SPORTS &

by A SIXBIT CRITIC

The second half of the Twentieth Century either started on January First, 1950, or won't start until January First, 1951. And although our personal belief is that the latter asumption is the correct one, we can think of a heap of things better worth losing sleep over.

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But there are a whole lot of editors and columnists who have jumped the gun, and gone ahead on the idea that this dear delightful century is already over the hump. So there have been lists and lists of the outstanding men and women—the most memorable events — the greatest horses — the best jockeys — and a whole lot more that we have already forgotten.

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The Associated Press has been takin polls of sports editors and sportcasters along such lines, and the latest news turned loose to an expectant world is that Jesse Owens was the greatest track-and field athlete to emerge since 1900.

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Our own vote would have been for big Jim Thorpe, the greatest all-round performer these eyes have ever had the pleasure of watching in action. However Thorpe's 1912 Olympic Decalthon honors were taken away from him on the grounds of professionalism; and this angle — also the fact that he had already been picked as the greatest footballer — may have influenced the experts in voting him no better than second in the track-and-field. The vote wasn't even close — 201 for Owens; 74 for Thorpe.

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It would be hard, at that, to find much fault with the selection of the tall Negro sprinter as tops. Ever since sport was organized and stop-watches were invented, hundreds of thousands — possibly millions — of athletes, male and female, have panted and perspired trying to smash established records. But never before — or since — did any one athlete do so much along those lines as Jesse Owens did one afternoon almost fifteen years ago — May 25, 1935 to be precise — at Ann Arbor, Michigan, while competing in a "Big Ten" track and field meet.

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Here, briefly, is what the long brunette actually did before heading for the showers that memorable day. Competing in the colors of Ohio State University he tied the 100 yard mark of 9 and 4/5 seconds. He scampered 220 yards on the flat in 20 and 3/10th seconds and skimmed the same distance over the low hurdles in 22 and 3/5ths. And somewhere, in among these chores, he rested up by broad-jumping 26 feet 8 and ¼ inches.

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These last three were all new world records; and as 200 meters happens to be a trifle shorter than 220 yards, these times were also accepted as new world marks for the metric distances as well. That is to say, between sunup and sundown, Mr. Owens tied one world's record and set five new ones — all of which were formally accepted as international standards.

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And even now, although new and more specialized crops of athletes have been hammering away at those marks for almost fifteen years, Owens still, at this writing, holds clear title to the 220 yard, the 200 meter, and the broad jump marks. So the folks who voted him into top position as a track-and-fielder assuredly weren't marking their "X's" for any raw hand.

But if you were to ask Jesse Owens about it, he'd tell you that the biggest kick he ever got out of athletics wasn't what he did that day over in Michigan. The following yea those great promoters of international good fellowship known as the Olympic Games happened to be held in a place called Berlin, where a guy named Adolph Hitler was chucking quite a swell.

* * *

Mr. Hitler was a strong believer in the moral, intellectual and physical superiority of the white races, especially the Nordics, over all others. The idea of a Negro kicking dust in his Heiling heroes' faces didn't appeal to Adolph a little bit; and although he managed to be on hand with the congratulations any time were German winners, he was always out having a snack of liverwurst or some such whenever Jesse Owens hit the wire in front.

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But if Jesse brooded over this neglect, he didn't let the gloom get down into his speedy dogs. And when the returns were all in and counted it was discovered that Owens had copped the 100 and 200 meter dashes, also the broad jump; and for good measure run a leg on the victorious 400 meter relay team.

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Putting it all in a couple of nutshells, at one time Owens either possessed outright, or held a joint share in, eight standard outdoor records, to say nothing of a whole mess of assorted indoor marks. Yes, indeed, anything but a raw hand was Jesse Owens when it came to picking them up and setting them down swiftly.

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We have already told you that Jim Thorpe came second in the voting; and if you're still interested, Paavo Nurmi, the Finnish distance runner, was in the third slot with a 31 vote total, just one ahead of Glen Cunningham, also a distance man.

* * *

In fifth place was Cornelius Warmerdam, whose amazing mark of 15 feet 7¾ inches is considered, by many, as the greatest individual feat ever performed in track. He had 12 votes, just three more than Mrs. Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, Olympic champion and world record holder, better known as "The Babe."

* * *

Seventh position went to Charlie Paddock the sprinter, who was followed, in that order, by Gunder Hagg, Swedish distance man, Bob Mathias, Olympic Decalthon champ, and Mrs. Fanny Blankers-Koen, the swift lady from Holland. It will be noted that there wasn't a Canadian on the list, and that those who do their athleting under the jolly old Stars and Stripes outnumbered all others by 7 to 3.

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Still, this latter might be partly accounted for by the fact that voting experts who do their experting under the same banner in all probability outnumbered those of other nations by an even bigger margin.

Outrunning His Horse— Jockey J Dowdeswell is thrown from his saddle in the Newent Handicap Chase run at Cheltenham. England. Looks like that 13 on his horse. Cadamstown, is an unlucky number

Maxim's Crown—Joey Maxim of Cleveland hold the trophy after winning the light heavyweight championship by a knockout over England's Freddy Mills in the 10th round of their London fight.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

An editorial writer in Wallace's Farmer asks a question which must have come to the minds of thousands who have been on the land during the past fifteen years or so, with the business of farming becoming more and more mechanized. The question is — WHAT IF YOU'D KEPT YOUR TEAM?

