"Pals, Dear Old Pals" — Maybelle, the three-gaited mare, puckers up for a kiss after Polly, the parrot, broke the sad news that the two pals must soon part. They're fellow thespians, members of the Railroad Fair, but soon they'll be auctioned off for less glamorous roles.

THE FARM FRONT

"There's nothing sure," according to the old saying, "but death and taxes." Maybe so. But I wouldn't mind making a small wager that there are at least a couple of things almost as sure as the certainties in the saying.

* * *

First is that along about next December, if you were to listen carefully to your radio, you would hear somebody singing "I'm Longing for a White Christmas" or else "Holy Night." Possibly both.

* * *

Second — that if you scanned all the Farm Columns published throughout the land, along about this season you would find some advice about how to store fruit and vegetables for winter use. Now that you've been warned, you can either read on or take a second look at our Fall Fair pictures. The advice which follows is that of D. V. Fisher, a Federal Department of Agriculture specialist.

* * *

Freshness and flavour can be retained, and wastage reduced to a minimum by careful attention in providing the correct temperature and humidity conditions necessary for good storage. A room that can be held at approximately 40 degrees, and at a relative humidity of 80 to 90 per cent provides generally satisfactory storage for most fruit and vegetables.

* * *

If the homeowner is fortunate enough to have a cool frost-free basement or a cool provision room, he can store his winter supply of potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, onions and apples with a minimum of care. This room should preferably be insulated from the rest of the house and placed on the north side of the building with a window which can be opened and closed.

* * *

The room should contain a thermometer and in fall and spring weather, the window opened at night and closed in the day time to obtain the advantage of cool night air. In the winter time the window may be slightly opened or kept entirely closed as required to keep temperature from dropping below about 38 deg. F, which is as low as potatoes should be stored.

* * *

Even with proper control of temperature, commodities such as cabbage, carrots, beets, turnips and apples suffer severely from wilting if not protected from low humidity. The humidity of the storage room can be maintained at a fairly satisfactory level by keeping damp peat moss or sawdust under a slatted false floor.

* * *

However, even under these conditions carrots, turnips and beets suffer from shrivelling and these vegetables should be placed in boxes and covered with slightly damp sand or peat moss so as just to cover the top layer. Stored in this way, carrots may be removed in fresh, bright turgid condition in May. The window in the storage room should be darkened as much as possible to prevent sprouting and greening of potatoes, onions and carrots.

* * *

For the city apartment family who buy their vegetables only a few days ahead of use, the refrigerator vegetable crisper should be used freely to maintain freshness of leafy vegetables. Carrots, beets, turnips and cabbage should be left in as cool a place as possible, and enclosed in cellophane bags or other fairly moisture proof container to reduce shrivelling to a minimum. Proper care of fresh produce redues waste and improves palatability.

P.S.: I don't know what "Turgid" means either, but that's what the man said.

REAL SERVICE

A man boarded a train at New York and told the porter: "Now, porter, here's $5. I want you to wake me tomorrow morning and get me off this train at South Bend. I sleep heavily, and I'll fight you and tell you anything to go on sleeping, but get me off this train at South Bend.

The porter thanked him and promised the man he'd get him off at South Bend for sure. However, the next day the man woke up in Chicago, with South Bend far behind. He stormed up to the porter, who was talking to the conductor, and told him off in no uncertain terms before he went to get a train back to South Bend.

"My, that man was angry," said the conductor.

"That nuthin'," said the porter. "You should of heard the man I did put off at South Bend."

From police daybook in Milwaukee: See the bulletin board for the list of officers to shoot for target practice.

SPORTS & by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Three years ago Rocky Graziano was banished—on account of various delinquencies, misdemeanors and so forth—from New York Rings. Fight fans whose memories travel back that far will probably recall that, at the time, it looked very much as though the banishment would be permanent.

* * *

For there wasn't the slightest doubt that Rocky had been a bad, bad boy. His record in war and in peace, in the ring and out of it, was —to put it mildly—pedicular. Excepting for one quality, Graziano had about as much chance of ever again appearing before a Manhattan fight mob as—well, as Joe Stalin has of being elected president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

* * *

But that particular quality happened to be exactly the one which, in the fight racket, covers all the sins in the entire calendar. Rocky Graziano could always draw the cash customers in highly-paying quantities; and what between a succession of sour fights and an increasing number of boxing bugs who preferred to take the sport in comfort, over the teleo waves, characters of his ilk were badly needed.

