

STRONG MEN ON PARADE

(Continued from page 33)

He enjoyed success for many years due to the fact that his act was so well presented with particular attention being paid to the artistic appreciation of his audience. Like many old-time athletes he did not achieve a graceful old age; at 60 years of age he was old and bent and nearly blind. He died in London, England, July 28, 1887.

Napoli had a pupil who achieved his share of fame. His pupil, Olinto Ancillotti, had an act very much like Napoli's. Ancillotti was stronger than Napoli, but had not acquired his teacher's classic and artistic ability.

Olinto Ancillotti was born in Pisa, Italy, in 1850. He was a very impressive physical specimen; 5' 10" tall, 18" biceps and 14.5" forearms. Wide shouldered, muscular and well proportioned. He had a very erect carriage, head carried high and back, giving him a defiant and haughty appearance. His voice was loud and harsh. (A brother, Eduardo, was the origina-

tor of performing acrobatic stunts on a bicycle.)

This narration should be titled: *Mi plus forte que Napoli.* (I am stronger than Napoli.) This was Ancillotti's retort Classic.

Ancillotti was anything but serious, his humor at times was infantile. On one occasion an amateur strong man congratulated him on his strength and held out his arm for the Italian strong man's appreciation. Ancillotti grabbed the youth's arm in such a vise-like grip—purposely—that the poor unfortunate recoiled in pain.

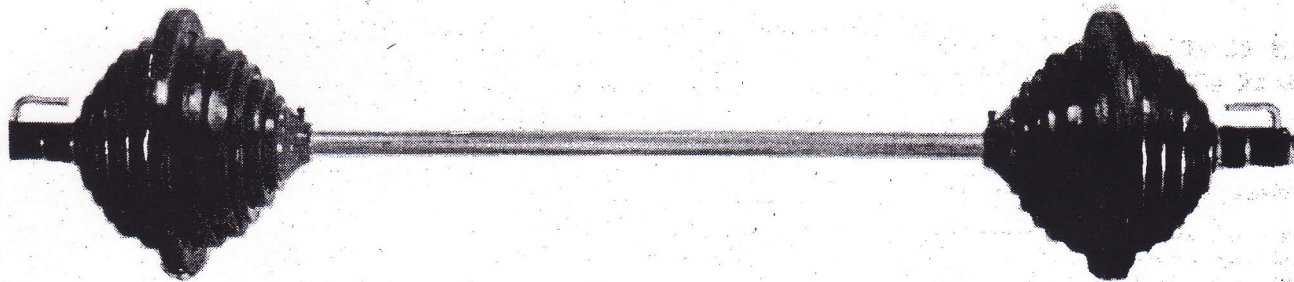
One day a broom merchant halted his wagon in front of a cafe while he went in for refreshments. Ancillotti passing by was hailed by a fellow athlete. This fellow offered him a sum of money if he would break all the broom handles in the wagon, across his arm the same way that he bent iron bars in his act. Ancillotti set to work and in a short while every broom handle was broken. The merchant was advised and came out heaping imprecations on the strong man. When the

merchant had exhausted his vocabulary to Ancillotti's everlasting: "*Mi plus forte que Napoli,*" the athlete who had provoked the incident paid for the damage and ordered drinks all around.

Like many strong men of his day, he would try his hand at wrestling. One day sensing defeat at the hands of Pietro Dalmasso, a smaller but more able wrestler, he crouched on his hands and knees clawing the mat until he had a firm grip with both hands in the canvas. The referee warned him to loosen his grip in the wrestling mat, but Ancillotti replied in stentorian tones, repeatedly: "*No, no, mi plus forte que Napoli.*" In spite of his struggle and strength, Dalmasso, one of the most able wrestlers of his time, was able to lay the strong man on his shoulders. Ancillotti rose to his feet and cursed him, by turns, in Italian and in French.

Ancillotti, in spite of certain faults, was a good fellow, brave and well liked by his friends. He died at the age of 34, in America, in 1884.

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