

SPRIS FRIT

By CARMAN SMITH

While The Boss Is Away...

MY ASSOCIATE and senior partner on the sports beat, Pius Callaghan, left for Ottawa yesterday morning to attend a CAHA meeting and while he is away I've been asked to fill in for him. Over the years I've read columns written by one person or another and I have developed an itchy finger to express my views.

Since I am a strong Chicago Black Hawk fan, naturally I absorbed plenty of razzing when they lost out to Toronto Maple Leafs in the battle for Lord Stanley's Cup this year. I tried to go back to these same people through this medium but not in my latest column. It is a little late in the year, however, to go back to hockey but I feel it deserves a few notes.

Historic St. Nick's To Disappear

New York's St. Nicholas Arena will be demolished in the near future. The "rink," as it is called by old-timers, first opened its doors to the public as New York's first ice house in 1896 but in 1926 it became a private skating club and since then over 30,000 fights have been held there.

Many historic fights were fought in St. Nick's and among them a few of the fighters who slugged through the rinks, there were Benny Leonard, Joe (the original) Walcott, Kid Chocolate, Johnny Dundee and Archie Moore. Even though the rink will be no more, there will still be the memories and some of the fun and games and again, some others said.

Whitew Rinatelli, the little fighter who is still active in the boxing world, is said to have carried so many hits out of the St. Nick's rink he was asked to become an honorary member of the Mortimer's Association.

ONE OF THE STORIES told is about the skinny kid who sat on the steps of St. Nick's for nine hours waiting to make his amateur debut. When he stepped into the ring his opponent threw a haymaker that was well off target but the kid fainted from the breeze and was counted out.

Another unforgettable incident is the time Diamond Jim Brady tossed a diamond stick pin into the ring to the winner of a 1917 bout. The fighter was Ted "Kid" Lewis.

Jack McVey, who spent a major part of his life at the rink first as a middleweight fighter in the 1920's and later selling programs, feels about his "sacred home" being "gone" down. He says: "They remembered you if you put up a good fight and they all remembered me. Every fight night they remembered me. Now they'll forget."

Old Timers In Limelight

APPARENTLY Archie Moore isn't too impressed with young, brash and outspoken Cassius Clay. "I've been listening to Clay and I've always said that an emerald was made the most noise," says Moore. From a man like Moore who is no mean man with the talk himself that sounds more like envy than anything else. But you old ringer.

Sugar Ray Robinson, who lived high off the hog during a brilliant boxing career that took him to the top of the world held first the welterweight and then the middleweight crown and who was rated the best fighter ever, found for passed, just didn't seem to break the habit.

The sugar man just completed a four-bout tour of the Caribbean and now has his sights set on Europe as the next likely spot where he can get some of the green stuff to live on. He says: "Even though he is no longer champ he is immensely popular here and the big pond but in France are sure finding Sugar Ray an expensive proposition."

Despite many trans-Atlantic phone calls the only way they could get Robinson interested in coming to the States was to bring over his masseur, his hair-dresser, a guy who whistles while Robinson trains, and Sugar's lavender-colored Cadillac. Boy, this can't go on forever.

Things Are Moving In Kings

RELATED congratulations to Jerry McCormack of Souris on his election as president of the Kings County Baseball League. The league is expected to be the most successful baseball or softball league on the island and a crowd of 1,000 or more fans at a game is a common sight.

Jerry is a brother of Lt.-Col. D. J. "Danny" McCormack, president of the Island Hockey League and member of the board of directors of the Kings County Softball League last year and former boxer.

The new Kings County league prize is also a strong booster of minor sports in Souris. Congratulations Jerry!

Open House At Driving Park

AFTER LAST YEAR'S successful "Open House" at the local race track the horse owners, drivers and officials are planning to do it all over again this year. The day set for the event is Monday, May 21st. This will be a good chance for motorists to see the horses and drivers racing this year and also to look over the ones that were here last season. Everything possible will be done to make this an enjoyable day for all visitors.

HUNTERS' CORNER

Old Plover Decoys Bring Many Nostalgic Memories

On a cold April afternoon this spring I went out to the barnyard to do some tidying up. The weather was in its worst spring mood, a miser to me and snow backed by a high wind. A box that has not been examined for many long years caught my eye. Out of curiosity more than anything else I opened it up and found a number of lead made plover decoys. Dad and Uncle Will had used them before.

