

AUTOMOBILE AND SPORTING NEWS

ASTORIA NOT TO SEE NEILL

CHAMPION JAVELIN THROWER DOESN'T PLAN ATTENDANCE.

Portland Athletes Depend on Local Athlete to Participate.

Although it has been announced in Portland papers that Will Neill, the champion javelin tosser of the Pacific Northwest colleges and universities, was to enter the Pacific Northwest meet of the A. A. U. at Astoria, it is not probable that such will prove the case. Mr. Neill, who is spending the summer vacation in the employment of the Cherry's New Laundry here, attended last night that he did not believe he could afford the loss of time required to make the trip as it would cut his summer stay at home at least a week, and especially in view of the fact that the University of Oregon studies will be resumed in less than five weeks, he did not believe he could spare the time necessary. Many of his friends here would be pleased to see the La Grander pitted against the javelin tossers at Astoria and especially as many from here will be present at the meet.

Governor West is on the right track in his campaign to prevent fires and if the hunters persist in violating fire laws, then they must suffer the consequences. Whether the open season for hunting deer and a number of game birds in Oregon is to be enjoyed by hunters this season or to be closed by the governor, depends upon the caution exercised by the hunters themselves against setting out forest fires. The forest fire law which went into effect last February empowers the governor to declare a closed season where upon a showing by the state forester, the use of firearms by hunters is liable to cause forest fires.

"It is not my intention to urge enforcement of this provision unless it becomes necessary," said Forester Elliott today. "Whether any action is taken depends upon hunters themselves. However, just as soon as this office receives reports that fires are being started through carelessness of hunters, I shall immediately present the facts to the governor and recommend that a closed season be proclaimed."

A story is going the rounds at Pendleton in which George Strand, erstwhile crack halfback against whom many a La Grande think tank has been cracked in football games of the past. The story has to do with Strand and a Grande Ronde valley girl, though the story refuses to divulge the identity of the jokestress. From Pendleton comes the following:

"Again has 'Jodo the Jobber' been jobbed and for the second time he has come off second best in a passage of practical jokes with the fair sex. The penchant of Deputy Sheriff George Strand for the playing of practical pranks is well known throughout Umatilla county. Now it has spread to Union. While spending his vacation in the Grande Ronde harvest fields last week he proceeded to decorate the dress of a young lady visitor to the harvest field with dirty oil. The latter retaliated by dousing the oiler with water and he thought the incident closed. Not so the recipient of the oiled dress for when George was partaking of his dinner the next day he was suddenly immersed in a gallon of molasses syrup which had first been set out in the sun for a couple of hours. This happened several days ago, but George still feels 'stuck up' though he has a subdued manner. He has tried his best to keep the story from reaching Pendleton, but it beat him home." Mr. Strand returned to Pendleton yesterday.

While, for a time, it was planned to enter Willie Peare in the half mile at Astoria when the A. A. U. meet is staged there this fall, such action will not be taken. Peare has not gotten into training yet and lack of finances in the B. M. A. under which club's colors he would run if at all, has not perfected its union with the Amateur Athletic Union.

The Elks and the Eagles will cross bats at the ball park in this city on Sunday, Aug. 13. Proceeds for the benefit of the Elgin cemetery. If there doesn't something happen on that day there is nothing in the 13 superstition and the hoodoo has been removed.—Elgin Recorder.

MAHER WEALTHIEST JOCKEY.
American Boy Riding Abroad is Biggest Winning Horse Pilot.

Although the flat racing season is still young in England, Danny Maher, the wizard, already has a long lead over the other jockeys riding abroad. Danny does not ride as often as some of the other popular boys, such as his greatest rival, Frank Wootten, largely because it is not worth an owner's while to pay his fee for the minor races. Wootten led him in the number of wins last year, but the American has won more races than any other jockey up to date this season, and his percentage is some five points better than that of his nearest rival.



DANNY MAHER.

Maher is undoubtedly the most successful jockey in England today. He is probably making more money than any other jockey ever made in England. As to just how much Maher makes in a season it is impossible to form an estimate that would be worth anything. Aside from his retaining fees and his riding fees, he is in receipt of more presents from owners than any other jockey riding. He has ridden three Derby winners, and it is customary for the owners of horses that win the blue ribbon of the English turf to treat their jockeys handsomely. As much as \$25,000 has been given the lucky jockey by a delighted owner, and \$20,000 has several times changed hands. Besides his Derby wins, Maher has ridden to victory in almost every big fixture of the English course, some of which have brought in much more than the Derby stake to his employers.

Clay Court Tennis Tourney.
Omaha, Neb., August 5.—Tennis experts of national reputation and representing many parts of the country assembled at the Omaha Field club today for the opening of the second annual tournament for the clay court championship of the United States. The tournament will continue through the coming week.

