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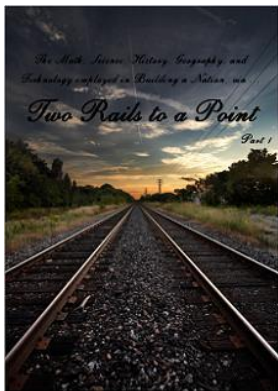


Volume 1
Issue 8

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ABOUT TOWN
A look at historical,
famous, and ordinary
people, places, things,
and events ... about
town.



*The Math, Science, History, Geography, and
Technology employed in Building a Nation, via
Two Rails to a Point
Part 1*



an autoSOCRATIC PRESS publication
Michael Lee Round

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*From Here to There
Local History, told through Science and Poetry*



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Michael Lee Round

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Beyond Fishing

EWING KAUFFMAN: *His Life and Times*



PHILANTHROPIC ENTREPRENEURISM

An Introductory Limerick

Ned was a man, with two kids and a wife;
And said to himself, “I have a good life”.
Each day I go down to the river for food;
And buy several fish, to be eaten or stewed!

One morning, Ned realized his money was gone;

The sun on the horizon! Quick! It is dawn!

Ned dashed to the river, and begged for a fish,

The fisherman looked, and granted the wish.

Ned blurted a “Thanks”, and started to run,

The old man’s voice did echo: ‘Just stop right there, son’.

“I’ve given you fish, because of your sorrow,

You’ve food for today, but think of tomorrow?”

No money, no food, Ned had lost his last job;

His family depending on him? He did sob.

His head drooped low, with tears in his eyes,

The old man now spoke: “Son, I’m not wise ...”

“I can give you a fish, and this day you’ll be fit,

But to end it right there is *not* philanthropic!

Dependent on me is how you’ll behave;

I have no desire to be master – or slave!”

“I’ll teach you to fish! You’ll eat for a life!

Each day you’ll have food for your kids and your wife!

We’ll start in the morning, I’ll teach you the tricks;

A lifetime of hunger, this problem we’ll fix!”

“Your kindness is something I cannot repay;

What can I do? Please tell me! Please say!”

“Learn to fish and teach others – three, maybe four;

That’s all that I ask – you’ll have settled the score.”

And so the years passed, many fish Ned had caught;
And he paid the debt forward – many men he had taught.
At times, he wondered where the old man had fled,
Perhaps greener pastures, perhaps he was dead.

Until Ned saw the old man one day;
Constructing a building, while looking quite gay!
“How are you doing?”, Ned asked in a yell!
“My gosh, you look great! You really look swell!”

“For years, I have fished. My father taught me.
His father taught him, and his father taught he.
As good as this sounds, it’s rather a bore;
I don’t want to fish – I WANT A FISH STORE!”

“I wanted a business to call all my own!

And not have to repay a high-percent loan!

Though good schools abound, I found there were fewer ..

That teach how to be an entrepreneur!”

“Now that I have, I’m got my own sign:

FRESH FISH! FRESH FISH! FRESH FISH! PLUS WINE!

How can I fish and run a store, too?

The question is simple! The answer is you!”

“You’ve learned how to fish, and shown many more!

And from all that fish, I will stock my new store!

A handsome price, indeed, you’ll be paid!

Division of Labor, A Foundation is Laid.”

“For *all* of us really, to find our own way ...
To earn a living, through work while it’s play!
A system constructed on mutual trust;
Individual rights, and doing what’s just!”

Excited, Ned asked, “Please tell me right now!”

“You lacked business sense” “Yes, I lacked the “HOW”?”

“Where did you get this new education?”

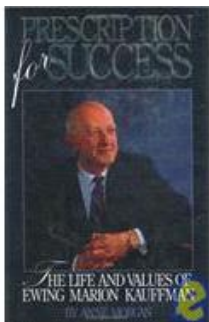
He answered with joy: “THE KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION!”



EWING KAUFFMAN

His Life and Times

Ewing Kauffman lived a remarkable life. To recount it here would not do justice to his memory. This book and DVD have done this, remarkably:



PARTS II AND III

However, there are two important topics to be covered in Parts II and III, that I think shed a light not only on his life, and not only “The Secret of *HIS* Success”, but more importantly, to “The Secret *OF* Success”, in business as well as in life!

