

### The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Entered in the postoffice at Bellefonte, Pa., as second class matter.

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\$1.50 per year, if paid in advance  
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### HAS JAPAN STOLEN A MARCH?

Discussing a two-ocean fleet and hearing about a billion dollars to be spent on warships the average American is apt to get a little bit mixed up in regards to his navy.

In the first place, the present strength of the United States Navy is below the standard of parity set by the limitation treaties. Despite the construction of the past four years our fleet is still short of modern-age vessels. This may be the basis for the statement of the Japanese Rear Admiral Ishihara, who says the Japanese navy is superior in quality to the United States fleet now.

The argument over the relative efficiency of airplanes and battleships and the decision to build battleships leads some people to the conclusion that the United States is "dressed-up" with battleships. As a matter of fact, the two battleships started in 1937 will hardly be fighting machines before 1942 and by that time five of our present battleships will be over age, to the satisfaction of powers which began to build modern battleships several years ago.

The present debate over the billion dollar naval building program is extremely misleading because all that the proposal does is to declare a naval limit. Today, the size of our fleet is fixed by law in accordance with the limitation treaty, which nobody regards. The new "program" authorizes a larger navy but it will take other legislation to appropriate money before a single warship can begin the process of construction.

Because there is so much talk about battleships and so many estimates of comparative strength on the basis of if-we-build there is an idea that we have the ships. Actually, the suspicion exists that before the United States can carry out its construction program there will be a year in which the Japanese navy will be more powerful than our own. Certainly, even now, in view of the Japanese building in the past few years, there is a much closer balance than most Americans suspect. If Japan builds while we debate, and Japan will build, the margin will be against us.

Now, while our Congressmen and citizens debate whether to build a fleet befitting the world's richest nation, the word comes from Japan that Foreign Minister Koshi Hirota hopes to stop the world's naval race. This will lead some bright patriot in this country to propose that we stop all naval construction pending another pow-wow on limitation of fleets, which will be fine for Germany, Italy and Japan, now busy building new and larger battleships. It follows Japan's refusal to disclose her building plans and the advocacy by the same Hirota of "increased preparedness" by Japan in order to guard against the possibility of interference by a third power in her undeclared war against China.

### 37 PER CENT SALES TAX.

The American Petroleum Industries Committee supplies some interesting analysis of just what the gasoline tax yields, and how it is used and what it means in its effect upon the individual motorist.

In 1937 the "typical U. S. motorist" used 650 gallons of gasoline. The fuel cost him \$95; the tax amounted to \$35. The present tax rate is, on a national average, 37 per cent of the price, the highest sales tax on any generally-used commodity levied in this country.

Since the inception of the gasoline tax in 1919, the petroleum industry has passed on to its customers the benefits of operating economies and improved methods, with the result that the price of gasoline today is less than one-half what it was in 1920; but the rise of gasoline tax costs, from less than one dollar a year to more than \$32, has prevented gasoline consumers from reaping much of the benefit.

A survey of the relationship between gasoline prices and taxes, made by the American Association of State Highway Officials, and presented in that organization's 1937 report, indicates the extent to which the purchasing power of the gasoline dollar is reduced by taxes. The report shows that the gasoline dollar's purchasing power is greatest in Missouri, where only 16.66 per cent is taken for taxes, and lowest in Tennessee, where 39.07 per cent goes for taxes. On the basis of the association's report the national average gasoline tax absorbs 26.65 per cent of the dollar's buying power, leaving 73.35 per cent to pay for gasoline. The effect is the same as that of a retail sales tax of 35.22 per cent.

Further light is thrown upon the situation by governmental and other studies of the purchasing power of those who pay gasoline taxes. It has been found a large proportion of these gasoline tax payers are workers earning \$20 to \$30 a week, and farmers. Their motor vehicles, purchased second hand and having an average value of around \$200, are used largely in the business of earning a living. The owners have to work more than a week each year merely to earn the money to pay their annual gasoline tax bill.

### DRUNKEN DRIVERS GOVERNOR'S TARGET

Governor Earle has taken another advanced step in the direction of highway safety. His latest order is for the Highway Motor Police to take a drunken driver to the nearest reputable physician, have the case diagnosed and if warranted by the doctor's verdict after a hearing, lift the license for six months.

