Important Catch—Anton Nilsson, captain of a Swedish fishing boat, points to the hole in an airplane wheel his vessel picked up in the Baltic Sea. Naval authorities say the wheel could have come from the unarmed Navy plane that disappeared over the Baltic after an attack by Soviet fighters. Nilsson and the wheel are now in Stockholm, Sweden.

THE FARM FRONT

Most folks who raise beef cattle know that they can make more beef on a mixture of legume and grass than is possible on straight grass. But they also know that it's a tough job to keep a good legume-grass mixture going for more than two or three years. That's because the grass has a tendency to crowd out the legumes.

* * *

Nine years of testing at the Illinois Experimental Farm showed the following results: They got 342 pounds of gain per acre the first year of a legume-smooth brome pasture. The following year, they got 126 pounds LESS gain, as the smooth brome had taken over 80 to 85 per cent. of the pasture. And at the same time, the gains on a legume-orchard grass mixture DROPPED from 245 pounds to 169.

* * *

The Illinois folks are still working on the perfect answer to this problem. But, up to now, they have found that what works best for them is called the Haas mixture. This is a mixture of two bushels of oats, with 2 lbs. of red clover, sweet clover, alsike clover, timothy and rape per acre. Steers gained as much as 298 pounds per acre on first-year Haas mixture, and UP TO 416 POUNDS THE SECOND YEAR! Sounds interesting, to say the least!

* * *

A lot of the news you see regarding farming these days seems to echo the tone of what you read on the front and editorial pages. While those whose task it is to peer into the future aren't predicting disaster today, or even tomorrow, still their outlook is rather gloomy. So, for a change, this success story—as reported in The Farm Journal (Philadelphia)—might be welcome. It tells of how a man, over in Indiana, was almost wiped out back in 1940, but managed to build his income from $700 to $17,000 in less than a decade. What's more, it was cows that pulled him through.

* * *

Ten years ago, things weren't going any too smoothly for Russel Magnus; in fact, he freely admits he was just about down to his last nickel. The general situation was not any too good, and a bad attack of Bang's disease and mastitis had just about wiped out his dairy herd.

* * *

But this farmer and his wife weren't the easy quitting type. They were willing to try it again, so they pulled up stakes, bundled together their six children, and took off for a farm they had bought about 60 miles away.

* * *

It wasn't much of a farm. You probably know the sort—old, hilly, run-down—a fine place to go really broke on. But it hadn't cost much—around $40 an acre—and it was a place to make a start with two "cull" cows and five heifers they took along.

* * *

Although Mangus was down for the count then, he was far from "out," as the events of the last 10 years prove. Since then, his wheat yield has jumped from 10 bushels to 30 bushels per acre; his oat yield has climbed from 25 bushels to 50 bushels; his corn is up from 25 bushels to as high as 90 bushels. And his herd of seven cows has grown to 45.

* * *

Those cows are doing mighty well, too. Last year, they averaged—on test—13,311 pounds of milk, and 448 pounds of butterfat.

Mangus' gross income of $700 that first year has climbed to $17,000 in 1947, and $15,000 in 1948.

* * *

How did he do it? Well, those dairy cattle, for one thing; they ate up the roughage it took to put through Mangus' land improvement program.

* * *

When he went on the farm, grass would hardly grow on half of the place. So, little by little, he limed; fertilized; tested his soil; re-limed; re-fertilized; changed his fences; sunk some deep-rooted legumes into his tired, hard-to-work soil; and planted several acres of evergreens on some washed-out slopes—and added some grass waterways.

* * *

Back in 1940, Mangus had to buy hay; 20 acres of meadow on the back of the farm yielded exactly seven tons of timothy. Now he gets an easy average of three tons of alfalfa-clover to the acre.

* * *

Just in case you're wondering what happened to the disease troubles, don't sell Mangus short; he learned his lesson. Now his herd gets a Bang's test and a T.B. test every six months or so. He keeps his cows healthy. And those healthy cows gave him a net profit last year—above feed costs—of $370.10 apiece.

