

Sportlight by GRANTLAND RICE

A SHORT while ago, we were roaming the Cleveland landscape with a pretty fair old-timer. He was, and is, the Gray Eagle—



Tris Speaker

only a trifle grayer than he used to be. The name is Speaker—Tris Speaker—the kid who came up from Hubbard City, Tex., nearly 40 years ago to become one of the great ball-players of all time, both as an out-fielding hawk and a hitter, a

hitter good enough to keep Ty Cobb from leading the league 13 consecutive years. Tris Speaker won or saved many a ball game with his brilliant fielding and his hard hitting. But he willingly agrees that when it comes to a winning percentage, the star pitcher is the winning factor.

"Walter Johnson," Speaker said, "won 20 or more games a year over a period of 10 consecutive years with a club that without him probably would have been mired in the second division. His average was about 200 or maybe 300 per cent above his team's average. Washington without Johnson was a pushover. Washington with Johnson pitching was harder to beat than any team in the league, including the Athletics, Tigers or the Red Sox. It's the same, today, when Newhouser, Feller and Chandler are working."

"The Red Sox also have great pitchers, but they have a great team to back them up. What makes them so strong, at this point anyway, is that in addition to a fine ball club they also have the pitching. That makes it tough for any challenger. Great pitchers such as Ed Walsh, Nick Altrock and Doc White have carried weak-hitting teams to a pennant and a world's championship, as this trio did in 1906, but no set of hitters and fielders ever have carried weak pitchers anywhere out of the second division."

All that is needed is to look over the individual pitching averages of Hal Newhouser of the Tigers, Bob Feller of the Indians and Spud Chandler of the Yankees and compare them with the averages of their teams in the standing of the clubs. These three men have kept on winning in spite of weak batting support at times.

You've heard more than a little about the famous Gas House gang of St. Louis around 1934. They had their full share of good ball-players, but it was Dizzy Dean who pitched them into a pennant—without Dizzy they would have finished six or eight games away, possibly more.

Next Title Bout

In the wake of the Louis-Conn championship fight it is only natural that the new gossip should concern the next title contest. It was generally understood that if Louis retained his title his next fight would be against the winner of the Tami Mauriello - Jersey Joe Walcott elimination contest. If Conn won there was to be a repeat engagement, meaning the best two out of three.

Louis will have to have a September match for several reasons. One is need of money to pay his taxes and to square his account with Mike Jacobs. Another is that Joe isn't getting any younger and the years have begun to take their toll. He still can pick up another \$90,000 net profit in a second fight.

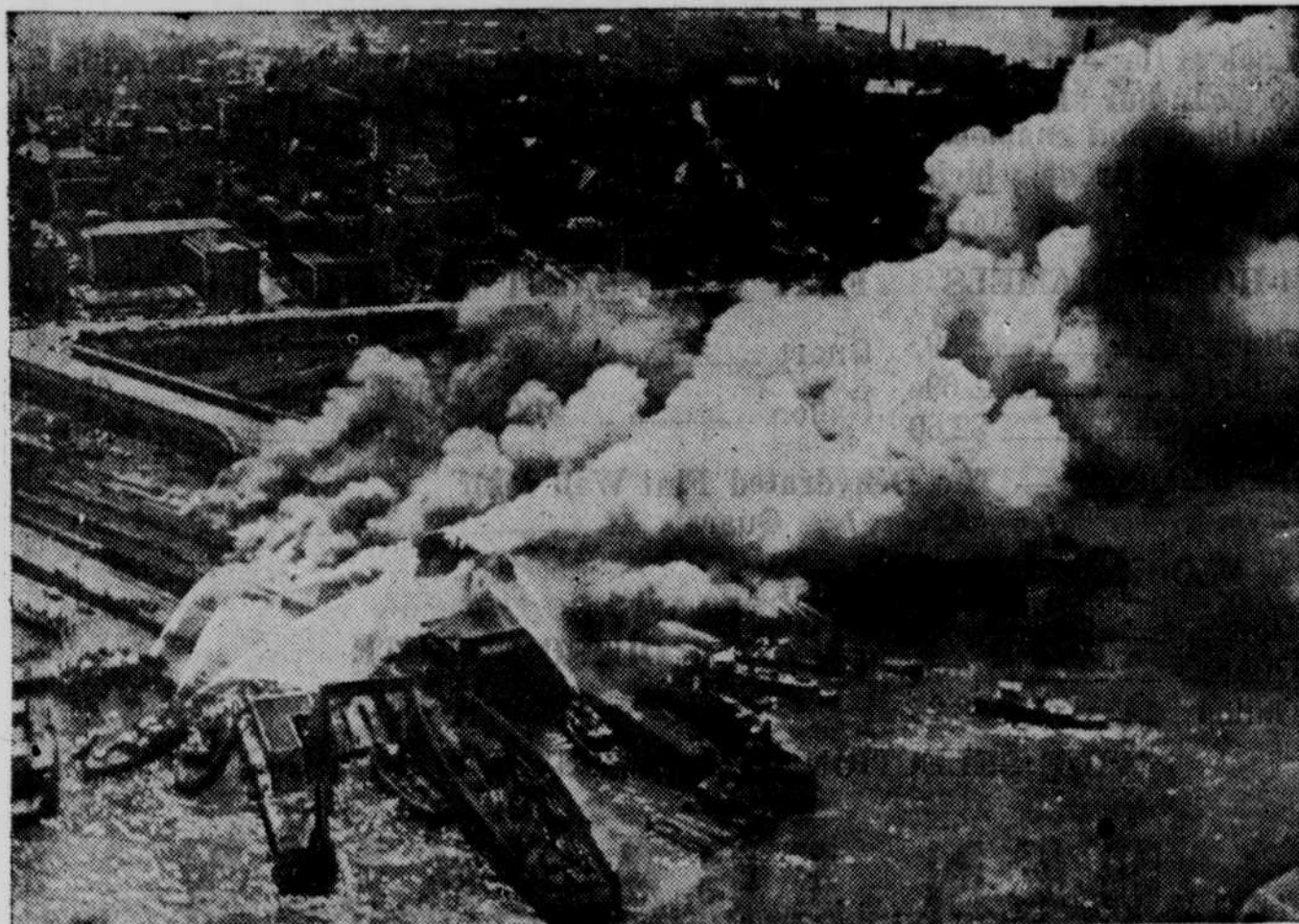
Outside of Conn and Louis, the heavyweight picture has been shy of talent for some time. Now Conn is definitely out. Promoter Mike Jacobs has been trying to get a real challenger ready for the last three years, but the supply has been extremely thin. Lee Oma kicked himself out of the picture with his terrible showing against Jersey Joe Walcott. Oma set an all-time record for wrecking a show, for refusing to make any part of a fight. You can throw Oma out of any heavyweight picture that means anything.

