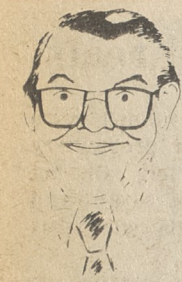


COMMENT & OPINION

BY PHILLIPS

A night of fistic splendor



I've been waiting for over a week now for someone, a television critic or a member of the sports fraternity, to blast the travesty perpetuated on an unsuspecting public on television last week.

So far—zilch. While I don't fancy myself in either of the above categories, someone has to do it. So let's have it.

In brief, I thought last week's Ali-Spinks fight was a multi-million dollar debacle.

'Farce' might be a better word to describe the whole evening's proceedings.

There should have been ample warning of things to come in the network's announcer intro to the Quote 'Show' Unquote.

He admitted with what I can only describe as boyish candor that the night's festivities had been put together, not so much as a sporting event, but as a network attempt to build its ratings. He hoped that 'he' men all over the country would forego an evening with Charlie's Angels for a night of fistic splendor.

And, in gratitude for such a spectacular, stay with the presenting network in the future?

Good Luck! Then came the 'Piece de Resistance' or however you spell it, 'The Main Event of the Evening.'

Good grief, Charlie Brown! I never thought I'd see the day when I'd miss Howard Cosell and his non-stop mouth. But after I saw, or more importantly, heard that night all I can say is, 'Sic 'em Howie.'

If I didn't see what I was seeing, or thought I was, I'd swear young Spinks was getting his brains beat out by Ali and it was only a matter of moments now before he, Spinks, would be a battered, bleeding hulk sprawled unconscious on the canvas.

Maybe it was my poor eyesight or bad camera work but I just wasn't seeing what the 'commentators' were seeing.

It wasn't until late in the fifteenth, last, round, that they reluctantly admitted that just maybe Ali was in a little trouble.

About as little as a stray dog who

wandered into a barn full of tom cats.

But it was after the fight that I really began to doubt my sanity. I could have sworn that I was watching a replay of film clips of the fight choreographed to the music and voice of Barbra Streisand warbling 'He Touched Me.'

'He Touched Me'? For cryin' out Pete. 'He Clobbered Me' was more like it.

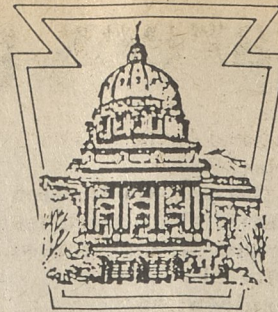
I had visions of their 'He men' tripping blithely across living rooms and bars all over the country to put their number twelve through the picture tube. I was tempted.

Or maybe there was just so much jubilation at the outcome of the fight that they just ignored the whole thing. We'll never know.

As I said at the top, I'm neither TV critic or sports pundit but I do know what I like.

And I didn't like. Till next week, keep happy.

MY TYPEWRITER TALKS



State Capitol ROUNDUP

HOUSE MEMBERS THIS WEEK VOTED TO PROTECT THE JOBS of Pennsylvanians working in the Steel industry. On a 195-0 vote, the House sent Governor Shapp legislation requiring State and local governments to use American-produced steel in construction and repair of public buildings. The legislation is designed to curb the loss of jobs and income through the purchase of foreign steel.

--THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE has opened hearings on Shapp's \$5.8 billion General Fund Budget request. The most controversial item on the Governor's shopping list thus far is \$1 million for a new airplane.

--HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER H. Jack Seltzer and Senate Minority Leader Henry Hager are scheduled to respond to Shapp's spending and taxation plan on statewide public television at 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 21.

--HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER JAMES MANDERINO meanwhile says he plans to bring up the Governor's 3.5 cents-per-gallon gasoline tax increase for a vote within the next two weeks. Lengthy floor debate is expected. The House is scheduled to reconvene at 1 p.m., Tuesday, February 21.

--A SENATE COMMITTEE HAS voted to abolish the fuel adjustment charge on consumer electricity bills. Under present law, utilities are allowed to pass on increased production costs directly to users without seeking

government review. The full Senate should vote on the proposal within a month.

..ANOTHER SENATE PANEL HAS approved legislation calling for a national constitutional convention to consider an amendment banning abortions. Already passed by the House, the measure (House Bill 71) was sent to the Senate floor for a vote.

--FORMER DEMOCRATIC SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE Chairman Henry Cianfrani has been sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to 106 Federal criminal counts.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST ON CAPITOL HILL INCLUDED:

--The State's chief liquor law enforcement officer, currently the subject of a State Police probe, has resigned his post. Paul Landau cited declining health and "innuendoes and allegations" as reasons for his decision.

--The Justice Department and the State Police have been ordered to investigate the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority after Governor Shapp received sworn allegations of illegalities and wrongdoing in the \$5 million program.

--The Commonwealth may have short-changed itself on Federal aid programs by under-estimating its unemployment figures, according to the State Department of Labor and Industry.

