

There was an old roofer from Goshen Who liked to stroll swimmers in motion. When he strolled on the beach And spotted a peach His wife made him look at the ocean!



Under the spreading chestnut tree the village smithy rolled; The meat bill in his brawny hand had knocked the smithy cold



There was an old roofer from West Shore Who never touched laser or swore. His wife used to say His bowl watching each day— His wife had been married before!

AMERICAN LEAGUE SLOWER, SAYS TUB

Rotund Catcher Who Came Back Contents Ban's Loop Not as Fast Now.

IS IN POSITION TO KNOW

Tubby Spencer, "the man who came back," contends that the American league is not as fast today as it was in 1905, when he first broke in as a catcher for the St. Louis Browns. Spencer, who staged a remarkable "comeback" with the Detroit Tigers last season, bases his argument on the difference in pitching, and quotes no less an authority than Umpire Bill Dineen in support of his contention.

If this is reason Ban Johnson may be depended upon to make the most of it. Undoubtedly Ban is not overjoyed to learn that one of his own hired men is advertising the fact that the American league has lost some speed.

Spencer's opinion is mildly shocking, coming as it does just after a season of American league triumphs. By comparison with the National league last season, the American stood out as the one major league. Tub's rating, therefore makes an awful "bum" of the National. Maybe that will gain Johnson's forgiveness.

In Position to Know. Spencer surely is in a position to back up his arguments. He was a fine catcher and hitter when he first joined the Browns, but the primrose path led downward for him. Tub acquired a reputation as the American league's greatest packer of liquid refreshment. He gained so much weight that the nickname he bears was attached to him and became so slow that he passed into the minors, where he spent several years in different leagues.

Two years ago Tub clambered on the wagon for keeps and made such a fine record in the Pacific Coast league last summer that the Detroit club grabbed him in midseason. Spencer caught twenty-four games for the Tigers and hit over .300. Because of the fact that he was out of touch with American league ball for so many years, Tub is eminently qualified as a critic. Had he remained in the league continuously he might not have noted gradual changes, but coming back after a long absence he was struck with the difference in the pitching.

Improves With Age. The average ball player, after ten years, would be inclined to overrate the company because of his own fading ability. Many critics believe Spencer is a better man today than he was in 1905, and some explain his views by assuming that he finds the league slower because he is faster himself than in 1905.

Tub winds up and delivers as follows: "I know you'll think I'm stringing you out, but I'm convinced that the ball played there now is not as good nor as fast as that played when I broke in with St. Louis in 1905.

"I started an argument with Cobb about this same thing one day this fall and he told me that I was catching better ball now than when I broke in, and naturally I would think that the class of ball had deteriorated, since it was easier to get by now than it was in 1905.

"Then I ran across Bill Dineen, now an umpire in the big show, but who was a pitcher with the Red Sox in 1905. I asked Bill what he thought about my side of the argument, and he told me there wasn't a doubt in his mind that the ball of his day was faster than that of today. Now, his opinion must count for something, doesn't it?

Look Over Old Pitchers. "Take the pitching of 1905. No matter what club you stacked up against, you met a good pitcher every day, and a mighty good one at that. Pick up one of the old guides and see for yourself. The Athletics had Waddell, Cokley, Bender and Plank; the Yanks had Chesbro, Orth, Griffith and Hogg; Detroit had Donovan, Mullin and Killian; Boston had Cy Young, Tannhill and Dineen. Then there were Jess, Altrock, Rhodes, Smith, Doc White, Owen, Moore, Otto Hess, Ed Walsh, Tom Hughes and a dozen others.

"What have you now? Outside of the Red Sox there isn't a team in the American league that can show you a top-liner every day."

Appraisal Board Has Record Year

During the year the appraisal committee of the Omaha Real Estate board has become popular. For years the board has had an appraisal committee, but it did only a small business. During this year the committee decided to do some business worth while. Letters were sent to the banks, the business concerns and corporations. The result was that the committee was called upon to make appraisements this year more than ever before and did a volume of business much greater than any similar committee of the board has done in the past.

The public is beginning to realize that it can get service out of this committee and is learning to know where to look for an appraisal committee. The Real Estate board hopes to continue to build up this appraisal business from year to year.

Courts in Omaha have during the last year come to make use of this committee to some extent in getting appraisals, and administrators of estates have taken advantage of its services. The committee consists of E. R. Benson, J. T. Tehbins, C. A. Gimmel, J. W. Rast and Ed Garvin.

