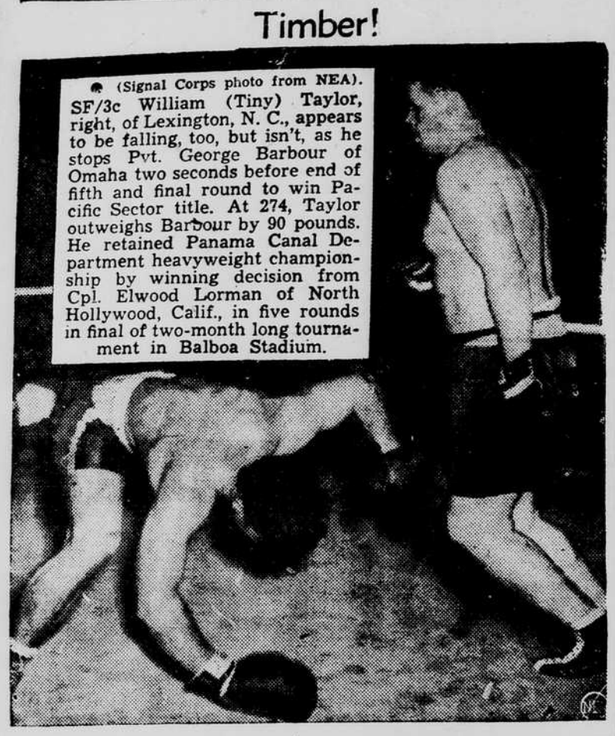
Timber!



(Signal Corps photo from NEA). SF/3c William (Tiny) Taylor, right, of Lexington, N. C., appears to be falling, too, but isn't, as he stops Pvt. George Barbour of Omaha two seconds before end of fifth and final round to win Pacific Sector title. At 274, Taylor outweighs Barbour by 90 pounds. He retained Panama Canal Department heavyweight championship by winning decision from Cpl. Elwood Lorman of North Hollywood, Calif., in five rounds in final of two-month long tournament in Balboa Stadium.

Sportsmen Jeopardized By Draft Board Review

By TOM MEIER

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(AP)— The status of wartime professional sports in the United States was thrown into jeopardy on Saturday by a government order directing race tracks to shut down by Jan. 3 and calling upon draft boards to review immediately the classification of men engaged in professional athletics

The double directive that caused consternation in the sports world was issued by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes. He asked racing, a billion dollar industry in 1944, including flat, harness and dog racing, that contributed more than $56,000,000 in state taxes to close up to "prevent the use of critical materials, services and transportation——until war conditions permit."

Declaring that he had the approval of President Roosevelt, Byrnes asserted that in view of the "existing war situation" it was difficult for him and for the public to understand how men can be physically unfit for military service and "yet be able to compete with the greatest athletes of the nation in games demanding physical fitness."

In a letter to Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, Byrnes said that because of the manpower shortage serious consideration should be given to "recalling these men into the armed services or where they have not heretofore been inducted, calling them for another physical examination." Hershey replied he had directed local draft boards to review the status of all pro athletes.

(Neither Byrnes nor Hershey mentioned college sports and it is uncertain how their future would be affected).

The Sports Trail

By WHITNEY MARTIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(AP)— Johnny snuggled the gun a little closer and gave it a couple of reassurang pats as of consoling a child whimpering with a cold.

The silent display of affection was instinctive. After all, the gun was his pal, his friend in need and had noisily helped him out of many a tight spot since it was handed to him four years ago.

It was just another cunningly designed implement of wood and steel at that time, different from the 12-gauge scattergun he used to bag ducks in the cold grey dawns of fall, of course, but otherwise just another gun, utterly devoid of personality.

He quickly had learned to use it, though as he was a typical American kid who, when the cards are down, can spot these automatic soldiers he was fighting after years of training in the sordid art of killing, and beat them at their own game.

And now the gun had become quite human, something to be petted and protected as he sat there hunched in the shallow little pit he had hacked out of the frozen ground. He wiggled his toes inside the heavy boots to keep up circulation and tried to pull his neck still further into the collar of his overcoat.

Odd how still it was. Just the faint rustle of the wind as it sifted through the underbrush to pick up little handfulls of snow and toss them playfully down his collar. A few minutes ago it seemed the world was coming to a crashing, deafening end and to raise his head an inch or two would have meant the end of the world for him. Suddenly it was still, so still.