If there is any weakness in the plan, it is limiting license suspension to six months, when twelve or more would be comforting to other users of the highway.

However the new plan cuts through red tape and brings home to the offending driver some degree of the seriousness of his conduct. Care will be exercised in picking up suspects. Sober drivers perhaps need have no apprehensions about being picked up in error, but even these might agree to some inconvenience if all the drunks can be driven from steering wheels.

The Governor is doing a great job with his fifty-mile limit or ninety-day suspension program. The treatment for the drunk ought to work just as well and all in the interest of highway safety.

### ABOUT LIVING LONGER.

The reader probably thinks he would like to know how long he will live. For that reason human beings are always interested in revelations that tend to reveal the causes of death and the habits that tend to prolong life.

Prof. Maymond Pearl, noted biologist, has recently come to some interesting conclusions about longevity. Inasmuch as they are based on a scientific study of data the statements of this scientist are worth passing on, although every reader will "know" immediately that the student is entirely wrong on any conclusion that does not coincide with his or her prejudices.

Prof. Pearl's study reveals that inheritance is a major factor in the achievement of great longevity. It is not surprising that ripe old age is based on a "pretty good egg" at the beginning.

He finds that smoking means a definite impairment of longevity, proportional to the amount of tobacco used. Contrary to some ideas he reports that "no measurable effect of the moderate use of alcoholic beverages can be demonstrated" although heavy indulgence "definitely and considerably impairs life expectation."

Hard physical labor, says the professor, whether performed in indoor or outdoor occupations, has no effect upon life expectation up to the age of forty but considerable effect after that age.

In the case of persons dying eventually of diseases of the heart or the blood vessels, his study convinces him that it is possible, even when such persons are in a state of good health, to distinguish the groups that will be short-lived and those which will be long-lived.

Prof. Pearl reports that life tables show a great improvement in the average duration of life in the past forty years but this is due to a great improvement in infant welfare and not to a lengthening of the biological span of human life. In fact, he asserts that "actually fewer persons alive at the age of 70 today survive to the age of 90 than did forty years ago."

### BLAMES THE "AVERAGE" DRIVER

The "average driver," not the drunken or defective driver, is responsible for 75 per cent of the nation's highway accidents, says Dr. Ralph Lee, traffic expert. He insists that "most of the accidents are caused by doing things that we already know are wrong."

There is undoubtedly much truth in this assertion. Almost every driver knows that it is wrong to pass another vehicle on a curve or while ascending a hill, but the tendency to take a chance often overtakes our caution. Many times, we get by, but, occasionally, there is a serious accident, causing death or serious injury. Similar examples could be cited by the central idea is the same.

The lesson for motorists of Bellefonte to get is that it is always necessary to assume that any violation of sound safety rules will result in an accident. There are occasions when even the best drivers find themselves in an unexpected tight place and hence little sense is deliberately inviting such an emergency.

### PRESTO, PEACE AND PROSPERITY!

The Hon. Burton K. Wheeler now says that the administration: (1) should formulate a program of "economic co-operation necessary to bring the world back to a basis of prosperity, and (2) the President should consult with the Senate and House, and with other leading industrial nations, find a basis for general agreement and then "make proposals to the world."

Now, if that isn't easy? Just get the Senate and the House to agree, have the industrial nations of the world to add their little chirps of approval and, presto, everything is fixed. Funny, that somebody hadn't thought of this before.

### Health and Beauty

Did you ever stop to think of what a rare commodity plain ordinary common sense is? A surgeon had a patient only recently, a "Mrs. A." who was kept in a highly nervous condition, and whose recovery was actually delayed and hindered by the persistent visits of a woman who told her unpleasant things. She would appear at the sic one's hospital door unannounced at any hour of the day, though she had been told that the patient should not have visitors.

On one occasion she prefaced her remark by saying, "I'm so quiet I know that I can sit here and just soothe you to sleep," she continued, "It's a pity you had to have that appendix operation and you so fat. I have a friend who was fat when she was operated on, and her stomach is so weak that she has to wear an uncomfortable bandage all the time to keep her muscles from coming apart."