Jersey Joe Walcott may not be much of a heavyweight, as far as champions go, and the same can be said of Tami Mauriello. Still they seem to be the only ones left who have shown anything worth looking at—and neither has shown too much. A Mauriello-Walcott meeting might be no part of a thriller—it doesn't figure to be—but at least it would be a clash between the two heavyweights who might slip into the spotlight in the wake of Louis and Conn.

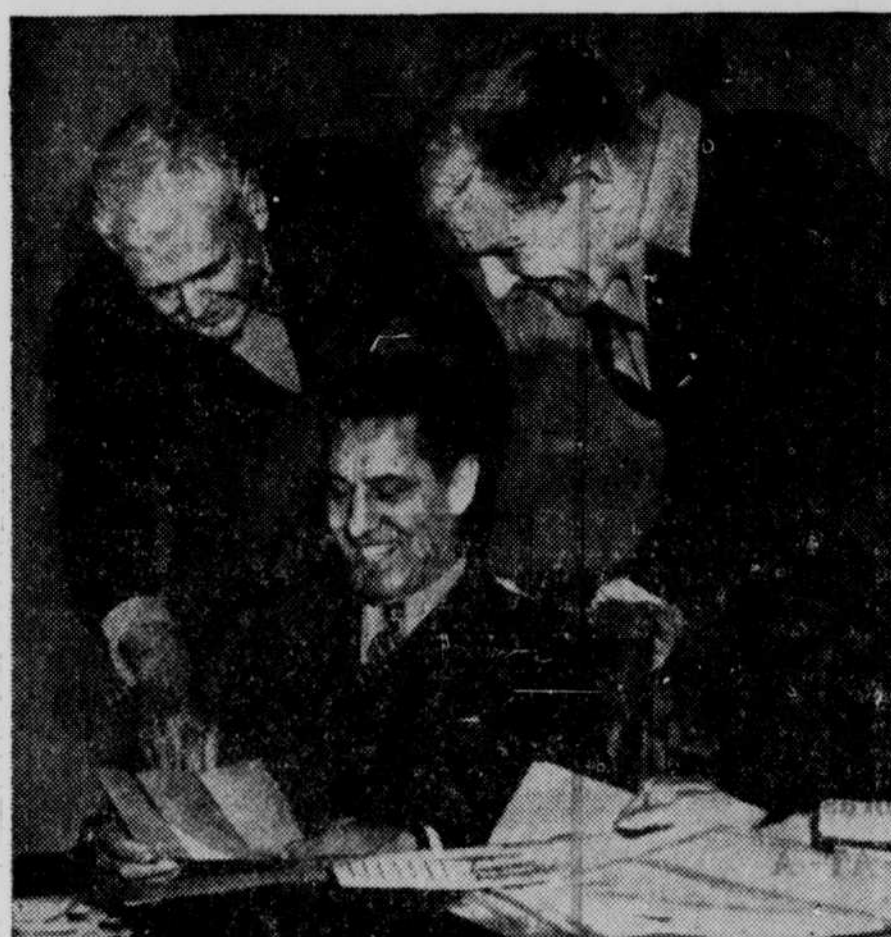
Financially, the sooner such a fight is scheduled, perhaps the better. There has been an abnormal amount of loose money around. The amazing thing is that during the five years intervening between the first and second Louis - Conn parties, no other heavyweight has been developed who has any class. One might think that over a five-year period, during which so much boxing was taught in the army and navy, some challenger would have been found. So far this is only an idle dream. Up to date no such animal has been developed.



