



Well-Chosen Title

DR. ERVING GOFFMAN suggests that if anybody wants to learn more about the marathon dances of the 30s, there's a book called: "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"—by Milton McKay.
One of the best titles we've ever heard.

DEPT. OF CURRENTLY needed information.
We have heard so many definitions of "yellow dog contracts", direct and indirect, from journalists, politicians and labor leaders we can't be sure exactly what the term means.

Here's a definition which is a little different from the rest, but which may be the best. . . It's from Bergen and Cornelia Evan's "Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage." . . . According to these outstanding authorities a YDC "refers to a contract of employment which provides that the employee promises not to join a labor union under pain of dismissal if he does."

JIM GILLIGAN SAYS that our item not long ago about a wrestler being able to defeat a boxer is not necessarily true. . . Seems that an American army captain, Warren J. Clear, was invited by General Kazushige Ugaki of the Imperial Japanese staff to demonstrate, "if you can," the superiority of American boxing over jujitsu—and carried it off so well, about 1922, that the Japanese army was forced to include boxing in their physical training courses. . . Clear landed a haymaker on the chin of a champion judoist.

THE OTHER DAY a entirely bald-headed gentleman asked druggist Ray Dami about a cure for dandruff. . . The cure is not on his scalp—but on his heavily bearded chin.

YES, IT IS TOUGH to be a humorist on TV, as a group of sharp young comics point out in the latest Esquire.

Steve Allen, without benefit of a gag writer, says one of the funniest things he ever heard was the remark made by the late Joe McCarthy when the fiery senator was asked what he thought of a recent witness's remarks before a committee hearing. "The most unheard of thing I ever heard of," said Joe.

It's tough that Allen didn't recognize that as one of the oldest of jokes, even outdating Joe Miller.

We are not denying that the Senator from Wisconsin actually made the remark, and he may have said it spontaneously without ever hearing it before. . . It's simply tough that Allen thought it fresh and new.

We used it about two months ago, when we were discussing that delightful form of humor known as the Irish Bull. . . We found it listed in several joke books, with the tacit verification of its great age.

NEVER JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
For example, one of our friends told us of a man who was learning to be a very fine diver "in his backyard, even though he has no swimming pool."

Doubting that anybody could learn to dive by setting up just a diving board over a pile of sand, we called Art Olsen, who has coached many young divers into Olympic ranks—including his daughter Zoe Ann, the wife of big league baseball star Jackie Jensen.

"Oh, absolutely, it's one of the best ways of learning fast," said Art. "No better way of learning the fundamentals—you get the feel of the mechanics so much better. . . We used to use one down in the gym of the Athens Club, but it made so much noise we had to go back to the pool. It's splendid for learning gainers and somersaults. I know of some divers who have gone from single to double somersaults—using a board over a sand pit. Even do twists and somersaults. It makes them work—they know that they don't have that soft water to fall into."

ARTHUR "BUD" TABER writes: "Now I know that those TV commercials for dog food are very honest—you know the ones which have the friendly announcer say that the cans are full of lean, red meat."

During my vacation in Nevada I was taken on a "round-up" of wild-horses by a cowboy who used a Piper Cub airplane. Flying all over the country side he herded those scared critters into a fenced off canyon—by the time they stopped running, they were nothing but lean meat, they'd run all the fat off themselves."

OAKLAND PARK authorities who have a great deal of trouble in keeping up the Lake Merritt swan population are wondering why a certain gent living by the lake is so certain that "swan eggs aren't very good eating, they are large, but they taste fishy."

WELL, WE HEAR that a certain East Bay restaurant has fired that waitress who has been mooching cigars from delighted gentlemen who though she was telling the truth when she said she smoked them herself when she was off-duty. . . Seems she was actually accumulating them for her boy-friend.

ADJUST! Make the most of a bad situation!
We hear that a local politico was embarrassed last week when he learned that his wife had simply provided for the buffet lunch he was hosting for some VIPS—except in one category. She had forgotten the paper napkins.

That caused us to remember the famous Fred Allen solution for such a dire situation—"A large woolly dog will occasionally pass among you," he told the guests. "Please feel free to wipe your hands on Fido."

