

THEY'RE STILL AT IT

(We are indebted to a member of Rose City Chapter, Portland, for the following piece of poetry which was printed many long years ago, but seems appropriate to these times.)

There was a spot of rare intrigue
I shall describe in rhyme,
A place ideal for 'githerin'
Open forum of its time.
It followed much the pattern
Found throughout the middle west
But to my way of thinking,
Towered vastly o'er the rest.

'Twas at a village crossroads . . .
The store my uncle ran . . .
Where arguments were argued
For the most part, catch-as-can!
The farmers living thereabouts,
With all the day's work through,
Were wont to gather nightly
Just to 'set' and smoke and chew.

They would talk about the weather,
Of the doings old and new—
Of corn and oats and barley,
And of hogs and cattle too.
Election time and wagering;
Bets placed for brand new hats,

Though the G.O.P. was strongest,
There were loyal Democrats!

Oh, I was much too young just then,
To know what 'twas about—
Yet, I was pretty certain
That the world would straighten out.
Since then the nation's wise men
Have in reg'lar conclave met,
But despite all their palaver
Haven't solved their problems yet!

—Earl W. Oates, *Printer-Poet*.

There is more satisfaction in patting
a man on the back than in standing
on his neck.—Jerome Fleishman.

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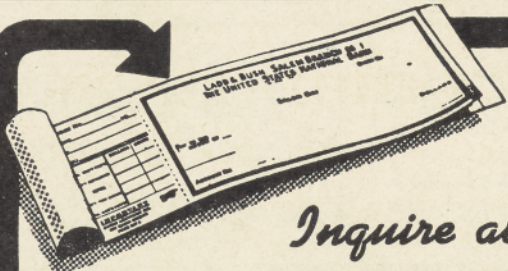
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