

Well, It May Be The First Interview Ever To End In A Wrestling Match

Ira Frantz, Lithe Orange Fruit Farmer, Talks About Horticulture, Determination And Fights

In many ways Ira Frantz, the Orange fruit farmer who raises about everything except oranges, beat his way to the top of the heap.

Sometimes he had to fight against adverse conditions. Sometimes against men.

In either case his wits and his muscles have always stood him in good stead. And now he's ready to fight again to retain his success.

It's a pretty tough world. In order to get along, you have to keep the dollars rolling, and sometimes the fists flying. That's his doctrine—a reminder of his father, the late Andrew Jackson Frantz of Carverton, who made a name for himself in the state as a brilliant and enterprising cattle dealer.

Right now, Ira is making a go of the fruit farming business. But if that fails to satisfy him in the years to come, he's willing to start again, to try something else that will.

Has "Model" Fruit Farm

This jack of all trades, who has tried everything from peddling meat in Pittston to selling real estate in Florida, went into fruit raising and selling about 20 years ago on his 100-acre place near Demund's Corners.

He built a market across the road from his home, sold much of his produce there, and marketed the rest on Wilkes-Barre. His success grew steadily.

But it wasn't enough that thousands of customers—he estimates that in the neighborhood of 4,500 persons shop at his market—sought his produce. Others could match his success. He had to be tops in at least one phase of the field.

So he concentrated on peaches, and for two decades has led the peach-growing industry in this section. His 1939 crop of Albertas—and a bumper one it is, too—is attracting attention. Last year he didn't have enough to satisfy the demand. He expects a similar condition this fall.

And while the Egglestons seem to have the apple raising business pretty well in hand over at Vernon, Ira is right on their heels. This year he has his biggest crop of Mackintosh and Delicious apples. His crate sales and cider business should be better than ever.

During our conversation with him the other day, a man stopped and bought a large crate of peaches and another of prunes. Other large orders were placed within the next five minutes.

"Is this the way business goes all the time?" we asked.

"Gosh," said Ira, "one time last summer my wife sold over \$100 worth in less than a day."

Yet, although Ira may have one of the largest fruit selling businesses in this section he'd be ready to sell—at a profit—any time.

He's A Business Man First

"Even if you're attached to something you have, like I am to this place, for instance, sell it, if you can make some money on the deal. That's the only way to get ahead."

Ira's been getting ahead, one way or another, for more years than he cares to mention.

Thirty years or so ago, he was in the lumber business with Emory Steele of Larksville, now deceased. "We made money at it. Sold a lot of lumber and props to the Kingston Coal Co. and other people. But we quit when we were ahead of the game."

Just after the World War, Ira bought up a lot of used army trucks, sold them to local farmers. There wasn't anything wrong with the trucks, Ira explains. It was just that he knew what they were worth and the government didn't.

With the money he made from that, and other ventures, Ira went into the real estate business down in Florida. He didn't do badly at all, but the stock market, in which he had placed a lot of trust and confidence, did a whole lot worse, and it wasn't long before Ira was back at scratch again.

But in the years since that time, he's found the golden touch again. Between his fruit market, a few real



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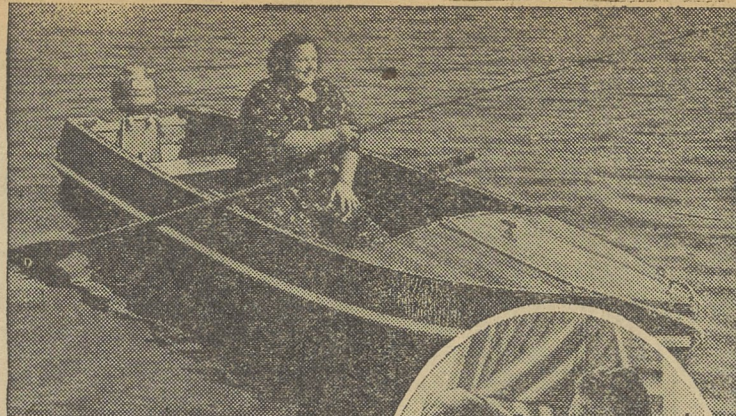
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WHITENIGHT'S
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AUTUMN CHASES THEM HOME AGAIN

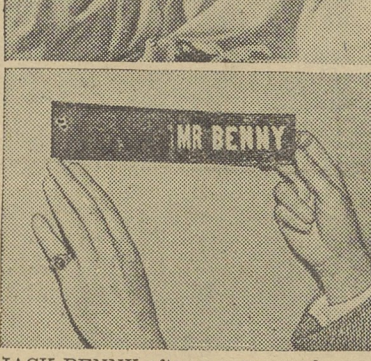


IN one of her fleet of boats at Lake Placid, Kate Smith goes out for a final bass before getting her things together for return to New York. She resumes her musical broadcasts Friday, October 6, over CBS.

DAVE ELMAN, below creator and conductor of "Hobby Lobby" which changes from NBC to the CBS network Sunday, October 8, picked the most novel way to end his summer vacation—a hospital bed in Fargo, N. D., where he had his appendix out.



FRED ALLEN, up in Maine for the summer, dries out his swimming trunks for the last time before hopping a train back to New York where his "Town Hall Tonight" takes to the airwaves again over NBC on Wednesday, October 4.



