

Magna Carta Site Sparks Argument

By NORMAN CRIBBINS
EGHAM, England (Reuters)—The gong has sounded and the boys are sparring in the centre of the ring in the first round of the Magna Carta championship bout—a fight to the finish between two historic towns.

The contest is to decide where King John put his seal to Magna Carta—the "Great Charter"—

England's first enactment of civil liberties.

Was it on the meadows of Runnymede or on Magna Carta Island in the River Thames nearby that the wicked monarch was forced to sign more than seven centuries ago by his rebellious barons?

Heavyweight contender, south of the river, is this Surrey town of Egham, population 25,000. Egham relies on the last words of the great charter: "Given by our hand in the meadow which is called Ronimed between Windsor

and Staines." Lightweight opponent, north of the river, is the Buckinghamshire village of Wraysbury, population 3,350.

Each claims the right to tell visitors to the Festival of Britain, opening next May, the Magna Carta was signed within its own boundaries.

Egham urban council is preparing a booklet for the festival asserting that Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede—now part of Egham.

Wraysbury is preparing a large sign to be put up on the village green declaring:

"Within the boundaries of this parish were laid the foundations of English liberty by the signing

of the Magna Carta in the year 1215."

SIGNED ON ISLAND
Reginald Watson, Wraysbury's parish clerk for 20 years, landed a body blow for the village. He said:

"We rely on Gyll's History of Wraysbury, published in 1862, and on other authorities for our belief that the Magna Carta was sealed on an island in the parish of Wraysbury."

Magna Carta Island is within the parish.

Watson added the village will present a pageant May 14, when a copy of the Magna Carta will be sealed "in this parish and no other parish."

Next into the fray come Har-

old Smith, clerk of Egham council, who declared:

"As the last words of the Magna Carta refer to Runnymede Meadows, it is clear that the document was sealed on the south side of the Thames."

Into the ring in support of Wraysbury bounded Sir Patrick Hannon, former Conservative M.P. and owner of Magna Carta Island.

"The Magna Carta was sealed on the spot where the charter room of my house stands," he said.

For additional ammunition Sir Patrick dived into the chronicles of Matthew Paris, 13th-century historian.

Gyros Back Red Cross

To Take Active Part In Forthcoming Annual Campaign

Prince Rupert Gyro Club, after hearing an appeal from the local Red Cross president, Stan Saville, agreed at its luncheon yesterday to get behind the forthcoming annual campaign with its full weight. Orme Stewart offered to act as chairman of the Gyro canvassing committee and will call upon all members to act as canvassers. The club heard Mr. Saville's announcement of a plan whereby there will be an intensive one-night "light up the porch lights" drive when hundreds of canvassers will call at every residence to receive subscriptions.

Yesterday's Gyro program also included the showing of a very impressive "Historic Sites" film from the National Film Board, depicting scenes in Gaspe, Tadoussac, Quebec, Montreal, the Richelieu River and Lachine associated with the early history of Lower Canada.

President Don Forward was in the chair and guests included Mr. Saville and Gordon Abernethy, the latter a Victoria Gyro.

Vancouver Girl Backs Ice Arena

Miss M. Sprange of Vancouver has written to the Daily News returning one of the recently published ballots and expressing favor for a combination skating and curling rink and offering her financial backing to a regulation size hockey surface.

Miss Sprange's interest in the local project was aroused through receiving the Daily News from her fiancé who lives here. She says that she plans to be married and come to Prince Rupert to live.

Silbak-Premier Strike is Over

STEWART — The short-lived strike at Silbak-Premier mine is over. It lasted little more than a day.

The end came when advices were received from Vancouver by company and union officials that an agreement had been reached giving the men an 85c per day increase, retroactive to December 19, the date of the ending of the former contract. In addition, 25c extra will be granted as at July 1 this year. There is also a proviso that, should the price of gold advance during the year of the contract, the question of wages can be reopened for discussion.

The union had asked for a \$2 a day increase and the company had at first offered 50c.

FLU HITS HOSPITAL
LICHFIELD, England (CP)—When influenza hit the staff at St. Michael's hospital, 30 volunteers took over as temporary nurses. For eight hours a day they made beds, fed patients and cleaned wards.

Library committee of the Women of the Moose held its February meeting at the home of Mrs. Harold Muncey with four members present. It was an enjoyable gathering.

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LIGHT UP at HOTEL FRASER HOUSE

Murder-Mystery And Comedy Too

There may be murder and there may be mystery but it is comedy which dominates the week-end feature picture at the Capitol Theatre here. The picture is "Mrs. O'Malley and Mr. Malone" which suggests there is going to be plenty of homespun fun.

The entire action takes place aboard a speeding train in the compartments and corridor of a Pullman coach. Marjorie Main and James Whitmore, innocently involved in a murder, are arrested and handcuffed together.

To add to the complications, if not the hilarity, a body is discovered in the compartment of the unhappy prisoners. This, they endeavour to conceal in other compartments.

Others in the cast include Ann Dvorak, Phyllis Kirk, Fred Clark, Dorothy Malone and Douglas Fowley.

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