PLAY BALL

FOOTBALL SEASON IS UPON

The strike is over! Football season is upon us! What kind of season can we expect? Let's look, historically, since the Chiefs entered the NFL in 1970:

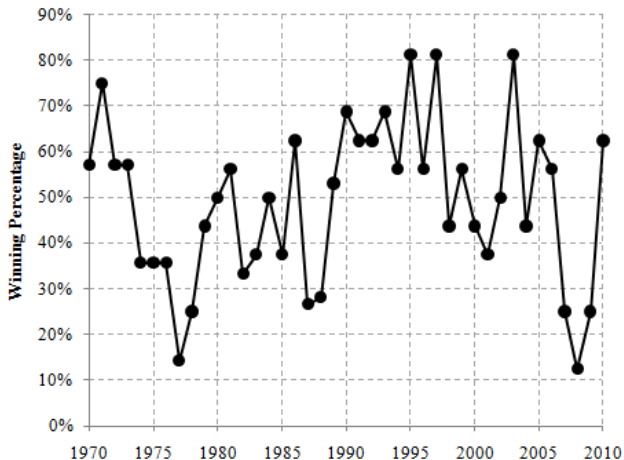
Year	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts	PtsO	PtDif	Year	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts	PtsO	PtDif
1970	7	5	2	57.1%	272	244	28	1990	11	5	0	68.8%	369	257	112
1971	10	3	1	75.0%	302	208	94	1991	10	6	0	62.5%	322	252	70
1972	8	6	0	57.1%	287	254	33	1992	10	6	0	62.5%	348	282	66
1973	7	5	2	57.1%	231	192	39	1993	11	5	0	68.8%	328	291	37
1974	5	9	0	35.7%	233	293	-60	1994	9	7	0	56.3%	319	298	21
1975	5	9	0	35.7%	282	341	-59	1995	13	3	0	81.3%	358	241	117
1976	5	9	0	35.7%	290	376	-86	1996	9	7	0	56.3%	297	300	-3
1977	2	12	0	14.3%	225	349	-124	1997	13	3	0	81.3%	375	232	143
1978	4	12	0	25.0%	243	327	-84	1998	7	9	0	43.8%	327	363	-36
1979	7	9	0	43.8%	238	262	-24	1999	9	7	0	56.3%	390	322	68
1980	8	8	0	50.0%	319	336	-17	2000	7	9	0	43.8%	355	354	1
1981	9	7	0	56.3%	343	290	53	2001	6	10	0	37.5%	320	344	-24
1982	3	6	0	33.3%	176	184	-8	2002	8	8	0	50.0%	467	399	68
1983	6	10	0	37.5%	386	367	19	2003	13	3	0	81.3%	484	332	152
1984	8	8	0	50.0%	314	324	-10	2004	7	9	0	43.8%	483	435	48
1985	6	10	0	37.5%	317	360	-43	2005	10	6	0	62.5%	403	325	78
1986	10	6	0	62.5%	358	326	32	2006	9	7	0	56.3%	331	315	16
1987	4	11	0	26.7%	273	388	-115	2007	4	12	0	25.0%	226	335	-109
1988	4	11	1	28.1%	254	320	-66	2008	2	14	0	12.5%	291	440	-149
1989	8	7	1	53.1%	318	286	32	2009	4	12	0	25.0%	294	424	-130
								2010	10	6	0	62.5%	366	326	40

THE CHIEFS – HISTORICALLY

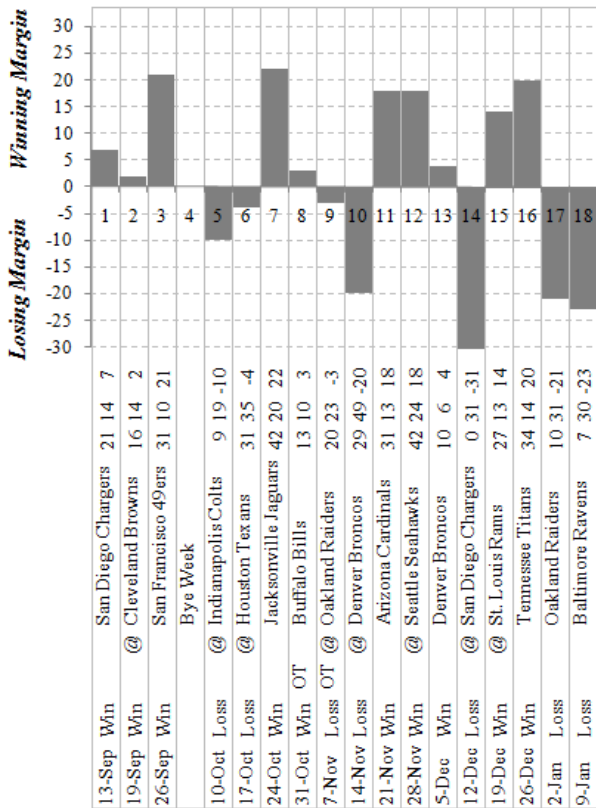
A table of data sometimes works fine, but a table also doesn't show trends well. Let's look, visually, at the performance over time.

But what do we graph? Wins? The NFL season once was 14 games. Now it's 16. There was the strike-shortened season of 1982 that would also distort a straight comparison.