He felt so lonely and forsaken, but he consoled himself with the thought that there was a buddy on either side of him, and buddies beyond them, and on and on. About five yards apart, he guessed, or about the distance he plunged for that touchdown to win the big high school game.

Funny how a fellow would think of such a comparison, but the mind is full of tricks. He wondered vaguely if he ever again would put on cleated shoes and helmet and pads and experience the joy of rugged bodily contact in healthy, American sport. Probably not. But maybe he and his buddies could make it possible for his kid brother and other kid brothers to have their clean fun free from oppression.

Johnny shifted his cramped body He peered upward. The sky was slightly, and started to hum softly. It was the tune of his old high school song, and he followed that with the tunes of all the college victory songs he could remember. Anchors Aweigh, and Cheer, Cheer For Old Notre Dame, and Roar, Lion Roar and others he couldn't identify exactly but had heard.

He peered upward. The sky was clear, and there was that one, very bright star he had noticed just a year ago. The Star of Bethlehem. Sure, it was Christmas Eve and the star made him think of the little church, and the candlelight service and the choir singing reverently: "Silent Night."

He started to hum the tune and soon, because it made him feel better, to sing. Softly at first, then a little louder. From nearby a voice joined in: "Holy Night . . ." and then through the still, cold air came other voices, picking up the thread of words: "All Is Calm".

The song ended and again the only sound was the faint rustle of the wind. Then a voice, hoarse, possibly from the cold, stage-whispered: "Merry Christmas."

And down that long, thin line until the sound became only an indistinguishable murmur came the echo:

"Merry Christmas."

——V——

Iron filings spread on magnetized plane propeller blades reveal hidden flaws.

Tropical Park Begins Shortest Track Season

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 24.—(AP)— Tropical Park will stage its classiest inaugural program tomorrow —to open its shortest horse race meeting.

A card featuring two $7,500 events was arranged yesterday before the Federal Government cracked down on racing with a request that all tracks close by January 3.

Deciding to beat the ban by squeezing in eight days of activity, the track stood fast on the elaborate inaugural plans which attracted the speediest sprinters now in training.

Twenty - seven thoroughbreds were named for the $7,500 inaugural handicap, causing the six furlong event to be split into two divisions and the prize money to be doubled.

Apheim stable's Okapi Lancer, which established a track record while winning during the Gulfstream Park meeting that ended yesterday probably will be the public favorite in the first division.

The competition will include Woolford Farm's fast-stepping Grey Mare, Silvestra, and Challenge Me, winner of last year's Arkansas derby and one of the advance favorites in the Kentucky derby.

In the second division, Mrs. M. J. Wolfson's Smart Bet will go after his 18th victory of 1944, and no doubt will be the heaviest backed horse in the field of 13.

Smart Bet's winning record is the best established by any racer this year.

The classy Signator may dispute the issue with Smart Bet, while there is sure to be support for Harvard Square and Sophocles, the latter a winner at Gulfstream.

Still stunned by the news that the sport will be closed until war conditions brighten, most of the owners, trainers and handlers of the 2,000 horses stranded in the Miami area had not decided yet on their plans.

In deciding to go ahead with only eight programs of a scheduled 20-day meeting, Tropical Park officials said they did so in order to help the horsemen as much as possible.

Albert Sabath and Joseph Murphy, representatives of the Horsemen's Benevolent Association, will meet track officers tomorrow to decide whether an extra race might be conducted each day with all proceeds going toward relief.

HOOP SEASON HITS ITS PEAK

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. — (AP) — The University of Kentucky, which started an eastern holiday tour today, jumped into the college basketball limelight over the Christmas weekend.

The undefeated southerners bowled over the previously unbeaten Ohio State Buckeyes, Big Ten champions, 53 to 48 in an overtime fray, thus stamping themselves as one of the outstanding buintets of the season. Ohio State earlier in the week had swamped Utah, recognized as national champions.

Kentucky plays Wyoming a Buffalo on Tuesday, Temple at Philadelphia Saturday and Long Island at New York on Jan. 1.

Iowa, Michigan, Brooklyn St. John's, and DePaul kept pace with the Lexington quintet. Iowa swamped Notre Dame, 63-46. Michigan swept aside Wyoming, 38-33, St. John's defeated the University of Puerto Rico, 41-35, while DePaul, upset only by Illinois, won its eighth of nine starts by overwhelming Long Island, 74-47, before 18,196 at Madison Square Garden.

