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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

The Democratic party, which is notorious for its extravagant claims, has nothing on the University of Oregon football team, now laying claim to the Northwest Conference championship, by virtue of a walloping at the hands of Stanford, and victories over such sturdy weak sisters as Willamette, Pacific, U. C. L. A., and Washington.

Darkness overtakes the land about 6 p. m., these days. This is an ideal hour for a tiller with long whiskers, to light a match and gaze into the gasoline tank.

Several of the Older Girls with double chins, have eradicated the same by wearing a hat that, like their shoes, is too tight.

The most deplorable piece of cooking treachery, is taking a cold pancake and making a jelly roll out of it.

"John Sumpter has returned from western Oregon, and brought back a wife"—(Owyhee Gleaning.) No doubt his own.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that Mr. Fall will have to suffer from something worse than bronchitis, to keep out of jail.

Social lions are roaming about bareheaded again, and will never be able to understand how a heavy cold caught them.

Ben Harder has returned from Portland, where he saw a horse with a braided tail.

While the cheering continues for juries that convict "a million dollars," a rah! should be ejaculated for the one that convicted a 68 year old grandmother for liquor violation, and all she had was 11 cents.

"The end of the rainbow and pot of gold" many thought was in Wall Street, is now said to be located in the hills back of Jacksonville.

It is almost time for the sad news that the cranberry crop is short, as there seem to be too many. The shortage of cranberries is akin to the annual shortage of hay. If there is a shortage of cranberries, it is because they are all in the grocery store windows.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

When the fall has flivvered finally
And I feel the breezes spinally;
When
A mental and a physical
Frost frightens weak and phthisical Men;

When the dawn contains no brilliancy
And I get without resiliency
Up;
And with nerves all tense and quivering
Go workwards like a shivering
Pup;

When the weather's diabolical—
In short, when melancholical
Times
Oppress the dull intelligence,
And winter blues dispel a gent's
Rhymes—

A warning postcard brings a new
Worry, and gives to things a new
Zest:
"Here comes your Opportunity
To fatten the Community
Chest. (Cleveland Plaindealer)

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD IT MORE THAN 90 TIMES

They tell a story of a stranger who set out one morning to walk to a certain butte before breakfast. He walked a mile or two and then met a native, who told him that the butte was still several miles away, so he decided to return. They traveled by a slightly different route and came to a small stream, a mere trickle across the sand. As the native stopped to water his horse he was amazed to see the stranger busily stripping off his clothes. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "I'm going to swim this river," was the dogged response. "Swim it!" ejaculated the native. "Why, you can step across it!" "Well, I don't know," was the cautious answer. "Distances are deceiving in this country, and I'm not taking any chances." (From "Sheep")

Gardiner—Preliminary work is underway for construction of 100-ton paper mill by Umpqua Pulp and Paper company.

LOWER TAXES NOT ALWAYS GOOD BUSINESS

WE all like low taxes, just as we like large dividends. And politicians, therefore, love to "point with pride" to a low tax rate; just as stock salesmen, love to point with pride to large dividends.

But as there is a point in public business, where tax reduction ceases to be desirable for the taxpayer; so there is a point in private business, where large dividends cease to be desirable for the stockholder.

And this point is reached whenever tax reduction involves a failure to meet regular sinking fund or interest charges; or dividend payments involve an impairment of cash reserves, necessary to meet the regular operating expenses.

Nevertheless, there are public officials, who in their desire to keep down taxes, go beyond this danger point; just as there are officials in private business, who in their desire to keep up stock prices, go beyond this danger point, in the matter of dividend payments. And these two tendencies in public and private business, have probably led to more grief for the people, who eventually must pay the bills, than anything else in our political and industrial world.

* * *

AS there is intense public interest in the stock market at present, one might cite the case of U. S. Steel, as an example. Why is this one of the strongest stocks on the market, that has kept around 200 in spite of the recent collapse in Wall Street? Not because it pays such high dividends—its rate is only 7 per cent. But because it has maintained such a tremendous cash reserve. And instead of paying out this reserve in increased dividends, it has devoted this reserve, to a retirement of the bonded debt—in other words to decreasing the expense of operation,—in keeping far away from the danger point above mentioned.