CONGRESSMEN OFF TO PHILIPPINES . . . Seven senators and representatives left Washington airport for a round-the-world tour during which they expect to participate in the celebration at Manila marking Philippine independence. Left to right: Gen. H. L. George; Rep. Karl LeCompte (R., Ia.); Rep. J. W. Robinson (D., Utah); Vernon Moore, secretary, Filipino rehabilitation commission; Sen. Hugh Butler (R., Nebr.); Rep. Fred Crawford (R., Mich.); J. Weldon Jones, President Truman's representative; Sen. Allen Ellender (D., La.); Rep. George Miller (D., Calif.); Sen. Owen Brewster (R., Maine); and Brig. Gen. Carlos Romulo, resident commissioner of the Philippines.



This air view shows tons of water being pumped into the oil-fed fire that blazed in four slips of the St. George ferry terminal on Staten Island. A number of persons were trapped in the buildings. Nine alarms quickly sounded, summoning every piece of apparatus available and three fireboats.

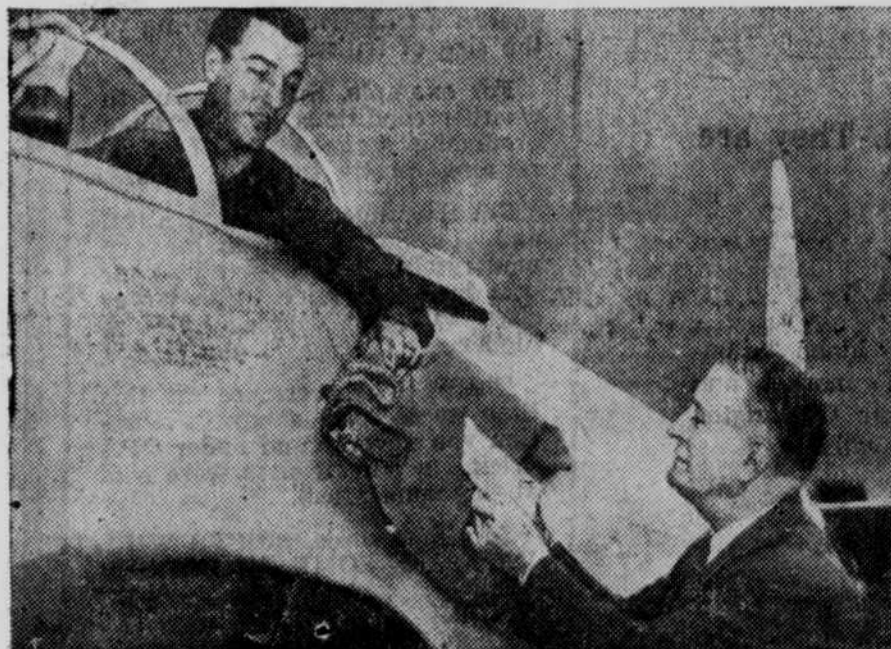


INDIANS SELL OUT . . . The Cleveland Indians baseball team was sold after almost a week of negotiations and offers. Acceptance of an offer by Bill Veck of Chicago and his associates was made by Alva Bradley, ex-president of the Indians, for his former stockholders. Photo shows, left to right, Joseph Hostetler, attorney for Bradley and now secretary for the new combine; Harry Grabiner, new vice president and treasurer, and Bill Veck, new president of the club.



OWNER OF CROWN JEWELS . . .

A photo of the Countess Von Hesse, princess of Prussia, as she looked in the days when Hitler and Goering were entertained at her Kronberg castle. It was from this castle that the Hesse-Darmstadt jewels were stolen.



SPEED RECORD . . . The fastest airmail delivery in the history of the United States was accomplished when a P-80 jet propelled plane carrying mail left Schenectady, N.Y., and arrived in Washington, D.C., in 49 minutes. Capt. Robert Baird, pilot, of Clarksdale, Miss., is handing the pouch and a letter from W. Stuart Symington, assistant secretary of war for air, to Vincent Burke, postmaster at Washington. The plane reached a top speed of 580 miles an hour.