* * *

So nobody at all familiar with the screwy happenings of sportdom, especially the pugilistic section thereof, was too greatly astounded when the word came that between Rocky and the New York boxing solons, all had been forgiven and forgotten. (Perhaps "forgotten" is going a trifle too far. We, personally, have a suspicion that if Rocky had failed to draw a gate, or given a poor account of himself, he might again have found himself on the outside, looking wistfully in.)

* * *

But this, like all proper sport tales —except a few that the late Ring Lardner wrote—has a happy ending. A week or so ago, as he strode ringwards in the Polo Grounds, his head swung from side to side, and his beady black eyes seemed to be—and probably were—engaged in the good old custom of mentally "counting the house."

* * *

What those eyes saw must have been reassuring. For there were just a few short of thirty-two thousand sports lovers, and the shouts which rang in his ears were, on the whole, friendly. Thirty-two thousand are a whole lot of people to attend a non-title fight of any kind these days—and that was what Rocky was engaged in, his opponent Charlie Fusari belonging to another stratum of boxing society, the welterweight division.

* * *

Rocky's three years of exile hadn't dewinded the balloon of his self-confidence to any noticeable degree. "I'll take care of the salami in one round or less" was his boast, and he tore out of his corner with a scowl on his countenance as though he expected Fusari to jump the ropes from sheer fright.

* * *

Fusari, however, just plain refused to scare. And for the biggest part of the first nine rounds Mr. Graziano looked as though he had forgotten to pack his fighting ability along with the self-confidence. Most of his swings missed Fusari by at least a foot; and once he lunged so clumsily at his shiftier opponent that he fell flat on his face.

* * *

All the while Fusari was doing a neat job of pinking on the Graziano features, scoring with left jabs and opening eye-cuts with solid right hands. Going into the final round, the officials' score cards showed Fusari out in front and, in all probability, a decisive winner on points.

* * *

And then—well, either Fusari just plain ran out of gas, or else Rocky managed to get a refill from somewhere. Graziano, with his bleeding mouth wide open in that old familiar snarl kept boring in, hurting Fusari now, finally slamming Charlie into the ropes and clubbing him to the floor.

* * *

Fusari gamely got up; but by now Rocky had too much strength. He kept Charlie trapped against the ropes, wedged into a corner and—according to some observers—literally choking him with one hand while banging him unmercifully with the other. (He might very well have been disqualified— but somehow or other, those crowd-drawers and mob-pleasers don't appear to disqualify as readily as less colorful boxers.)

* * *

So the fight was stopped, and victory given to Graziano, with fifty-six seconds still to go in the tenth round. Rocky's reaction to victory was typical of the man. "Don't I do a real job on them welterweights?" he crowed delightedly—completely overlooking the fact that he, as a middleweight, had enjoyed a 12 pound edge in the weights, and that it was the referee that had stopped the fight, not he that stopped Fusari.

Then later, when reporters asked Rocky how he thought he would do against a man his own size and weight — Champion Jake LaMotta for example, Graziano somehow or other seemed to lose his cockiness. "After all, me and Jake LaMotta is good friends" was his reply. Just a big, sweet, lovable kid—more sinned against than sinning, is probably the best thumbnail description you could dig up for Rocky Graziano, we suppose, unless you had five seconds or so to think up a better one.

* * *

But as we promised you earlier, this is a proper fight tale, the kind with a happy ending, Charlie Fusari lost nothing, not even prestige, through his defeat. Matter of fact he'll probably be in line for better bouts, more lucrative purses, because of his showing. And as for our hero—well, Rocky Graziano is in line for "the important dough" once again. We haven't heard, as yet, of any Hollywood studio readying a picture based on Rocky's life. But, judging of the future by the past, it shouldn't be long now.

Ancient Redwoods

Hundreds of seedlings of the Dawn Redwood, the ancient cousin of the California Redwoods recently discovered in China, have been planted along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Guatemala by Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, who has just returned from a fossil-hunting expedition to Oregon and British Columbia. Dr. Chaney last year went to China to convince himself that Metasequoia, as the Dawn Redwood is known to scientists, thought to have become extinct 20,000,000 years ago, is still thriving. He studied the living trees in China's interior, and brought back four seedlings and thousands of seeds. Fossils of the tree unearthed by Dr. Chaney and others indicate that it once ranged from Alaska to California.

High-Speed Scales

An electronic scale that weighs livestock at public markets with high accuracy and speed has been developed. The weighing is done through electrical impulses. When certain buttons are pressed, the weight, number and type of animal, name of the weigher and selling agency, and the date and time of weighing are automatically printed. The scale is accurate to within five pounds on loads up to 32,000 pounds.

Doctor, Doctor!

The Cadillac has a new, higher-compression engine. However, the illnesses of the 1948 model are retained as the car was completely altered for that model.—Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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