Let's try winning percentage:

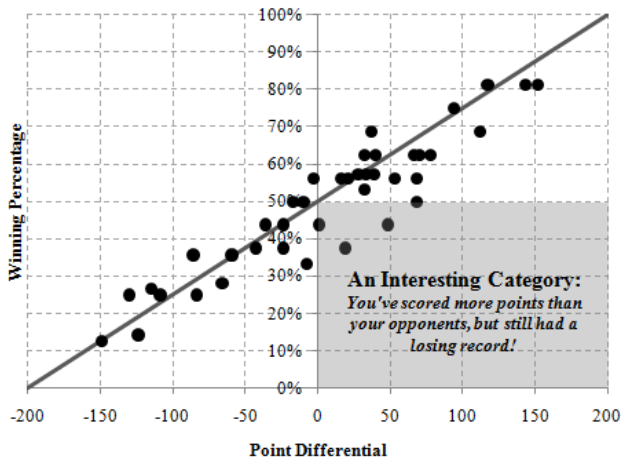


THE 2010-2011 SEASON



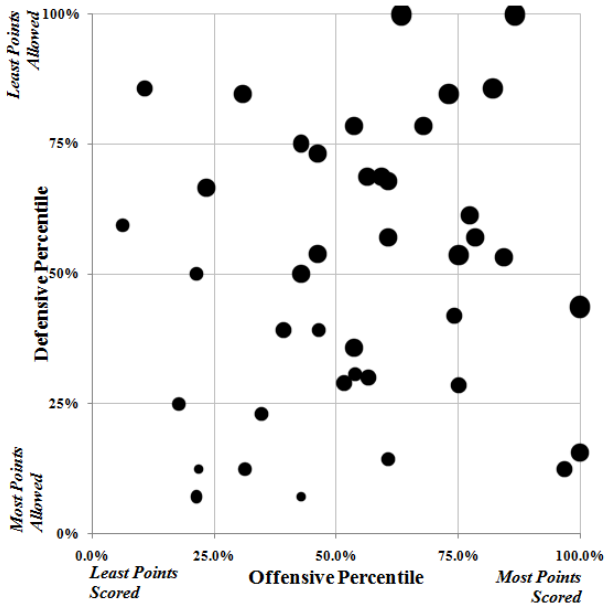
SCORING vs. WINNING

The Chiefs were a pretty good team in the 90s, but we've recently had three of our worst years. Last year was a good year, however, at 10-6, but there's something odd about that year. Despite winning 10 games, we only outscored opponents by 40 points! I would have expected that to be much higher. What does point differential / winning percentage look like over time?



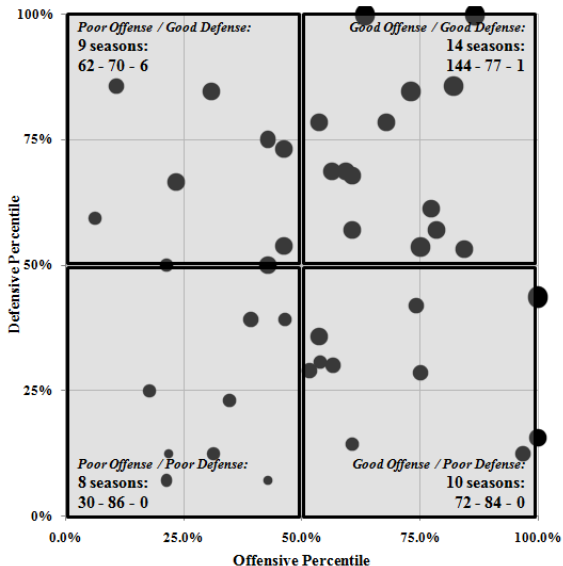
OFFENSE vs. DEFENSE?

Point Differential vs. Winning Percentage has me thinking: what's more important: a good *offense* or a good *defense*? Let's see. Below, the 100th percentile represents the best, the 50th percentile the median. Also, the size of the data point signifies the winning percentage in a given year:



OFFENSE vs. DEFENSE? (*Part II*)

I'm not sure if we've answered our question. Let's summarize the data in quadrants to see if this helps?



I'm not sure it does: a poor offense / good defense is about the same as a good offense / poor defense. Which might mean "if there's no difference record-wise, go for the good offense". At least they're more exciting to watch!

Crime and Punishment

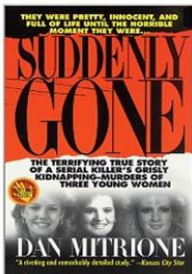
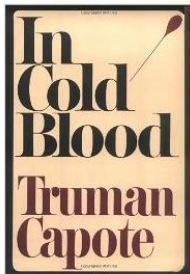
HISTORICAL TRAGEDY MEETS SCIENCE FICTION

They were two of the more notorious criminal acts in Kansas history. A family of four, murdered, in 1959, by Perry Smith and Richard Hickock. Three young, single women, murdered thirty years later, in 1989, by Richard Grissom. The horrid stories were recounted in these books.

