

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS

SEE THERE, HALFPINT—YOU MUST LEARN TO PLAY MORE GENTLY—THAT'S NAUGHTY TO BREAK HAMMERS!

REG'LAR FELLERS—Hot Dog!



By GENE BYRNES



VIRGIL

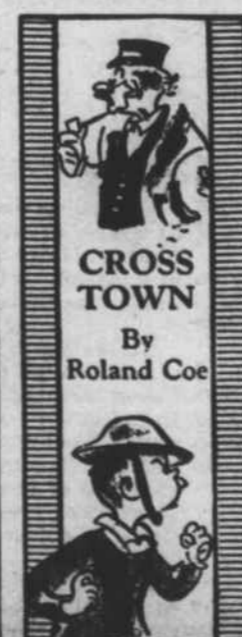
By LEN KLEIS

POP—Wasted Effort



By J. MILLAR WATT

SOMEBODY'S STENOG—Forget Business!



Labor 'Invades' Agriculture

By Walter Shead
WNU Correspondent

LABOR organizations which have inched their way into the field of agriculture over vigorous protest of agricultural organizations are now planning enlargements of these labor beachheads already gained, according to indications here.

So alarmed has the Farm Bureau federation become over latest reports of labor encroachment into the farm field, that they are preparing to go before congress and ask for preventive legislation, probably similar to the Hobbs bill which passed the house in 1942, but which died in the senate. This measure brought labor organizations within the terms of the federal anti-racketeering act.

This latest point of conflict is another outbreak between farmers on the eastern seaboard, particularly in the Philadelphia area, and the Teamsters Union, AFL, which is seeking to bring farm workers driving farmers' trucks into the teamsters union. In some instances farmers' trucks have been stopped and the unions have charged an "unloading fee" where the drivers have been non-union. The house agricultural committee is expected within a few weeks to start hearings on complaints of farmers and revive the "hot cargo" investigation of 1942 which exposed union practices in the food industry. It is reported that some of the farm-to-market truckers have been required to pay union fees as high as \$56 to unload perishable foods.

The farm bureau contends that this practice is an interference with the movement of food to market, will be ruinous to crops and trade and will diminish supplies to consumers in a period in which food supplies are critically needed.

Farm Leaders Apprehensive

Farm leaders are apprehensive of what may happen when and if John L. Lewis, head of the miners union, makes his peace and is received back into the American Federation of Labor. When that happens, and predictions are that it will happen soon, the labor organizations are expected to expend real money to finance union expansion.

Milk drivers in the dairy industry, workers in canneries and processors in fruit and other perishables, fruit pickers, hop workers and some other already unionized constitute the beachheads or springboards from which further attempts to organize agricultural workers and farmers may proceed. It will be recalled that the indefatigable Mr. Lewis boasted that he would organize the agricultural workers of the nation into unions and farm leaders here do not believe that his boast was all bluff.

The contention is made here that if the labor unions can force farm workers who drive farm-to-market trucks to join the teamsters union, why cannot they force drivers of tractors or combines or any other farm machinery to join a machinists union or some other labor union?

Teamsters Very Active

The teamsters union has been particularly active since the 1942 decision of the Supreme court which set aside convictions of members of a New York local who had forced out-of-state trucks to hire a union member as a "guest" driver at \$8 to \$9 per truck. As a result of this decision Representative Mike Monroney (Dem., Okla.) introduced a bill to amend the Clayton anti-trust law to repeal the exemptions labor unions enjoy under the law. He didn't get very far with the bill. But he has now reintroduced the bill aimed primarily at collusive practices and it is before the house judiciary committee. Representative Hobbs (Dem., Ala.) has also reintroduced his measure, which has received approval of the house judiciary committee, and the measure is now pending before the house.

"Not only have the unions attempted to force farmers to join them, but they have threatened to boycott processors and distributors who handle the farmers' products," one farm leader said.

