

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

by DREW PEARSON

BIG FARMS VS. SMALL FARMS
WASHINGTON. — Inside fact behind the senate small business committee's release of the report on small-scale and large-scale farming is that the report had been suppressed for nearly two years by big California land interests.

The very fact that the bureau of agricultural economics dared make the study was one reason the last congress cut its research funds. The study so infuriated Representative Al Elliott, California Democrat and friend of the big farmers, that he has fought all appropriations for farm research ever since.

The study was begun in the summer of 1944, while Congressman Elliott was leading a fight to repeal the old law by which no one could own more than 160 acres of U. S. reclamation land. The study compared two towns in San Joaquin valley section of California's huge Central valley—one, Arvin, is composed mainly of workers on large industrialized farms; the other, Dinuba, is made up largely of people who own and work their own farms.

It was found that Dinuba, the small farm community, had two independent business establishments to every one in Arvin, the big farm community; that retail trade was 61 per cent greater in Dinuba; that 20 per cent more people were supported by the same dollar volume in agriculture in Dinuba than in Arvin; that the residents of Dinuba had a far higher standard of living—better streets, garbage disposal, schools, parks, public recreation, more churches, participation in local government, two newspapers to one.

The study was recognized by economists as of great importance, but the pressure of large farmers and landholders was too great. It lay buried until it was brought to the attention of fair-minded Sen. Jim Murray of Montana, chairman of the small business committee. He determined to publish it.

SURPLUS GRAY

The comedy of errors that led to discovery of more than two million gallons of high octane gasoline in surplus military planes sold to a Jefferson City, Mo., scrap dealer caused an epidemic of red faces at War Assets administration.

However, WAA chief Gen. Robert Littlejohn and his aides would have been even more embarrassed had the whole story leaked out. Besides the 5,540 planes with their \$700,000 worth of gas sold to the Missouri dealer, WAA also sold about 15,000 other planes, also tanked up with high octane gas. This fact, however, didn't get out. In addition, dealers who bought the planes reaped a tidy windfall from costly radio equipment, motors and gears.

OIL SALESMAN LEWIS

In the coal and oil trade, John L. Lewis is sometimes called: "The greatest oil salesman in history."

Here is the reason why: Railroad after railroad, unable to afford costly tie-ups from coal strikes, now is converting from coal to oil. There was a day when the railroads, deriving a tremendous revenue from hauling coal, sided with the coal operators and the miners in opposing oil. But not now.

The Boston and Maine, which, next to the Maine Central, pays more per ton for coal than any other railroad, is switching to diesel engines as quickly as possible. The Jersey Central, which taps the Pennsylvania anthracite fields, also is going over to diesels. And the Pennsylvania, which runs straight through the best bituminous coal fields in the East, is laying in some diesel switch engines.

But the most interesting conversions are taking place on the Union Pacific. That road has long burned oil to some extent, but it also happens to be the sixth largest coal producer in the world, with a production of 6,500,000 tons annually.

The towns of Rock Springs and Hanna, Wyo., are almost entirely dependent on coal mined for the Union Pacific. Today, however, those towns may become like the skeleton mining cities of the gold-rush days.

For, in addition to 600 oil-burning locomotives, the Union Pacific now is converting all mainline passenger trains to oil. In addition, their "Big Boy" freight locomotives, the world's heaviest, are converting, together with 115 switchers and 45 diesel units.

The Santa Fe also has just ordered new diesel units.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Gen. Mark W. Clark will be withdrawn as Allied commander in Austria immediately after the Moscow conference. He then will receive a new army post in the United States. . . . Ex-congressman Wesley Disney of Oklahoma, who lost out in the Democratic primary two years ago against Sen. "Cotton Elmer" Thomas, will try again in two years. He may face a primary fight from Gov. Bob Kerr. . . . Assistant Postmaster General Gael Sullivan has been offered the presidency of Air Cargo.

Spotlight

by GRANTLAND RICE

RECORD crowds set new marks at the turnstiles last season in practically every sport. But what has become of the color that the games once knew? There is probably, or possibly, greater skill and ability around than sport ever has known. But it is quite possible that the big gates and the bigger pay, for pros and college alike, have throttled a vital quality of competition. I think it has. The pay check now dominates the scene.

