THE FARM FRONT
by John Russell

Just how smart are you with livestock remedies? is the question put to farmers in a recent issue of "Successful Farming" by Dr. J. W. Bailey, a veterinarian, who goes on to say that if the home-applied medicines do what they are supposed to do for a sick animal, little or nothing is ever heard of the matter.

* * *

"But let one fail, and the owner grumbles. If, as sometimes happens, the medicine makes a condition worse or even causes death, a howl often goes up that can be heard clear across the county. However, the medicine is seldom to blame so much as the man who treats the animal. This is because most of our best remedies are also poisons and capable of doing real damage if improperly used."

* * *

Consider what happened to some steers in Texas.

Solutions containing 1 per cent of white arsenic once were used as dips for killing skin parasites such as mange mites and lice on large animals. Even when used in the 1-per-cent strength, such dips are mighty dangerous concoctions.

It is not surprising, then, that a 2-per-cent solution caused the death of 200 cattle after they were dipped in it. Enough arsenic was absorbed through the skins of the soaked animals to kill them, so the double-strength idea didn't work out so well in this instance, at least.

* * *

Numerous owners have discovered too late that even ordinary stock salt is poisonous when used in overlarge amounts. It is one of the old reliable home remedies for bloat in cattle, but our friend who used 6 pounds of it in a drench learned that such amounts can kill cows. At least his patient died.

* * *

The same danger exists in the case of seemingly harmless baking soda. This is because this old kitchen standby is a mild caustic. We have the word of a top-notch farmer for the story that he killed a bloated calf by giving it a pound of the compound.

* * *

Copper sulphat killed some horses when the owner thought that it was the same thing as "copperas" and it has caused plenty of live stock deaths in other ways. There is no question about its being poisonous, and most people fully realize the danger. But it still is given often in more than one per cent. solution recommended for internal use on animals. Not so long ago, we saw a bunch of dead sheep that had been killed by the use of a 10 per cent. copper sulphate solution at worming time.

* * *

This matter of overstrong solutions often causes serious trouble when other compounds are involved, too. Such old reliables as lysol, creolin, turpentine, chloral hydrate, carbon tetrachloride, tetrachloroethylene, and many others are capable of causing severe burns of the skin or mouth unless they are properly diluted.

* * *

We still remember the man who drenched a bloated cow with raw turpentine and practically burned the whole mouth and throat out of the poor beast. We saw the same thing happen after an owner gave full-strength creolin to several cows that had winter dysentery. Every once in a while, we see similar results following the giving of chloral hydrate crystals for acetonemia in milk cows.

* * *

Few winters go by without some horses seriously injured through "botting" with carbon tetrachloride or tetrachloroethylene. Such injury occurs when the animals break capsules between their teeth and free the terribly strong drugs in their sensitive mouths.

Many of the newer drugs are also dangerous when used improperly or in the wrong dosages. We have seen several costly examples of the misuse of sodium fluoride.

* * *

This drug is supposed to be fed as one per cent. of one day's dry grain ration for the removal of worms from pigs. Farmers are repeatedly cautioned against using it in wet feeds, but every so often, it is mixed with slop, and some pigs are poisoned as a result. This happens because the fluoride settles to the bottom of such mixtures, and the last of the slop consequently contains most of the poisonous drug. The unfortunate porkers that get these dregs are seldom around to go to market with the rest of the pigs because they soon die.

* * *

Deaths also may result if the feed contains 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. or more, instead of the recommended one per cent. After all, fluorine is as much of a deadly poison as its sinister elements, iodine and chlorine.

* * *

Even the many different highly publicized sulfa drugs can cause trouble if not given in carefully estimated doses over short periods of time. Such overdosing lowers natural resistance through decreasing the normal number of white blood cells in the body, and the collection of sulfa crystals in the kidneys does irreparable damage. So, the calf that died in spite of "all the sulfas we put in" may have died because of the drugs and not because of their failure to control disease.

