With luck like this ...

Lottery millionaire Buddy Post has a winner's story that's a sobering cautionary tale to those who dream of winning the lottery and living the dream: Be careful what you wish for.

In 1988, the ex-carnival worker and cook won $16.2 million in the Pennsylvania Lottery. But as the Associated Press recounts it, that was when his troubles began.

Even before the first check arrived, Post's landlady sued, claiming she owned part of the winning ticket. The courts awarded her one-third of the proceeds. Meanwhile, Post and various relatives opened a bar, a used-car lot and other businesses, using the promise of lottery proceeds to come as capital. All the businesses failed and by now Post is deeply in debt to lawyers and creditors.

It gets worse. In 1993, his brother was convicted of attempting to kill Buddy and his wife in hopes of inheriting the lottery money. Then Buddy was convicted of assault and sentenced to prison.

Post's sixth wife left him and filed for divorce and Buddy has been ordered to pay her $40,000 a year in support. He's $500,000 in debt and has filed for bankruptcy. The gas has been shut off at the mansion he bought with lottery winnings. Now he hopes to auction off 17 future lottery payments worth $5 million. But Pennsylvania Lottery officials are threatening to block the auction, claiming that future payments can't be sold.

Buddy Post may or may not have learned by now that money can't buy love, happiness, friends, business acumen and a lot of other desirable things. Surely, though, he's learned that it can buy a lot of trouble. Be careful what you wish for.