* * *

Today, after 10 years, Mangus has his farm practically paid for. He could have paid for it by now, but he has improved, remodeled and modernized the buildings on the farm.

* * *

He and his family are living a life that's a far cry from that $700 beginning back in 1940.

Where Did The Wild Pigeon Go?

What happened to the millions of beautiful passenger pigeons once so common in America and now believed to be extinct? This mystery is referred to by Miss W. L. Puxley in her absorbing book of travel, "Strayed Among Lonely Islands."

In the last century, they were so numerous as to constitute a plague. She describes:

"A vast host of beautiful birds with long tails and bright red bodies, which literally filled the air.

"For three days, the birds kept on flying in a column a mile wide, and the whole column was about 250 miles long when a fresh one appeared. Round and round they wheeled as they swept by, with such a rush of millions of wings that no one could make their voices heard unless they shouted, however near to the person addressed. When they settled to rest, they left the woods in ruins for 40 miles, and great branches were broken by their weight, while many trees were killed by them. Year after year, this went on, bringing food to the settlers who dried the meat for the winter; until one year it was noticed that the pigeons were fewer in number, and the following year they were very few."

A year or two later, there were none at all and not one specimen of the species has ever been seen since.

What was the cause of their disappearance? Your guess is as good as those of the scientists.

SPORTS & by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Counting, as we do, a large number of trout fishermen among our friends and acquaintances, it has long been our desire to pay due credit to those intrepid souls. The fearlessness, determination, disregard for personal comfort and about seven other deadly virtues displayed by those heroes in pursuit of their dangerous prey is worthy of the highest honors we weaker mortals can give them.

* * *

But, up to now, the proper words and phrases have utterly failed to flow from our long-suffering typewriter. Still, everything comes to him who waits—to coin a phrase—and just the other day, we ran across what might be called "The Perfect Tribute to Trout Fishermen." The man who paid it is no raw hand. For 50 of his 70 years, he has been guiding hunters and fishermen through a vast wilderness area, and so speaks with authority. And here is what he has to say:

* * *

"A confirmed trout fisherman is just like an ordinary man in most ways—**except that his brains have been beat out.**"

* * *

A very ancient adage runs, "To the victor belong the spoils," or some such; and it is another of those old sayings that are true—or false, just as the case may be. Biff Bennett, writing in Sport Magazine, recalls an interesting instance of the loser getting all the gravy, rather than the winner.

* * *

In the baseball record books you will find emblazoned the name of Bobby Feller who, on an afternoon back in 1938, struck out exactly 18 Detroit Tigers in a nine-inning game. Unless this mark has been bettered between the time these lines are written and when they appear in print—which is unlikely, considering the trouble pitchers are having with the new rules—that record still stands. It was one of the greatest hurling feats in baseball history, beyond a doubt.

* * *

But, although most baseball fans have heard of Rapid Robert's wonderful work that afternoon, how many of you remember even the name of a guy named Harry Eisenstat. Not so very many, we'd be willing to bet. Yet the afternoon when Feller, pitching for Cleveland, whiffed that record-breaking dozen and a half of the Tigers, on the mound for Detroit was Mr. Eisenstat. WHAT IS MORE, DETROIT WON THAT BALL GAME BY A SCORE OF 4 to 1. "To the victors," etc. Phooey!

* * *

Still, there are plenty of forgotten men in sport. Danny Gardella, for another example. It isn't so long since Danny's name was appearing in big type on every sports page from coast to coast—for Danny was the man who had the audacity to sue organized baseball for the sum of $300,000.

* * *

Mr. Gardella claimed that organized ball had deprived him of his right to make a living in the major leagues, just because he had done some playing "south of the border, down Mehico way." Nobody knows for certain just what Danny got out of his suit as it was settled out of court, and Happy Chandler isn't saying. But, for a while, it looked as if the suit might bust the game wide open and, as Arthur Daley puts it, when the settlement was made, organized baseball took its first deep breath in months.