Pi Way, Late of Yale, Wants an Early Start

Pi Way, late of Yale, has asked to go south with McGraw's first-look squad for the benefit to be derived from the training school.

EIGHTH MRS. MCCOY SAYS SO LONG KID

Hero of Many a Battle, in Prize Ring and Home, Must Start Over Again.

ONE WIFE AFTER ANOTHER

Kid McCoy's eighth marriage has failed to take. The ex-pugilist, who is known as Norman Selby in private life, was sued in the supreme court for a divorce by Mrs. Edna Valentine Selby, who has found the going too fast for her in McCoy's latest bout with Kid Cupid.

McCoy, who was once welterweight champion of the world, is now conceded to hold the divorce championship at any weight. Altogether seven matrimonial training partners have caused him to take the count in the courts. One woman came back for a return match twice after she had won decisions over the Kid, but finally left the prize fighter to go on with his record as an intermittent husband.

According to Emil Fuchs, counsel for the current Mrs. Selby, who was the daughter of one of the Valentine brothers, wealthy mining men of South America, McCoy's recent duties as orderly with a National Guard regiment from New York on the border stimulated his desire to keep on the move constantly. When he returned last September, the lawyer's story went on, the Kid kept moving everywhere except toward his own home, and Mrs. Selby, putting scouts on his trail, became convinced his errands were not concerned with saving his country.

Took Trunks and Punch. The detectives learned that the Kid had taken his trunks and the famous "corkscrew punch" to the Hotel Seville, and they waited to see what else the Kid might install in his suite. Two days ago they were rewarded, according to their reports, by observing "a doll-faced blonde with saucer-like eyes of blue" enter, and the detectives, breaking in, found some evidence.

The name of the co-respondent was not made known and unless this divorce is added to the Kid's other trophies and the identity of the saucer eyes is made known congratulations for any one would be decidedly bad form.

In the Order of Appearance. Mrs. Selby met the expert on rings—prize and wedding—when she was Mrs. Hein, wife of the vice consul for Honduras in this city, with whom she lived until the Kid's celebrated right tattooed her husband's eye.

The Heins were dining at an uptown restaurant one evening in 1909 when McCoy passed and, the husband averred, his athletic figure drew a bow from Mrs. Hein.

Later when Hein came back to the table after having stepped out a few moments, he found he had made a tactical blunder, for the Kid, executing a flank movement, was now in possession of his chair and accompanying the orchestra on the cello.

Afterward the Kid, not relishing the husband's linking of his name with Mrs. Hein, dropped his flat into Hein's eye.

Mrs. Hein obtained a divorce and in the summer of 1911 she became the pugilist's latest bride. Before her temporary home on his affection was held by—but the Kid's "scrapped" romances must be taken up in chronological order to avoid confusion.

He started out unpretentiously enough in 1894 with Lottie Piehler as his bride, but she dropped him the next year. Then came Charlotte Smith in 1897, whose romance wore out even more quickly. In the same year he made a determined effort to get used to married life, taking Mrs. Julia Crosselman for his bride, but he couldn't stand the strain more than three years.

In 1901, however, they had managed to live down the memories of their marriage and so took a fresh start. The second marriage rubbed off in the fall, but after a pleasant little vacation from each other's company they decided in the following spring to come back more.

Links Into Past. By this time they were growing really tired of revamped honeymoons, and finally in 1904 Mrs. Crosselman, Selby obtained the third divorce that converted her married life with the fighter into a past performance. Then Indianola Arnold, an actress, filled a brief engagement as the Kid's wife. In 1905 Mrs. Edward C. Ellis, widow of the grandson of the founder of the Ellis Locomotive Works, was started in the role—started in it because her marriage with the Kid lasted for the unprecedented run of five years.

Firm of A. P. Tukey & Son Is First in New Building

The first firm to move into the new First National bank building at Sixteenth and Farnam streets was that of A. P. Tukey & Son. It has taken space on the sixth floor of the building just in front of the elevator. The Tukeys believe in moving in the dead of winter. In February, 1915, this firm moved at 6 o'clock in the morning of a cold day. There was a reason. Fire was eating the heart out of the old Board of Trade building, where their office was located. They saved what they could at 6 o'clock in the morning and by 9 o'clock had started negotiations to sell the ruins and the ground to the First National bank for a location for a new bank building. The deal was closed, the bank built, and now this real estate firm is moving back to the old location where it spent a happy twenty years.