"I know a fat man who has had tubes in his side ever since he was operated on. They tell me that the doctors told him he might as well go home and make the best of it, that he would never be well. I suspect that he didn't have a skillful surgeon. I don't believe much in the surgeons here anyway."

"Why there was old Mr. Jones who died when he had his leg cut off. He had some awful disease, gangrene of something, and it just went up and struck his heart!"

reckon. They tell me that he had had diabetes or something for twenty years or more. Now you might have that. Did your doctor look to find out? You know its astonishing how careless some doctors are."

"Oh, you say they examined your urine and blood, and took your blood pressure before they operated. Well maybe you haven't got it then, but I'm doubtful."

The doctor wondered why "Mrs. A." asked him so many questions about her condition and did not get along as well as he expected. If he had only known that a foolish, meddling visitor had implanted fear thoughts, and distrust of him in her mind he would have understood.

#### Sarah Ann's Cooking Class

Sugar and cream go well with strawberries, but certainly not with mackerel. And so it is with salad and salad dressings. Some of them go together and some do not. Do not use the same dressing with every salad, mix the salad dressings to suit the salad. Broadly speaking, salad dressings may be considered under three heads—French dressing, a combination of oil, eggs and lemon juice and seasonings, these stirred into an emulsion called mayonnaise, and the cooked dressings made without oil.

#### French Dressing

Beat 12 tablespoons of salad oil, 3 tablespoons of vinegar, 1 teaspoon of salt, 1-4 teaspoon pepper and a dash of paprika. If you like it a bit sharp, season it with more vinegar and less oil. A good way to make French dressing, one that will stand without separating for some time, is to make it in a cocktail shaker. Place 3 good sized lumps of ice in a cocktail shaker with the

#### Roquefort Cheese Dressing

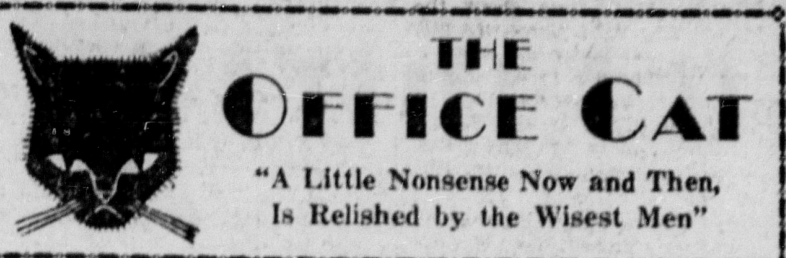
Crush 1-4 lb. of Roquefort cheese in a bowl. Add 9 tablespoons of salad oil, little by little, until you have a smooth, even mixture; then add 1 tablespoon of vinegar. You will find the dressing thick and creamy. It just barely pours. Season with 1-4 teaspoon pepper, 1-4 teaspoon salt and 1-2 teaspoon paprika. Serve with head lettuce.

#### Chiffonade Dressing

To 1 teaspoon of salt, 1-4 teaspoon pepper and a dash of paprika; add 12 tablespoons of salad oil and 3 tablespoons of vinegar. Beat for a few seconds. Then put 1 tablespoon of chopped pimiento, 1 tablespoon of chopped parsley and a minced hard boiled egg. Beat until blended. Serve with asparagus salad.

#### Russian Dressing

To 3-4 cup of mayonnaise add 1-2 of a hard boiled egg, chopped fine, 1 tablespoon of chopped green pepper, 1 tablespoon of chopped chives, 1-3 cup of chili sauce. Combine all ingredients and serve on tomato or egg salad.



### THE OFFICE CAT

"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

#### OUR RUM-SOAKED MEN

(We can't speak, of course, for the sley-minded Office Cat, but the editorial department is deeply shocked by the pernicious propaganda carried forth in this poem.—The Editor.)

The horse and mule live 30 years  
And nothing know of wines and beers;  
The goat and sheep at 20 die  
And never taste of Scotch and Rye;  
The cow drinks water by the ton;  
And at 18 is mostly done;  
The dog at 15 cashes in  
Without the aid of Rum and Gin;  
The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then in 12 short years it croaks;  
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for nops, then dies at ten;  
ALL ANIMALS are strictly dry,  
They sinless live and swiftly die;  
But Sinful, Gifful, Rum-Soaked Men  
Survive for three score years and ten!