Though separated by decades, the murderers nonetheless had many things in common.

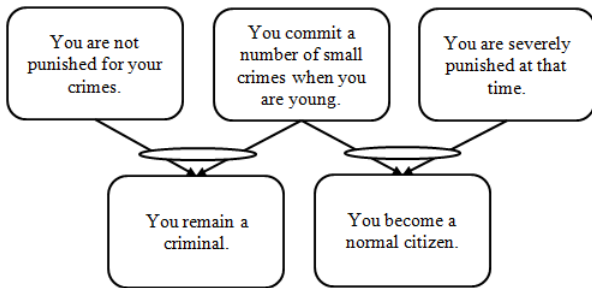
Both Hickock and Grissom committed many criminal acts when they were young. *What was the result?*

Regarding Hickock: “But it was a rare citizen who pressed charges against the boy [Hickock], mostly out of respect for his parents, who were well-liked”.



And Grissom? Said his parents, “This is a small community, and we’re respected here. We handled our personal problems in our own way. If we found some stolen items in Richard’s room, we confronted him. Most of the time he confessed to taking them, and we would march him back to where he got them and give them back. We made him apologize for what he had done.”

How might history have been different had they been punished, instead of forgiven? We know how history *did* turn out. But the crucial decision points started right here:



They weren’t punished, and therefore, their “lives of crime” were allowed to continue. Sadly.

Of course, a juvenile delinquent usually doesn't go from being a delinquent to a hardened criminal overnight. But the severity of crimes does increase.

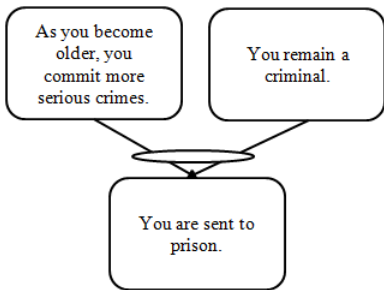
And these more serious crimes *cannot* be dismissed. You're eventually caught, and sent to prison.

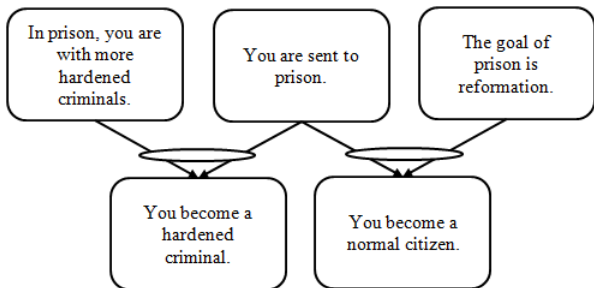
Both Hickock and Grissom were caught. They were both sent to prison – in Lansing, Kansas.

And this should, *ideally*, be the end of the story, right? *If* the goal of prison is to reform the criminal, *then* this incarceration should have changed history.

But it didn't, for either man. *Why not?*

They were in prison for more serious crimes committed, but now they're in a facility with even *more* hardened criminals. And what's the probable outcome of such a mixture? They themselves became more hardened criminals!





Now hardened criminals, murder was not necessarily inevitable, but tragically the unsurprising next step.

As we lay out the logical progression here, we see it didn't have to be. Many things could have happened that would have "changed the future", for them and their victims.

What does this to do with our area?

Richard Hickock grew up in Kansas City and then Edgerton, Kansas, and went to school at Olathe High School, before murdering the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas. And the three murders committed by Richard Grissom? They took place right here in Johnson County.

But the story does not end here. Here is a relevant excerpt from Robert Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*.

STARSHIP TROOPERS

Robert A. Heinlein

Chapter VIII

Mr. Dubois then demanded of me, "Define a 'juvenile delinquent.'"

"Uh, one of those kids-the ones who used to beat up people."

"Wrong."

"Huh? But the book said -"

"My apologies. Your textbook does do state. But calling a tail a leg does not make the name fit. 'Juvenile delinquent' is a contradiction in terms, one which gives a clue to their problem and their failure to solve it. Have you ever raised a puppy?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you housebreak him?"

"Err...yes, sir. Eventually." It was my slowness in this that caused my mother to rule that dogs must stay out of the house.

"Ah, yes. When your puppy made mistakes, were you angry?"

“What? Why, he didn’t know any better; he was just a puppy.”

“What did you do?”

“Why, I scolded him and rubbed his nose in it and paddled him.”

“Surely he could not understand your words?”

“No, but he could tell I was sore at him!”

“But you just said that you were not angry.”

Mr. Dubois had an infuriating way of getting a person mixed up. “No, but I had to make him think I was. He had to learn, didn’t he?”