--Governor Shapp has nominated Also Colautti of Pittsburgh to succeed Frank Beal as State Welfare Secretary. The nomination goes to the Senate for confirmation hearings.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tattersall backs Dan Flood...

Dear Mr. Editor:

On television, magazine, and newspapers...the whole subject is Dan Flood.

He helped some hospital to get a loan, helped some factory to get a contract and all other insinuations about Dan Flood.

I live in his district. I have voted for him more times than I could remember. I myself must have called on him at least ten times for information, a question about procedures.

He has directed me in which department with a particular problem would lie...local, county, state or federal. I know personally 500 people who have written or called him to ask for help.

Everyone of them have received help. To my knowledge he has never asked one of them if he's Democrat or Republican, and has never asked if he's a voter.

And I'm certainly sure none of them can offer him a pay off.

He's our congressman and when I drive through our Valley there are very few roads or streets which you can drive through that hasn't been touched or helped by Dan Flood.

There's no doubt in my mind that some of his staff might have taken some liberty. But when you add up all the goodies that he has piled up here, I'm certainly sure a few little errors would count.

Yours truly,
Richard Tattersall

ONLY YESTERDAY

Cindering delay causes 6-vehicle crash

40 years ago-Feb. 25, 1938

Congressman J. Harold Flannery reports that there is growing interest in the idea of building a nationwide system of toll highways. President Roosevelt is said to believe that the project would help stem the recession.

The Federal Commodities Corporation will be buying another carload of apples from Dallas area growers, reducing the surplus created by this year's bumper crop.

The Post learned this week of Trucksville resident Joseph Bulford, 63 years old, who in 1889 at the age of 14, operated the hand press that printed the first issue of The Post.

The Dallas Township PTA organization will sponsor an amateur show at the high school auditorium. Master of ceremonies will be local radio personality Franklin D. Coslett. Sheldon Evans, proprietor of Evans' Cut-rate Drugs, attended a dinner given in Wilkes-Barre to honor alumni of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

Navyman William Thomas, brother of Mrs. William Niemeyer of Dallas, is serving on the U.S.S. Trenton, one of three cruisers at Singapore where England is constructing a dry dock to strengthen the base.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Shavertown ME Church will hold an oyster supper at the church on Wednesday, March 2.

The Lehman High School basketball team lost to Nicholson Tuesday, 32-18, the girls losing by an identical score. Leading the rural scholastic league with a 6-1 record, Lehman is to play winless (0-7) Laketon tonight.

You could buy--Coffee 17 cents lb.; bread 6 cents loaf; peaches 2 cans for 48 cents; lettuce 5 cents head; jelly beans 9 cents lb.; dog food 3 cans for 25 cents.

30 years ago-Feb. 20, 1948

The Back Mountain Consumers League will meet Sunday at 3 p.m. at

the Kunkle Community Hall to explore the proposed new lower rates for electricity in the area presented to the Public Service Commission by the Harveys Lake Light Co.

New rates are 8 cents each for the first 45 kilowatt hours, 6 cents for the next 55, and 3 cents for all over 100.

Atty. Roscoe B. Smith gave a talk on Abraham Lincoln to the Dallas Rotary and the Dallas Women's Rotary at the Irem Temple Country Club last night. Smith is Past Potentate of the Irem Temple.

The Trucksville Methodist Church will dedicate its new amplifying system with a special service next Sunday at 10:30. A gift of the Men's Class, it is a memorial to all veterans.

Miss Molly Poad, an Army nurse with 19 months in the Pacific and a graduate of Dallas Township High School and general Hospital, will marry James Irvine, former Army lieutenant and now a building contractor in San Francisco.

The Navy advertises vacancies in the technical specialties at a lifetime income of \$2,227.56 per year.

The Dallas Boro basketball team with an eight-game winning streak will meet Kingston Township away tonight. Last night the boys beat Harter 46-27 and the girls won their game 25-17.

Movies of the Joe Louis-Joe Walcott fight will be shown at the Shaver Theatre Monday and Tuesday nights. Latest hit records advertised are "Papa Won't You Dance With Me" (Doris Day, "The Best Things in Life are Free" (Dinah Shore), and "Slap Her Down Again, Pa." (Arthur Godfrey).

You could buy--Saltines 25 cents pound box; pork butts 47 cents lb.; apples 3 lbs. for 29 cents; large bread 13 cents loaf; coffee 40 cents lb.; tea bags box of 25 for 27 cents; eggs 57 cents doz.

20 years ago-Feb. 28, 1958

A delay in cindering the highways

After being more or less snow-bound and otherwise "under the weather" for so long, it has been fun to get out and go places again. Last Tuesday I invited myself to go along with Cathy and her riders to the Oratorio Society rehearsal.

Sat in a corner behind the soprano section and really enjoyed it, even though I had no idea what they were singing about most of the time. But there was something about the vibrations of sound from all those people singing together in that rather small room which thrilled me.