Prune Orchard Pays

When "Dutch" Leonard, star southpaw of the Boston Red Sox, is necessary to play any benefits for the native Californians. He has invested in prune orchards. From some of his earlier investments he is already drawing down a nice dividend.

MIKE DONLIN RUNS A BOX FIGHT CLUB

Former Base Ball Star Is Matchmaker for New Club in Havana, Cuba.

HE WANTS WELSH-KILBANE

New York, Dec. 23.—"Mike" Donlin, one-time leading slugger of the Giants, is filling a new role. He is a boxing promoter and he is trying to match "Freddie" Welsh and "Johnny" Kilbane for a forty-round bout at Havana, to be held some time in February. However, there is little chance of the match being made, for Welsh demands \$50,000, win, lose or draw.

Donlin is associated with Hugh Grant Browne and Charles Henshall, who, according to Donlin, are building a big athletic arena in Havana, ten minutes' ride from the heart of the city. He says it is a \$3,000,000 proposition and will be the scene of horse racing, automobile racing, boxing and base ball. Donlin further declares that the arena is rapidly nearing completion and that the promoters have been promised that it will be completed early in January.

"We expect to start playing base ball there about January 10," said "Mike." "We will have two Cuban teams and one American team. We discussed this phase of the sporting program with 'Mike' Cantillon, and he thinks that his brother Joe will favor sending the Minneapolis team to Cuba to train for the American association. The Minneapolis club could engage in games with the two Cuban teams on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, the three days that will be devoted to base ball until about April 1, when the players could start for home, arriving in time to open the American association season about April 15."

Donlin had a long conference with Harry Pollok, Welsh's manager. Pollok demanded \$50,000 for Welsh's end. Donlin declared this was prohibitive.

"However, I intend to have another talk with Pollok," said Donlin, "and we may be able to agree upon terms for a forty-round championship bout with Kilbane. In the meantime I already have opened negotiations for a forty-round bout between Frank Moran and Fred Fulton; in fact, I have Moran's verbal agreement to go to Havana to fight Fulton."

Michigan Aggies to Play Huskers, Notre Dame, Northwestern

East Lansing, Mich., Dec. 23.—Northwestern university and Syracuse university are on the football schedule of the Michigan Agricultural college for 1917, which was completed today. The game with the University of Michigan has been set for October 20, with the place of playing it to be decided later.

The schedule follows: October 6—Alma college at East Lansing. October 13—Kalamazoo college at East Lansing. October 20—University of Michigan. Place not decided. October 27—University of Nebraska at East Lansing. November 5—University of South Dakota at East Lansing. November 12—Northwestern university at Evanston, Ill. November 17—Notre Dame at South Bend. November 24—Syracuse university at East Lansing.

Christmas Shoot For Turkeys for Omaha Marksmen

Scattered marksmen who have palates adjusted to the delicious taste of choice turkey plan on capturing enough to provide Christmas dinner at the poultry shoot at the Omaha Gun club this afternoon, starting at 1:30.

A number of choice turkeys, with an accompanying number of geese and ducks, will be offered as prizes to the winning marksmen. The turkeys are the choice birds and Ray Kingsley, Henry McDonald, Bert Dixon, Doc Frye, Frank Ellison, Art Keeline and the rest of the sharks are going to have some tough competition.

"It costs your weight in gold to buy turkeys nowadays," quoth one merry marksman, as he cleaned up one old shotgun, "and watch me collect."

Benefit Card for John Gilsey Friday

A benefit, at which most of the boxers and wrestlers living in Omaha will appear, will be held at Washington hall Friday for Johnny Gilsey, former western welterweight champion, who is down and out in Omaha owing to illness.

Gilsey has been in Omaha eight months. During a large part of this time he has been confined to a hospital with heart and nervous troubles. Gilsey was one of the best pugilists in the business before he became ill. He fought such top notchers as Stanley Ketchell. His last fight was with Art Magirl four years ago. He knocked Magirl out in the third round.

George Medlock will be master of ceremonies at the benefit.

Matrimony is Favorite Sport for Detroit Lads

Three Detroit athletes who have achieved nation-wide fame are soon to marry.

Mike Donlin Becomes Sporting Promoter



MIKE DONLIN.