* * *

Other examples might well be cited, but the foregoing will give you an idea of how mishaps may occasionally be associated with medicines. Accident sometimes hapmedicines. Accidents sometimes happen even when the most careful and best veterinarian is treating an animal. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that mishaps will occur a lot oftener when skilled help is not available. If and when they do, maybe the medicines won't be to blame at all, so watch your step when using them.

"What keeps up the strapless evening gowns?" asks a reader. Mainly public opinion.

All Colors To The Mast—An ingenious ship "Europe" flying the flags of all Marshall Plan nations is the central figure in this winning poster in an Intra-European poster contest sponsored by the Economic Co-operation Administration. Reijn Dirksen, 25-year-old Dutch artist, won $1500 first prize for the poster, one of more than 10,000 entered in the contest.

SPORTS-&
by A Sixbit Critic

Practically every kid who goes in for football, hockey or baseball does so with at least a tiny idea in the back of his mind of some day being a star in big league circles. So you would think that at least a reasonable percentage of them would try and concentrate on the surest way of achieving such stardom; yet, with very few exceptions, they all try to do it the hard way.

* * *

Take football, for example. Forward passers and pass receivers of reasonable ability are a dime a dozen; line plungers and end runners are by no means scarce; but a punter who can get height and distance, with or against the wind, is a pearl of great price—a prize that any manager or coach will scramble for. Yet — as we have written before—for every dozen boys you see practising forward passing and catching, there won't be a single one trying to learn the rudiments of really booting the bladder.

* * *

Much the same thing goes in hockey. Just how much a potential young Turk Broda or Bill Durnan would be worth on the hoof today it is impossible to say with any exactness—but it would be plenty, you may be sure— enough to pay for half a dozen prospective forwards or defensemen. Yet anybody who has ever had any experience of trying to organize a kids' hockey team knows that one of the hardest things to do—outside of digging up money for equipment—is to get some boy to don the big pads and stand between the pipes. As Jimmy Durante put it "they all want to get nto the act"; and the act, to them, is scoring goals, not stopping them.

* * *

In baseball, it's catchers who are rare. "Good catchers are worth their weight in gold," was a recent remark of Eddie Dyer, a man who should know what he's talking about. Yet the kids today seem to want anything else in baseball rather than a berth behind home plate—or if they do decide to catch, it isn't the value they can be to their pitchers that occupies their minds. "All a young catcher ever thinks of now," moaned Cy Perkins not so long ago, "is hitting the ball over the fence. He worries about his hits, not his pitcher."

* * *

Now all this is not just the wailing of a has-been who thinks that nothing in sport today is as good as it was a generation or so ago. For example, just take a look at the list of catchers who were holding sway in the two major leagues back in 1930. There were Mickey Cochrane, Bill Dickey, Shanty Hogan, Gabby Hartnett, Jimmy Wlison, Al Spohrer, Spud Davis and Al Lopez.

* * *

All of that lot, besides knowing the tricks of the catching trade, were clouting at a rate of .300 or better. Not quite so good in the hitting department but still much better than run-of-the-mine receivers were the likes of Muddy Ruel, Luke Sewell, Rick Ferrell, Benny Bengough, Cy Perkins, Rollie Hemsley, Zach Taylor, Bob O'Farrell and Gus Mancuso.

* * *

After twenty years the names of each and every one of those catchers is still vivid in the memory of most fans whose baseball recollections go back that far. How many of those operating behind the Iron Mask these days will be recalled by the baseball bugs of 1970? Mighty few, in our opinion, nor are we by any means alone in such a belief.

* * *

"So desperate are teams for capable catchers," writes Arthur Daley in The Sunday Times, "that the Boston Braves reached all the way down to a Class B league in mid-season last year to bring up a 19-year-old kid, Dell Crandall, and install him as a regular. Immediately the big youngster was hailed as another Gabby Hartnett in the making; yet it should be noted that Billy Southworth recently grabbed frantically for aging Walker Cooper as catching insurance."

* * *

Mr. Daley goes on to ask how many real, authentic stars there are catching right now—and when he tries to answer, the list is strikingly short. There is Roy Campanella, of the Dodgers, a superb receiver and fine hitter; Yogi Berra of the Yankees, not as good as he may be some day, but still a standout as things go now; Birdie Tebbetts, of the Red Sox, whose best days are probably past; and—after those three, not much else.