State Forestry Receives Award

The State Division of Forestry was recently given a plaque and national recognition when their 1957 television featurette, "The Careless Crime," was selected as the most outstanding TV production by a public conservation agency in the United States and Canada.

Judging was conducted by the American Association for Conservation Information at their annual meeting at Eagle River, Wis.

Fire Season Off To Bad Start

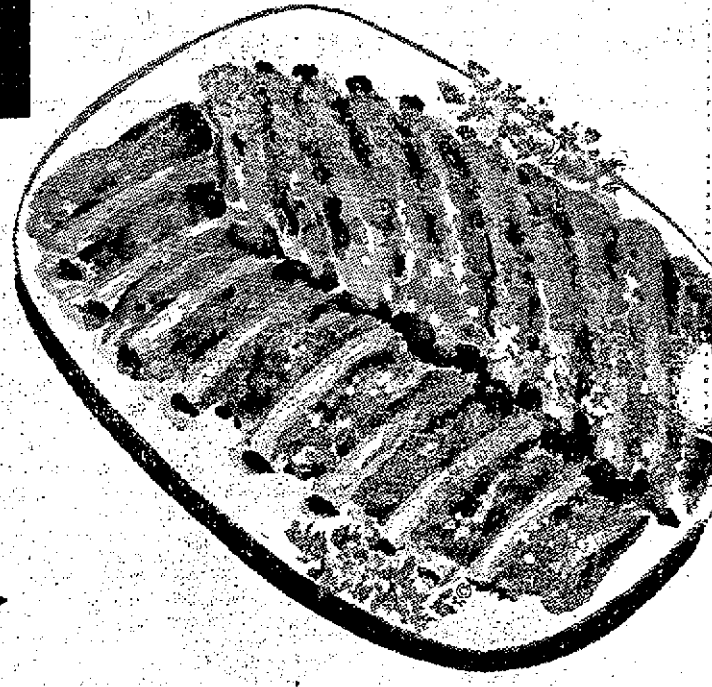
SACRAMENTO (UPI) — California's forest fire season is off to a destructive start.

The State Division of Forestry's first report on the new fire season shows that it is the worst in five years.

The report indicated that 2930 acres were burned this year during the first five months of the season as compared with 1948 in 1954, the second highest year during the past five years.

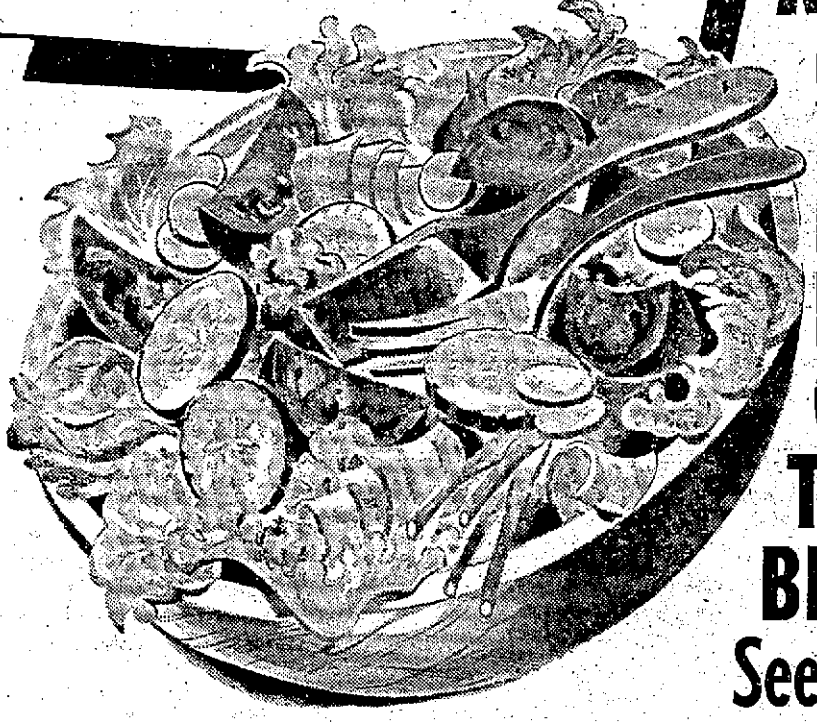
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