

Illinois Valley News

An independent newspaper devoted to the development of the richest valley in the world, the Illinois Valley and its surrounding districts

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J. C. Abernathy - - - - - Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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TOPIC 'A'

Manfully resisting temptation, we will not repeat Mark Twain's apocryphal saw about the weather, but everybody is talking about it and who are we to buck a trend? And if the Chamber of Commerce doesn't like it, they can see that we have better weather in the future.

For the benefit of our many unfortunate subscribers who are spending the winter in southern California's smog, let us say that we have had snow; tons and tons of wet sticky flakes about the size of a cigarette paper, that pile up on power lines, phone lines and trees until the weight can no longer be supported, and down it comes, snow, wire and trees. This naturally works some hardship on the residents of the area, since we have come to depend on electricity and telephones, and trees across the road or prostrate in the front yard are a definite inconvenience.

That was last week. This week the snow became more and more a snow-rain mixture until at this writing it is pure rain, standing in back yards and barn lots, and meandering around snow-choked watercourses looking for someplace to go. The meteorologists are predicting warmer weather and no more snow for awhile, which might be considered a bad sign because they're usually wrong. But we can hope they're right just this once (if any weather men are listening, we're only kidding).

Dollar damage done by the storm is probably incalculable; Copco emergency crews labored around the clock, restoring what service they could in the midst of the storm, only to have lines go down again under a fresh weight of snow. Highway crews worked continuously to keep the roads open, and did a good job too, incidentally. Logging, mill operation, the entire economic life of the Valley came to a stop, and hundreds of men were thrown out of work. Several buildings and barns collapsed from too much wet snow on the roof, and others were damaged. Jimmie Hogue's barn bore up like the noble structure it is, with nary a creak or grumble, while newer structures sighed and folded up in a heap.

A section of roof collapsed at the Tyer-Nealy mill, Russell Doran's barn fell, and the shop section of Doyl Hamilton's Selma Garage was crushed under the weight of snow. Damage to several other buildings was averted only by timely work with shovels and stable brooms. Several citizens were startled at the sight of the editor engaged in unwonted exertion atop the NEWS building, and he is authority for the statement that shovelful for shovelful, that wet snow weighed more than gravel — and he's got the charley-horses to prove it. Probably the worst part was that everybody was in the same boat and you couldn't get any sympathy at all. "You think you got troubles Bud! Listen —"

With the staff shovelling snow and waiting for power, the NEWS was just a trifle late last week; people have been kind enough not to mention it. If anyone knows where we can pick up a kerosene-powered linotype machine, we'll be prepared for the next bad spell. And if we don't have another one, that will be nice too.

APOLOGIES TO THE NAVY

Doyl Hamilton Jr. writes from the U. S. S. Rowan in San Diego: "The NEWS made a mistake in their January 5th issue. They said I returned to the Naval Base. That is an insult; I am a tin can sailor."

You're right, Doyl; it is an insult, and we're sorry it happened. Somebody must have slipped it across while the editor was out for a short cup of coffee, because we knew better. We had an item just a few weeks before, stating that you were on the Rowan. And the editor knows the difference between a tin can seaman and a shore-side sailor, because he used to play cops-and-robbers around San Clemente island himself, back in the days when tin cans had four chimneys, and DD347 was a high number.

Maybe some of your shipmates remember the old Perilous Pruitt, "flagship" of Desdiv 10. She was converted to a light minelayer in 1937, and we understand she saw considerable war service as a minelayer and fast sweep.

For the benefit of you landsmen, a tin can sailor serves aboard a destroyer, a long, narrow, high-speed vessel of extremely light construction — hence the term "tin can". It's a hard life; the thin hull is packed with high-powered machinery, and there isn't much space for living quarters. The crew is small for the size of the vessel, and there is three men's work for every man aboard — it gets done, too. Watches are long and come often. Although it's the most seaworthy of ships, a destroyer takes a terrific beating in heavy weather; you eat standing up with one arm wrapped around a stanchion, and you sleep hanging on to both sides of the bunk. If you sleep. And there's green water on the decks most of the time.

So a tin can sailor is tops in his trade, and the rest of the Navy admits it. And he naturally wouldn't want to be confused with a base sailor whose salt water experience probably consists of a few trips on the Coronado ferry.