JACK BENNY after a summer of scampering back and forth across the continent, gets back to the Hollywood NBC studios a few days ahead of the start of his new series Sunday, October 8, to be sure that his name is posted just right on his dressing-room door.

First Railroad Town Loses Its Railroad

Honesdale, which was the first town in United States to have a railroad, will be without railroad service after September 24.

Honesdale's first railroad was built in 1829 and was the one over which the famous Stourbridge Lion, first locomotive to pull a train in the United States, operated. Lack of patronage is the reason given by D. and H. railroad for abandoning passenger coach operation daily between Honesdale and Lackawaxen.

Townend Gets Post

Attorney Frank Townend of Pioneer Avenue, Dallas, has been elected treasurer of Wyoming Valley Council of Social Agencies, succeeding Edward M. Williams.

estate holdings and thriving cattle-trading business, Ira is back at the top again.

He's Still Fighting

Maybe he'll go down once more some time. But he won't stay there, as long as there's a brain in his head, or energy in his huge frame.

One of the big forces against which Ira has had to contend is the truckers' union. Time and time again, his shipments of produce have met with action from union members.

Not so long ago, Ira was loading one of his trucks with produce, when he was asked for his name.

"I haven't got one," said Ira.

The official took in Ira's ruggedness, hemmed and hawed a bit. "Well," he said, at length, "I'll let you go this time. But don't ever try to load your own truck again."

"You'll let me go!" roared Ira. "Why're you damn' lucky if I let you go?"

Ira hasn't had any trouble with the union since then.

The ferocious fruit farmer has had a good many fights in his day, but one he remembers most of all was just in fun.

About ten years ago George Britton, who was a very competent professional wrestler back in the 20's, came to call at the Frantz home.

"Ira," George said, "I suppose I could throw you without a struggle."

"That," said Ira, "is a challenge." The two men went out in the backyard. After nearly an hour of huffing and puffing, Britton pinned Ira.

That Was Just Practice

"Now," said Ira, "I'll bet you fifty bucks you can't pin me again."

George took the bet, and Ira threw him in about three minutes. The first match, he claims, was just a come on.

Ira put a fatherly hand on our head. "How old, young man," he said, "do you figure I am?"

"You look about 50," we said, tentatively.

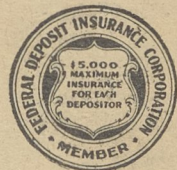
"Well, I ain't 50, or 60, or 70. I won't tell you how old I am. But I'm just old enough to show you a trick or two."

He caught us in a vice-like grip. "Why, I could break your back with this hold."

Some of the farmers around here come pretty big and strong. Ira and his friend, George Bulford of Huntsville, were a pretty convincing pair in the old days, and still are, for that matter.

But the farmers' hearts come big, too. Ira let us go.

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'Old Gang o' Mine' Reunited For Party

What Harold "Hank" Price calls "that old gang o' mine" was reunited last Saturday afternoon at the summer home of Jack Evans, prominent Nanticoke florist, at Muhlenburg. Called the Vercy Club, the group was formed about 25 years ago.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Evans and son, Hayden, Forty Fort; Mr. and Mrs. Gus Adler and sons, Melvin, and Robert, and daughters, Ruth, Laura, Beatrice and Marie; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Curran and son, John, and daughter, Rita, Wilkes-Barre; Mr. and Mrs. John Curran and son, John, and daughter, Dolores, Nuangola; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Evans and son, William, and daughters, Marion and Janice, Wilkes-Barre; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yeisley and daughter, Esther, and sons, Bob and Wayne, Nuangola; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wasley and sons, Jack and Billy, Laurel Run; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Price and daughter, Ann, Wilkes-Barre, and Harold J. Price, Dallas.

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English Visitor Scans War News

Mother And Son United After Long Separation

Reunited after a separation of 16 years, Robert King of Harris Hill Road, Trucksville, and his mother, who came here last month from near Glasgow, Scotland, are two local people who scan the war news from England with special interest, for they have loved ones on the British Isles.

When Mrs. King, a gentle lady with a pleasant Scotch burr, will be able to return to England is a matter of conjecture now. When she came here to visit her son, who had left England for America for the second time in 1923, she intended to stay about three months. Despite the war, she will be ready to go home when her visit is over.

Mr. King is interested in the war news for several reasons. When the World War began he was a British citizen, although he had taken up residence in this country. He enlisted in Canada and went overseas to serve with the Royal Air Force. He flew for two years without a scratch. Then he was transferred back to England to train cadets and on October 9, 1918, with the war's end a month away, a student pilot sent their ship into a spin and they crashed. Mr. King woke up eight days later and spent the next three years convalescing.

In 1923 he returned to this country. Since then he has become an American citizen. A resident of Trucksville for about four years, he is associated now with the American Chain and Cable Co. His wife, who he married after the war, also has relatives in the Glasgow section of Scotland.

Layou Infant Dies

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Layou died last Friday of pneumonia. The baby, who was born last May, had been rushed to the hospital on Friday morning. Funeral services were held on Monday afternoon.

Map Business Booms

Not since the dark days of 1914 has there been such a demand for maps as there is today, according to Andrew McNally. Within three days of Prime Minister Chamberlain's grim announcement that a state of war existed between Germany and Great Britain, Rand McNally's map shop in Rockefeller Center had sold out every map of Europe in stock.

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