#### Mandy Had Proof

"Are you sure, Mandy, that you know where your husband was on the night this robbery was committed?" asked the judge.  
"Ef Ah didn't, judge," replied Mandy, "den he sure got grounds for a divorce!"

#### Really Hot Stuff

A colored preacher was trying to impress on his congregation the terrors of hell.

"Bredern' an' Sistern," he asked, "is any of you evah been in Pittsburgh, where de big steel works is?"  
"Ah been dere, Parson," said one member of the congregation.  
"Is you been in de mills, and has you ebah seen de hot steel when it comes out of de furnaces?" asked the preacher.  
"Yes, Preacheh, Ah seen it."

"Well, den you knows how hot dat stuff is. Ah wants to tell all you sinners dat when dat dere stuff comes out of de furnace, it's hot. It's white hot, it's sizzlin' hot. In fac' it's so hot dat no one can come anywhere near it without gettin' shriveled up. Well, Bredern' an' Sistern, in hell dey uses dat dere stuff for ice cream!"

#### It Looked Suspicious

The bald banker in a small town was in the habit of wearing his hat during business hours, for in summer the flies used his pate for a parade ground and in winter the cold air was uncomfortable as it swept the polished surface. Each week an Italian workman would come to the bank to get his pay-check cashed.

"Why don't you open an account with us?" the banker asked one day.

The Italian looked at the banker's hat, and then whispered confidentially:  
"Me afraid, Mistah Boss, you alle time looka like you gonna maybe take a trip somewhere."

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW

(Contributed)

Steam has been superseded  
Electricity now is king,  
And a 40-horsepower engine  
Is just the proper thing.  
It's belly-ache we used to have,  
But it's appendicitis now;  
And eating cocoa butter  
That never saw a cow.  
Prohibition is our motto,  
New things have come to stay;  
But thank goodness we get our babies  
In the same old-fashioned way.

Wonder if Solomon ever tried changing a forty-year-old wife for two twenties?

#### Goodbye Hank!

The bus was full, and the male occupants of seats none too courteous, so the country girl had to content herself with a strap wedged in between two rows of perspiring salesmen.  
She dropped her handkerchief, and to her dismay saw it land on a stout gentleman's lap.

"Too bashful to reach for it, or to ask for it's return, the poor girl stared hard at her property, in the hope that the fat man would soon notice the article and restore it."  
The fat man looked up and caught her intent gaze. Imagine her embarrassment when the blushing heavyweight began to tuck the bit of white cloth out of sight.

#### Very Polite

A certain girl had a "gentleman friend," and also a girl friend, and one day she was foolish enough to introduce the "gentleman friend" to the girl friend, the result being that the aforesaid girl friend proceeded to "vamp" the man. This made the certain girl mad, of course, so she sat down and wrote a letter to her former girl friend:

"Dear Sadie," she wrote, "you know that I was keeping company with that fellow, and you stole him away from me. You are a low-life and a bum, and a bleached blonde. When I see you I'm going to pull out all your hair, and spoil your face."  
"P. S. Please excuse pencil."

#### A HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT

A heavyweight fapper from Trent  
Who should have been shown in a tent,  
Sat on her sheik's knee  
For two hours or three,  
And now the poor boob's pleasure bent.

#### Not Guilty

Able's wife was on the witness stand giving testimony against him which she hoped would win her a divorce. Among other things she stated that before her marriage to the defendant, Able, she had been a fine, stout figure of a woman, but that soon after the Rabbi made them one she began to lose weight and, finally contracted melancholia. All of which she blamed onto Able's cruel and unusual treatment.

"This was too much for Able."  
"Your Honor," he shouted, jumping to his feet, "Dot's a lie. In my whole life I never had this sickness. Any doctor you can ex!"

#### Just Between Us Girls

A flapper was spilling the secrets of her first joyride to her roommate.  
"We rode about five miles, and then he took my hand," began the first one. "We rode another mile and he put his arm around me. We rode another mile and then he parked—why aren't you listening, Margie or aren't you keeping up with my story?"

"Be yourself, dearie," smiled E. roommate, "I'm way ahead of you!"