To Review Mexican Troops.
City of Mexico, August 5.—Eight thousand federal troops will pass in review before President de la Barra tomorrow on the occasion of the presentation of the regimental flags to the several new regiments created a short time before the fall of the old government.

Camp on Historic Battle Ground.
Lafayette, Ind., August 5.—The Battle Ground Camp Meeting association of the Northwest Indiana N. E. conference began its 37th annual session today on the historic battlefield of Tippecanoe. Many Methodist divines and educators of note will address the staged there this fall, such action will not be taken.

Automobile News and Gossip

To run down horses in an automobile is what was done in this valley this week. Horsebuyers Todd and Skipton whizzed about Grande Ronde valley in an automobile looking for horses and the usefulness of the automobile and the need of horseflesh are thus maintained at one and the same time. Despite the wild rush for automobile by Union county farmers and city folk, there still remains the big demand for horses and horse breeders need never fear that their stock will depreciate in value because of the automobile.

R. W. Leighton scaled Glass Hill in his Maxwell this week, going six miles and 6:10 up the incline, a trick which is not done every day in the week.

Dr. C. L. Biggers, one of the owners of big cars in this city, called at the Franklin factory while at Syracuse, New York, recently and gained a clear notion of how the big cars are made and turned out. He affirms the trip was immensely entertaining.

H. K. O'Brien received a new automobile this week and has been busy learning its particular moods. A. M. Smith returned from a trip through California Saturday and has a Carter car coming from Portland to start an auto livery. The car will arrive today.—Wallowa Sun.

Four automobiles passed through Enterprise Sunday evening carrying Baker City people to Wallowa lake, where the members will enjoy a summer outing. The party left Baker

City in the forenoon and reached the head of the lake at 10 p. m.—Enterprise Chieftan.

New York, August 5.—That Father Knickerbocker is a very poor chauffeur or that his automobiles are peculiarly expensive so far as maintenance is concerned was brought to light this week by the compilation of figures which show that the annual cost of upkeep of the one hundred cars in use in the various city departments is nearly equal to the original cost. The exact figures show that the city's autos cost \$220,205, or an average of \$2,205 each, and that their repairs during the past year totalled \$176,570 or \$1,765 each.

Even for prodigal Father Knickerbocker the figure is absurdly high and there are likely to be some very interesting revelations during the investigation which will attempt to place the blame and remedy the situation. Undoubtedly the two chief factors which cause the city autos to eat their heads off, so to speak, at such an astonishing rate are joy riding and graft in repair charges. The records show that cars are continually kept out when they are supposed to be in garages and that in some cases the labor of the men making repairs has been charged for at the rate of \$3 an hour. Altogether it would be much cheaper for the city to rent cars as they are needed and it is possible that such a policy may be adopted, provided the opposition of the persons who get free joy rides and fat repair graft is not too powerful.

WITH THE BOXERS.

Champion Volgaast says that he is out to earn \$100,000 within the next year.

Ray Bronson and "Spike" Kefley will meet in South Bend, Ind., Labor day.

Promoter Coffroth, of California, is trying to sign Bill Papke and Frank Klaus for a muss to take place on Labor day.

Frankie Neil, the ex-bantamweight champion, is under arrest in San Francisco charged with raising a \$2 government note to \$50.

PITCHER ALEXANDER TELLS SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS.

Somebody asked Pitcher Alexander of the Philadelphia Nationals the other day to explain the secret of his wonderful success this year, and this was his sensible reply:

"I study the weakness of a batsman and try to place the ball where he can't hit it. There isn't much difference between the majors and the minors except that you receive better fielding support in fast company, and that always encourages a pitcher.

"I haven't tried to experiment with any mysterious shoot and never will. I rely on my side arm curve a great deal when in tight places and continually change my pace. I've been playing professional ball only three years, and the thought that some day I'd be in the National league never entered my mind until I was bought from Syracuse. I never abuse my health, keep in good trim and like to pitch whenever called upon.

"I don't believe in a pitcher trying to master too many curves. All I have is a side arm curve, an overhand inshoot and a hop to my fast ball. By controlling them as well as possible and keeping cool I've succeeded better than I ever dreamed I would."

What promises to be a bitter fight for the democratic gubernatorial nomination in Maryland will be settled at the state primary to be held on August 29.

KEEPING TAB ON THE MINORS.

The Portland Pacific Coast League club has sold Buddy Ryan, a center fielder, to the Chicago Americans.

The three D's, Danville, Dubuque and Decatur, are crowding each other at the top in the Three-I league race.

It looks as if Denver would bring home the turkey in the Western league with Lincoln and Pueblo close up.