“Conceded. But, having made it clear to him that you disapproved, how could you be so cruel as to spank him as well? You said the poor beastie didn’t know that he was doing wrong. Yet you inflicted pain. Justify yourself! Or are you a sadist?”

I didn’t then know what a sadist was – but I knew pups. “Mr. Dubois, you have to! You scold him so that he knows he’s in trouble, you rub his nose in it so he will know what trouble you mean, you paddle him so that he darn well won’t do it again – and you have to do it right away! It doesn’t do a bit of good to punish him later; you’ll just confuse him. Even

so, he won't learn from one lesson, so you watch and catch him again and paddle him still harder. Pretty soon he learns. But it's a waste of breath just to scold him." Then I added, "I guess you've never raised pups."

"Many. I'm raising a dachshund now – by your methods. Let's get back to those juvenile criminals. The most vicious averaged somewhat younger than you here in this class...and often started their lawless careers much younger. Let us never forget that puppy. These children were often caught; police arrested batches each day. Were they scolded? Yes, often scathingly. Were their noses rubbed in it? Rarely. News organs and officials kept their names secret – in many places the law so required for criminals under eighteen. Were they spanked? Indeed not! Many had never been spanked even as small children; there was a widespread belief that spanking, or any punishment involving pain, did a child permanent psychic damage."

(I reflected that my father must never have heard of that theory.)

"Corporal punishment in schools was forbidden by law," he had gone on. "Flogging was lawful as a sentence of the court only in one small province, Delaware, and there only

for a few crimes and was rarely invoked; it was regarded as ‘cruel and unusual punishment.’” Dubois had mused aloud, “I do not understand objections to ‘cruel and unusual’ punishment. While a judge should be benevolent in purpose, his awards should cause the criminal to suffer, else there is no punishment – and pain is the basic mechanism built into us by millions of years of evolution which safeguards us by warning when something threatens our survival. Why should society refuse to use such a highly perfected survival mechanism? However, that period was loaded with pre-scientific pseudo-psychological nonsense.”

“As for ‘unusual,’ punishment must be unusual or it serves no purpose.” He then pointed his stump at another boy. “What would happen if a puppy were spanked every hour?”

“Uh...probably drive him crazy!”

“Probably. It certainly will not teach him anything. How long has it been since the principal of this school last had to switch a pupil?”

“Uh, I’m not sure. About two years. That kid that swiped _”

“Never mind. Long enough. It means that such punishment is so unusual as to be significant, to deter, to

instruct. Back to these young criminals – They probably were not spanked as babies; they certainly were not flogged for their crimes. The usual sequence was: for a first offense, a warning – a scolding, often without trial. After several offenses a sentence of confinement but with the sentence suspended and the youngster placed on probation. A boy might be arrested many times and convicted several times before he was punished – and then it would be merely confinement, with others like him from whom he learned still more criminal habits. If he kept out of major trouble while confined, he could usually evade most of even that mild punishment, be given probation – ‘paroled’ in the jargon of the times.

“This incredible sequence could go on for years while his crimes increased in frequency and viciousness, with no punishment whatever save rare dull – but – comfortable confinements. Then suddenly, usually by law on his eighteenth birthday, this so-called ‘juvenile delinquent’ becomes an adult criminal – and sometimes wound up in only weeks or months in a death cell awaiting execution for murder. You –”

He had singled me out again. “Suppose you merely scolded your puppy, never punished him, let him go on making messes in the house ... and occasionally locked him up in an outbuilding but soon let him back into the house with a warning not to do it again. Then one day you notice that he is now a grown dog and still not housebroken – whereupon you whip out a gun and shoot him dead. Comment, please?”

“Why ... that’s the craziest way to raise a dog I ever heard of!”

“I agree. Or a child. Whose fault would it be?”

“Uh ... why, mine, I guess.”

“Again I agree. But I’m not guessing.”

“Mr. Dubois,” a girl blurted out, “but why? Why didn’t they spank little kids when they needed it and use a good dose of the strap on any older ones who deserved it – the sort of lesson they wouldn’t forget! I mean ones who did things really bad. Why not?”

“I don’t know,” he had answered grimly, “except that the time-tested method of instilling social virtue and respect for law in the minds of the young did not appeal to a pre-scientific pseudo-professional class who called themselves ‘social workers’ or sometimes ‘child psychologists.’ It was

too simple for them, apparently, since anybody could do it, using only the patience and firmness needed in training a puppy. I have sometimes wondered if they cherished a vested interest in disorder – but that is unlikely; adults almost always act from conscious ‘highest motives’ no matter what their behavior.”