How's to drop us a few lines some time, Doyl? Your friends here in the Valley would like to hear how you're getting along, and what the Rowan is doing. And we won't try to make a base sailor out of you again.

Reader's Courtroom

- Love That Bum
- Free to Learn
- Get Out of Town

By Will Bernard, LL.B.

State laws vary. For personal guidance, see your local attorney.

Is it Slander to Call A Man a "Bum"?

An apartment house tenant had a strong dislike for several of the other occupants. As time went by, all of them moved out except one. When he met this last holdout in the back yard one day, the tenant exclaimed: "You are the last of



the bum tenants in this building!" The other man sued for damages, saying that he had been slandered by being described as a "bum." However, the court denied his claim. The judge said that, so long as no tangible harm was done, the word "bum" wasn't such a serious accusation after all!

May All Children be Forced To Go to Public Schools?

A state law was passed requiring all students between the ages of 8 and 16 to attend public schools. A private school promptly filed a test case, claiming that such a law was unconstitutional. The state officials explained that they wished to give the same kind of education to all children. However, the court held the law unconstitutional, violating "the liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children." The judge said the state had no power "to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public school teachers only."

After a Convict Serves His Sentence, May He be Forced to Leave the Vicinity?

A convicted criminal served his term in the state penitentiary and was duly discharged. He soon found a job in a gas station near the prison. One day, he was arrested again. It seems there was a state law requiring discharged convicts to leave the county within 24 hours after their release.



However, at the trial, the court held the law unconstitutional and ordered the man freed. The judge said it was unfair to impose this additional restraint on a man "after he has paid his debt to society."

If a Cat Kills a Canary, Must The Cat's Owner Pay Damages?

A woman's cat took a strong dislike to a singing canary, kept in the parlor of the house next door. One evening the cat slipped into the neighbor's house, stole into the parlor, and silenced the canary forever. The neighbor sued the woman for damages, claiming that she must pay for the evil deed done by her pet. However, the court ruled that the woman was not respon-

sible. The judge pointed out that this was an ordinary, peaceful cat, with no special tendency to be vicious. He added that a cat's owner should not be blamed just because the animal occasionally may revert to his "wild nature."

Must All Public Stairways Have Handrails?

The entrance to a hotel was at the head of a short stairway between two walls. One day a departing woman guest lost her balance and tumbled down. Injured, she sued the hotel for damages. She said the management was "negligent" in not providing handrails along the stairway. But the court denied her claim. The judge said that, since the steps had walls on both sides, handrails were not required.

May a Will be Signed By a Nickname?

Shortly before her death, a woman wrote a letter to her divorced husband. Among other things, she said that she wanted him to have her house after she died. She signed the letter "Muddie"—which was her nickname. Later the question arose as to whether this letter could be considered a valid will, even though not signed with the woman's legal name. The court said yes.

Dyeing, Ancient Art

Ancient Egypt's sarcophagi of the year 7000 B. C. show exquisite colors, and a garment dyed with indigo, dating from 3500 B. C., has been found in Thebes. Thenceforth each of the dominant civilizations of antiquity developed further the use of fabric dyes derived from vegetable and mineral sources. It wasn't until 1856 that dyeing began to be released from its dependency upon vegetable and mineral sources. In that year, an English student, named William Henry Perkin, discovered that aniline derived from coal tar could be chemically treated to produce beautiful and lasting colors. But progress in the development of chemical dyes has been most pronounced and rapid during the past quarter of a century.

Rabbits in Atom Research

A pair of English lop-eared rabbits is the newest addition to the animal collection of the Atomic Energy project of the University of California at Los Angeles. The rabbits get their name from their large (eight inches long) floppy ears, which have a minimum of cartilage and which the rabbits are unable to raise. The structure and size of the ears make them valuable for general cardiovascular (blood vessels and heart) research. The Atomic Energy project will use the animals specifically for studying the effect of radiation on capillaries, which are readily observable in the rabbits' large ears.

Citrus Black Fly Control

Control of the citrus black fly has been given campaign status in Mexico. A national committee, supported by regional committees, will direct the effort. In the three states infested by the fly (San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon) two special taxes are being imposed to finance costs—citrus fruit growers to pay 10 centavos per tree a year, gasoline users to be taxed 1 centavo a liter. The citrus black fly, a native of South Asia, appeared in Mexico several years ago. It has become a serious pest in some areas, sapping the strength of infested trees and reducing their yield.

