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Italy faced a strong challenge from the ever-growing Left. Catholic influence might see that the country stayed this side of the iron curtain. As the vast multitude acclaimed the Pope, he knew that the voice of the Vatican would be heard in still greater strength during the months ahead. But it was in Germany (a commitment that costs Britain 80 millions a year) where the Allies were striving to revive a broken nation. Here Germans, low in morale have little cause for gaiety. Yet home-made entertainment indicated some sparks of initiative. At notorious Dachau, they stage a bull race.

To watching Germans this must have been an ironic spectacle. A few racing bulls could add a lot of calories to everyone's meagre diet.

Yet while the world's headlines talked gloomily of Crisis, the people of Britain still cling to simple human values.

For example there was Lealie Townsend. In Dusham Avenue, Heston, Mr. Townsend puts on a backyard show. It's at his council house that we find him with his six pets.

Skippy the Poodle is the star performer. For him the sky is the limit.

Gusky is the mother of her "adopted" family. She looks after the youngsters.

But it's Trixy who is the tidiest of them all.

Jill - Skippy's other half - is out to beat her tricks. All the dogs are veteran flyers. This is Squeaky doing his airborne training.

The dogs are brought up in non-austerity style. A grade "A" egg and spoon act is their favourite pastime. To the Townsends it's quite a day out.

But at Doncaster for the St. Leger a quarter of a million people assembled to forget their problems. Neither wars nor economics have ever succeeded in breaking down Britain's great sporting event. Fashions were restricted by morning showers - and Sir Stafford Cripps.

As the 11 three-year-olds line up, the Dollar mix-up is forgotten. And they're off, on a mile and three quarter long course. To the winner will get the first prize of 4,000 guineas. Merry Quip and Bow and Arrow lead the field, as they're off into the country.

Packed together they race for the turn. "Whiteway" has joined "Merry Quip" in the lead. "Bow and Arrow" is way out on the outside.