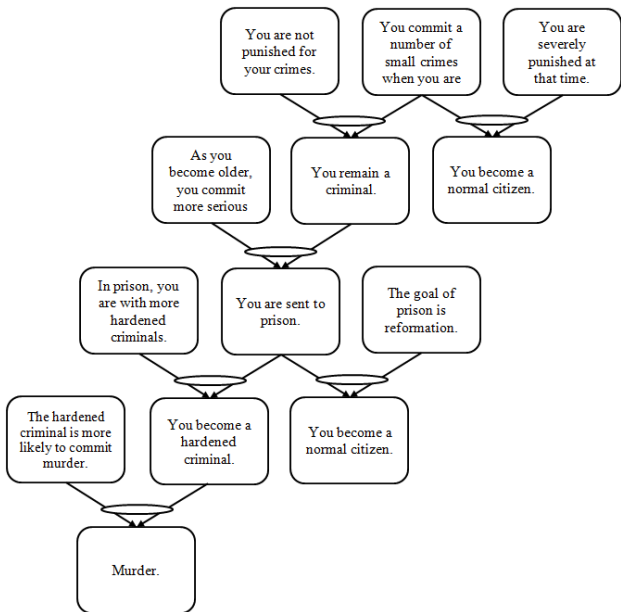
“But – good heavens!” the girl answered. “I didn’t like being spanked any more than any kid does, but when I needed it, my mama delivered. The only time I got a switching in school I got another when I got home – and that was years and years ago. I don’t ever expect to be hauled up in front of a judge and sentenced to flogging; you behave yourself and such things don’t happen. I don’t see anything wrong with our system; it’s a lot better than not being able to walk outdoors for fear of your life – why, that’s horrible!”

“I agree. Young lady, the tragic wrongness of what those well-meaning people did, contrasted with what they thought they were doing, goes very deep. They had no scientific theory of morals. They did have a theory of morals and they tried to live by it (I should not have sneered at their motives) , but their theory was wrong – half of it fuzzy-headed wishful thinking, half of it rationalized charlatantry. The more earnest

they were, the farther it led them astray. You see, they assumed that Man has a moral instinct.”

HEINLEIN'S ARGUMENT

A Visual Summary ...



Does this excerpt sound eerily – and logically – familiar? It should! And we see “historical tragedy meets science fiction”!

WHO WAS ROBERT HEINLEIN?

And who was Robert Heinlein? Heinlein, along with Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke, were known as the “Big Three” of science fiction.

And Heinlein grew up right here, in Kansas City, graduating from Central High School in 1924!



More Reading

For a remarkable series on Hickock, Corbin Crable of the Gardner News wrote a multi-part series titled “The Origins of Evil”, in 2010.

<http://gardnernews.com/tag/origins-of-evil/>

WHY IS ALL ECONOMIC NEWS BAD NEWS

An Economic Merry-Go-Round

The Federal Reserve and the Money Museum, across from the Liberty Memorial:



IN FRONT OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE

The Spirit of Industry and The Spirit of Commerce



The Spirit of Industry

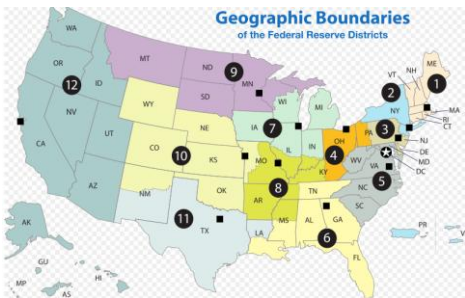
... holds in her hands a sheaf of wheat and a distaff representing, respectively, the industries of the soil and manufacturing. The original *Spirit of Industry* also features the beehive of indefatigable industry portrayed against a background of the sun casting its rays over the universe.



The Spirit of Commerce

... wears a coat of mail signifying security and holds the torch of progress and the caduceus of Mercury, god of commerce. The original *Spirit of Commerce* also features the ship of transportation against a background of stars and the moon.

The fountain incorporated into the sculptures represents the Bank's three mission areas: monetary policy, supervision and risk management, and financial and treasury services.

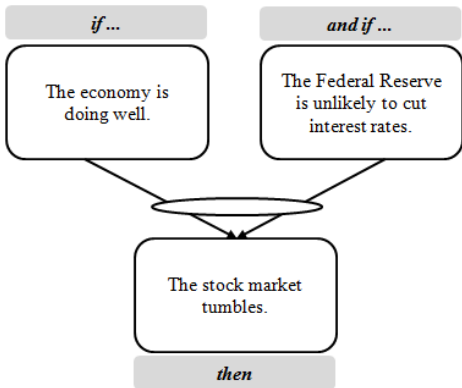


Uncovering the Nature of the Federal Reserve

This Federal Reserve bank, in District 10, is one of 12 such banks around the country. But what is the job of the bank? Let's try and uncover it, by trying to understand a recent news article:

“Although most of the economic news was good, investors saw signs that the Federal Reserve is unlikely to cut interest rates anytime soon and took stocks down Tuesday.”