My father was born and I had used them myself when I was old enough to shoot. Old shot scars testified to their use and it would be impossible to even guess how many thousand Golden and Black-bellied plovers they lured to their death. In those days they shot plover for the Boston Market as birds sold regularly between Charlottetown and Boston. I have no idea as to what storage facilities they had but I remember Dad, often speaking about a Captain Deane who came on one of the vessels. To fact, it was this same Captain who brought him the heavy 16 gauge shotgun he used all his life.

FOND MEMORIES As I sat there with slushy snow heaving against the window panes, looking at the faded, battered decoys in my hand, nostalgic memories crowded in upon me. I could see Dad and Uncle emptying the large game baskets they took with them filled with food and brought back packed to the birds with them and setting out the black-bellied from the golden. I could see them inland glimmering like jewels in the August sun and hear the incoming tide whispering around the pier of Hatter's Wharf as long skeins of plover headed inland to the pasture fields of Deane and Ashburn, once again I was sitting with brother Chrys, now deceased, in the crowd of a "wren" feast on the Monaghan Road and watching slung, long tail plover families and tell as they hit the



TOTEM FOR PLANTE
A token of appreciation was presented to Montreal Canadiens goalie Jacques Plante when he appeared at a four-night night in Vancouver, P.F.E. signing the souvenir totem pole is Ronnie Mechar, 15-year-old Bantam League center from Vancouver.

Ex-Hoop Star Arrested As Fixer In Collegiate Tilts

NEW YORK (AP)—Jacob L. (Jack) Molinar, architect and former basketball star, was arrested Thursday on an indictment charging operations to corrupt collegiate sports.

Molinar is a former Columbia University player, and later a professional, who was hauled from that field by the National Basketball Association. He was placed under arrest at the office of Manhattan District Attorney Frank S. Hogan on five counts, three charging bribery in the alleged payments of \$1,000 to basketball player Billy Reed.

Reed, 21, played with the Bowling Green, Ohio, state university basketball team. He lives in New York.

Two other counts charge the 30-year-old Molinar with conspiracy and attempted subornation of perjury. The conspiracy allegedly involved 22 players at 12 colleges, in an attempt to fix 25 basketball games.

Approximately 20 karts are lined up to go Monday afternoon, including some of the top figures in the game - defending champion Dominic Allen, Covehead; Billy Mackinnon, Covehead, winner of the big open event in Nova Scotia last year; Steve Younker, Sherwood the most consistent winner at the local track last season; and Eddie MacLaren, Charlottetown president of the racing association.

A competition for drivers will be staged to cover the whole season, with points awarded to each driver on the results of each race. One innovation will be the formation of "racing teams". Drivers taking part in Monday's show are asked to register in one o'clock.

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Roger Maris Is Sidelined With Pulled Leg Muscle

BOSTON (AP)—Roger Maris, baseball's home run king, was sidelined by a leg muscle pull Thursday, adding to New York Yankees' headaches.

The solemn-faced Maris, who established the record of 61 homers last year in the expanded American League schedule, was out of the lineup against Boston Manager Ralph Houk said the left-handed slugger's condition will be determined on a "day-to-day basis."

"I got the groin pull last night stretching for that home run ball that Carl Yastrzemski hit in the first inning," Maris said. "Naturally I want to get back in there. I'm hitting good right now and I don't want to lose the touch. All I can say is that it sure hurts now."

MONTREAL (CP)—Dave Hillon, Canadian featherweight boxing champion, is scheduled to leave May 24 for Johannesburg and London for fights against the South African and British Empire champions, manager Harry Sheppard said Thursday.

RATES 399 Maris slugged twice in three trips before retiring in the fifth inning Wednesday night. He is batting .309. Maris was in uniform and strapped out several slugging drives in batting practice Thursday. However, Houk said, almost grudgingly in his admission, he couldn't use the slugger as a pinch hitter. Maris missed two games of the 1957 season was a tie) that the defending American League champion played in 1961. He had benched himself for one against Baltimore after he hit 60 homers because he was "popped."

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