Yale and Holy Cross turned in upsets in a twin bill at Boston. Yale whipped Dartmouth, 45-52, while the Crusaders nicked DePauw, 41-35. Sampson (NY) Naval also produced a surprise, downing Cornell, 43-39.

In other Saturday night games Valparaiso walloped Drake, 66-41; Wisconsin humbled Marquette, 46-39; Great Lakes ran over Minnesota, 63-44; Missouri beat Kansas 48-39; Kansas State took Nebraska 49-46; Northwestern dumped Western Michigan, 68-54; and the Norman (Okla) Navy whipped Texas Christian, 53-22.

Wyoming, Tennessee, Ohio University, Texas Christian, Western Kentucky, and Hamline all invade the east this week to play in twin bills in New York, Buffalo and Philadelphia.

——V——

Durazzo, Albania, flourished 2,500 years ago as Epidamnus of the Greeks, and was renamed Dyrrachium when it passed into the hands of the Romans.

ALL-STARS DIG TO WIN CLASSIC

Rebels Took Three Of Five Games Beginning With 1939 Series

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 24.—(AP)—A power-packed team of northern all-stars dug in for heavy practice today determined to even the score with the south in next Saturday's renewal of the annual Blue-Gray football classic.

The Rebels have won three of the five games in the series which began in 1939, and the other two decisions went to the Northerners. War conditions interfered with last year's contest, and fans saw instead a battle between Boys' High school of Atlanta and Meridian, Miss., high. The Georgians won, 13-0.

The North drew first blood when the series was inaugurated on Jan. 2, 1939, walking off with a 7-0 victory. The Southern team bounced back on Dec. 30 of the same year and evened the count with a 33-20 decision.

The Yankee team squeezed by a 14-12 verdict in 1940, and has not won, or even scored, since. The Southerners gained a 16-0 victory in 1941 and won 24-0 the following year.

Two of the three coaches who have guided the North team since the start of the series—Carl Snavely of Cornell and Lynn Waldorf of Northwestern—are back this year. Third member of their staff is Indiana's Bo McMillan, who replaced Bert Ingwersen of Northwestern. Ingwersen is now athletic director of the North Carolina Navy Preflight school.

The southern squad, however, has changed coaches each year and for the 1944 game will have Wally Butts of Georgia, Claude (Little Monk) Simons of Tulane and Carl Voyles of Auburn.

Fishing And Hunting Ordered For Veterans

WASHINGTON Dec. 24. — (AP) — Fishing and hunting are precisely what the doctor ordered for the frayed nerves of returning war veterans, and a congressional group intends to see that they get plenty of both.

A house committee on conservation of wildlife has just completed a two-year study and will introduce legislation next month.

"Our immediate objective will be to help ease the nerve strain of about 10,000,000 fighting men who must be rehabilitated inside as well as outside," Chairman Robertson (D-Va) told a reporter today.

After the first world war, interest in hunting and fishing increased 30 percent, and Robertson anticipates a jump as high as 50 percent this time.

USO SCHEDULES YULE FESTIVITY

A Christmas program for all civilian and military personnel in Wilmington will be presented by the USO clubs of the city in the auditorium of the club at Second and Orange streets at 7:30 p. m. today.

Included will be Christmas carols by the children's choral group of St. Mary's school, a reading, "Why the Chimes Rang," by Mrs. C. J. Chenworth, and a solo, "Holy Night," by Walter Kelly.

Also to be presented will be two Christmas dances by students of the Belcher school of dancing, community singing, directed by Walter Kelly, with E. A. Munson and Mrs. Rose Pecoe accompanying.

Dancers will be Patricia Merritt, Betty Tienken, who will appear in the "Rageddy Ann and Andy," doll dance; Mary Cox, Lenora Sidbury, Hazel Swart, Jay Batts, Carol Bunch, Emily Hasty, Marizane Birmingham, and Caroline Walker will be dancing dolls.

The planning committee was composed of representatives of the staff of each USO club.

At 9 a. m. there will be an informal dance with music furnished by a Marine band from Camp Lejeune.

——V——

Admiral Nimitz Gives Greetings To The Navy

GUAM, Dec. 24.— (AP) —Adm Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific fleet, today sent the following message to Navy men at this forward base.