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It's only natural for a farmer to wonder how well off he'd be if he'd continued using horses as his chief motive power. He knows that without a tractor he'd have worked harder, or needed more hired help. But what about the comparative costs of feed for the horses, and "feed" for the tractor?

* * *

Well, the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics says feed cost per head for horses has gone up 135 per cent since 1935-39. Of course, a farmer bought his oats and hay from himself. That makes some difference.

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But compare this 135 per cent increase in feed cost per horse with the cost of new tractors—up 66 per cent. And the cost of gasoline—up 34 per cent. And the cost of tires—up 25 per cent.

* * *

It will be no news to anyone in the business of milk producing when I say that milk cows are a whole lot more work in the winter than during the rest of the year. But there are some of those winter chores which you can't slow down on, or cut out entirely, without feeling the results where it really hurts—in the old pocket-book, to be exact.

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And if you don't believe this, maybe the following account of some actual experiences will change your mind.

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Take feeding, for instance. Why not save labor by feeding grain and roughage just once a day?. Experimenters tried this on a bunch of Holsteins. Another group was fed in the usual way.

The twice-a-day eaters took 70 per cent more work. But they ate 10 per cent more alfalfa hay and turned out 6 per cent more milk. Even with the extra work, they showed a 4 per cent income advantage.

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So, if you have the time, you'll want to continue feeding twice daily.

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George Slater and son go a step farther. Their Holsteins are fed three times a day. Corn silage in the morning, with grain. Hay and silage at noon. Silage and hay again at night, with the second grain feed.

* * *

What about saving work by once-a-day milking? Milk yield would be sure to be disappointing. The oftener you milk good cows, the greater their daily production.

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Three-time milking has been shown to yield all the way from 6 to 20 per cent more milk than when you two-time cows. And four-time milking adds another 6 per cent. But most farmers don't favor that much work.

* * *

And why should they, when you can get a herd average of more than 600 pounds of fat with twice-a-day milking? That's what Carl Lueder, in the Middle West, did last year. At 618.3 pounds, Lueder's herd of grade Guernseys was the only herd to top 600. His average has gone up from 492 pounds in 1934.

* * *

A neighbor gave one reason for Lueder's high production—besides good cows — when he said: "Carl just lives with his cattle."

And he does things efficiently. His 23 cows get rapid machine milking. There's deep bedding on the concrete floor. And he hasn't been buying outside stock.

* * *

All these things have helped. No calf losses from Bang's, either. "We vaccinate all our young stuff," Carl explained.

Lueder also is a great believer in a regular routine—"so the cows get to know what's coming."

In winter, that means milking at six and six. But, in the morning, the Lueder herd is out for water during breakfast, doesn't get silage and grain until late. "Doesn't matter," says Carl, "just so it's regular."

* * *

You can give credit to careful feeding—along with breeding and management—for high herd records. Lueder, for instance, feeds a lot of silage—about 40 pounds per cow per day. Silage feeding starts in October, runs thru until May.

The Slaters start silage early, too. This winter, they started with grass silage. Later, they shifted to corn silage (grass freezes more), will finish up with grass silage again in the spring.

* * *

Walter Kruempel has a way of getting cows to eat more hay. "Feed them clover one time and alfalfa the next," he said. "Our Brown Swiss get 35 pounds of corn silage a day. No heavier, because I want them to consume all the hay they will."

What about grain? Jerry Spencer cautioned against over-feeding. "I feed according to production," he said, "until they get too high I do everything I can to hold a fresh cow's production down the first week or two. And none ever gets more than 14 pounds of grain a day."

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Slater agreed. "We don't have as much mastitis trouble as when we fed grain heavier," he said.

* * *

One common rule says 14 pounds of grain are about right for a cow producing two pounds of fat. Another rule says one pound of grain for each two and one-half pounds of milk with a high fat test, down to one pound for each four or five pounds of low-test milk.

* * *

But you can't go entirely by rules. There's an art to keeping a cow doing her best.

"If you see a cow come in at night, and she doesn't look as if she cares about eating, better watch her grain ration," suggests Spencer. "Some cows can handle a lot of grain, some can't."

Protein is important, too. So are ration "extras." Spencer always feeds iodized salt, because he's in a goiter region. Lueder makes regular use of a mixture containing trace minerals.

He also feeds a multiple vitamin preparation. Vitamin D is especially necessary in winter, when cows don't get much sunshine. It helps them assimilate calcium and phosphorus.

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Picked Up From Here And There

Another reason they call it horse sense is that horses don't bet on people.—Mason City Globe-Gazette.

There isn't much to worry about if a rival tries to imitate you. As long as he follows in your tracks, he can't get ahead of you.—Lake Mills Graphic.

A pessimist says life is like a vaudeville show. You keep thinking the next act will be better, and it isn't.—Oskaloosa Herald.

Knowledge and timber should not be much used until they are seasoned.- Guthrie Center Guthrian.

Isn't it funny how a tree will stand for years and years in one spot and then suddenly jump in front of a lady driver? — Humboldt Republican.

Another way some women show their age is by wearing comfortable shoes.—Mason City Globe-Gazette.

Eskimos, who had no disease until they had contact with white men, are now being subjected to that white man's plague, the income tax. — Webster City Freeman-Journal.

Making love is like making pie. All you need is a lot of crust and applesauce. — Humboldt Independent.

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