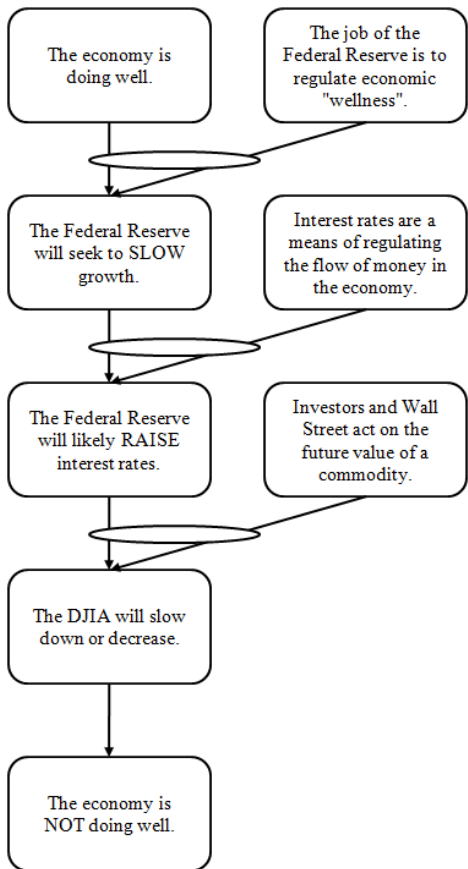
The article continued. “The market is hoping for slow growth and moderate inflation, and now there’s concern they [the Federal Reserve] might have to bump up rates in the second half of the year.”



What kind of nonsense is this? It shows some validity, perhaps, to the old adage “the only economic news is bad news”. How can it be when economic news is good, the stock market tumbles?

What is the relationship between interest rates, the stock market, the economy, and the Federal Reserve?

A possible explanation:

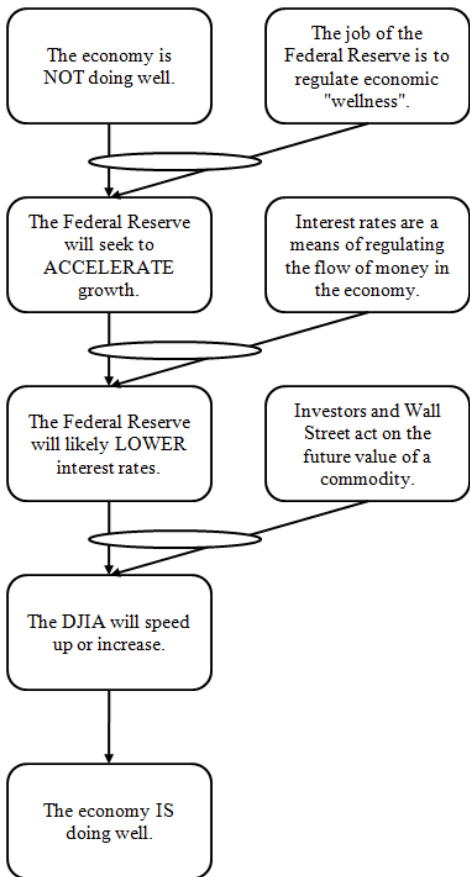


THE LOGICAL CONNECTIONS

A note about the use of logical arrows here: they are intended to depict the chronological timeline of my thinking, and not the logical. For example, consider this sentence: “If the Federal Reserve likely will seek to slow growth, then the Federal Reserve will increase interest rates, because interest rates are a means of regulating the flow of money in the economy”. This is a much different sentence than “If the Federal Reserve likely will seek to slow growth, and if interest rates are a means of regulating the flow of money in the economy, then the Federal Reserve will increase interest rates.”

But look what we’ve got: we start with an admission the economy is doing well. Through a series of causal explanations, we arrive at the economy NOT doing well! Can you imagine what will happen now?

Of course you can imagine it:



CIRCULARITY

The scenarios above suggest circularity – if something is going too fast, slow it down. If it's moving too slow, speed it up! A system with feedback. Systems Dynamics has been modeling such behavior for decades, of course, but the logical processes, I believe, bring a great deal of clarity to the issue by verbalizing the entities in reality.

There seems to be one entry point sending the system into a circular spiral:

“The job of the Federal Reserve is to regulate economic ‘wellness’.”

We'll check that premise later.

Let's take all of this one step further. Let's unify the logic to enable us to concretely see the circularity and feedback. In this regard, with scissors and tape at the ready, cut out the preceding two structures, and align the top of the cutout with the bottom (as though you were wrapping the paper around a soup can).

“AS GOES ARGENTINE, SO GOES BNSF”

Classification Yards in Kansas City

They move more intermodal freight traffic than any other rail system in the world:

The BNSF Railway is one of five large rail companies in the United States...