You might ask me just what color is. Here's one answer—Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Jones, Bill Hilden, Man o'War, Tommy Hitchcock, Earl Sande, Dizzy Dean (in capital letters), Walter Hagen, Exterminator, Knute Rockne, (also in capital letters), George Gipp, Hurry-up Yost, Bob Zuppke, Pepper Martin and Frank Frisch. Each one of these was a champion, but something more than a champion. For each one had a crowd appeal that is sadly lacking today.

For example, Leo Durocher of the Dodgers has drawn more comment than any five managers. Leo is a great manager. But a large flock of this publicity has come from details far apart from baseball. Ted Williams drew more words, favorable and unfavorable, than any other ball player last year. So Ted must have had a type of color. They at least knew he was around, liking him or hating him.

Joe Louis has the color of ring perfection—one of the greatest fighters of all time. But outside of this Joe is an extremely quiet fellow who doesn't like the great bright spotlight.

'Just Business Men'

In Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, golf has two of the greatest golfers the ancient Scottish game has ever sent to the fairways. But who could say they were in the same class with Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen or Gene Sarazen for crowd appeal? They are two prominent business men who can break 70, collect their dough and move along.

Stan Musial, one of the nicest people you ever met, a great ball player, the top of the year, isn't colorful in any sense of the word. Stan is just a great ball player. He wants to be nothing else. Neither is Eddie Dyer, an able manager and a great fellow. Sport today has become big business. There is plenty in the way of sport left, but with the billions, not the millions, involved, a lot of color has seeped out.

I was talking about this color angle with Frank Frisch, the New Rochelle flower expert.

"Just what is color?" I asked Frisch, as Johnny Kieran cocked an attentive ear, a Kieran habit when any information is coming along.

"The basis of all color," Frisch said, "is always ability first. No punks get by. Many have tried to use color, or so-called color, in the place of ability. It won't work. Color means Dempsey, Jones, Hitchcock, Grange, etc., all stars. Color is also a natural quality. It can't be faked. Two of the most colorful ball players of all time were Babe Ruth and Dizzy Dean. They were naturals. They always were exactly what they were. Human and likable, but great artists. But they were real—not phonies. How that mob can spot a phony."

Game's the Thing Now

"The game doesn't need color today," Frisch said. "You can start a dog fight between two terriers and draw 10,000 people. Ball clubs that were far down in the second division drew from 800,000 to 1,000,000. Football games that meant nothing except another football game were sellouts. Today it is the spectacle, the contest, that fills a stadium or a park, not any outstanding star. It's the game, the show today, not an individual star."

This is all true. It all may be for the general good of sport. After all, only the game counts. But despite this any writer hanging around for human copy misses Hagen, Waddell, Yost, Zuppke and many others who had a certain human appeal that so few have today. Sport competitors are serious people working at a big job now. Most of them have outstanding ability. But with too many it is more big business than sport. The pressure is heavy. The big idea is winning.

Today we have only a few left—and I can't even remember their names. Joe Louis? The top champion of them all—who limits his publicity to ring efficiency. In baseball we have Ted Williams—who is still a big story when he flops. Stan Musial, the best ball player in the game today, is just the best ball player. He has no interest in any outside headlines. Football coaches—able business men with a big job to do. No particular color. No Rockne, no Zuppke, no Yost. It may be better this way.

But it's duller.



Dizzy Dean



LEARN SHOOTING IS OVER . . . Pvt. Louis Novelli, left, Mocanaqua, Pa., and T/Sgt. Charles Cahill, Rumford, Me., both wheel chair patients at Halloran general hospital, Staten Island, N. Y., read about President Truman's proclamation declaring cessation of hostilities of World War II, as of noon, December 31. Nurse Veronica Saladigo looks on as wounded vets read about the order which immediately wiped off the statute books 18 emergency laws.



G.O.P. SENATE 'BRASS' . . . Republican leaders taking over legislative responsibility in the 80th congress. The senators believed that they settled all their arguments before the session opened January 3. Left to right are Sen. Homer Ferguson, Mich.; Sen. Wallace H. White Jr., Maine; Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Iowa; Sen. Robert A. Taft, Ohio; Sen. Arthur Vandenberg, Mich.; Sen. Wayland Brooks, Ill., and Sen. Eugene D. Millikin, Colo.



SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM . . . Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R., Mich.), who has been chosen president pro tempore of the senate. Senator Vandenberg recently announced his withdrawal from the United Nation's delegation to devote full time to senate duties. He has been put forward as a possible presidential candidate for 1948.



