

Radio Interview with Milton Hershey

6/8/1938

Edgar A. Guest was a writer, poet, and radio personality. During the Depression, Edgar Guest's radio show--"It Can Be Done" was heard weekly on the CBS Radio Network and was sponsored by Household Finance. It originated from CBS Studios in the Wrigley Building in Chicago. Edgar Guest through his poetry, prose, radio drama and guests, helped to entertain and give hope to listeners across America during these difficult times. On June 8, 1938, Milton S. Hershey, "The Builder" was his guest. On this recording, you will hear the actual voice of Mr. Hershey. Notice, however, that Mr. Hershey was obviously trying to read from a script while Mr. Guest was adlibbing.

Edgar Guest: "So, Milton S. Hershey, the builder of an ideal town continues to build. To build happiness into the hearts of boys, happiness that is the foundation for sturdy, worthy, useful citizenship. The unconquerable, unselfish spirit of Milton S. Hershey has brought fulfillment of his most fantastic dreams and proved once more--'It Can Be Done.' We present now, ladies and gentlemen, Milton S. Hershey--'The Builder.'" **(Audience applause)**

Milton S. Hershey: "Thank you Eddy Guest. Good evening ladies and gentlemen."

Edgar Guest: "Mr. Hershey, how many years you've been in the candy business?"

Milton S. Hershey: "Sixty years."

Edgar Guest: "Are you still active in the business?"

Milton S. Hershey: "Indeed, I am."

Edgar Guest: "You know, it seems to me that as long as I can remember, I've seen your chocolate bar on candy counters."

Milton S. Hershey: "Yes, the Hershey bar has been on the market thirty odd years, and we were the first to introduce the almond bar."

Edgar Guest: "Now, you must use an unbelievable amount of cocoa beans."

Milton S. Hershey: "We use as much cocoa, raw cocoa beans as France, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain put together."

Edgar Guest: "Hmmm ... how large is your town, Hershey, Pennsylvania?"

Milton S. Hershey: "Hershey, Pennsylvania, has a population of twenty-five hundred. In that total of twenty-five hundred, we have thirty-two hundred students."

Edgar Guest: "Hmmm."

Milton S. Hershey: "The Hershey township high school is the largest township high school in the United States."

Edgar Guest: "How long has the Hershey Industrial School been in operation?"

Milton S. Hershey: "Since 1909."

Edgar Guest: "Now, can you tell me, ahh, what has happened to some of the boys you've trained there?"

Milton S. Hershey: "Well, one is treasurer of the Trust Company. Two are in the bank, and there are others in responsible positions. You see, we follow the boys through until we see that they have jobs."

Edgar Guest: "Tell me, just how do the opportunities for the boys today compare with those of your day? That is, these boys coming out of your school?"

Milton S. Hershey: (clears throat) "Most of them have better chances for character building and education than ever before. (clears throat again) Perhaps they don't have the chance to make as much money as some individuals have made, but they will lead to happier lives."

Edgar Guest: "Milton S. Hershey, Household Finance and I humbly salute you and your courage which carried you through to success, and we add our tribute to that of thousands of others for the great work you are doing with boys. Congratulations--Milton S. Hershey." (lots of applause)

Edgar Guest: "Mr. Hershey, I'd like to think,
when life is done that I had filled some needed post
That here and there I'd paid my fare with something more than idle boast.
That I had taken gifts divine,
the breath of life and manhood fine,
and tried to use them now and then in service for my fellow man.
I'd hate to think when life is through,
that I had lived my round of years a useless time,
that leaves behind no record in this veil of tears.
That I had wasted all my days,
by turning only selfish ways.
And that this world would be the same,
if it had never heard my name.
I'd like to think when life is done,
that here and there
there shall remain,
a happier spot,
which might have not existed had I toiled for gain.
That someone's cheery voice and smile,
shall prove that I had been worthwhile.
That I had faith with something fine,
my debt to God for life divine."

Announcer: "Now, once again, your friend and mine--Edgar A. Guest."

Edgar Guest: "Thanks again, Brett Morrison. It's been my privilege to spend another pleasant Wednesday evening with you all, and again, I've enjoyed the visit. Remember, there are hidden treasures in every tomorrow. Arise with the sun; seek for them that your days may be the happier."

Announcer: "Next Wednesday night Mr. Guest will answer the request thousands of you have made reciting his best-known poem, 'It Takes a Heap of Living.' This is Vincent Pelletier saying good-night to all of you with the good wishes of Household Finance, Frankie Masters, and the star of our 'It Can Be Done' program, Edgar A. Guest." **(Applause from the audience)**

End of the show