CONGRATULATIONS . . . Superintendent of schools, Vierling Kersey, presents Gus Johnson Jr., North Hollywood (Calif.) high school graduate, his diploma, as the youth, paralyzed from waist down, reclines on a stretcher.



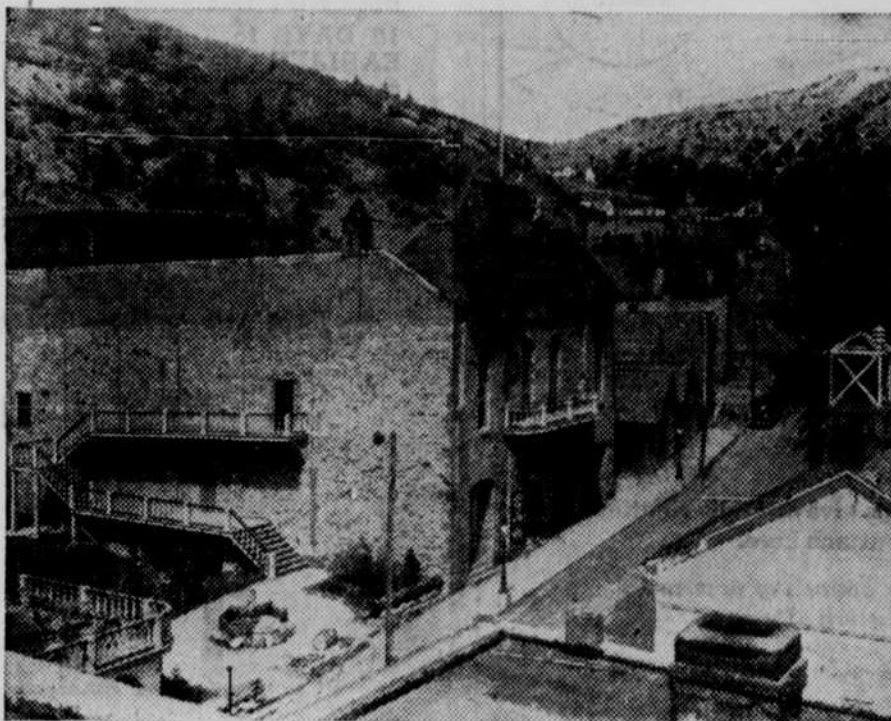
MIGHTY ATOM . . . The grim secret and the revelation of the horrifying effects of radioactivity following the atom bombing of Japan was given the world here by a man of science who saw it. He is Col. Paul D. Keller, 98th division surgeon stationed at Osaka. He asserted Jap scientists knew the "how" of the atom bomb but could not put it to work. The above picture, furnished by Colonel Keller, shows the twisted remains of a railroad right-of-way in the bombed area.



COLOSSUS OF THE SKIES . . . The 220-foot hull of the world's largest cargo plane, designed and built by Howard Hughes, is moved from the Culver City (Calif.) plant to Terminal Island. Built almost entirely of wood, the \$20,000,000 craft—capable of carrying 700 persons—will now be assembled in a \$150,000 graving dock. Ten cities and towns and other subdivisions co-operated in moving the big plane.



U. S. COMBATS DENTAL DECAY . . . The use of fluorine to control dental decay, the most prevalent disease in the world, is being studied in Miami county, Ohio, where U. S. public health officials are checking results of tests conducted on 1,200 school children less than 15 years old.



PIONEER OPERA HOUSE . . . Historic old Central City (Colo.) opera house, built during the mining boom, is open again this summer after a four-year wartime blackout. Metropolitan Opera stars in Mozart's "The Abduction From the Seraglio" and Verdi's "La Traviata" are playing there from July 6 to July 28.



ATOM BOMB . . . Mrs. Caroline Swancutt, left, mother of Maj. Woodrow Swancutt, who was selected to pilot the plane carrying the atom bomb over Bikini, receiving telegrams from friends. Seated next to her is Swancutt's sister, Mrs. Ralph M. Sloan.



SCIENTIST . . . Dr. Abraham Freilich, who has discovered a simple antidote to rescue persons who try suicide by taking overdoses of sleeping medicine. The drug, which also helps avert pneumonia, is called amphetamine (benzedrine) sulphate.



EXECUTIVE . . . The first woman in Tokyo to hold executive position as head of a business establishment, Mrs. Yoshiko Matsuda.



ANSWERS CHARGES . . . Ruth Mitchell, sister of the late Gen. Billy Mitchell, answered charges of Nazi collaboration by General Mihalovich with the charge that America is appealing the Russians by permitting them to prosecute.



MRS. CHURCHILL HONORED . . . Mrs. Winston Churchill, wife of Britain's wartime premier, is shown in academic robes after receiving an honorary degree of doctor of laws at Glasgow university.