And “As goes Argentine, so goes BNSF.”

Argentine?

In our article on “Coal and Commerce”, we talked about the intersection of a BNSF coal line with a rail line extending from the Port of Long Beach, California to Chicago, Illinois.

Goods from Asia on their way to Chicago.

All the way to Chicago?

Surely, not *all* of the goods go all of the way to Chicago. What happens, in this case? And what about goods heading westward? North? South?

THE DISTRIBUTION OF RAIL GOODS

Consider a mailman. A mailman makes stops, picks up mail, drops off mail, and moves on – returning to the post office. Mail is sorted. Held until another mailman is heading another direction.

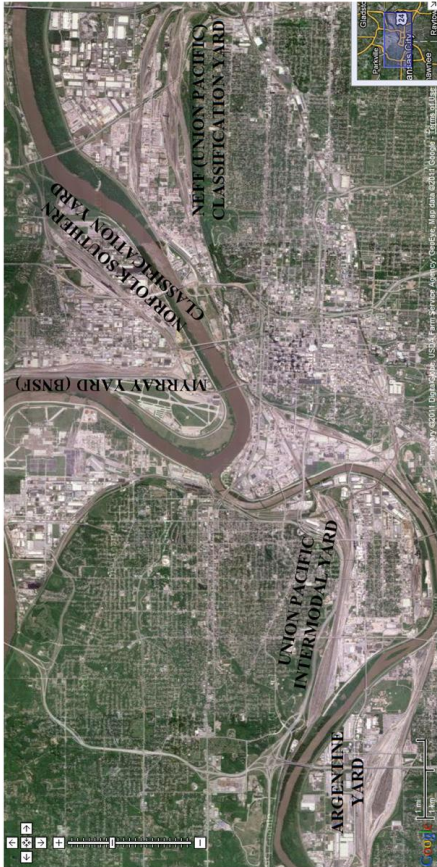
It's classified – organized.

Such is the case with railroads and goods. Stops are made. Rail cars are “classified”, and sorted.

To lots of different destinations.

Of course, unlike an envelop, a railcar is *huge!* To classify them would require huge swaths of land. Many tracks.

Let's see if we can find such areas of land here in Kansas City. Below is a snapshot of Kansas City, where the Kansas and Missouri Rivers meet:



AN INTERESTING FACT

According to the American Association of Railroads, here is the distribution of freight traffic on Class I railroads in the United States in 2008:

Commodity Group	Tons Originated	% of Total
Coal	878,569,000	45.4%
Chemicals & allied prod.	176,108,000	9.1%
Farm products	155,950,000	8.1%
Non-metallic minerals	132,352,000	6.8%
Intermodal	120,278,000	6.2%
Food & kindred products	105,071,000	5.4%
Metallic ores	59,986,000	3.1%
Metals & products	54,420,000	2.8%
Waste & scrap materials	48,848,000	2.5%
Stone, clay & glass prod.	45,275,000	2.3%
Petroleum & coke	44,690,000	2.3%
Pulp, paper & allied prod.	34,130,000	1.8%
Lumber & wood products	30,856,000	1.6%
Motor vehicles & equip.	24,791,000	1.3%
All other commodities	22,442,000	1.2%
Total	1,933,766,000	100.0%

THE ARGENTINE YARD OF KANSAS CITY

Second Largest Classification Yard in the United States

“As Goes Argentine, So Goes BNSF”



Zooming in, we see the tremendous amount of railroad cars, classified, according to their destination.



Some Thoughts on Classification

Let's talk for a minute about the classification yards themselves.

Imagine a train pulling 10 cars. The last 3 need to stay in Kansas City, the middle 4 go on to Chicago, the first 2 go on to Cleveland, and the third goes to Des Moines. 10 cars. 4 destinations. And the train pulls into the Argentine Yard.

It ... *does what*? How does it distribute these cars to the different tracks?

What is the optimal path of the locomotive in dropping off the cars onto separate tracks headed towards their ultimate destinations? How many times does the locomotive need to back onto separate tracks?

The remarkable answer – *zero* – reveals the ingenuity of the classification yard! A clue to this counter-intuitive result lies in an alternative name of the classification yard: *the hump yard*! And we will investigate how it works in a future issue.

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Architectural Strength and Volume

Geodesic Domes in Kansas City

The 4-Legged Majesty

The Remarkable Greyhound

Thomas Hart Benton

Famous Paintings of a Famous Artist

Huron Indian Cemetery

A Remarkable Story

A Calming Maze

Labryniths "about town"

ON THE BACK **Photograph of the Month**

A pedestrian walkway across an 8-lane highway doesn't have to be ugly. Rounded enclosure. Vines. Beauty + Safety!

The Pedestrian Walkway at Roe across 435 (Looking South)

