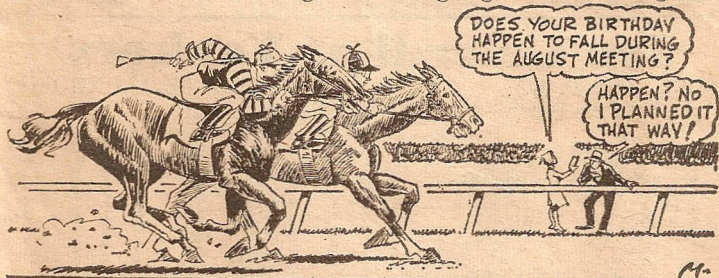


A Sporting Gulliver's Travels:

The birthday system for beating the daily double is all the rage at Saratoga. It was touched off July 23 at the Big A when the 9-2 combo clicked on what would have been the late Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons' 92d birthday and it gained momentum when the 8-6 double hit on July 30, get away day at Big A, on Max Hirsch's 86th.

Compounding the oddity was the fact that both ends of the Mr. Fitz double were ridden by Hedley Woodhouse, whom the great trainer helped when the veteran rider was down and out. And the first half of the Hirsch double, worth \$238.40, was won by Space Control, a horse Max bred for King Ranch and lost via the claiming route.

It's no wonder the regulars are going around asking the



better-known trainers if their birthdays happen to fall during the Spa's meeting.