* * *

AND as there is considerable local interest in the question of reducing taxes in Medford, the matter of cutting $27,000 from the water fund, may be cited, as another example.

For the sake of argument let us assume this cut can only be made by failing to retire the regular amount of water bonds. What does that mean?

Well briefly it means, that the saving in tax rate now, will be far exceeded by an inevitable increase in the tax rate later. This is a simple matter of arithmetic. For interest on those bonds must be paid, and paid by the taxpayers—more than that the entire issue must be paid back or refunded by the taxpayers—and if this payment is not taken care of by the sinking fund, then the deficiency must be made up by the taxpayers not only in hard cash but in hard cash PLUS INTEREST.

* * *

AS above mentioned this is a simple matter of arithmetic and yet it is astonishing how many people overlook it. As a result there is a perfection passion for bond issues in spite of the fact, that bond issues mean paying a double price for everything purchased.

To illustrate: Let us assume Medford buys something for $100,000 and issues bonds for the money, at 5 per cent for 20 years. The taxpayers pay that $100,000, then they pay $5000 a year for 20 years or $100,000 more. In other words for an improvement worth $100,000 they pay $200,000. And if no provision is made for retirement, they pay that $5000 a year for another 20 years, or a third $100,000.

Men may come and men may go, but interest charges go on forever—unless the original loan is paid. We don't mean to say, bond issues are never necessary. In government business they are not only necessary but desirable. Moreover in the case of large permanent improvements, it is only right, that future generations which will benefit from the improvement, should assume their share of the financial obligation.

But it can be overdone. And it is overdone whenever bond issues are used for comparatively small or temporary improvements, or whenever the sinking fund to retire the bonds, is not scrupulously maintained, which means added interest charges.

* * *

NOW as far as Medford's tax rate is concerned, this argument is based upon the assumption that the proposed reduction cannot be made without impairing the water bond sinking fund,—by taking money from it for inescapable obligations. Frankly we don't know whether this is true or not. It is not a matter for a newspaper to decide or for an individual taxpayer, to decide. It is a matter for our representatives, the members of the City Council to decide, for they are in a position to know all the facts, and view the problem from the broad angle of the city welfare.

* * *

WE simply have called their attention to the matter of the dangers as well as the advantages of tax reduction, because we believe it is a supremely important phase of the present problem, which should be carefully considered before any final decision is made.

If Medford taxes CAN be reduced without impairing the water bond sinking fund, and without eliminating expenditures, which the principles of good and prudent business management demand, then let's have that reduction by all means. The lower the taxes consistent with such principles, the better for all concerned.

But if this can't be done, then far better to keep the tax rate intact, for today rather than cut it, and place a far greater proportional burden upon the taxpayer of tomorrow.

Personal Health Service

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Owing to the large number of letters received, only a few can be answered here. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady, in care of this newspaper.

UP ON YOUR TOES AND YOUR FLATFOOT GOES

Flatfoot comes in three sizes like anybody's salves. First, there is the arial size, potential flatfoot, known to physicians as pronated feet and to the laity as weak ankles. You may get a free trial size package with every pair of fashionable shoes if you are not careful. We can't go into all the faults of fashionable footwear here, but if you want to know the right and wrong of it, send a stamped envelope bearing your address and ask for advice about footwear and the care of the feet.

The regular or Main street flatfoot is the familiar trade package. You may study it on all sides and on all the quieter streets. You can spot a person carrying a trade package rather by his or her everted feet and inelastic step than by a downright deformity or a clumsy hobble. Not until the victim falls under the influence of some persuasive "foot specialist" or shoe salesman with a mail order diploma and gets stuck with a pair of props does the characteristic flatfoot betray the actual deformity.

