

HOW F. WHITING PAID HIS BET ON FIRPO'S DEFEAT

Peanut Rolling in Douglas
Avenue Aroused Curiosity and Comment.

"I never want to see a peanut again as long as I live," said Frank Whiting of Fairville, yesterday, after he had rolled one from the railway crossing over the highway bridge over the re-

versing falls to the corner of Main street and Douglas avenue. This unique feat was due to the loss of a bet on the recent world's heavyweight championship bout between Jack Dempsey and Luis Angel Firpo.

White sitting in George Parker's barber shop in Fairville prior to the fight, the question of the probable winner was under discussion, and as Parker was a strong supporter of Dempsey, and Whiting was equally confident of the prowess of Firpo, it was decided to place a bet on the result. It was agreed that the loser would have to take a peanut and with the aid of toothpicks roll it from the point mentioned to the corner of Main street, which is more than a mile distance. Both men were serious in making the bet, shook hands on it, and resolved to carry out their part in the wager.

The next question was who would be the victim. Both repaired to a place where returns were being received and sat down to await the result. When Dempsey started to drop the Argentine

with his powerful rights and lefts Parker was elated, but when Firpo battered Dempsey to his knees and later drove him right through the ropes it was Whiting's turn to smile. However, Dempsey finally won and, like Firpo, friend Whiting went down to defeat. Would he be "game" and carry out the conditions of the wager was the next question, but Whiting quickly dissipated any doubt by announcing that he had willingly made the bet and intended to carry it out—and he did. See Film Roll.

Tuesday was selected and one o'clock was the hour for the start. Accompanied by a representative of The Times, Whiting and Parker set out for the scene, the former carrying several peanuts and a handful of toothpicks. When they arrived at the bridge, The Times had a photographer ready to snap their pictures and after this had been accomplished a start was made. At first only the representatives of The Times and Parker accompanied Whiting, but in a few minutes their number was augmented and as many as fifteen

men formed the vanguard as the loser continued diligently on his way.

As the party slowly wended its way along the avenue, Whiting leading and patiently and persistently rolling the peanut, people passing in automobiles and street cars stared at the strange assemblage. Others gazed out of windows and the look of wonderment on their faces indicated that they had no idea what was being enacted. Some in the party suggested that they would be taken for a party of inebriates, while others said, "The people must think we are a crowd of nuts let loose."

Rough on Propeller.

After leaving the railway crossing at 1:30 o'clock, fairly good time was made and in fifteen minutes Prospect street was reached, but not without some mishaps. While the concrete sidewalk made for good progress, it proved a bit too hard for toothpicks and one after another they snapped. After one supply had been depleted an effort was made to secure reinforcements, but none were available and matches were substituted. Then the peanut apparently did not take kindly to such rough treatment and finally collapsed. Another was quickly forthcoming and the procession again got under way. Clickety-click went the peanut, and snap went match after match, but still the distance was lessening and there was no thought of quitting. A halt was called for a breathing spell between Prospect street and the Metropolitan Observatory as the hydroplane passed overhead. As the party continued, some amusing repartee passed between the "game loser" and his friends and admirers. Some of the remarks were worthy of note:

"Gee, the wind's against him."

"He'll need a plaster on his back to-night."

"Want me to hold your hat?" Answer—"No, I want it to keep my head down."

"Somebody will be starting a new jazz called the 'peanut roll'."

"Boys, this will be a long day for you, Frank."

"Keep her head down, she's a rearer."

"They even come in aeroplanes to see you."

"If your wife ever catches you now!"

Mr. Whiting—"Say, you fellows, I am getting as much fun out of this as you are."

On the way along the avenue the members of the party started betting how long the loser would take, some estimating it at 45 minutes and others at an hour and a half. One suggested a time-keeper to settle the disputes.

Suggests Race.

The right-of-way of the peanut was disputed by a caterpillar, but the pick soon ousted him out of the road. One of the party then picked it up and placing it on even terms with the peanut suggested a race. As the caterpillar was not apparently keen for such violent exercise, it was picked up and put down the back of the neck of one of the men and that ended that incident.