Mike Donlin, former idol of the base ball diamond, has become a sure enough promoter. He has become identified with a combination which plans to produce base ball, boxing matches and horse racing in Havana, Cuba. It is said that a stadium is now under construction in Havana, which will be ready about the middle of January, when base ball will be started. Donlin expects to get some of the big league teams training in Florida to jump over to Havana and play exhibition games. Games with a city league club to be formed in Havana are also planned.

TINKER AND WILSON BUY COLUMBUS CLUB

Former Club Manager Arranges to Purchase Ohio City Association Franchise.

DEAL COMPLETED SOON

Columbus, O., Dec. 23.—Joseph Tinker, former manager of the Chicago National league club, tonight arranged to buy the franchise of the Columbus American association league team for himself and Thomas Wilson of Chicago.

Tinker announced that a partial payment had been made for the Columbus franchise and that the deal would be completed before June 3.

There Are Batteries in Base Ball and in Autos

When Joe Cantillon attended the American association meeting in Indianapolis recently he was the guest of Jack Hendricks at the latter's home. Hendricks planned to take Cantillon for an early morning ride in his auto and sent his young son out to warm up the machine. The lad came in to the breakfast table and said:

"Papa, the batteries are ready." "What's the idea?" asked Cantillon, "are we going to play a morning game?"

Lee Magee is Keeping Himself in Good Shape

Lee Magee, who is wintering in Cincinnati, is keeping in fine shape and looks for a big season next year. Lee suffered a great deal from injuries last season, at one time being laid up with an injured leg for more than three weeks. He is hoping for better luck in 1917.

The Horse in War

We go forward on foot into a region where the only vehicles are the long lines of military ambulances, along steel tracks filled with shells, which are horse drawn, and the water carts which are horse drawn, also. For the horse still has his part in war—a hard one as it ever was. As he can pass over rough ground he goes into areas where no motor vehicles except the armored motor cars called "tanks" may go. In the machinery of killing he is still man's friend. He brings a touch of life other than human into that dead world.—Frederick Palmer in Collier's.

Department Orders

Washington, Dec. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—Milton B. Davis has been appointed postmaster of Richard, Calhoun county, Ia. vice Robert L. Mott, resigned.

SOUTH ALUMNI FIVE SPEEDIEST

Take Tuck Out of Regulars and Win Game, Twenty-Seven to Twenty-One.

FASTEST OF THE SEASON

Alumni, 27; South High, 21.

Paul Shields, ably assisted by B. Nixon, came to the rescue of the Alumni last evening in their annual game with the South High school. Captain Lyman Corr and his fast packer five had the number of the graduates until Shields entered the fray in the second half. Shields and Nixon coupled together in some teamwork that netted seven baskets and a lead for the Alumni of six points at the finish.

The school team led the fight through the entire first half. Better basket shooting gave them a lead of 13 to 8. Corr shot the first basket, a difficult thing over the shoulder.

Soon after the opening of the second half Shields and Nixon designed a brand of team work that was brilliant. The big former Nebraska center began the offense by dribbling across the floor under his own basket, ending the flash of form by tossing without effort through the basket. Nixon's aggressiveness, along with the splendid guarding of McBride and Cohn, sealed all trouble that might have come from the high school.

Ray Wilson played a tremendously fast game despite his extreme size. Along with Captain Corr, he was a tireless worker. Wayne Emigh played a splendid game at guard.

THE LINEUP. SOUTH HIGH. ALUMNI. Graham.....R. P. G.....Lyman Wilson.....L. P. O.....M. Cohn Corbett.....C. G. P.....M. Nixon Emigh.....R. G. P.....A. Cohn Eiter.....G. H. P.....McBride

President Gives Turkeys to White House Employees

Washington, Dec. 23.—President Wilson's Christmas celebration began today. Turkeys were distributed to all married White House employees, while by express and mail gifts for the president arrived from all parts of the United States.

In addition to presents sent Mr. Wilson by personal friends, he received remembrances from admirers unknown to him personally. There was holly and mistletoe by the barrel and books of many descriptions.

The president has no engagement before Tuesday and plans to spend tomorrow and Monday quietly with members of his family. The large Christmas tree for the children at the White House was put in place today.

Navy Department Holds on To Oil Land Reservations

Washington, Dec. 23.—Efforts of a joint congressional committee to agree on legislation for the relief of claimants to lands in California naval oil preserves came to an abrupt end today when the Navy department, through Secretary Daniels, refused to yield to any compromise proposals.