#### Rapid Calculator

This young couple had been married for nearly two years when the wife got sick and a doctor was called. After the examination he came out to where the excited husband was nervously pacing the floor.  
"What is it, Doc?" he asked impatiently.  
"Nothing to be worried over, assured the Doctor, "just tumor."  
"Gosh! that can't be; we haven't had the first one yet."

#### Not In The Ritual

A country magistrate was called upon to perform his first marriage ceremony. After he had exhausted the short service given in his book of legal forms, the young couple continued to stand before him.  
The justice felt that probably he should attempt to round the ceremony off with something of a religious turn, whereupon he said:  
"There, there, it's all over. Go and sin no more."

#### Slips That Pass in the News

(From a San Francisco Paper)  
"In Siberia she met and married the American Army of Occupation, to whom she bore two children."

That's all, folks. By the time a man gets a diploma from the School of Experience he is too old to practice.—"SCAT."

### Query and Answer Column

**PROBLEM**—The pitcher in a World's Series baseball game struck out the third batter in the ninth inning. He was so jubilant over the victory that he threw the ball again, and it came right back to him without the ball striking anything or without assistance from anybody. How did it happen? (Answer elsewhere in this column.)

**J. F.**—What is an Aard wolf? Are any of them in this country?

**Ans.**—An aard wolf is a carnivorous burrowing animal of South Africa. In size and appearance it resembles a fox, but it belongs to the hyena family. They are timid and come out only at night in search of food. There are none in America living in the wild state.

**R. S.**—I am making a bushel basket. Can you tell me what the dimensions should be to hold exactly a bushel?

**Ans.**—Assuming that your basket is going to be round, it should be 8 inches deep and 18 1/2 inches in diameter. This is the standard size for cylinder baskets and contains 2,150 cubic inches.

**T. D.**—Who was Clara Barton? Did she campaign for prohibition?

**Ans.**—Clara Barton was a philanthropist born in Oxford, Mass., in 1821, and died April 12, 1912. On graduating from school she became a teacher. During the Civil War she was devoted to the care and hospitalization of the sick and wounded. In 1886 she lectured for several years. When the Red Cross was organized in 1881 she became its first president. She did not campaign for prohibition.

**K. C.**—Can you tell me what is the meaning of "agnostic?"  
**Ans.**—"Agnostic" is a word coined by Prof. Huxley. It is a person who believes that beyond what a man or person can know of God by his senses or feel by higher affections, nothing can be known. Thus an agnostic is one who claims he "doesn't know" what is beyond our mortal lives.

**N. Z.**—I would like to know if alligator meat is good to eat?

**Ans.**—Alligator meat is edible, but we don't know whether it is good. The savages eat it, but we have no record of civilized man eating alligator meat.

**L. T.**—Will you please answer in your good paper the origin of the word "Amazon," and what it means?

**Ans.**—"Amazon" is the mythical name of a warlike race of women who lived in Asia Minor, near the Black Sea. They fought on the side of Troy in the Trojan War. The term is now applied to any strong buxom woman who has masculine characteristics.

**I. G.**—Is it true that Napoleon wasn't a Frenchman?

**Ans.**—Napoleon was born and raised in Corsica, after which he entered the military school in Paris, France. He became a French citizen and was commissioned as lieutenant of artillery. While he was a Corsican by birthright, he swore allegiance to France.

**T. G.**—Who are the Maronites?

**Ans.**—The Maronites are a sect of Christians who constitute a class in Syria. They acknowledge the Pope of Rome as their head, but have the privilege of using the Syriac language in their service, and strictly celibacy is not enforced.

**A. S.**—What do Amos and Andy receive for their broadcast?

**Ans.**—It is reported that their new three-year contract calls for \$7500 a week.

**W. R. L.**—What are the largest snakes?

**Ans.**—The largest snakes in the world are the reticulated pythons of the Philippine Islands, measuring thirty feet in length and fifteen inches in diameter. The largest of this species ever found was forty-two feet long.

**G. S. L.**—What salary does Miss Marguerite Le Hand, President Roosevelt's secretary, receive?

**Ans.**—Her salary is \$5,000 a year.

**W. H.**—Has anything ever been heard of the bottles that were dropped into the Atlantic by some museum?

**Ans.**—Approximately 100 corked bottles containing a card requesting the finder to note the day of discovery and return the card to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, were dropped into the Atlantic off Newfoundland on July 26, 1936. Thirteen of the bottles were returned in less than a year. Most of them were picked up off Ireland. One was returned in July, 1937, from Bilbao, Spain. Bottles were also found off Cornwall, England, and the coast of France.

