

# NUGGETS OF BOULDER COLOR

By Elton Garrett

## HORNED TOAD DERBY

There have been bunyon derbies, terrapin derbies, brown derbies and other varieties. A most unique derby is the horned toad derby.

And it's a science and an art—this conducting of horned toad shows at dances. Frank Walker, Boulder City resident for more than a year, will testify to that. He used to conduct 'em.

That was down in California, on the coast, around Long Beach district, and other parts of that high powered (formerly) batch of communities around Los Angeles.

A dance advertised to have a horned toad derby in conjunction with it was sure to command a great deal of interest, Walker found. And so he conducted one after another.

The idea is to sell each person who will buy a horned toad to be entered in the race. During intermission at the dance all entries (the toads) are placed in the center of a marked-off portion of the floor. At a "signal" they are all released at the same time. The first to reach the rim of the circle wins for the holder of his number a prize of \$100 or whatever was announced as the premium for the lucky buyer of a horned toad

for the derby.

Some of the boys learned they could put terpineol on the tail of a toad and he'd "scratch gravel" like sam hill to beat all contestants out of there—making unbelievable time—BUT, when time came for the second race, wherein those winning the prelims would contest for the final race, Mister terpineoled entry had turned up his toes by that time and was quite dead. So in the long run that did not pay.

One fellow, however, won by keeping his entry done up in warm flannel clothes for hours before the derby, getting him pepped up and "loose jointed" that way.

Walker sold Jack Dempsey a ticket while the ex-champion was "showing" on the Pike, in Long Beach. Dempsey wanted to know pretty definitely, first, that it was a bona fide proposition, and that the Legion actually was back of it—which it was. He then bought a ticket.

Strange thing of all things—Dempsey's toad won! And Dempsey was hunted up.

He had given the ticket to that horned toad away to a friend. And he had not been at the dance himself. Search never revealed where