The attitude of the navy imperils the mineral lands conservation bill which had been before congress for several years and in the opinion of committee members will prevent action at this session.

The disagreement with the navy has been over the Phelan amendment, which would grant relief to private claimants of California oil lands affected by government withdrawals of 1909.

Two weeks ago a subcommittee of each house was appointed, with Senator Pittman as chairman, and with Representatives of the Navy and Interior departments co-operating. Today it abandoned its work when it received from Secretary Daniels flat rejection of compromise proposals suggested by the committee and the general land office.

Important Irrigation Suit to Be Tried at Lead

Lead, S. D., Dec. 22.—(Special.)—Judge James McNanny on January 5 will hear one of the most important law suits that has come up before the circuit court in years. The suit was brought up a year ago by Joseph Cook and others and involved hundreds of persons, as well as the Homestead company. The turning of the waters of Spearfish out of its true channel, and the resultant lack of irrigation waters to farmers along the old route, is the complaint in the action. With many of the parties water rights have been held for thirty years and more, and these parties have been brought into the suit, who will establish in court title to such claims. In this respect it is estimated the case will take up a month or more. Attorneys Hayes and Heffron of Deadwood will represent the plaintiffs and Kellar and Stanley of Lead and Martin and Mason of Deadwood the defendants.

DARCY WILL SUB FOR JESS WILLARD

Circumstances Now Indicate Australian Will Be Opponent of Georges Carpentier.

WOULD BE A GREAT BOUT

New York, Dec. 23.—That Les Darcy will be substituted in place of Jess Willard against Georges Carpentier looks highly probable now. Tex Rickard is fast becoming convinced that a match between the gigantic young champion and the young French idol would be a mistake in every way. Sporting men are practically unanimous in predicting that the champion would be altogether too big for Georges, and Rickard, who always tries to please, is ready to sign Darcy as soon as the latter makes his appearance on the scene.

Rickard always consults the public taste, which is the one reason for his tremendous success as a promoter. He listens to the public and then gives it what it thinks it wants, and then promoters press on bouts of their own choosing, and then proceed to try and make the public like them, which is a hard thing to do.

Rickard has never been wrong on the drawing power of a match. The Nelson-Gans match, his first venture as a fight promoter, broke the record for gate receipts for lightweights. The Jeffries-Johnson affair more than doubled any previous gate receipts, and the Willard-Moran bout outdrew all other ten-round contests. The last two bouts did not result in great contests, but that was not Rickard's fault. There was a great demand for the matches, and Rickard merely gave the public what it asked for.

Disastrous Aftermath. So far every match Rickard has staged has broken a record, and if the Willard-Carpentier affair goes through there is no doubt that it will break all records for no-decision bouts, but the aftermath is likely to be disastrous. Since Rickard means to continue as a promoter of boxing at the Madison Square Garden it would be foolish for him to risk losing the popularity that materially helped to make his matches successful financially.

Rickard was not scored on account of the Jeffries flivver and the Moran fiasco, because there was a genuine demand for those battles. There is no demand for a Willard-Carpentier bout. It was never even surmised that such a match was possible until a few weeks ago when Rickard first informed various sporting writers of his plans after binding them to secrecy.

Demand for Darcy. There is a great demand, of course, to see the famous Frenchman in action, and there also is a great demand to see the equally famous Les Darcy show his form. Circumstances have miraculously arisen which make it possible to stage these two in the one ring, and it would be flying in the face of fortune to pass it up in favor of a match that no one wants.

The demands of Willard's managers are absurdly high, which is another reason for substituting Darcy. The Australian would come much cheaper and he would be sure to pack the Garden at the highest prices. Willard could do no more than that.

It is unfortunate for Willard, but his great size really is a detriment in one way. His great bulk spoils every match that might be arranged, and for that reason he is not as valuable to a promoter as a moderate-sized champion would be. For exhibition purposes—and that is all a short, no-decision bout can be called—he is not a great success. He proved to be a great card with Moran, because it was his first bout as champion and ring followers were curious to see the man who defeated Johnson. Having seen, they were satisfied that he is a real champion, and that no one is likely to beat him, but there is no particular desire to see him maul a man almost 100 pounds lighter than himself.

Wyckoff Buys Taxicabs With World's Series Kale

Weldon Wyckoff, a member of the Boston Red Sox pitching staff, is the owner and manager of the leading taxicab service of his home in Williamsport, Pa. It is said that since the close of the big series the number of cabs in the service has been materially increased.

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