The third or hospital stage is permanent, fixed flatfoot and once the individual with the Main street kinds starts fooling with arch supporting devices it won't be long before he will have a hospital size case to attend to.

Of course too many readers know from rather lucky experience that the adoption and wearing of arch props need not necessarily ruin the feet, for me to attempt to promulgate such a warning. But just the same I know that any foot trouble which seems to get better while arch props of any kind are being worn would get better as quickly or more quickly if the same care were given and the props omitted.

The surgical treatment of permanent, fixed, absolutely flat feet usually calls for a series of individually molded braces, but this is strictly a surgical problem and no sensible person would attempt to carry out surgical treatment on himself or permit any other than a competent surgeon to do it.

How can one tell whether the feet are only functionally flat (Main street stage) or rigidly flat (hospital stage)? That is quite simple. Stand barefoot on the floor. Raise yourself on your toes. If you can do this, the normal arch of the foot is restored by the effort—your flatfoot is flexible, functional, and still amenable to proper exercise, proper footwear and general attention to hygiene. If you can't raise yourself up on your toes, you're a hospital case of rigid flatfoot, and props or similar monkeyshines, without preliminary surgical correction, can help you no more than mail order appliance can reform or reshape a crooked nose or straighten bowlegs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cancer Quacks.

At the request of one of your readers we are mailing you one of our booklets. In the back you will find a list of cured patients. They will be able to give you information as to our reliability and our ability to cure. (——— Sanatorium.)

Answer. — Your booklet is a beautiful and costly specimen of the printer's art, but if I had cancer in any situation where your caustic will reach, I'd prefer to have it treated by ordinary surgery.

Drinking Water Tastes.

Our municipal water supply is treated with chlorin, and sometimes the taste of this is very offensive, though the public health authorities always assure us the water is all right. In your opinion is what with such an abominable taste fit to drink, or does the taste perhaps depend on some contamination that thea uthorities wish to conceal?—Mrs. K. A.

Answer. — A water supply in any inhabited district must be constantly chlorinated for safety. If this chlorination is properly done, and the water is regularly examined by the health authorities, it is absolutely safe water to drink, even if there is sometimes an unpleasant taste. Disinterested experts assure us that certain trade wastes, containing phenol (carbolic) derivatives, are a more common cause of unpleasant taste in municipal drinking water. This is unpleasant, but no dangerous to health. The people themselves make the laws—if they object to the phenol flavor imparted to the lake or river water by industrial plant sewage or drainage, the people can put a stop to the practice through legislation. And women are people now.

Onionology.

I have often heard that an inion cut in half and left in the sick room will purify the air. Is a piece of onion left in the pantry over night uncovered fit to be used for cooking?—Mrs. K. A.

Answer. — Another good one: When a man is very weak he is likely to be short of breath. Onion makes his breath stronger. Of course the sliced onion doesn't purify the air; it just pewrifies it. A piece of onion left in our pantry over night is seldom fit for cooking next day, because the hired man, foraging for a midnight snack, almost always finds it. Now, no fooling, onion is a fine, healthful vegetable or relish or flavor however you take it; but it doesn't cure anything and it has no mysterious powers over fate or fortune.

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SUNDOWN STORIES

A WITCHY TIME

By Mary Graham Bonner.

The Little Black Clock turned the time back to the evening before and took John and Peggy to spend a witchy, goblinish time with witches and goblins.

"A witchy time," the leading witch told them, "is a time enjoyed by witches, and a goblinish time is a time enjoyed by goblins.

"Hallowe'en is a time we love so much; but, as we told you, we used to have more fun when witches and goblins were considered more important. However, we'll do our best tonight."

More and more goblins kept joining the other goblins and the witches who were seated around a great bonfire.

"Let's have broomstick races first of all," the leading witch suggested.

John and Peggy and all the others put on tall, black hats. Then they each picked out a broomstick from a great pile nearby, and up in the air they flew.

"I'll be the judge," said the Little Black Clock.