Speed Penicillin 'Crops'

Production of penicillin "crops" can be stepped up through X-ray treatment of the molds in a new process patented recently. Doses of 50,000 to 150,000 roentgen units are applied to mold spores. Though most of the spores are killed, those remaining are newly induced, mutated strains which produce larger "crops."

SPORT NOTES

By Claude Newman

HIGH DRAMA OF 1950 IT'S THE HOGAN STORY

LINKS ASTIGMATISM LEON HART TO 'RASSLE'?

When the dramatic stories of 1950 are all recorded, the one that stands out may be the heart-warming one written on the golf course by "the little man," Blazin' Ben Hogan, a golfer from Texas.

For sheer human interest, nothing in years has approached the public interest in his comeback to golf, the fairway robot who was nearly killed in a Texas highway accident last February and was so badly injured few thought he ever would get back to the game he loved so well.

Hogan's recovery was a long shot—and his return as a top flight golfer and even longer chance shot. Or so it appeared. He had been badly mangled in an automobile-bus collision. His legs were so severely hurt no one thought he could walk right for a long time. He became an emaciated, skeleton-like man, shrunken cheeks on a mask-like head atop a scrawny neck and scrawny body.

But Hogan came back physically down there in Texas. He worked his way back, nursed himself along, and finally began gaining weight. Then he got well enough to grab his golf clubs again. And at long last he got onto a golf course and began practicing.

His was "mechanized" golf on the comeback trail to tournament golf—a scooter that propelled him around the course.

He kept on trying, and playing, and finally decided to make a stab at tournament golf again in the 24th Los Angeles Open at Riviera Country Club, Jan. 6-9.

Few thought him able to stand the gaff of this difficult grind—72 holes in four days. The game little Texan proved them wrong. He went through not four but five days of tournament play, for the third round was rained out after partially played, and at the finish Blazin' Ben was right up there—tied for first place with 280 strokes and in a title playoff with Slammin' Sam Snead for first place and top money.

Ben, the sympathy of the fans with him, didn't even need to win the playoff after a great comeback. He was back, win or lose.

"Brass hats" of most sports seldom make sense in the things they do, a "brass hat" being a highly placed official possessing dictatorial ideas.

If such an individual has a sense of hearing, a fact sometimes to be doubted, then some of the maharajahs in the United States Golf Association should bend an ear to the common sense talked by Dr. Cary Middlecoff, the golfing dentist.

Middlecoff believes the U.S.G.A. could take a leaf from the practices of the United States Lawn Tennis Association and provide needed support for 15 leading amateurs so they can play in more tournaments.

In short, he thinks it's about time golf's bigwigs paid some attention to its stars of the future by making it possible for them to cut their eyeteeth on tournament play, instead of forcing them to shift for themselves. The only ideal amateur golf setup, in fact, is the one of Frank Stranahan, an amateur who is a millionaire and so can afford to follow the links trail. Most other amateurs don't play, or if they do it's on a shoestring.

In tennis, the top-ranked players get their travel and living expenses for tournaments. A golfer can't even accept a free pack of cigarettes.

Professional football's amalgamation of the two leagues, All-America and National, may indirectly result in Leon Hart, the great Notre Dame end, becoming a "rassler."

Hart, who has had collegiate experience as a mat gladiator, asked \$25,000 to sign a pro football contract and now has been offered \$35,000 to take up bone bending. If he's smart, or more properly, financially an opportunist, he'll take up "rassling."

Even first bout preliminary mat-adjors are getting \$100 in the big eastern arenas these days. And it's possible to make \$100,000 in a year as a top "rassling" sideshow attraction.

It's not improbable that baseball will have another \$100,000-a-year big leaguer this year.

If it does, his name will be Ted Williams, slugging star of the Boston Red Sox. Williams, who was the offensive big wheel of the American League last season, will ask for and may get the big pay.

Should he put over the deal it's likely he'll be the only "100 grander" in the majors as Joe DiMaggio of the Yanks, in that category last year, likely won't make it again because he was out of action so much in 1949. Even so, Joe was the "comeback of the year."

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January 16-31

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, founder

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Saturday, January 21st

We will be in Cave Junction with the TOPS IN USED CAR BARGAINS.

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