



THE CHAMP AND HIS CATTLE. Gene Tunney, former world's heavyweight boxing champion, looks over his herd of commercial Herefords on his farm near Stamford, Connecticut. Tunney says that he is looking forward to the day when he can have a registered herd of quality Herefords.

Former Heavy Weight Now Raises Herefords

"The Golden Boy of the Golden Age" now presides as a gentleman farmer over 50 head of commercial Hereford cattle on his 250-acre estate in the rolling hills of Connecticut. Tunney says that he is looking forward to the day when he can have a registered herd of quality Herefords.

As the master of Star Meadow Farm north of Stamford, James Joseph (Gene) Tunney has added new luster with age to the "Golden Boy" crown bestowed on him three decades ago when he won and defended the title of heavyweight boxing champion of the world in two 10-round decisions over Jack Dempsey.

The handsome, 58-year-old Tunney—a successful financier and devoted farmer—today strides across his pastures with the same self-assurance and determination that

he displayed when he toppled the idol of the boxing world.

Between his financial operations in New York City and his periodic travels abroad, the former champ has sandwiched in enough time with his Herefords to spark the incentive to someday own a quality herd of registered white-faces.

The commercial Herefords have been thriving on his lush pastures since 1946. It was that year he sold another farm on the eastern shore of Maryland and marketed his cattle of another breed because, he says, "they were just too wild."

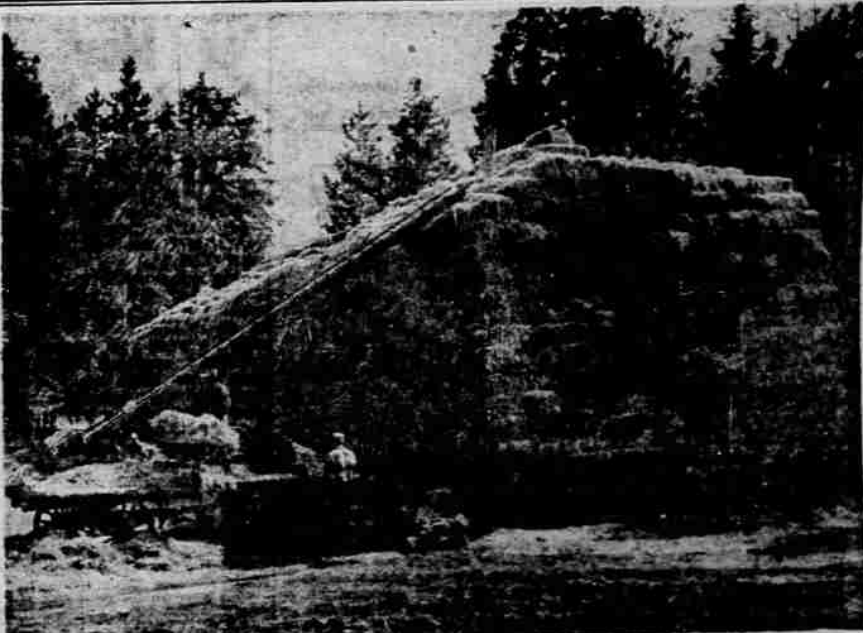
"My main reason for changing to Herefords," Tunney says, "is because they're such good natured cattle and gentle to handle both in the pasture and in the feedlot."

In preparing for the day he will switch from commercial to purebred Herefords, Tunney and his farm manager, Herman Zuern, have put a crew to work removing a forest of Ash, Maple and Oak trees from several acres for future pasture land.

Cattlemaster Tunney retains a few head of calves each year for his own feedlot and home consumption. He learned a long time ago the value of good beefsteak as a body builder as well as maintainer. And he has maintained himself well as proven by his 210 pounds, roughly 20 more than he carried against Dempsey for their second fight in 1927.

As the retired champ outlines his plans for his future in the cattle business, he convinces you that he will put the same type of perfectionism in his herd as he displayed in the ring, in his mastery of Shakespeare and Shaw, and in his life that has made him a pillar of manhood in both the athletic and business world.

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A FEW BALES MORE OR LESS ON THIS STACK wouldn't make an awful lot of difference, so A. E. 'Mickey' Wampler (left), and neighbor John Strubel proceed to stack on a few more. The 11,000 bale stack of oat hay is located on the Wampler Ranch located on the west side of the Upper Klamath Lake. Wampler points to the fact that it has been a good crop year and that he doesn't figure on running out of feed this winter.

California SCS Reports Progress

Farmers in California's 117 soil conservation districts last year converted more than 11,400 acres of cropland to grass and trees, according to a summary of conservation accomplishments released today by John S. Barnes, state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Berkeley.

The shifting of poorer acres to grass and trees is a move that will be given tremendous added stimulus by the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank, Barnes said.

About 710 miles of windbreaks have been planted to date in districts, of which 82 miles were planted during the last year alone. Farmers in districts carried out 55,357 acres of pasture planting and more than 61,820 acres of range seeding in the last two years, the summary indicated.

Pointing to another major accomplishment revealed by the recently compiled figures, Barnes said that 1956 was a high year in the construction of farm ponds. Last year 632 such ponds were built, bringing the total to date to 4618 constructed with SCS help in districts.

Some 715,000 farm ponds have been built in districts throughout the nation, serving the multiple purposes of water conservation, better livestock management, and improvement of wildlife and waterfowl habitat. Since they average from 1 to 2 acres each, these ponds have added a total surface water area of more than one million acres, Barnes said.

Other items noted as conservation progress in the past year in-

cluded 110 miles of terracing. Contour farming was applied on nearly 29,192 acres and strip cropping on nearly 2,375 acres of cropland last year. Plantings and other practices were established to improve wildlife food and cover on more than 42,321 acres last year, bringing the total of such work in districts to 326,616 acres.

These and many other interrelated practices are carried out, Barnes explained, as part of SCS assistance to individual farmers through soil conservation districts. As of July 1, 1956, there were 24,540 district cooperators in California who operate 7,483,854 acres of farm and ranch lands in 117 soil conservation districts. There are now 2,700 soil conservation districts in the nation, including 91 per cent of all farms and 86 per cent of all farm lands.

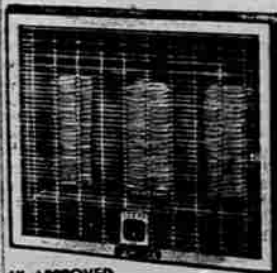
Soil surveys, upon which conservation plans are based have now been completed on 29 million acres. This work, done by SCS in cooperation with the State Experiment Station, is being stepped up this year to meet the growing needs for basic soil data in the various soil and water programs, Barnes reported.

In addition to its assistance to farmers and ranchers in soil conservation districts, Barnes explained that the Soil Conservation Service is now providing both technical and financial assistance to local organizations in a rapidly growing number of watershed protection and flood prevention projects. In California, one has been approved for operations under Pub-

lic Law 506 in addition to two pilot watershed projects and two older flood prevention projects already under way. More than 24 local organizations in the state have applied for watershed assistance and planning is under way on five of these, Barnes said.

SCS also continues to provide technical assistance on certain permanent-type practices for which the Agricultural Conservation Program Service provides cost-sharing payments to farmers.

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