

# Comment On Sports

By PETE FRITCHIE

Washington, D. C.—Cassius Clay must have his go with Sonny Liston, providing of course Liston gets by Floyd Patterson in that rematch. Clay's destruction of British heavyweight champion Henry Cooper in the predicted five rounds adds fuel to the fires signaling a Clay-Liston title fight.

Just about everyone is discounting Patterson's chances against Liston and even Patterson himself is uttering strange words. He told reporters recently Liston wouldn't knock him out in the first round this time but then added it might "possibly" be later.

This isn't the sort of talk that makes for big gates. Clay has the corn and hayseed that packs 'em in. Cornball poet, egotist extreme, but back of it all a lot of fighting ability and speed. And his is an amazing ability to pick the round for most of his victims.

There is a legitimate question whether it would not be best for Clay to have a while longer to learn the tricks of his trade. He is immature as professionals go, and if he gets clobbered because of lack to savvy in his heavyweight title go, it might possibly cut short a promising career.

On the other hand, he is big gate now and will be too much for the promoters to pass up. He is unquestionably good. Whether he can handle Liston or not is quite a question. Clay thinks he can and that will make for a good go anyhow.

There is just that sneaking chance that Patterson is playing coy with Liston, from the psychological viewpoint. Patterson has always been much better in his second try against the same opponent and he may want Sonny to be overconfident. His talk about being possibly knocked out by Liston may be so much psychological warfare.

The majority of sports writers and boxing fans do not think so. They think Patterson was awe-struck when he stepped into the ring with Liston last year and that he is still awe-struck. Maybe—but he was knocked out by Johansson and came back strong. We will have to see.

Providing Liston does away with Patterson again, the Clay

fight is almost a must. Should Liston attempt to dodge this one, the heat would build up to irresistible proportions. Clay is too colorful. He is too much gate. He cannot longer be denied his chance. The English understandably did not like him but he backed up his big words. That's what wins the pay-off in this racket.

## S. Grogan, 51, Dies Wednesday

West Jefferson—Sidney Grogan, 51, of Todd, the Fleetwood community, died July 3 at his home after a heart attack.

He was born in Ashe County to William and Julia Black Grogan. He married Dollie Faith Goodman, who died several years ago.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Bobby Miller of Deep Gap, Mrs. Darrell Miller of West Jefferson, Mrs. Richard Burchett of Homestead, Fla., and Miss Judy Grogan of the home; two sons, Warren Grogan of Todd and Kermit Grogan of West Jefferson; two sisters, Mrs. Johnny Bland of Whiteville and Mrs. Sherman Bryan of Meat Camp; and six brothers, Leonard Grogan of Matoaka, W. Va., Raymond Grogan of Todd, Norman Grogan of Lenoir, Vernie and Johnny Grogan of Woodford and Roy Grogan of Ashland.

The funeral was held at Mission Home Baptist Church by the Rev. R. C. Ashley, the Rev. Elwood Goodman, the Rev. Herman Gentry and the Rev. Bill Burchett. Burial was in the Bethany Cemetery.

**ON FARM EXPORTS**  
Congressional anxiety over Common Market tariff barriers sparked a bipartisan move to put the Senate behind President Kennedy's efforts to keep United States farm products flowing to Europe.

Senator Dirksen (Ill.), Republican leader, and Senator Humphrey (Minn.), assistant Democratic leader, joined in offering a resolution aimed to line up both political parties behind the President on trade negotiations.

## Funeral Held For Mrs. Colcer

Mrs. Hazel Coffey Colcer, 43, of Orlando, Fla., a former Blowing Rock resident, died unexpectedly Saturday in Florida.

She was a native of Watauga county. Surviving are her husband, Wilson Colcer of Orlando; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Coffey of Blowing Rock; two brothers, Stanley Coffey of Boone and James R. Coffey of Blowing Rock; and two sisters, Mrs. George M. Sudderth Jr. and Mrs. Main Coffey, both of Blowing Rock.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p. m. Monday, July 8 at Rumpie Memorial Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Blake Brinkerhoff and Rev. Carson Eggers. Burial was in the Boones Fork Church cemetery.

### MAYOR PAYS UP

Wellsville, N. Y.—Cleaning out the police files on unpaid parking tickets, Mayor Robert Gardner and his police chief found 176 unpaid tickets.

The Mayor discovered one ticket, two years old, had his name on it. He paid the \$2 parking fine.

Cuban rumors spark feverish trading in stocks.

One of every 236 in South Africa is in jail.

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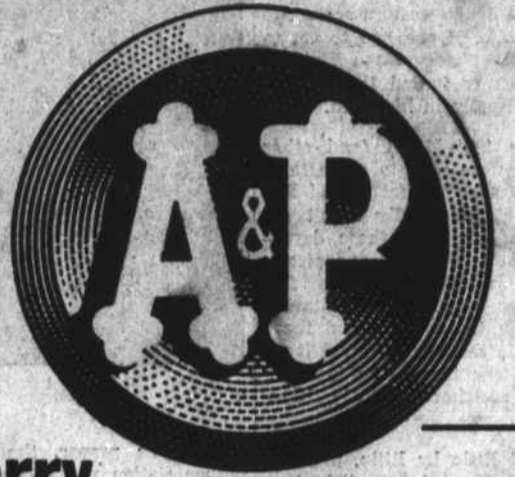
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The above photos reflect some of the activity at our opening day exercises. Approximately 370 friends visited to wish us well.

Our open house got off to a good start in a brief dedication ceremony led by Rev. Edwin F. Troutman of Grace Lutheran Church and Rev. Richard Crowder of Boone Methodist Church.

Refreshments were served by wives of officers and directors, favors were given visitors, and much enthusiasm was demonstrated by well-wishers who came to see the new bank opened.

The officers, directors, and members of the staff sincerely thank our friends who made our opening the best in the world.

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