It seemed strange that it wasn't difficult to stay up in the air, and when the Little Black Clock said, "One, two, three, GO!" they all started off. Straight across the field they raced, and the most wonderful thing of all was that John, who had never ridden on a broomstick before, won!

He was very proud, but he was afraid the witches might feel bad that one of their number had not been victorious.

"Perhaps," he said, after they were back on the ground again, "you're all a bit out of practice." Of course he had never had any practice, but he didn't want to say that.

"You're just a natural-born broomstock racer," the witches and goblins told him. "We'll have to give our special Hallowe'en parade in your honor."

Tomorrow—"Goblin Parade."

MAIL TRIBUNE DAILY CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

Solution of Saturday's Puzzle

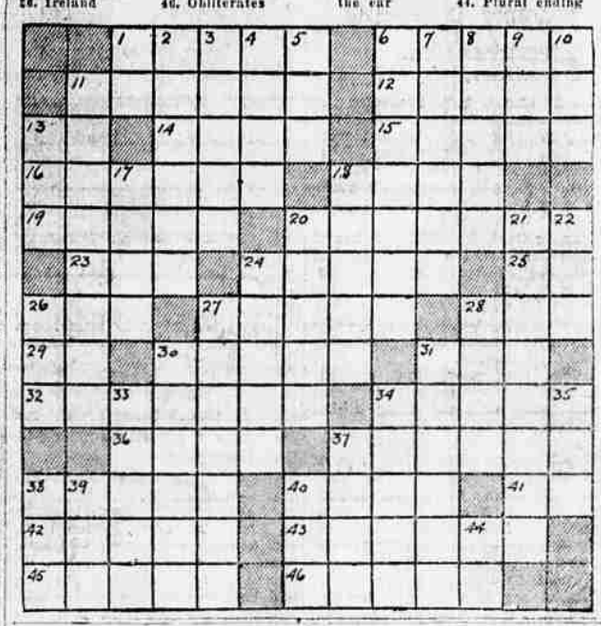
F	A	T	S		T	A	N	G	S		F	O	R	M
A	L	I	T		E	X	E	R	T		A	R	I	A
L	E	N	A		R	E	B	A	R		S	A	C	S
L	E	T	T	E	R	S		N	E	S	T	L	E	S
			U	S	A		A	T	T	L	E			
R	I	S	E	S		E	N	S	C	O	N	C	E	D
A	N	T	S		F	E	D		H	O	S	I	E	R
F	L	A		S	O	N		R	E	P		T	R	E
T	E	R	R	O	R		P	A	D		R	E	I	S
S	T	R	E	A	M	E	R	S		M	E	D	E	S
			F	R	A	M	E		S	A	I			
R	I	P	O	S	T	E		O	P	E	N	E	R	S
O	D	O	R		I	T	A	L	O		I	V	A	N
D	E	R	M		V	I	L	E	R		N	I	L	E
E	A	T	S		E	C	L	A	T		G	L	E	E

ACROSS

1. Ox raised for slaughter
6. Splendor
11. Fatal
12. Scene of action
13. Pronoun
14. Go up
15. Prepared
16. Card game
18. Chaffy part of ground grain
19. Part of the British Empire
20. Cut lengthwise
22. Incline the head
24. Rock
25. Old exclamation
26. Consumed
27. On
28. Spread loosely
29. Again: prefix
30. Plait
31. Limb
32. Eccentric
34. Spirit in Shakespeare's "Tempest"
36. Ireland
37. Soft
38. Performers
40. City in Indiana
41. Symbol for tellurium
42. Soft metal bolt
43. Ascends
45. Winter vehicles
46. Obliterates

DOWN

1. Latin pronoun
2. Covered with a black liquid
3. Revises
4. Other
5. Cereal grass
6. Ornament for the ear
7. Bring into being
8. Inclined
9. Also
10. Largest river in Scotland
11. Bottle for holding liquors
12. Chop
17. Kind of plant
18. Of light complexion
20. Indifferent to pain
21. Component parts
22. Father
23. Killed
26. Metric measure
27. Painters
28. Three-part song
30. Obstructed
31. Excite to action
33. Female sandpiper
34. Month
35. Caustic alkaline solution
37. Withered
38. Physicians: abbr.
39. Lubricate
40. Small cushion
44. Plural ending



Quill Points

No doubt the pulpit has lost influence. Can you think of any decent thing in America that hasn't.

