Practice Makes Par—Slammin' Sammy Snead gets off a long drive in a practice round. Watching are (left to right) Byron Nelson, Johnny Bulla and Herman Barron.

THE FARM FRONT by John Russell

Everybody knows, of course, that "the old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be." But possibly, when you start your tractor on some real work—such as spring plowing—you'll find that it has slowed down just like the gray mare, and you'll be wondering "how come?"

* * *

Not long ago a couple of agricultural experts took a farm tractor into the university shop. It sounded pretty good, but when they put it on the testing machine it registered only 25 horsepower.

* * *

This is hard to believe—but in less than 30 minutes they had shoved the horsepower needle up to 31—just by cleaning a lot of dust and dirt out of the air filter. Then, cleaning out the radiator pushed the needle up still another 3 horsepower.

* * *

In other words, they gave that tractor 9 more horsepower in less than an hour.

* * *

A tractor engine will use something like 9,000 more gallons of air for every gallon of fuel it consumes. That's why the air cleaner is one of the best things to slow down wear in your tractor, engine, or car. When the air cleaner is clogged, the engine gets short of breath, and loses power. It has trouble getting air, so it sucks MORE FUEL FROM THE TANK.

* * *

Your carburetor can be just as costly. You can waste as much as a dollar's worth of gasoline a day just by being LESS THAN A TURN OFF THE "LOAD ADJUSTMENT SCREW." If you aren't sure just where that screw is, dig out your instruction book and find out. Then, here's how to set it properly:

* * *

Run your tractor wide open. Slowly turn the load needle IN until the engine starts to miss. Then turn it back OUT until the engine runs smoothly. Now try pulling a load. If it won't quite do it, open the needle another sixteenth of a turn. Then you have the setting where most engines make the most power with a gallon of fuel.

* * *

You can probably make your tractor run on less fuel than that but it doesn't pay to be too stingy either. Too lean a mixture is too hot for your engine to handle properly—it burns and warps the valves.

* * *

Perhaps without your even suspecting it, bad valves can let as much as 5 horsepower go out the exhaust instead of to the drawbar. Have your valves ground regularly, keep tappets adjusted, and you won't need to worry about wasting 5 or 6 gallons of gas a day.

* * *

Keeping the valves cool calls for a radiator that's clean. Buy some cleaner and flush out the collected scale. Refill, using soft water—such as rain water from a cistern—as the minerals in well water can make your rad look like the inside of a teakettle. Put in a shot of one of those rust-prevention compounds too.

* * *

Better take a look at the fan belts, too. If they appear a little frayed, it would be a good idea to pick up some new ones at the earliest opportunity.

* * *

Poor timing cuts down power and wastes fuel. A worn governor can rob you of two or three horsepower. But better not tinker with the insides of a magneto or governor yourself. Give the job to a mechanic who is a specialist on such things.

* * *

Do you do your greasing in the morning before you start work, or after you come in from the field? Evening, when bearings are still warm, is best; and the grease keeps the moisture in the night air from sneaking in, and causing rust, as they cool off.

Oil filters are real collectors of grit and grime; that's what they're meant to be. But the filter element needs to be changed as soon as the oil starts to feel and look dirty, so better keep a few spare elements on hand.

* * *

So, before you get too busy, why not make these—and other—checks? Protective maintenance of your tractor, car or truck is the best way to cut down operating costs — and you won't have to worry about expensive breakdowns when you're hurrying to get something done.

* * *

And here's an item I picked up from an exchange. You can take it seriously—or not, just as you see fit. "A doctor says that farmers ought to wear girdles. Bouncing around on tractors shakes up their insides. The doctor says they'd feel better with something to hold gizzard, backbone and other odds and ends together.

* * *

"Sounds sissy, doesn't it? Well, the buckaroos of Spanish California—real tough horsemen—used to wind yards and yards of cloth around their waists, tight. It helped them when the bronchos jack-knifed.

* * *

"Maybe the farmers won't try it. But the ones that do will at at least find out what the wife means when she says 'My girdle is killing me!' "

SPORTS-& by A SIXBIT CRITIC

As we write this, it is still uncertain whether the famous Stanley Cup—proud emblem of world hockey supremacy, or some such—will find a resting place, for the next twelve months or so, in Detroit Olympia Stadium or New York's Madison Square Garden.

* * *

(In passing we have often wondered why it should be Madison Square GARDEN and Maple Leaf GARDENS. But we've never bothered to find out. With or without the "S," neither one of them ever reminded us of roses, hyacinths or even lillies-of-the-valley.)

* * *

If The Cup should land in New York—a real possibility considering what Detroit went through, compared to the soft touch Rangers found in Les Canadiens—there's a Scriptural quotation that just about sums it up. To wit, "The last shall be first and the first, last." Rangers just managed to edge into the fourth and final playoff position. Detroit led the league practically from start to finish. Yet, should Rangers win, inside of a month 99 out of 100 fans will think and talk of them as World Champions. We've heard plenty of much poorer jokes on high-ranking comedy air programs.

* * *

Still, maybe it won't happen. Perhaps, by the time this appears, Red Wings will have done right by "the world's fastest sport" and managed to come through.

* * *

The playoff series between Red Wings and Maple Leafs — or at least two or three games thereof—proved one point which, for several years, has been in doubt. In spite of the widespread belief that the modern fan pays money to see blood, bumps and attempted mayhem, hockey can still be played cleanly and provide plenty of thrills. It all depends on the officials, who could clean out all the undue rough stuff in twenty minutes or less if they wanted to. Or were allowed to.