Petersburg has fooled the Virginia league fans by coming to the front and giving battle to Norfolk for first place.

The St. Louis Nationals get a classy performer in Outfielder Mills of the Edmonton Western Canada League team.

The Baltimore Eastern League team has a great bunch of heavy hitters in Dunn, Rath, Schmidt, Seymour and Egan.

Atlanta has had a winning team for several seasons past, but this year finds the Crackers in the cellar of the Southern league.

The New England league has 28 men hitting .300 or better with Jesse Burkett, of the Worcester team, topping the list.

Pitcher Marty O'Toole, the St. Paul star, recently sold to Pittsburg for \$22,500, has a record of striking out 131 batters in 12 games.

The Winston-Salem and Greensboro teams have tossed aside the other Carolina League teams, and will no fight it out for the calico.

Bill Clymer's Wilkesbarre team is leading the New York State league and looks strong enough to hold down the job for the balance of the season.

It doesn't seem to make much difference whether the Connecticut league has six or eight teams, as they all look alike to Bridgeport, now leading the league.

The two British Columbia teams in the Northwestern league are not on speaking terms. Vancouver is leading

and Victoria is at the bottom in the league standing.

"Dutch" Wagner is pitching swell ball for Columbia in the South Atlantic league. They call him the "Human Ox" on account of his ability to pitch three or four games a day if called upon.

GONDING MIGHT DO AS UMP.

Veteran Minor Leaguer Has Intimated He Would Like Trial in Big Show.

In view of the fact that President Ban Johnson of the American league is now on the lookout for new umpires to add to his already fine staff, it might be well to suggest one who would probably do it given an opportunity. He is Johnny Gonding, the veteran minor league catcher, who was recently appointed manager of the Rock Island team of the Three I league. Gonding intimated to a friend some time ago that he would like nothing better than to be given a show as an umpire in one of the big circuits.

For ten years he was a member of the Omaha team of the Western league and was always ranked with the leading backstops of the minors. His never failing efforts in behalf of the Omaha team, his fine work behind the bat



JOHNNY GONDING.

and his perfection of character not only endeared him to the Omaha public, but to the patrons of the game in every city of the league.

Many times during the past few seasons he has officiated as an umpire and has given entire satisfaction. Within the last two years several old time ballplayers have been given a trial in the big circuits as indicator handlers and have done fairly well.

The players, especially in the American league, have been far more friendly to ex-players than when nonplaying umpires have been introduced into major league umpire staffs.

From the public's viewpoint, too, there is far less desire to "roast" a man who has won that public's plaudits for years as a player when he turns his attention to umpiring.

CLARK TALKS INFIELD FLY

FEW UNDERSTAND THE RULE PRECISELY.

Tom Clark Explains why It Was Adopted as a Rule.

By TOMMY CLARK.

The infield fly rule, though it has been on the books for a number of years, is still not thoroughly understood by many fans, so that an explanation of its workings will be in line. The rule, in plain language, as it stands in the book is as follows: "The

infield is out if, before the ball is struck, while first and second or first, second and third bases are occupied, he hit a fly ball, other than a line drive, that can be handled by an infielder. In such case the umpire shall, as soon as the ball be hit, declare it an infield or outfield hit."

This is so clear that there really ought to be no confusion in interpreting it, and yet the Pittsburg club recently protested a game under this rule. The object of the rule was to prevent the making of a cinch double play under certain conditions. With first and second bases both occupied the runners, of course, are forced to try to advance on a fair hit ball. Before the adoption of this rule it was a common practice for a smart infielder, if a pop fly was put up, to muff or trap the ball intentionally instead of catching it. This forced both runners to advance, and if the play was skillfully done a quick recovery of the ball, a good throw to third base and another to second would result in the retirement of both runners, while only the batter would be safe.

The runners in such a case as this were in a pretty pickle. If they hugged their bases a muffed or trapped ball would result in their being forced out. If they took too big a lead in anticipation of such a play all the fielder had to do was to catch the ball and then double one or both of them up before they could get back to their bases. This looked like an unfair burden to put on the side at bat, so the present rule was devised to prevent a double play under such conditions.

Now, as soon as the batter has lifted a fly the umpire is required to decide promptly whether it can be handled by an infielder. If it can be shouted, "You're out," to the batter, and it then makes no difference whether the ball is caught or not. The runners are not forced even if the ball is muffed or allowed to fall to the ground untouched. Therefore no double play is possible if the runners hold their bases and do not take too long a lead.

This rule does not operate when first base only is occupied, because in that case a double play is impossible if the batter does his duty by running to first as fast as he can. If the fly is muffed it is possible to force the runner at second, but there is never time for a double play unless the batter loaf, which is his own lookout.

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