Mr. MacDonald has no liquor taste. It seems to be a characteristic of the Scotch arriving this year.

Mergers are just trusts that no longer are wicked because almost everybody has a little stock.

Rural directions: "Straight ahead past three Camel signs and turn right at the second invitation to buy Goodyears."

With the excitement of the world series abated, Chicago doubtless has reflected sadly that wickedness doesn't pay.

Nothing is certain—except death and taxes and a coming epidemic of books written in imitation of The Specialist.

"Ask Me Another" was popular for a time, but eventually failed to take the place of children. It ran out of questions too soon.

Americanism: A great zeal to abolish all that is wicked; an unfortunate inability to recognize wickedness in the first person singular.

Talkies are a success, but using them to replace movies is like using a brass band as a substitute for a sunset.

And yet, if the way of the transgressor is hard, only a learned theologian can tell why Philadelphia triumphed over Chicago.

Many of the wild animals sleep by day, so it is obvious that Nature didn't anticipate lawn mowers.

It is especially annoying to have another hunter mistake you for a moose if you have ever studied the moose countenance.

"If you would seem great, you must leave your native soil." It doesn't work in the case of a prominent citizen.

There is no market for another cigarette, unless somebody can invent one that will prevent tooth decay or aid digestion.

And just think, if Mr. Edison hadn't discovered the electric light, school books would contain no argument for private ownership of utilities.

Correct this sentence: "I treat people of my own class," said the traffic policeman, "just as I treat all others."

Gresham—Hewitt building at intersection of Powell and Main being improved.

Do You Remember?

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY
(From files of the Mail Tribune.)
November 4, 1919.

Washington. — Liquor exports from the United States since prohibition total the stupendous sum of $10,000,000.

Weather report shows October very cold, with a mean minimum of 31.

London. — England orders saloons to be open only 12 hours per day.

Jackson county raises $750 for Oregon memorial to ex-President Roosevelt.

Superintendent of Schools Wm. Davenport orders milk survey of all Medford schools.

Business men at dinner held at Peerless restaurant select November 11th to 14th as Merchants Victory week.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY
(From files of the Mail Tribune.)
November 4, 1909.

John R. Allen, president of the P. & E., and wealthy New York capitalist, asks for electric street car franchise in Medford, with 5-cent fare.

A. J. Olsen of the Meadows sells ranch near Central Point for $12,500 to J. H. Mulhollen of Butte, Mont.

Ashland pays $63,000 for new pavement laid by Warren Construction company to date.

Moon Lumber company to erect sash and door plant at Eagle Point.

Samuel Gompers found guilty of contempt of court for declaring Buck Stove company an "unfair" company.

Ben Herdel, U. S. assistant engineer of public roads, arrives to survey new highway through Fish Lake pass.

Frank Ray, high school sophomore, entertains members of the class at his home with games, fortune telling and music.

Communications

A Bouquet With One Thorn.

To the Editor:

I like your paper better than any that is published in Oregon.

I think your editorials are the best I have ever read in any paper. And that's saying a lot, for I am a ravenous reader. Then I should hate to lose Brisbane's "Today" and Will Rogers. His articles in your paper are so terse, applicable and filled with poignant irony, well seasoned with humor, that I like them better than his longer stories in magazines.

Besides the above, I am interested in the crossword puzzles and the story. I have never read more than one other newspaper novel, but the one you are running surely is good.

In fact, I have only one criticism to make. That is, the local pages gets on my nerves by having ads, etc., sandwiched in. It is like eating cherry pie and champing down on a seed every now and then.

What has become of the "good ship Sedan"? Last winter I enjoyed reading those reports so much, and have been hoping that the "G. S. S." would make another tour and send back some interesting reports. I hope it was not wrecked on the way home.