Finally the end was sighted and the feat accomplished, the time for the journey being exactly three-quarters of an hour. Whiting was tired, but smilingly responded to the handshaking and cheering of his companions. He said that aside from a slight headache from stooping over so much he felt all right. He says he still has faith in Firpo and will willingly back him again in his next fight. He warned his friend George to be prepared, for his turn was coming.

RUSSIA DIFFICULT TO ENTER.

Berlin, Aug. 28.—(A. P. by mail).—Although the Soviet Government has announced that admission to Russia would be facilitated for the purpose of accommodating visitors to the commercial exposition in Moscow, Americans desiring to enter the Soviet republic still find it difficult to obtain permission from Moscow.

The Berlin embassy says it is unable to grant permission without communicating with the central government in Moscow and delays are as prolonged as they were before the announcement of a change in policy.

BY A HEARSE.

Pemberton, Lancashire, Sept. 19.—Michael Cheetham, 22, after jumping off a tramway car, was knocked down and killed—by a motor hearse.

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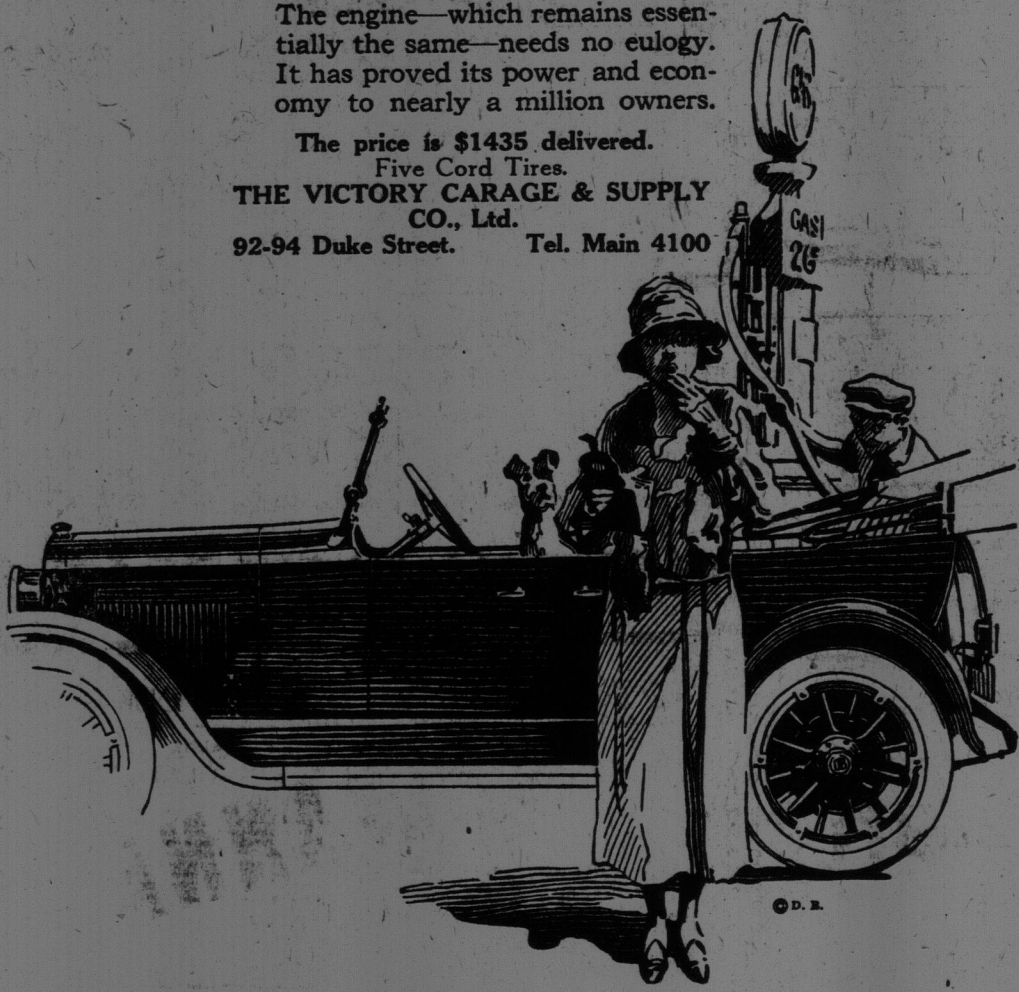
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