**A Royal Distraction**—Something caused a moment's sharp distraction as Britain's royal family was enjoying a command performance of a movie in London. Left to right, with varying expressions, are: Princess Elizabeth, the king, the queen and Princess Margaret.

# SPORTS-&

## by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Scanning the Notes on Science in a great metropolitan newspaper we ran across the brief description of a new invention which gives promise of becoming one of the most important innovations ever introduced into the world of Sport. In fact we cannot think of anything to compare it with, in its possible far-reaching effects, since some genius invented a battery which would fit into a jockey's hand, and put it to use for the improvement of the breed of Thoroughbred horses.

* * *

"The newest in football inventions," according to the generally trustworthy New York Times, "is a helmet ear piece filled with ammonia gas. The invention has been patented by Dr. W. D. Hershberger of the University of California at Los Angeles. Purpose? To enable a player on the field to receive instructions from the bench."

* * *

That's only the start of it, but we know that already you are beginning to get the idea, and to thrill with the possibilities of such a gadget. But let us get on with it, and not dally by the wayside.

* * *

Put a narrow-beam, voice modulated micro-wave generator on the bench—continues the Times piece—and the ammonia gas-filled ear piece in the quarterb ks headgear, and the coach can communicate with the huddle at will. "Might save penalties against the team when substitutes are illegally sent in with instructions from the coach," suggests Hershberger. Fill the pigskin itself with ammonia gas, he goes on, and the quarterback wouldn't even need an ear piece in his helmet. With the ball cocked behind his ear he can get such instructions from the bench as "The end going wide to the left is now open for a pass", or "Watch the opposing tackle coming in on your right."

* * *

As we have already intimated, the possibilities of ths sports inter-com. system—(and it was hardly necessary for The Times to say it comes from California. Where else could such a thing have originated?)—are limitless. Just imagine Lew Hayman of the Champion Montreal Alouettes—or Tedder Morris of the Argonauts—or any one of half a dozen other football coaches being able to talk to their quarter-backs, person-to-person at all times and tell them (the Q.B.'s) just how lousy they (the Q.B.'s) really are.

* * *

An enchanting prospect and we wish there was some way we could personally conceal ourself within that gas-filled pigskin and catch an earfull; although first, of course, we would want a written guarantee from the inventor that ammonia gas is not a high explosive.

* * *

Dr. Hershberger, at least in the item quoted, seems to have visualized his great invention as an adjunct only of the game of football. But think of it as applied to other sports—such as, for instance, baseball.

* * *

As each succeeding year mud-turtles by, baseball tends to become—at least to those who take it via the newspaper or radio route—a gripping struggle, not between eighteen uniformed athletes on the diamond, but between a couple of deep-thinking master-minds on the bench.

* * *

This year's World Series, as you will recall, was widely ballyhooed as a duel of wits between the world-renowned strategist, Burt Shotton of Brooklyn, and the equally eminent tactician, Casey Stengel of the New York Yankees. And in the inevitable post mortems, it appeared that the reason the Dodgers failed was simply because the hired help failed to follow Mr. Shotton's instructions, whereas the Yanks did just what Mr. Stengel mapped out for them; although we, in our innocence, had the idea that the New York may have won partly because they got better and more timely hitting.

* * *

But with this new invention, those managers will be able to relay their instructions directly to the pitchers, with no possibility of signs being misread, or stolen by the enemy. Gee, with that sort of a brain-battle going on, baseball games are liable to last for days before a decision is reached. Sometimes it seems, to this observer, that they already do so, for that matter, without any walkie-talkies.

* * *

Then, brethren, there is the matter of hockey—and that will be the day, or rather the evening, when the players go out on the ice, each equipped with a gas-filled helmet, through which he will be able to hear the coach instruct him just what moves to make, and exactly how to make them.

* * *

We have neither the time or space to go into the possibilities of this to the extent which they deserve; but just try and picture Milt Schmidt of the Bruins or Doug Bentley of the Black Hawks bearing down on the Maple Leaf zone, and Hap Day whispering—over the air waves—advice and instructions right into Turk Broda's ear about just how to play the expected shot.

