Skirting The River Saint Joe, (A melodrama)

TIME: Night after "Brooklyn Bessie" came out. About 8:30 P.M.
PLACE: Prefect of Religion office.
CHARACTERS: Father; two discussion club members, Jack and Jim, Brick McGutzky and an innocent Freshman.

(Perfect has just put the receiver of his French phone back in place, picks up his cigarette again and resumes conversation with Jack and Jim who are participating along with six other Notre Dame men in the Cathedetical Congress at St. Mary's this weekend.)

FATHER: Well, you're right, at that. Sister Madeleva tells me every student who's genuinely interested in the general sessions is quite welcome.

JIM: I'm taking a couple of crackerjack Freshmen over Friday night at 8:00 to hear the origin and history of this confraternity business. Bishop O'Hara is the expert on vacation schools. He'll prove the need of the confraternity in every parish.

JACK: We take our bow in the second general session Saturday afternoon at 2:00. I've got a lot out of examining study club procedure, but I hate the idea of appearing before those blamed girls! Someone punches the door as though with a muffled brick-bat) Wonder who that could be?

FATHER: Who else could it be? (loudly)

Jack returns from the chapel. Close at his heels is an innocent Freshman.

INNOCENT FRESHMAN: (Pays no attention to Jack and Jim) Look at this, Father. (He hands Father a plain envelope. Its twenty names in there. I'm taking this note over to St. Mary's, asking Janet and Mary to reserve seats for us Sunday afternoon at 2:00 for last general session. (Phone rings, Father puts letter down.)

FATHER: Hello....Yes, those marriage Bulletins have been off the press a week now. Tell him $2.00 for a hundred sets....Yes, the reprint of "Our Greatest Glory" is ready too. (Puts the phone aside and picks up the wrong letter.) Well, you're pretty lucky to know the right people over there. Hope you get good seats.

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FATHER: That's right, but the best part of this convention is going to be the students themselves. Zealous young men and women from eighteen midwest colleges I want to hear them. You know how earnestly our fellows have been preparing.

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(INNOCENT FRESHMAN visited St. Mary's this p.m., delivered the note penned by McGutzky.)

JANET and MARY read it aloud to a circle.

"Dear Father: I liked all you said about Sad South Bend Sue and Brooklyn Bessie. Keep my "Two-Time" Tommy away from them. Gratefully, (signed) Blue Bello of St. Mary's"

PROLOGUE.

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