* * *

There have been many great catchers in the past half century, but their greatness was attained with their gloves rather than their bats. Only three long-term catchers had lifetime batting averages of over .300—Mickey Cochrane, Bill Dickey and Ernie Lombardi. Although the record book shows the names of 87 players who made more than two thousand hits in the majors, NOT ONE OF THEM WAS A CATCHER. "Yet the names of so many great ones," says Mr. Daley, "ripple off the tongue— Johnny Kling, Jimmy Archer, Gabby Street, Ray Schalk, Bill Carrigan, Billy Sullivan, Steve O'Neill and—well, it could be an almost endless roll, especially if you were to toss in those already mentioned."

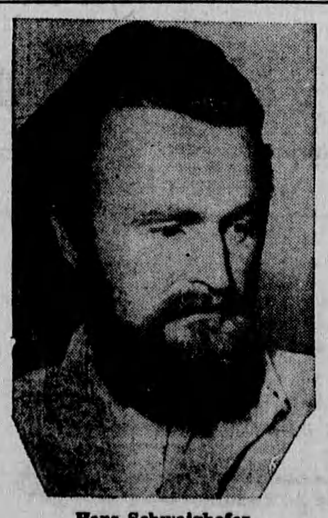
* * *

The glamour, the applause, and the over-stuffed salaries in baseball go, of course, to the Joe DiMaggio's, the Ted Williams's, the Babe Ruth's—the lads that can clout them clear out of the park. And when a kid reads about Williams dragging down something around $125,000 per season, it's pretty hard to convince him that he would be giving himself a far better chance by concentrating on catching rather than slugging.

* * *

Yet, great attraction that he is, if the Boston Red Sox were to offer Ted Williams in a trade, even Stephen, for Roy Campanella, do you think the Brooklyn Dodgers would break any speed records making the deal? We personally believe that the Dodgers would say they're quite satisfied with what they have. For Branch Rickey knows that, while a Ted Williams can make an overflow crowd, a Roy Campanella can make a ball team—which is why we continue to tell all the kids we are acquainted with —"If you really want a baseball career, get back there in the dust and dirt, and try to learn to catch!"

Anton Preisinger



Hans Schwaighofer

In Historic Passion Play—Here are the leading characters in the traditional Passion Play being staged for the first time in 16 years at the mountain village of Oberammergau, Germany. Anton Preisinger, left, beer parlor owner and an admitted former Nazi Party member, plays the role of Jesus Christ. Hans Schwaighofer, right, a teacher at Oberammergau's well-known wood-carving school, plays the role of Judas. Political bitterness which accompanied last year's casting of the play has been forgotten, villagers say.

HOW CAN I?
By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I mix a good fire extinguishing fluid?

A. Put 3 pounds of salt into 1 gallon of water, and to this add 1½ pounds of sal ammoniac. This liquid should be bottled. When a blaze is discovered, pour the solution on it.

* * *

Q. How can I be sure that coffee is fresh?

A. Coffee is fresh if the crack in the bean is almost invisible. There will be little flavor and aroma if the crack is widely spread. If the coffee is freshly ground the aroma is evident when the package or can is opened.

* * *

Q. How can I give a window of ordinary glass a frosted appearance?

A. Dissolve Epsom salts in cold water, and then paint the solution on the glass.

* * *

Q. How can I test the heat of the hot-water bag?

A. The temperature of the hot-water bag should always be tested against one's cheek before placing it on a sick person, as it might cause a burn. A burn should be carefully avoided, as it can be serious to a bedridden person.

* * *

Q. How can I remove labels that are pasted on pillowslips and similar articles?

A. By placing a wet cloth on the wrong side, then setting a hot iron on it for a few seconds. Or, hold over the steam coming from the spout of the teakettle.

* * *

Q. How can I easily grease baking pans

A. Wrap a piece of clean muslin around the point of a fork, and use this for greasing the baking pans. This muslin can be burned and a fresh piece used the next time. A supply of muslin pieces can be kept on hand for this purpose, as a convenience.

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