BOY COMPOSER HAILED . . . George Wei, who developed his musical talent in a Japanese concentration camp, is shown playing his own composition, "Victory Day," as his sister, Madeleine, looks on.

Colorful 'Galloping Goose' Railroad To Be Abandoned

By WNU Features

Ending an unique chapter in Colorado railroad history, the "Galloping Goose" of the Rio Grande Southern railroad, one of the country's last narrow gauge lines, faces abandonment.

The postoffice department clipped the wings of the "Goose" with an announcement that it will not renew the railroad's mail contract.

Loss of the contract, which netted the railroad \$40,000 a year, would leave no alternative "but to start proceedings for abandonment," reports Cass Herrington of Denver, attorney and receiver for the line.

Used Car Vehicles

Veteran railroaders dubbed the line the "Galloping Goose" because of four peculiar vehicles, which actually were 1930 model Pierce-Arrow tourist automobiles, with rail wheels substituted and box car structures tacked on the rear. In addition to carrying the mail, they were equipped to haul six to eight passengers and up to 10,000 pounds of freight. Six 50-year-old steam locomotives and some 60 almost equally ancient freight and gondola cars complete the road's equipment.

A hazardous trip over 14,000-foot mountain peaks, beside moun-

tain torrents and along shaky wooden trestles that look 1,500 feet straight down to rocky canyon floors is embraced in the 164 miles traversed by the "Galloping Goose." The road crosses two of southwest Colorado's highest mountain ranges, the San Miguel and Uncompaghres, to reach its terminal point 60 miles distant. Nearly nine hours are required for the normal run.

War Brought Aid

In operation since 1892, the Rio Grande Southern went into receivership in 1927. A respite came in 1941 when the government granted the road a \$65,000 loan. Even the atomic bomb provided aid, the need for vanadium in making the missile resulted in orders for the railroad to haul 22,000 tons of it in 1942. Similar orders followed in 1943 and 1944 to bring a total grant from the government of \$60,000. Deferred taxes from five counties through which the line operates also helped.

Return of peace spelled doom for the colorful line. Maintaining that the railroad had been getting about \$40,000 a year for carrying the mail when normal rates would call for only about \$10,600, the postoffice department insists better service can be provided by other means.

Fog Machine Boosts Milk Output By Killing Flies and Other Pests

NEW YORK—Higher milk production for dairy cattle and increased weight for beef cattle are promised by makers of a newly-adopted fog machine.

The new technique is to eliminate all flies, beetles, spiders, mosquitoes and other pests by fogging them to death. As a result, cows will give more milk and stock cattle will gain weight, producing more beef for the meat markets.

The fog, made from such insect killers as DDT, gammexane and the like, is sprayed from a machine built by the Todd shipyard, and which has just completed a series of field tests. The machine, which can be operated by one

man, was secretly developed during the late war period.

Entomologists working with Todd's experts, believe that the new machine will eliminate the possibility of insecticides killing fish, birds, bees and other beneficial insects. The tests showed the fog killed the undesirable but caused no harm to the beneficial.

As an example, fish ponds during the test were blanketed by a fog of sprayed DDT to eliminate mosquitoes, gnats and other diptera, but no fish were killed. The same held true when acres of vineyards or orchards were "fogged." No bees were killed. They simply flew out of the fog.

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Fruit Stains
Fruit stains should be treated immediately since they are very difficult to remove after they dry. Boiling water is a simple and good remedy if it does not harm the cloth. Warm water may remove some fruit stains. Never use soap. The alkali in it may set the stain and make removal more difficult.

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The surprise of your life is waiting for you, in your own kitchen, when it comes to the relief of coughs due to colds. In just a moment, you can mix a cough syrup that gives you about 4 times as much for your money, and is surprising for quick results. Make a syrup by stirring 2 cups of granulated sugar and one cup of water a few moments, until dissolved. No cooking needed—it's no trouble at all. Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, instead of sugar syrup. Then put 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex (obtained from any drugist) into a pint bottle. Fill up with your syrup, and you have a full pint of really wonderful cough medicine. It never spoils, lasts a long time, and children love it. This home mixture takes right hold of a cough in a way that means business. It loosens the phlegm, soothes the irritated membranes, and quickly eases soreness and difficult breathing. Pinex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, well known for quick action in coughs and bronchial irritations. Money refunded if it doesn't please you in every way.