

IN THE SPORTING SPHERE

PRIMO CANERA, ITALY'S  
AMBLING ALP, INTERVIEWED  
BY A LADY REPORTER

(By Laura Lee in Philadelphia Bulletin.)

It makes you feel pretty silly standing up on a chair to conduct an interview. But no sillier than standing down on the ground and shouting up to a mountain—with your voice getting lost in transit.

He came to Philadelphia yesterday afternoon for a picnic given by the Bocce League of America at Schuetzen Park, 83d st., and Tincum av.

Though the Big Parade was scheduled for 1:30 it was four o'clock before it hove in sight (just an Italian prima donna, for all his good nature) preceded by a couple of—well, I suppose you would call them feet and followed by a tumultuous mass of more than 2,000 Italians screaming above the strains of the Italian national anthem.

Lindbergh's welcome home could hardly have been louder or heartier.

The noise was no handicap as far as the interview was concerned. Italy's monstrous mauler has a voice like thunder. It rumbles and roars above any din. One thing you can't do, though, is carry on whispered conversations with him behind a speaker's back. Apparently he cannot tune down his vocal cords to a whisper.

He Knows The Answers

No one would ever accuse The Big Boy of garrulousness. He makes no voluntary contributions to a conversation. Just sits and smiles. When questioned he answers. More monosyllables—if he answers. More often than not, he meets a question with one of his own. A baffling habit.

Our conversation ran like this:

Ques.—"Do you like blondes or brunettes?"

Ans.—"What do you think?"

Ques.—"When do you think you will get married?"

Ans.—"In twenty years."

Ques.—"Are you against the institution of marriage?"

Ans.—"In twenty years I marry."

Ques.—"Do you like tall women or short ones?"

Ans.—"What do you think?" (After insistence, amended to read, "little ones.")

Ques.—"What is your favorite pastime?"

Ans.—"What do you think?"

Ques.—"Do you like to sing?"

Ans.—"What kind of songs?"

This bronzed Hercules was becomingly draped in grey—grey silk shirt with blue monogram, grey suspenders grey trousers and black and white checked tie. His hat and coat were probably grey. I didn't see them.

52 Inches—Chest, Not Smile

Admiring feminine eyes followed the flashing Romeo smile that seldom left the fighter's face. That 52-inch chest (when expanded) hides a warm, romantic heart, or I miss my guess.

But the world's heavyweight champion is wary of the weaker sex (it may have something to do with his recent bankruptcy caused in part by an expensive romance with an English waitress.)

When King Primo grew weary of being worshipped and mobbed, he made his way to the second floor of the refectory while a couple of squads of policemen had their hands full holding back the howling crowds.

Tough On The Furniture

Sitting on a davenport with the champion, I grew a little seasick from the up and down movement when the 275-pound giant rose to greet six friends.

Canera is a likable chap—good natured, considerate of his friends and affectionate with his "little" (5 ft., 11) brother, Saverino, a mosaic worker.

By sheer persistence I finally gathered these facts:

He is superstitious. Carries a little good luck penguin to every fight. A little old French woman gave it to him at first fight. He also always wears the same pair of trunks, gloves and dressing gown for good luck. He is fond of dancing. Loves to sleep. Says his appetite is not over normal. It was big when he was a growing, underfed boy in the circus.

It Ain't So!

Also says it is untrue that he has to get under Niagara Falls, when he wants to take a shower.

He learned English by going to the talkies three and four times a day. Which may account for his excellent command of American slang. His favorites are: "Pa-leeze", "You said it", "Oh, yeah" and "O.K., boy". He enjoys wise cracks and practical jokes.

His brother says he is very good to his mother. Just built her a beautiful home near Venice.

ful home near Venice.

No story is complete without a discourse on his feet.

They are incredible. And somehow, very funny. All the names they have been called—"Venetian gondolas", "Violin cases", "Canera St. Bernard dogs"—do not adequately prepare one for the sight. I shudder to think what they must look like without stockings or shoes.