* * *

Now, Gardella's name has popped up in the news dispatches again, and most of us had to give our memories a couple of sharp jabs to recall just who he was. He made the news this time—in small type—just because the St. Louis Cardinals, from whom he had been drawing wages, had shipped him down to one of their minor league farmettes, in Houston, Texas.

* * *

The truth of the matter seems to be that Danny never was a real big leaguer. When he managed to get a fair clout at the ball, it was liable to travel quite a piece—but even that wasn't any too often as, in his best year with the New York Giants his batting average was a non-too-sensational .272.

* * *

His fielding was apparently of the same variety as that of one, Yencer Wiedensaul, who used to do a spot of outfielding for the Toronto Maple Leafs back in the days when Granmaw and Grampaw were stepping out. Wiedensaul could misjudge every fly ball that came his way to such a terrific extent that every catch he managed to make was of the super-sensational kind; and Charley Good and the rest of the sports writers promptly dubbed him "Wonderful Wiedy"—a tag which 90 per cent. of the fans took to be on the level, which just goes to show you that making the hard ones look easy doesn't always pay.

* * *

Anway, as we said, Danny Gardella's fielding appears to have been along the same lines. A baseball reporter once wrote, "Gardella caught the ball—unassisted." And, again, "Gardella made a sensational catch of an easy fly ball."

* * *

Danny was a practical joker, too, of a somewhat ghoulish kind. Like the time in Cincinnati when he and Napoleon Reyes were roomed on the 23rd floor of their hotel. Reyes had just finished shaving and stepped back into the bedroom. It was empty; the door was locked from the inside; the window was wide open; and on the table was a note, reading, "Life is too much for me."

* * *

Trembling and afraid, Reyes tottered to the window and peered out, expecting to see the mangled corpse of his teammate lying far below. Instead, there was Danny grinning at him, hanging by his hands from the ledge with nothing between him and the pavement but 23 stories of fragile Cincinnati air.

* * *

But now, Danny the forgotten man, is back in the minors. We wish him well and hope that he manages to get up top again and stick there as he had—if nothing else—plenty of color. But even more than that, we wish that his suit against organized baseball had gone through. It would be interesting to take a look at the inside works of "the world's greatest, etc., etc.," and see just what really makes it tick.

Horse-Keeping Costly

Are you keeping an old team around the place for an occasional job, or because of sentiment? If so, it probably costs you a lot more than you realize. In a study of average expense of horse labor, the University of Wyoming has found that it was as much as $7.77 an hour, where horses were used for little work. The average cost of horse labor was $1.52 an hour. Economists—not taking the horse's or the farmer's feelings into account—sternly advise disposing of the draft animals. The pasture and feed released for beef or dairy cattle will bring better returns.

Coming into the kitchen from shopping, she could smell burning.

"Oh, John," she said reproachfully, "you promised you'd keep an eye on the meat."

"Well, so I did," replied her husband, "but after a bit there was so much smoke I couldn't see a thing."

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Better Dead

A group of Canadian doctors were discussing Foreign Exchange Control Board requirements in the matter of people who apply for U.S. funds with which to go south on the ground of ill-health. They agreed that no medical man they knew would, in signing the necessary certificate, depart one hair's-breadth from fact, and that examinations of patients had to be complete and most thorough.

One of them said to us, "For instance, if you came to me regarding such an application, on the medical form I would have to fill in answers to 30 questions. If you were dead I'd only have to answer five."

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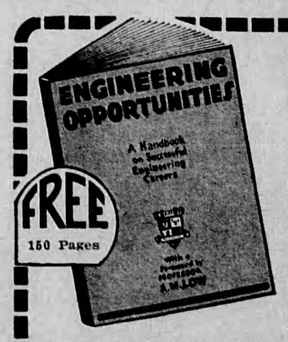

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