**T. W.**—What city had a population of ten thousand on the day it was settled?

**Ans.**—This is true of Oklahoma City. It was opened for settlement April 22, 1889, and by nightfall had a population of ten thousand under tents.

**E. W. H.**—How many cigarettes are produced in Virginia factories?

**Ans.**—Virginia factories produce 200,000,000 cigarettes a day.

**S. T.**—Why is the dahlia so named?

**Ans.**—It is named for Dahl, a Swedish botanist.

**T. B.**—Which receives the higher salary, the Governor of New York or the Mayor of New York City?

**Ans.**—Both receive \$25,000 a year.

**J. D.**—What is the record made in the major leagues for circling the bases?

**Ans.**—The recognized record for circling the bases is thirteen and two fifth seconds, made by Evar Swanson of the Cincinnati Reds, September 15, 1929.

**E. C.**—What salaries are paid to members of a school board?

**Ans.**—The members of a school board serve without compensation.

**B. L.**—Is the Army changing regulations about dress uniforms at posts?

**Ans.**—The blue dress uniform will be required for all Army officers stationed at posts on October 1, 1938.

**W. H.**—How much does Toscanini receive for his radio broadcasts?

**Ans.**—The conductor receives \$4000 a broadcast.

**V. C.**—What was the substitute of Uncle Tom's Cabin?

**Ans.**—The book appeared at a time that double times were popular. It was named Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly.

**C. B. M.**—How many times a year does the sun cross the line?

**Ans.**—Twice a year—in the spring and fall. The sun will cross the equator coming north on March 21 at 1:43 a. m. Eastern Standard Time.

**R. P.**—Are there any curly-haired horses?

**Ans.**—The Bashkirs, which come from the plains of Eastern Russia, are a curly-haired breed.

**E. T.**—What composer said that there is no such thing as a new melody?

**Ans.**—Irving Berlin said, "We depend largely on tricks, we writers of songs. There is no such thing as a new melody."

**M. C. P.**—Can you tell me in your Query and Answer Column the meaning of Nazi?

**Ans.**—"Nazi," pronounced "Not-sy," is a German word for "National Socialist." Its clandestine purpose is to exterminate or purge Christian, Jewish or other religions, and render them impotent in the political government of Germany.

**V. C.**—Please tell me through your question column in what State and near what town the ranch is located on which Lou Gehrig, the cowboy movie star, is going to live? Is he married and how old is he? Does he own the ranch?

**Ans.**—We are informed from a reliable source that Lou Gehrig is 36 years old, is married and owns a ranch near Tulsa, Okla. By the way, he is not a "tenderfoot," as he can ride the ponies about as well as he can play baseball.

**J. E. H.**—Please tell me how they take eggs from trout at a hatchery.

**Ans.**—According to the Bureau of Aquatics, trout spawn in very shallow water and the eggs are gathered similar to all other shallow-water spawnings.

**R. C.**—Why do some United States quarters have no date stamped on them?

**Ans.**—We have no record or data on United States coins being minted without the date stamped on them. Sorry we cannot at this time enlighten you.

**MRS. S. S.**—Please tell me if it always lightnings before it thunders; or won't it thunder unless it lightnings?

**Ans.**—Lightning is the flash of the explosion in the air. Thunder is the sound made by the explosion. It is somewhat similar to watching a heavy gun being fired from a distance. The flash will be seen before the sound is heard. Light travels very much faster than sound.

**Jacob Hazard**, of Moehannon, writes: "I find in the Query and Answer Column that someone asks if the moon was ever part of the earth. I wish to call their attention to Genesis, 1st chapter and 1st verse; And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; He made the stars also."

**Answer to problem:** The pitcher threw the ball straight over his head. Naturally the ball came back to him.

**\$5,300 Pledged to Fund.**  
A final check up by State College Welfare officials during the week-end revealed that \$5,300 has been pledged or contributed to the annual fund in that community. E. Paul Campbell, of State College, treasurer of the fund, will receive

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