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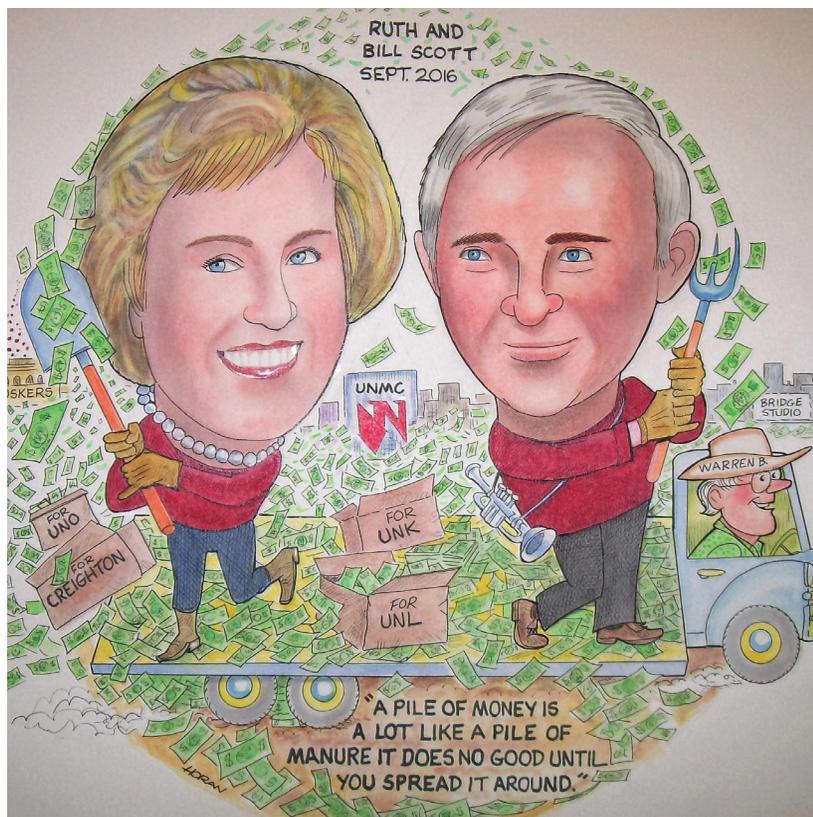
Ruth and Bill Scott

September 2016

What do a trumpet, a middle finger and a manure spreader have in common? They all received prominent attention during a lively roast that preceded the installation of Ruth and Bill Scott as the Omaha Press Club's 150th "Face on the Barroom Floor."

Before a full house on Sept. 22, the Omaha philanthropists were saluted for their multimillion-dollar donations to universities and other causes -- and laughed at for their down-to-earth hobbies and habits. The manure spreader? Well, as "Face" artist Jim Horan noted, onetime farm girl Ruth Scott likes to paraphrase a line from the movie "Hello, Dolly!" -- "A pile of money is a lot like a pile of manure. It does no good until you spread it around."

And so Horan's "Face" caricature pictures the Scotts, both natives of Ashland, standing on a manure spreader and shoveling out cash to their favorite charities. Driving the



spreader is Warren Buffett, the man who hired Bill Scott in 1959 as the first employee to help manage Buffett's investment partnership.

The trumpet? Bill's love affair with the musical instrument goes back to his childhood. Roaster Judy Duffy, a longtime family friend and former neighbor, said: "The kids on Nicholas Street all thought he was a famous trumpet player. He played the trumpet out in Leshara, Nebraska, at the Long Branch Saloon. We'd go out there and sing our hearts along while Bill blew that trumpet. He never ran out of air."

And then there's that middle finger. Ruth Scott is noted for her bridge-playing talents (she founded the Omaha Bridge Studio) and an apparently just as noted among acquaintances for her single-digit salutes to offending motorists and others. Roaster Duffy said: "Whenever Ruth meets somebody she says, 'Do you play bridge?' And if they say no, she might give them the finger!" And with that, Judy displayed photographic proof: a picture of Ruth wearing a cap topped by a photo of a fist and a middle finger.

Other zingers from the roasters:

Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen, emcee for the evening, talked about Bill's musical talents -- "the richest polka player I know" -- and Ruth's driving habits -- "very liberal with the use of her middle finger." Rasmussen, "in the interest of safety so that Ruth can keep her hands on the steering wheel," presented her with a stocking hat

topped by a large finger pointing skyward. Dr. Michael Sorrell, Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center: "Ruth uses manure as a metaphor for money. I wouldn't be surprised if John Deere one day named a manure spreader after the Scotts."

Dr. Randy Ferlic, retired surgeon, former NU regent and one of Bill Scott's golf partners: "Mother Teresa said to do small things with great love. Ruth says to do big things with lots of money."

Terry Pettit, retired volleyball coach for the Nebraska Cornhuskers: "This is really kind of an awkward thing -- making fun of a couple who donated a million dollars to put my name on a volleyball court."

Duffy on her former neighbor: "Ruth taught me how to clip coupons. She always had stacks of the coupons on the kitchen table and said, 'I save this money and I can buy Berkie with it!'"

The roast was capped with a musical tribute. Nick Stergiou is the Distinguished Community Chair in Biomechanics at UNO, and the new Biomechanics Research Building at UNO was made possible through a donation from the Scotts. To the tune of the Perry Como classic "It's Impossible," Stergiou sang, in part

(LYRICS):

"It's impossible to make fun of all they've got,  
it's just impossible;  
Yes, to laugh at hands so giving that are paying  
for my living,  
Spend a second making jokes about those two,  
it's just impossible.  
To imagine Ruth not playing bridge, it's just  
impossible;  
Or to ask Bill to stop playing polka gigs, it's just  
impossible. . .  
They have treated me just like a dad and  
mother,  
So you see I just don't have the heart to roast  
them.  
So let's toast them; you've made this . . .  
possible."

Also toasting, but not roasting, the Scotts with a gift presentation were Hank Bounds, president of the University of Nebraska, and Brian Hastings, president and CEO of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

When it was the Scotts' turn to take the podium, Ruth took the lead: "I thank all of you wonderful people; you've said everything there is to say. We've been very honored to have you here. If you're disappointed that I didn't have something more profound to say, I'll turn it over to Bill." And Bill wrapped it up with a one-liner to roaster Stergiou: "I think Nick's got a new career in singing."