

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS



VIRGIL



The MIDDLES



REG'LAR FELLERS—Out for His Share



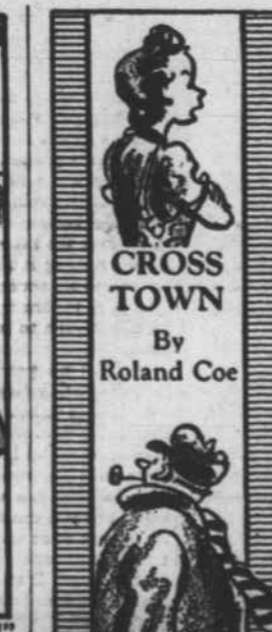
By GENE BYRNES



POP—Could Be He Knew No Better



By J. MILLAR WATT



"WE ARE letting the grass roots of baseball die," Sam Breadon, owner and president of the World Champion Cardinals, remarked to me recently. "I am referring to the millions of kids from 12 to 16 years old who would like to play baseball, but who get no help or encouragement."

"This is true even in the big Southwest—from the Ozarks to Texas—the Cottonwood trail that gave baseball such men as Tris Speaker, Rogers Hornsby, Dizzy and Paul Dean, Carl Hubbell, Pepper Martin. I could name a hundred others, including Bill Dickey from Arkansas and Lonnie Warneke, the tobacco chewing champion from Mt. Ida."

"Soft ball, football and other sports have started replacing baseball as a recreation for the youngsters. They like baseball and would rather play it if they only had the chance. This will be the big job of any new commissioner we might name. He must offer and work out a plan that will give youngsters all over the country this chance."

We have been hammering with what punches we had left along these same lines, receiving no support except from Pittsburgh and Detroit and a few individuals like Jack Coombs, the old Colby Carbine, baseball coach at Duke.

Baseball, year after year, has gone to sleep in this important development—and this includes baseball's Big Three. These three have run the game ably in other respects. But they have all fallen down on building up and bringing baseball to the kids from the ages of 12 to 16, many, many thousands of whom would rather play baseball than any other game, but rarely get the chance.

Crowded cities—lack of space—lack of any help or cooperation on the part of baseball leaders—these have all figured in the decay of the game's so-called "grass roots." They have either forgotten all about the kids, or else they have been too shortsighted to face the major problem of the game.

The new commissioner must be one who can rebuild baseball for the kids—and that will be his most important job. It will be a job no one in baseball has even approached, barring the few places I have mentioned.

There are millions of kids who would like to play baseball—who never have the chance. And anyone with a half grain of intelligence knows that if a kid from 12 to 15 years old doesn't have the chance to play baseball, he will never get anywhere in the game.

Football is different. You can take a husky young fellow around 18 or 19 who never saw a football and turn him into a great tackle or a great guard. Especially if he is big and fast. You can't do that with a baseball player—or a golfer. The great baseball players came up as kids—who played the game. The great golfers came up as caddies—Hagen, Sarazen, Guimet, Nelson, Hogan, Chick Evans, Goodman, McSpaden, Johnny Farrell, Harry Cooper.

Must Start Early

Baseball and golf are games you must learn in early youth. Football can be picked up later on. Golf has been given a big break. Baseball hasn't.

I don't care whether the new commissioner is Jim Farley, Edgar Hoover or Ford Frick—or some one else who has the respect of the ballplayers and the spectators. All I know is that his first job will be to organize a new youth movement for baseball, which (outside of Pittsburgh, Detroit and in certain locations where the American Legion has been an active sponsor) has been almost completely overlooked, although the two big leagues have each contributed \$20,000 to this fund. Certainly there has been no help from the two major leagues outside of this contribution and little help from any of the minors.

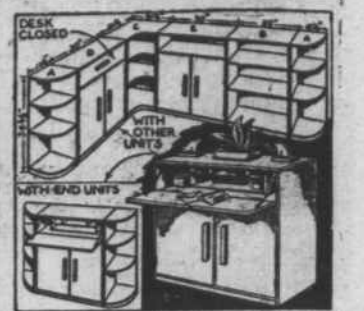
In many big cities, it must be admitted there is little room left where the kids can play—except along cobblestone streets or those haunted by automobiles. But there is still space enough left in the United States to give boys from 12 to 16 a chance to play baseball. It is still a national crime that out of 100,000 18-year-old boys called to the draft, over 25,000 are turned back as physically unfit.

But it is a difficult matter to get anyone interested in this problem. Army and navy say they are too busy trying to win a war to bother about the situation. And this group is too young for sport promoters to use as money-makers.

Besides Breadon, only Larry MacPhail and Horace Stoneham seem to think that part of the duty of the new commissioner should be that of trying to rebuild the waning enthusiasm for the game in the high schools and the colleges, and even they can't agree as to how that should be worked out.

Desk That Matches Unit Book Shelves

IF YOU can saw straight and drive a nail you can make this useful desk. Combined with curved end units it becomes an important piece of furniture to fill a wide wall space, or it may be used with



other matching units as shown. Its sleek modern lines also make it perfect for a boy's or girl's room.

Those nicely planned compartments are as easy to make as a box slipped in place and secured from the back. The pattern also shows how to make shelves and compartments underneath for storing files and records.

NOTE—Pattern 272 gives large diagrams and illustrated step-by-step directions for this desk. A list of all materials required is included. Unit E in the upper sketch is also made with this pattern. Units A and B with Pattern 270. Unit C with Pattern 271. Patterns are 15 cents each postpaid. Address requests for patterns to:

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