Kindly continue to send the paper to the above address.

Very truly yours,
JENNIE H. WHITE.
Ashland, Oregon.

Classified advertising gets results.

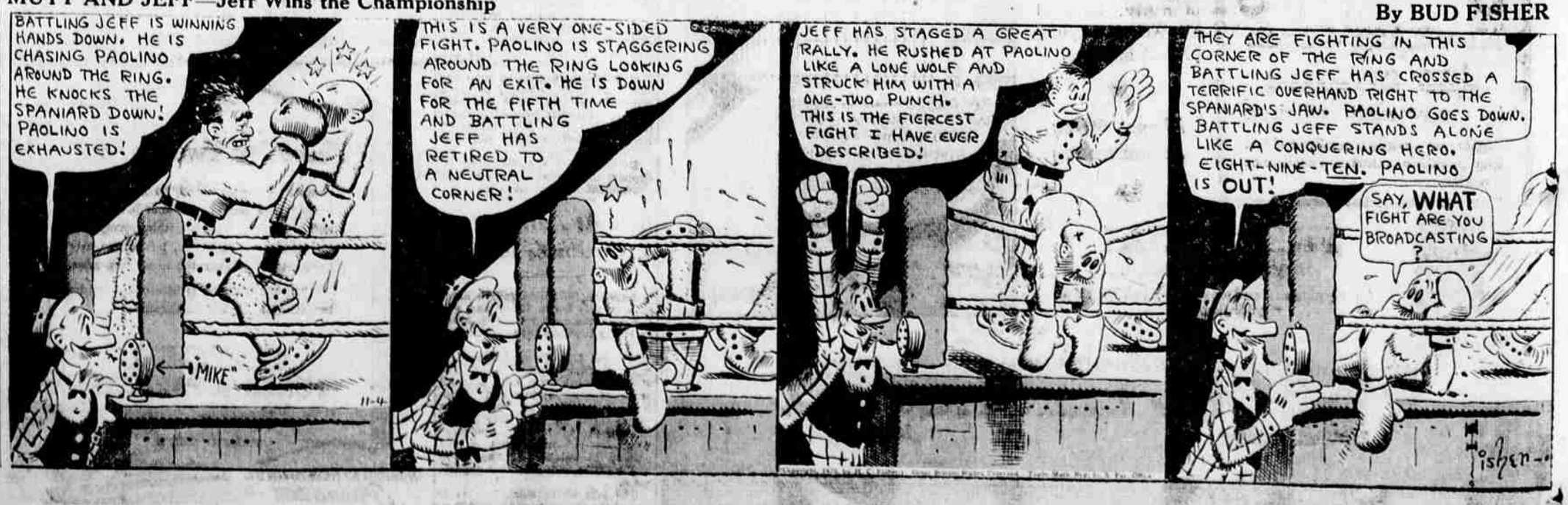
COLDS MAY DEVELOP INTO PNEUMONIA

Coughs from colds may lead to serious trouble. You can stop them now with Creomulsion, an emulsified creosote that is pleasant to take. Creomulsion is a medical discovery with two-fold action; it soothes and heals the inflamed membranes and inhibits germ growth.

Of all known drugs creosote is recognized by high medical authorities as one of the greatest healing agencies for coughs from colds and bronchial irritations. Creomulsion contains, in addition to creosote, other healing elements which soothe and heal the inflamed membranes and stop the irritation, while the creosote goes on to the stomach, is absorbed into the blood, attacks the seat of the trouble and checks the growth of the germs.

Creomulsion is guaranteed satisfactory in the treatment of coughs from colds, bronchitis and minor forms of bronchial irritations, and is excellent for building up the system after colds or flu. Money refunded if not relieved after taking according to directions. Ask your druggist. (adv.)

CREOMULSION
FOR THE COUGH FROM COLDS THAT HANG ON

MUTT AND JEFF—Jeff Wins the Championship

By BUD FISHER