserer; quilt, Frank Grojan; center piece, Wm. Dohogne; album, Mrs. Mike Glaus; sofa cushion, Mrs. Coena Dohogne; saddle, Geo. Ziegler; PANTS, Joe F. Diebold; basket, M. Lahir; coffee, John Diebold; suit of clothes, Peter Welter.

From Commerce.

T. J. Beardie's sawmill below town burned one night last week. Loss on the mill and lumber about \$800.

Ed Wright on his way from Grayboro to his northeast farm, met with an accident at the Wray Crossing "the which is a bad one," resulting in a collar bone fracture. Dr. Roy Frazer fixed him up and he continued on his journey. The "Pea-Vine" is notorious for its crossings, and if the county had a court worth a d— they would not remain in this condition from year to year. Mr. Wright's son was thrown from the wagon, alighting on his head and was in a dazed condition, apparently not badly hurt, but knocks on the head develop epilepsy, and may in this case later on.

The killing record for the Peavine on the half mile front of Arbaugh farm north of town for the week was a \$40 cow for Frank Anderson, a \$50 dog for Tillman Anderson, and a two-year-old Holstein heifer—"no marks except color and horns"—owner not known. Appraised at \$15. Mr. Wells with his Fargo would better not go so fast. Four miles per hour within corporate limits is the rate fixed by town boards that are not afraid they'll hurt the railroad.

Miss Nell Rushing of Farmington and Miss Irene Noll of St. Louis are company at the Moore mansion this week. Miss Genevieve Harris, of Sikeston visited friends here a few days and went home Tuesday.

Ed Wylie is delivering 1,500,000 feet of logs on the river bank at Campbell's for the Singer Co. Lynn Marshall of Sikeston is visiting friends in our berg.

The bull gang of the club went fishing at King's lake this week. The village dada had the high weeds cut out of the streets and otherwise disfigured the town.

From Morley.

Born—To the wife of A. S. Munich, on the 23rd, a boy. Miss Bonnie Utterback of Sikeston visited friends here this week. Miss Arlie Moore of Charleston, accompanied by Miss Stone of Commerce, passed through here Tuesday enroute to Charleston.

Dr. C. D. Harris sold his house and lot to Frank May last week. We understand the doctor is going to leave us in the near future for his health. Gupton, Evans and Brown caught a couple of negroes Wednesday morning on the local who had stolen a watch the night before from a boy at Delta. The watch was found on one of the negroes, also a pistol about a foot long. Gee, it was a whopper! Constable Brown took him over to Benton to serve sixty days in jail.

Quite a crowd from Morley took in the ball games at Oran Sunday. Every taxpayer should be a reader of the Kicker. It is one of the few Democratic papers in the state not edited by Sam Cook.

Morley and Carey will play a game of ball here Sunday. Miss Daisy Leedy passed through here Wednesday from Sikeston enroute to her home at Benton.

Herbert Williams and Percy Kenning of Blodgett, were here Monday night. Wasn't at home, eh, Percy? Order that new fall suit from O. Pearl Harris. Swellest line of samples in town. Ask to see Straus Brothers samples.

Uncle Jimmie Johnson sold his restaurant goods to A. S. Munich the first of the week. James M. Adams is taking in the Dexter fair this week.

Straus Bros., now talking samples just received at C. Pearl Harris. Give him a call. Does your brand read the Kicker?