

Fun for the Whole Family

The HOME TOWN REPORTER
in Washington
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WHEN this war is over, and the expected boom in every form of sport comes along, there is certain to be a big need for much stronger supervision than we have today. This includes baseball, racing, football, boxing and basketball above most of the others. For these are the major spectator and big money games.



Grantland Rice

This isn't a matter of today or next week or next month. It is a matter of the big tangle and scramble that is coming after the war is over when there will be almost countless problems to face and handle, including the return home of millions of servicemen, many of these hoping and expecting to make a living out of professional sport.

You can see what happened when three or four unknown basketball players, in a New York college almost totally unknown in a national way, almost wrecked basketball. You can figure what will happen if the same thing occurs to baseball, boxing, racing and football on a bigger scale.

Four Big Sports
We can take them up in order: Baseball—In my opinion, baseball needs a ruling commissioner who will be given full authority to act; who will be well known and respected around the country; who can pick up where Judge Landis left off. A commissioner without these qualifications, without complete authority, would be useless. It will be too late in case some scandal breaks. Baseball can't look for any such supporting combination as Judge Landis and Babe Ruth to restore public confidence.

Racing—Racing is a tougher problem to tackle, due to the jealousies of competing states and the tremendous taxes they gather in. Yet it is a well-known fact that even before racing was stopped, many chiselers, crooks and gangsters were edging their way into the richest financial harvest of all sport, where well over a billion dollars was bet through 1944. Where more than a few jockeys were not above suspicion and where general larceny was on the verge of breaking out at any moment. This applies to all racing states.

Only a J. Edgar Hoover could help here, where an annual salary of \$100,000 would be excellent insurance. It would take a direct order from Washington to bring this about. But it might be badly needed at any given time later on.

Pro Football and Boxing
Football—It would be almost impossible to have any ruling commissioner for college football, as so many sections have their own commissioners who have different and conflicting ideals and opinions.

Boxing—Here is one of sport's greatest needs. Boxing, like racing, has been largely a matter of state regulation. As it is, we have no real boxing control. Champions in one state may be thrown out in another. Boxing and racing are the easiest contests to throw, with more money involved in the throwing. Especially in the general direction of the gamblers—and I mean the crooked gamblers. Boxing needs a commissioner or a supervisor more than any other single sport. And it may need more very badly later on, much more than it needs one at the moment.

I have only mentioned four of the major public sports—baseball, racing, football and boxing. In each instance they all need a commissioner who is nationally known, who has the respect of the country at large, who has both honesty and proved ability, and who will also be given possession of "the iron hand" when the iron hand is needed. Any form of figurehead or front man would be a useless undertaking.

Wickard on Food

HOOSIER - BORN, dirt-farmer Claude F. Wickard, secretary of agriculture, sat in his huge office on the second floor of the department of agriculture main building overlooking the Mall, and, gazing out of his window through the trees onto the shrubbery-studded lawn, drew a word picture to me describing his vision of a postwar agriculture... an agriculture different from any we have known in this country.

It was as though he could see the broad acres of his Carroll county farm in Indiana, as he spoke, for spring was in the air, and he was itching to get back there, to get the feel of the soil he loves... to get into a pair of overalls... to go look at a boar pig he has a hankering to own.

First, he sees in the years to come a nation of family sized farms owner operated, and to make this come true he cites the record of his Farm Security administration which has made more than 36,000 loans to farm tenants, share croppers and farm workers enabling them to buy family-type farms of their own. And more and more loans are being made.

He sees food as looming more and more in importance in the conduct of world affairs with the American farmer having a vital stake in the world peace organization and playing a most important part in the economic reconstruction of the world. This will come about, Mr. Wickard believes, through the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the framework of which was adopted at Hot Springs, Va., in May, 1943.

Since that time 18 nations have approved the organization and a joint resolution is pending in the house of representatives as this is written, authorizing the President to accept membership in the organization for the United States. He sees the American farmer producing to full capacity both food and non-food agricultural products and receiving for his work parity or above, prices... a prosperous agriculture.

He pictures a postwar age of farmers who have learned how to use their precious land wisely and efficiently, through recognized conservation and land-use practices... an age which will build a permanent agriculture—recognizing new and important responsibilities to the community, living on the land from choice rather than from compulsion and the creation of a new concept of the dignity of farm life.

Included in this picture is an American agriculture freed from most of its drudgery with new conveniences, and new horizons for farm life brought to rural areas throughout the land through electricity on a new and broader scale than ever conceived by the Rural Electrification administration. As of June, 1944, a little more than a million farm homes had been electrified through REA; however, it is the dream of the secretary of agriculture to bring REA service to every farm home in America and to make electricity available to some 3,655,000 farms and rural establishments in the immediate five-year period following the war.

Claude Wickard

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS



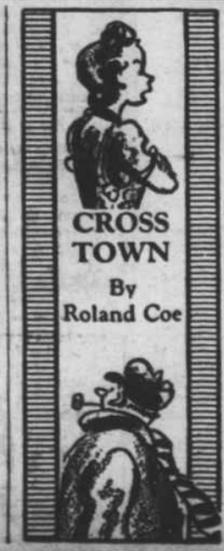
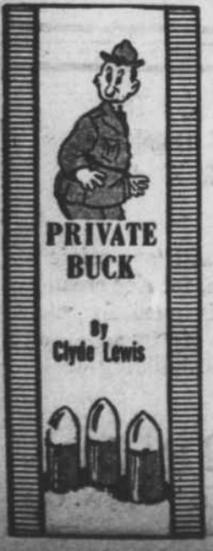
REG'LAR FELLERS—Always Popular



By GENE BYRNES



POP—Baby Hospital



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"That woodpecker is better than the pigeons, Sir, I've taught him to tap out messages in code!"

"This used to be our favorite picnic spot a year or so back."