"First of all I wish to send you Christmas greetings. I have the utmost admiration for the exertions and successes of our forces ashore and afloat everywhere in the Pacific. They have met every expectation. I have only admiration for their courage and resourcefulness."

The message was printed in base and ship papers and broadcast by radio.

DINING

DANCING
Every Night Except Monday
PLANTATION CLUB ORCHESTRA
No luxury tax on checks paid before 9 p.m. No cover charge until 9 p.m.
The Plantation Club
CAROLINA BEACH ROAD
Dial County 116 and ask for 4602 for reservations.
Make your New Year's reservation now.

GUARANTEED
WATCH REPAIRING
Quick Service
We Teach Watches To Tell The Truth
The Jewel Box
109 N Front

CHRISTMAS DANCE!
MONDAY, DEC. 25th, 9 P. M. 'TIL

Cape Fear Armory
814 Market Street
Tommy Head AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Featuring
The Lovely Voice of BETTY GALLAGHER
TABLES — SOFT DRINKS — ALWAYS COMFORTABLE
For reservations dial 9344 Monday after One P. M.
Admission $1.50 per person (tax included). Couples or parties.
New Year's Eve Dance Saturday Dec. 30th. To assure reservations mail order now to Cape Fear Armory, Box 242, Wilmington.
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

St. John's Tavern
114 Orange St.
Dial 2-3085
DELICIOUS FOOD
Chicken In The Rough — Friday

Just Received
8 oz. Boxing Gloves
PICKARDS
209 Market St. Dial 2-32

MANOR THEATRE
Today and Tuesday
His Greatest Role!
James Cagney
In
"GREAT GUY"
LATE SHOW TONITE!
First Run
"MACHINE GUN MAMA"
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL!
Open Today 10:45 A. M.

TODAY AT THE THEATRES

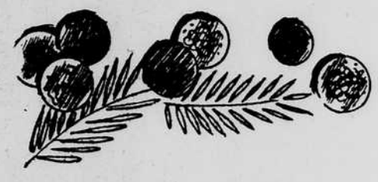
BAILEY — Opens Today 2:15 P.M.
48c All Day Inc. Tax
That Ladd is Back!
Alan Ladd
Loretta Young in
"AND NOW TOMORROW"
Shows: 2:30—4:38
6:35 — 8:50

CAROLINA — Opens Today 2:15 P.M.
It's Slightly Scandalous!
It's Terrifically Funny!
It' Truly Amazing!
Anne Shirley
Dennis Day in
"MUSIC IN MANHATTAN"
With Philip Terry

ROYAL — Opens Today 2:15 P.M.
See Your Favorite!
Pranksteers
The East Side Kids in
"BOWERY CHAMPS"
with Leo Gorcey
Huntz Hall
Bobby Jordan

BIJOU — Opens Today 2:15 P.M.
The Kings of Fun
Back Again
Bud Abbott
Lou Costello in
"IN SOCIETY"
with Arthur Treacher

GREAT ANNUAL



CLEARANCE SALE

The greatest store-wide clearance sale of the year and one that brings to you the very finest values in coats and dresses and all types of accessories that you can use right now and for many months to come at prices that run from one half to one third of their original selling tag. The actual selection of any one style and color in any of these items is limited, so be here early Tuesday morning for the best choice.

Coats
$5.00 – $7.00
Regular 19.98 to 39.98 values

SUITS
$6.00 – $8.00
Regular 29.98 values

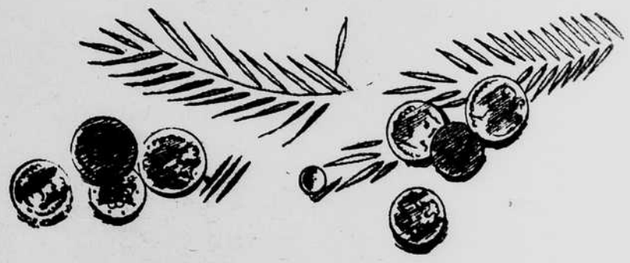
Dresses
$2.00 – $3.00
Regular 10.98 to 12.98 values

SKIRTS
$2.00 – $4.00
Formerly sold for 6.98 to 7.—

Sweaters
$1.00 – $3.00
Formerly sold for 3.98 to 5.98

BLOUSES
$2.00 – $4.00
Formerly sold for up to 6.95

Elastic Girdles
$3.00



Wahl's
214 North Front St.