It will sound quite different in the big church building when I get to be 87 years old! I expect to celebrate my birthday in April at attending the dress rehearsal, and the concert next day.

Wednesday we attended the noonday Lenten service at St. Stephen's followed by some delicious soup and a delightful chat with Mrs. Rodda. Of course we talked some about Mrs. Hicks.

Thursday noon was an organ recital by Richard Dower, who always reads my column in the Dallas Post! That probably doesn't actually do anything to improve his organ playing but it does give me a special reason for liking to hear him play.

In the afternoon, Cathy got the living room ready for her choir people who get off the school bus for practice

here. Robbie, who is nine, is always the first to arrive and likes to play with the cats or the piano. This time he discovered one of our children's toys which has never really been put away since it was given to our girls in 1929.

Soon there was the familiar sound of marbles running down the chute into the shoebox and Cathy was telling about the carpenter named Charlie Snow who lived in Halstead and made it for them.

A few years back we were visiting in Great Bend and met one of the Snow grandchildren, and "The Marble Game" was an instant point of contact. It is one of those simple, sturdy playthings which has a never-ending fascination.

Sunday morning we went visiting at First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre, which was a combined celebration of friendship with St. Stephen's. Cathy sang in the combined choir, so I was there early enough to hear the practicing the anthems.

Afterwards at the coffee hour I was pleased to meet some old friends, including Herb Frye, who worked at Valley Crest when I was chaplain there. And to meet his son, who discussed with me the importance of studying Latin and Greek.

While I was taking my afternoon nap, Cathy woke me up just enough to

say "I'm going over to Barbie's to polish rocks." One of her choir girls had received a tumbler for Christmas but had been waiting for a good time to start the process. It evidently takes several days, because she's going back in the middle of the week to see what's happening.

Monday night was Mozart Club, and it was all music composed by people who live around Wyoming Valley. I especially liked the tuba solos; it certainly was something different from the "Oompah-pah" we usually associate with a tuba. And the ladies sang two lovely songs by our friend Ruth Crompton, who played the piano for them.

Tuesday morning (the day this is being written) we dashed down to the doctor for my regular monthly check

(Continued from P. 1)

now," he says, "we're in a very favorable position. Presumably, then, area people will not begin to feel any "crunch" until late March or early April at the least.

Fred Hartwigsen, consumer relations manager at UGI, agrees with McDermott's "big picture" view. "Things depend upon the PJM interconnection more so than on UGI's coal supply," he says.

The UGI supply, he points out, is fairly safe because the Hunlock plant burns anthracite, not affected by the bituminous coal strike, and can continue to operate indefinitely. However, continues Hartwigsen, UGI is both a supplier and purchaser of power, and any soft-coal shortages affecting the whole interconnection are bound to have an impact upon local people sooner or later.

He points out that UGI has already asked its customers to voluntarily reduce consumption by eliminating non-essentials as urged by the Public Utilities Commission. "We've called major industrial customers and asked them to cut back," he says.

What does he foresee our having to do if things get worse? "Any mandatory program will have to come from the state," he observes. We have no input from the PUC or the state on what steps will have to be taken by consumers. The PUC has a load curtailment plan filed in Harrisburg." That plan will contain UGI's directions.

PP&L is dependent to about 80 percent upon coal for generating

up, but the result made us stop at the grocery store for some unusual (for us) purchase. We had some celebrating to do! After about eight years on a low-residue diet because of diverticulosis, I am now supposed to eat many of the things which were forbidden.

Raw apple and celery salad and a bowl of oatmeal may not sound like a gourmet's special delight, but it was so-o-o-o delicious after doing without such things for so long. And Cathy has plans for planting things in her garden this year which she hasn't bothered with because I couldn't eat them.

I don't want to gain any more weight, but she says if we eat enough of those things, we won't be so apt to eat too much of the fattening low-fiber things.

Local power

power, according to George Stozenski, Wilkes-Barre area manager, and it's one of the PJM system's more vulnerable links in this coal strike.

As such, it has already begun cutbacks in output. "We put together a plan last fall," he states. "When a plant gets to a 45-day supply of coal, we reduce the capacity of that plant to 75 percent of its normal output." All but one of his coal-fired plants are at that level now, he says, with an average 40-day supply remaining. One, which has reached the 30-day level, has been cut to 50 percent. Other plants are oil-based.

Stozenski also looks to the PJM interconnection for aid in the crisis. "The system can handle our needs for a while yet," he maintains. "But we'd still appreciate it if people would try to conserve."

He believes that, should the strike continue for many more weeks, some sort of federal or state energy curtailment will become reality. He thinks that some interconnections, those on the PJM level, would have to help others out by supplying power.

He also believes that mandatory power cuts could be promulgated, shutting down schools, outdoor display lights, and non-essential such as sports. "Such cuts will be mandated before the coal completely runs out," he adds. "homes are the last level to be affected."

Stozenski does see grounds for optimism, though, in the White House taking a direct interest in the strike.

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