* * *

For in hockey—more than in any other sport—the attitude of the paid officials is a direct reflection of that taken by the top brass. Someday, under present conditions, there's going to be a real hockey fatality. (It's already come to close to comfort for that one or two occasins.) When and if such a thing occurs the responsibility won't be that of the referee who allowed the game to get out of hand—or even the man who appointed him. The blame will fall directly on the type of coach, manager or owner who tells the press and public, "We're going to have a real battling team" and who send their gladiators on the ice in the same spirit as that of the fight handler yelling, "Get in there and slug, kid—he can't hurt US."

* * *

Too much roughness killed field lacrosse. The boxing game is in a worse plight than ever before, largely because decent-minded fight fans are sick of watching "boxers" whose only ability is that of absorbing punishment, and nauseated with the steadily growing list of ring fatalities.

* * *

The latest of these occurred when young Lavern Roach died following a recent bout in New York City. Colonel Harvey L. Miller—better known as "Heinie"—had some interesting things to say about it, and about the need for more attention to safety in the ring—of which we'll pass along a few. (We may say that Col. Miller is no raw hand, having been connected with boxing for almost 50 years as fighter, second, manager, referee, sports writer, and National Boxing Association official.)

* * *

"Unless the mantle of intercollegiate (safety) rules is extended over prize fighting, its existence likely will be abolished by mounting indignation over continued fatalities such as the recent death of young Lavern Roach in New York."

* * *

"Dramatic safety rules will not be popular, we appreciate, with the fellows who believe Gettysburg was a frameup and that Iwo Jima should be repeated every Monday night. They'll probably denounce larger gloves and proposed head harnesses as sissy equipment. But the wise ones will prefer that to velvet caskets with silver handles."

* * *

"At the next NBA meeting, Michigan will report on the tests of a 90-second interval, rather than the usual minute, between rounds. With the 10-second warning buzzer for "seconds out of the ring" and other interruptions, the boxers haven't been getting the full rest intended by the rules.

Of course, the extra 30 seconds will evoke howls from bloodthirsty fans impatient for the sight of slaughter. But it would give the fighter more time to recover from possibly injurious punches and his handlers opportunity to staunch his wounds."

* * *

"During the past year, NBA bulletins, which are issued every 10 days, have suspended or retired close to 400 boxers. I wish that we had suspended Lavern Roach months back when I saw him lose to a second-rater and realized that the beating he had taken from Marcel Cerdan had left him a hollow shell. He promised me then that he would quit and did for a while ,only to meet death trying a comeback."

* * *

"Beyond a doubt, television often is responsible for the staging of bouts that would not or should not have been staged at all. The promoter is obligated by video agreement to produce a show at a given hour on a given date. And the show must go on—even if it's a mismatch or one of the principals isn't fit to enter the ring.

It's time for the "idealists" in boxing, those dyed-in-the-wool fans to whom the prime concern after a bout is "who won and how" to save the game from the "what-was-the-take" coteric."

* * *

Space, or the lack of it, will not permit further comment at this time. But with hockey off the sports map for a few months, we hope, it might be an idea for those in control of that game to take a little thought as to whether—if present tendencies aren't checked — it isn't heading down the same road that brought disaster to boxing.

Ascot Metals To Make Profits

During the recent war lead, zinc and copper supplies were urgently sought in Canada which became an important war arsenal for the allies. The search for these metals was intensified. Government geologists collaborated with private companies in an effort to locate new deposits and in several instances this team work was successful.

In Ascot township, Quebec, a Domonion Government geologist discovered a structure which he thought deserved test and Aldermac Copper Corporation subjected the area to a geophysical survey and extensive diamond drilling, with the result that a lead-copper-zinc deposit was outlined. A shaft was sunk to metallurgical and mining experts 300 feet and three levels were opened so successfully that a mill was built and operated for about a year.

In eleven months Aldermac produced nearly $2,000,000 in metals but shut down after the war because of low prices. Later the markets for lead, zinc and copper advanced sharply and the mine was bought by Ascot Metals Corporation which has proceeded to deepen the workings to five levels and to install a more modern mill.

The earnings possibilities of a 250-ton mill are not generally recognized. It has been computed by that Ascot can expect to receive for its concentrates, on cars at Sherbrooke, Quebec, approximately $116,000 per month, with only mining and milling costs to be absorbed. These costs will not exceed $60,000 a month, leaving about $56,000 a month for operating profit.

This rate of profit, which is computed on current prices for lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold in the ore, would mean $672,000 a year, or at the rate of 25 cents per share for the issued capital of 2,700,000 shares. There may be fluctuations in the earnings, due to variations in the prices of metals and average content of the ore. However, it is obvious that substantial profits are predictable.

People unfamiliar with mining operations often do not recognize that there has been immense improvement in recent years in the development and production of base metals ores and in the treatment of them to recover high values. New mills have given remarkable performances in employing improved processes and machines. Such properties as Ascot and East Sullivan would not, even five years ago, have offered much chance for money making whereas today they can realize substantial profits.

Ascot Metals Corporation started with considerable advantages. It had been opened to 300 ft. depth, had installed mining equipment, new buildings, power lines, water supply and a highway to the door. The mine only required additional development and the installation of new milling equipment, which will start operation next July. Markets for metals are good and promise to persist. When in production the company will resume testing of the large property which formerly had two other producing mines on it, closed for years, but now of interest because of the high price of their metals.

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