THE SQUIRREL CAGE

By Douglass Welch

A good day to you all, and a hearty wave of the hand to the Southwest District, Fat Stock Show which begins today at Lake Charles, La. There was a time when I used to attend fat stock and bull shows all over the country, and I won quite a few ribbons, too. For fat stock, not for bulls. But since I lost 40 pounds I can't win nothing, and I find my interest is declining.

So today we will discuss, instead, the feminine figure which the fashion designers are about to change again. All this time I have been thinking that the feminine figure was already pretty near as good as you could get, but, no, the designers have now turned against what they delicately call "the flat back." And when they say "back" they mean clear down to here.

What they are going to give us now, it seems, is the "natural back," and this requires a frightful amount of fashion-engineering and retooling of girdles and corsets and like that. The trade papers of the fashion industry say that girdle manufacturers are working night and day turning out the new girdle which will give a "molded" rather than a flat appearance. I regret to say — there is, as you know, a good deal of chicanery and dissembling in the foundation garment business—they are also rushing to the market garments into which molding has been cleverly built—for ladies who otherwise would be hopelessly out of style.

The trade papers say that the new girdles will be appreciably softer and more yielding. One trade paper slyly suggests that in the new garments a lady will always know when she has been pinched.

Everyone except Mrs. McMurty across the street. Like I keep telling you, she is 40-40-40 straight up and down, and she wears an old-fashioned corset (the women around here all tell me), and I believe it is made of sheet-iron, and the only way you can pinch her so she knows it is with a pair of pliers or tin - snips. Happily, nobody much wants to.

Pinchers Galore

Mrs. Blair was talking about pinchers on the Continent at a neighborhood cocktail party the other night. She is a completely changed woman since she started doing her hair like Barbra Streisand. Six months ago she wouldn't have dreamed of talking to anyone about being pinched. Now she is quite gay and a little shocking. And when she talks to you you can't tell which way she is looking because her hair covers her eyes and only her nose sticks out. You have the uncomfortable feeling that while she is talking to you her eyes behind her screen of hair are roving over every other man in the room.

She went to Europe, she said, with this dear old school friend, who turned out to be utterly odious, and the two husbands. The very first day in Italy the school friend got pinched three times and Mrs. Blair once. Mrs. Blair said to her husband: "That man just pinched me." and she fully expected that Mr. Blair would see the color of the fellow's insides. But Mr. Blair only said: "I can't imagine why."

Mrs. Blair had this happen to her almost every day in France, and she said she thought it a vulgar, insulting practice until she began realizing that her schoolgirl friend was getting pinched more than she was. On the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, she says, she got pinched three times and her friend got pinched seven times, and her friend said "I don't know why they seem to single me out for most of their favors!" And Mrs. Blair said coldly: "Perhaps it can be accounted for by the fact that you seem to offer yourself a little more than others do." And the ladies haven't spoken since that moment. The school friend and her husband flew to England suddenly that very night.

Another Try

Mrs. Blair said at the cocktail party that she would like to go to Italy and France again with her new Barbra Streisand hairdo and see what kind of a score she could run up. And Mrs. Blair began walking around the room like a burlesque queen and conversation everywhere stopped, and it goes to show you what a new and exciting hairdo can do for a dull, lusterless woman whose husband once wondered why anybody would take the trouble to pinch her.

Really, the wives in our kooky neighborhood are beginning to think that Mrs. Blair is potentially much more dangerous than The Widow. I really do not believe The Widow would ever set out on an Italian street to see how many times she got pinched, but I believe that Mrs. Blair in this new moment of her reawakening would be quite capable of it.

Preferential primaries are those which permit voters to express a preference for presidential candidates.

Ways, Means Group Draws Blast For Stand On Insurance Commissioner

SALEM (UPI)—The Ways and Means Committee was accused Wednesday of expecting the state insurance commissioner "to go lion-hunting with a pocketful of rocks."

The comment by Rep. William Gallagher, R-Portland, appeared to signal the start of a battle over the insurance division's budget between Gallagher's House Financial Affairs Committee and the Interim Insurance Committee on one side and Ways and Means, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Finance and Administration on the other.

It was the interim committee's report of abuses in the insurance industry which led to a request by Commissioner Walter Korlann for 11 more employes to regulate the industry more closely.

A Ways and Means subcommittee Tuesday cut the number down to three, despite testimony that the insurance companies were willing to pay the additional cost in increased fees.

The Ways and Means action halted consideration by Gallagher's committee of bills to raise the fees.

"It seems to be very odd when an industry is willing to accept more regulation and pay the cost that the Ways and Means won't approve it," Gallagher said.

Talks to Hatfield

He said he intended to talk to House Speaker F. F. Montgomery, who was chairman of the interim committee, and he hoped both of them could talk to Gov. Mark Hatfield.