He's Got Feet In 'Em

One of the mauling mastodon's shoes (weight 7 1-2 pounds, length, 17 inches) is like something you might expect to see a show window to attract crowds. To see a real live foot in it is spooky.

And those hands! Each one about the size and color of a ham. When he shakes hands with you, you begin to wonder in what shape your hand will be when it emerges.

The shoes have to be made to order, as do practically all his clothes. He won't tell their size. Pretends he doesn't know. Says he is fed up on jokes about his dimensions and tonnage.

Approximately enough, "Canera" without the "ra" means meat.

He is 6 feet, 6 1-2 inches tall. Standing next to him, I reached a little above his waist.

It's not his height that amazes so much as his Gargantuan proportions. Things like a 12-inch ankle and a neck more than half a yard in circumference.

One listens briefly to your symptoms in order to expatiate at length on his own.

Things are looking up in the Police Department. The Chief of Police has a swell new car.

The speculators who have been boosting wheat prices had a sad experience on Thursday when the boom burst.

TURNING THE DIAL

Firemen's sports tomorrow afternoon at College Field and the Races being held this afternoon are the big sport items on the immediate horizon. The swimming meet on Thursday afternoon will also attract a large number if the attendance of the past is an indication.

The firemen's sports will be rather new to most of the citizens of the city and should offer a good deal in the way of excitement and novelty. Teams from all over the Maritimes are competing in the events and the local entries will face some stiff opposition. It should be a really interesting afternoon.

A bit farther away on the local sport's horizon is the York County

CLEVELAND  
TAKES ISSUE WITH  
THE BAMBINO

When the Yankees last visited Cleveland's enormous ball park Babe Ruth found plenty of fault with it, declaring that the Indians never could win a pennant without making home runs as they used to do at Dunn Field, their former home. Alva Bradley, president of the Cleveland club, took exception to Ruth's criticism.

"The Cleveland team will play all of its games in the Stadium this season, next year and I hope ever after," he said. "I think ball players can perform just as well in our Stadium as in any other league park. If any of our men cannot play good ball in the Stadium, we will get men who can."

"I can't see where the change in field should make any difference in winning or losing games. I think that the records will show that in August and September of last season, after we moved into the Stadium, we played just as good ball as before."

"Yes, I remember when we won at Dunn Field the other teams would kick about our small park, and when we lost, our players would kick because of the cheap home runs by Ruth and some of the other sluggers."

House cleaning is a simple art. You just sweep and dust as usual and then put all the furniture in a new place.

Last year's foolish little romance is always a poignant memory to a woman; but to a man it is as quickly and completely forgotten as last year's hay fever.

It is the foreign bonds that bear the highest interest that flop first.

tennis tournament. The racket wielders of Fredericton, Devon, Marysville and Nashwaakss will spend most of next month deciding championships which, while they will only be county titles, carry a certain amount of weight for the simple reason that York County, or the whole, can produce as large an amount of mediocre players and as many good players, as any other county in the province. Westmorland and Saint John Counties might take exception to that, and possibly even Northumberland County, but then, they would be expected to since there are some pretty nice players there also. Fredericton has a good reputation to uphold in the provincial tennis world and the indications are that the reputation is not going to suffer for a while yet.

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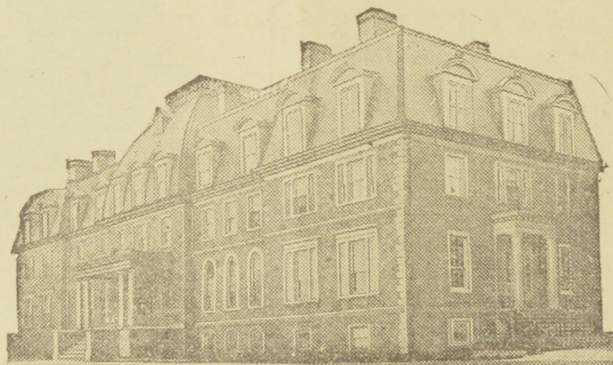
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