"We intend," he continued, "to use every resource we have to protect the farmers against this invasion of our rights and to obtain legislation which will outlaw such union practices."

Every fiber of the traditional independence of farmers rebels at the thought of being forced into unions, or of being forced to pay union fees for the purpose of trucking their produce to market, according to farm leaders here, and they will fight every attempt of the unions to organize the farm workers. They do not believe unionism will work on the farms and that the unions will defeat the very purpose of the farm organizations themselves which have been built up.



SEVERAL old-time ball players have suggested that the public at large should not judge Hank Greenberg in the same light as some of the other ex-servicemen who have returned to make good. Two of those mentioned were Ferriss and Benton.

"Remember," one of these said, "Ferriss and Benton had a chance to play a lot of baseball before they were released from service. Any number of star ball players have been playing on army or navy teams. But Greenberg has a played practically no baseball for over four years. That's a long gap. I recall that old Pete Alexander came back from the A.E.F. to keep on going at a winning clip, but old Pete was only out of the game a year or less. It will be remarkable if Hank can start hitting home runs right away. Even closer to his old form he could murder a lot of these pitchers now around, but it will take time."

This brings up the old argument again regarding Joe Louis. Joe has been away over three years. But after all he has had the chance to box in a long list of exhibitions for various camps and hospitals. This isn't the same as actual ring fighting, but at least it has given the heavyweight champion a chance to keep his hand in. The same is true of Billy Conn.

They probably won't be what they used to be—but they can still get back into pretty fair boxing and punching form, if they happen to get out before too long.

With the heavy play both army and navy are now making on the side of sport for servicemen in Europe and the Pacific, their chances for any sudden exit are none too warm.

Arm, and navy have made plans to get all the coaches and trainers they can collect and to build up as many all-star contests as they can find—especially in the way of boxing, baseball and football. These are the three top sports that carry the leading soldier and sailor appeal, although basketball also has a terrific call.

Louis and Conn

I asked Jimmy Johnston, sage of the leather district, how he figured Louis and Conn would go after returning to the ring.

"First of all," he said, "just tell me when they are going to get out. That's important. If it takes much longer I'd say some tough young heavyweight soldier will come along who won't be afraid to tear in and punch. He will also be younger and tougher. No, I don't know who he will be. But with all the boxing training hundreds of thousands of these kids have had, a few of them are sure to learn a lot and to have what it takes."

"Just what does it take?" I asked.

"Very simple," the sage said. "To know how to box, to know how to punch, to be able to take a punch. You see thousands of kids who might have been good fighters never had a chance to get any instruction before. They never had a chance to do any boxing. The big majority had no chance to be a champion, anyway. But there must be many others who are sure to move far up. This goes for every class. Some of our best ring fighters have been teaching thousands of these younger men. It is for this reason that I think we'll get most of our ring champions out of this group."

In this connection a friend of Joe Louis tells me that the heavyweight leader now has his golf game down into the low 70s and expects to hold a big July tournament over one of Detroit's municipal courses. It is much easier to get Louis to talk about golf and the golf swing than it is to lure many words from him about boxing or the heavyweight championship.

Also, Bowman Milligan, manager of Beau Jack, reports that while the lightweight's knee is still bothering him, he is winning camp fights by quick knockouts. Beau Jack's present weight is over 145 pounds so he will have his share of trouble training himself back into the lightweight division.

But it won't be any great trouble in most cases to remove surplus flesh. The big gamble will be what the returning veteran can do with the flesh, bone and sinew he has left, once he is down to weight. And there will be a flock of different answers to this problem.

Al Benton's Case

There is, for instance, the case of Al Benton of the Tigers. Al is 6 feet 4, 238 pounds, age 32. He served two years in the navy. Many people will refer to his record as proof that service in the armed forces does not affect a player's ability, but Benton spent all his time at Norman, Okla., had the position of athletic director, and about all he did was pitch. He had time to improve his curve ball and his slider, his main pitch today is this slider in fact.