Rep. Philip Lang, D-Portland, who is leading the fight for passage of the interim committee's legislation, accused Ways and Means, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Commerce Department of being "insensitive" to the need. He said their action was "shocking." Spokesmen for the latter two agencies opposed the 11-man increase.

"I intend to do what I can to see this thing is corrected," Lang continued. "The legislature must face up to whether the state of Oregon is going to regulate the insurance industry or the federal government is going to."

Korlann declined to comment on the Ways and Means action today.

The insurance division is part of the new Commerce Department.

An interim committee bill under consideration by Gallagher's committee would have raised at least $312,000 a biennium to pay for the increased employes.

Ways and Means increased the insurance division budget only $120,000 over its present level and added a deputy, an attorney and a clerk to the staff.

The Financial Affairs Committee did approve and send to the House floor a bill allowing the commissioner to require verified information from insurance companies.

QUESTION

BOSTON (UPI) — Tearful small boy to elevator operator during a busy day at the Boston Museum of Science:

"Sir, did a lady get on here without me?"

Job C

THURMONT, "Pug" Ferrymas could see the the wall.

He was going out of school for decided to join t

Sixteen-year-ol Epps, of Baltim join because, mad about it r should join, I electrician and t best way to do

These youths p ons for their d

HERALD AND

"YOU" GET MORE FOR Y

ALL PRICES EFFECTIVE . . . 7-FULL DAYS . . . SHOP at

KRAFT . . . VELVEETA cheese 2 Pound Loaf 79¢

MAYFRESH . . . CHUNK tuna $1 HALF TINS

Fryer

STRICTLY FRESH PLUMP and TENDER 29

FRESH . . . CUT-UP FRYERS lb. 33¢

STRICTLY FRESH FRYER WINGS lb. 19¢

FRESH FRYER . . . LEGS THIGHS & BREASTS lb. 49¢

PERFECT TO SPLIT FRY lb. 3

POST . . . cereals • TOASTIES • CRISPY CRITTERS • SUGAR CRISP 3 Reg. pkg. 89¢

PURINA . . . dog chow 10 Pound Bag 1.39

ZEE . . . paper napkins 2 80 Ct. Pkg. 25¢

ZEE . . . paper towels 4 Giant Rolls $1

BLUE BELL combination pak box 59¢

nabisco crackers lb. 29¢

nabisco snacks box 39¢

welches GRAPE JELLY 20 oz. 39¢

welches FRUIT JELLY 20 oz. 39¢

chiffon FACIAL TISSUE 400 Ct. 29¢

chiffon TOILET TISSUE 2 Rolls 29¢

zee TOILET TISSUE 4 roll pkg. 41¢

GAME HENS GRADE A EACH . . . . 79¢

USDA Choice Beef & RUMP ROAST 68¢ lb

Blue Ribbon Beef SHORT RIBS 25¢ lb

USDA Choice Blade CHUCK ROAST 45¢ lb

MAYFRESH BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

STEWING CHICKENS CUT-UP PAN READY 29¢ lb

MAYFRESH REFRIGERATED let's have Chic n Biscuits 10 TUBES $1

FIESTA DEL MONTE

STOCK-UP YOUR CUPBOARD NOW . . . DURING OUR GIGANTIC "DEL MONTE SALE!"

sweet peas 4 303 tins $1

CUT or CREAM corn 5 303 tins

CUT-GREEN beans 4 303 tins

applesauce 5 303 tins

DEL MONTE . . . grapefruit 3 303 tins 89¢

DEL MONTE . . . pineapple • Chunks • Tidbits • Crushed 4 211 tins 89¢

spinach 6 303 tins $1

catsup 5 14-oz. bottles

fruit cocktail 5 303 tins

PINEAPPLE-GRAPEFRUIT juice 3 46-oz. tins

FROZEN FOODS DEPARTMENT

TIP-TOP . . . ORANGE DRINK 12-oz. 33¢ 6 6-oz. tins $1

BANQUET CREAM PIES 3 for 1.00

FRES

Chiffon Lay lemon

Chiffon Cak lemon

MAYFRESH . . . FINE - MEDIUM or WIDE egg noodles 12-oz. pkg. 29¢

MAYFRESH . . . maca

ONLY!! MAYFAIR GIVES YOU

PLUS "S&H" GREEN STAMPS

Store Hours:

AVALON & S OREGON AVE

CLIP THIS COUPON and SAVE

coupon

BEST FOODS mayonnaise

With This Coupon . . . One Quart Expires March 3 49¢

CLIP THIS COUPON and SAVE

THERE'S A MAYFAIR MARKET NEAR YOU

People Read • SPOT ADS — you are now.