* * *

Or, to go even further, just picture Coach Day equipped also with such a helmet, by which he can receive word from Conn Smythe, sitting in his upstairs coign of vantage, and Hap—in turn—passing along the Smythian commands to the help. Oh, brethren ! ! !

* * *

Sounds a bit far-fetched, even screwball, you say? Well, stranger things have happened ere this in the world of sports. And nuttier!

* * *

Still, on second thought, we doubt if this new invention will go very far. For, with each coach or manager so equipped, what would happen to the old familiar alibi of "we would have won if the players had done what I told them." Five will get you ten that no self-respecting coach or manager is going to be deprived of his greatest asset without a struggle to the very death. So take the bauble away, Doc Hershberger, and try to peddle it to the directors of those sports epics they film in Hollywood.

**Great Dancer Gone** — Acclaimed as the greatest tap-dancer that ever lived, Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson passed away at the age of 71. In addition to his dancing skill Bill was a remarkable sprinter, and could run backward faster than most men can forward. He was once timed doing 75 yards, backward, in 8 and 1/5 seconds; and if you think that's easy, just try it some time.

## Other Papers Pull Boners Too

**ANOTHER ATLAS**

E. P. is the new manager at Pittsfield Kroger store. He replaces P. M., who has tentative plans to move the state of Washington.—Pike County (Illinois) Republican.

**LEFT FOR SAFEKEEPING**

Mrs. F. has entirely recovered from her broken collarbone, but her knee is still in the hands of the doctor.—Cape May (New Jersey) Star and Wave.

**WANTED: NEW PASTRY COOK**

The bride's table was centred with a tired cake, circled with flowers.—Clarksburg (West Virginia) Exponent.

**WORK OF ART**

As Mr. B. mounted the platform, all eyes were fixed on the large red nose he displayed. Only years of patient cultivation could have produced an object of such brilliance. —Journal of Horticulture.

# THE FARM FRONT

## by John Russell

Even if the farm you operate is just of average size, your business is still too big and important to depend on memory. Writing things down should be a regular farm chore—a chore that can save you more money than you might think possible.

* * *

For instance, if you happen to forget about a bill for seed or repairs, your income tax will suffer; and there are lots of other ways in which proper bookkeeping can save you money and worry as well. Disputes over whether you have paid your neighbor for labor, seed, etc., can often be settled promptly by going to the account book and seeing the transaction recorded in black and white.

* * *

A well-kept account book also makes it possible for you to compare receipts and expenses of one year with another. This can be both interesting and profitable.

* * *

How can this bookkeeping chore on the farm be made as easy as possible? Here are some steps that may help you:

* * *

1. Get a good farm account book before the new year begins. But look out for hard-to-understand farm account books that crowd too much in too little space.

* * *

The farm account book should, and can, be simple. Farmers don't need the complicated bookkeeping systems used by business. You need a place to write down what you have bought and what you have sold, with dates and amounts. It can be just that simple.

* * *

2. The second point in making your bookkeeping easy is to have a definite place for the farm account book, and always keep it there. A pencil should be there, too, that no one is to borrow—ever!

* * *

With a good account book and a pencil handy, it is easy to write down every business deal on the day that it was made. The time required won't average five minutes per day.

* * *

It is a good idea to keep all receipts and sales-slips, also. These should have a definite place, the same as the farm record book. Cancelled cheques returned from the bank should be kept with the receipts and sales-slips.

* * *

3. Some bills may still be forgotten and not get into the account book. This will happen when payments are made in small amounts and no receipts are taken or given.

* * *

One way to prevent forgotten bills is to make a note of them on the spot, and place the note in your billfold. Put such notes in with receipts and sales-slips when the amount is recorded in the account book.

* * *

If the three points above are followed, the bookkeeping chore will not be too difficult. You will find it convenient to refer to the record book often, and you will have an easier time with your income tax form.

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Wanted: Intelligent worrier under 30. —Allentown (Pennsylvania) Morning Call.

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