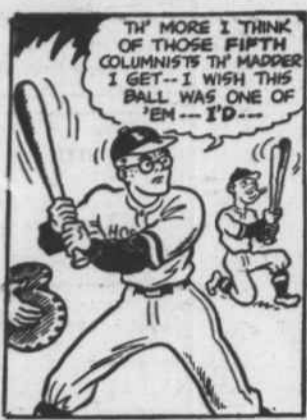


# THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

## SPARKY WATTS



## By BOODY ROGERS



## VIRGIL

By LEN KLEIS

IT SAYS THE SECRET OF HYPNOTISM IS TO STARE INTO THE VICTIM'S EYES AND CONCENTRATE

IT SHOULD WORK EASY ON A DOG-- CAUSE I'VE GOT A STRONGER MIND THAN HE HAS



## The MIDDLES

By BOB KARP



## REG'LAR FELLERS--Making of a Hero

## By GENE BYRNES



## POP--A Bomb Alarm

## By J. MILLAR WATT



WITH the bluebird chirping again and the "red red robin now bob bob bobbin' around," baseball with all its future troubles is still in a far better way than it looked to be some weeks ago.

Many teams have lost many good men, but they still have some interesting talent left.

The main point is that we have had too many gonfalonie gallops in the last few seasons where either Yankees or Cardinals were so far in front by August that nothing remained of the races except a cloud of indigo dust far down on the stretch.

This new season there is a strong possibility for two of the closest races in many years, where almost anything can happen.

We put this point up to Larry MacPhail and the always astute colonel coyly confessed that such might easily be the case.

"We no longer have the matter of picking one or possibly two teams from the two leagues and tagging them on top in April. For one example no manager knows today just what ball players he will lose next week or next month.



**A Big Question Mark**

"What team could you pick on top in the American league at this point? Or the National league? And if you happened to have one or two favorites, how do you know how they'd look around the middle of May or the middle of June?"

"Take Detroit. The Tigers still have Trout and Newhouse. Two fine pitchers--two big 1944 winners. But Wakefield is gone and so is Pinky Higgins, and who is left to give these two pitchers any runs to work on? You know where the Tigers were last summer until Wakefield returned.

"The Browns look as good as any other baseball team, but this is April--not June or July. Even Joe McCarthy doesn't know how the Yankees will stack up two months from now.

"But that isn't the important point. The main idea is that each league might easily have five or six clubs well-bunched through the summer--all with a chance to win--and that's what makes baseball. Naturally each home city likes to see its team with at least a chance--somewhere up with the bunch--not 20 games or even more away. You saw what happened last fall when the Browns, Tigers and Yankees were all bunched up. No one ever accused them of being great ball clubs. But still you couldn't get near their parks, with thousands turned away in St. Louis."

**Race Counts Most**

We have had a few ball players who could draw out the populace, no matter how far out their clubs were.

Babe Ruth was the top party in this list. I recall one season when the Babe played in Boston and Philadelphia before overflow crowds, although Boston and Philadelphia, far out of the race, had been playing to fewer than a thousand morbid souls daily. In later years Bob Feller was a big attraction on the days he worked. So was Ted Williams.

But in the main it has been the ball club that drew the crowds--the ball club up in the race. I have always believed that a few seasons ago the Dodgers, playing in the Yankee stadium, would have passed the 2,000,000 mark.

I still rate Detroit and Brooklyn as the two best ball towns in the country, and that isn't barring New York or Chicago. There was a time when Boston belonged in this preferred list. But when you get right down to the big check-up most of them need a team somewhere in the race.

For some odd reason, although their ball players come from all over the map, from the unknown hamlets and the farms, from spots more than 2,000 miles away, hometown pride is always concerned. This has always been a deep mystery to me--but there it is.

For some years the National league had two or three teams neck and neck down the stretch--such as the Cardinals and the Dodgers. When that was happening, the Yankees usually had their race packed away on ice by late July or early August.

Then, last fall, the American league suddenly switched into a hot three-club finish as the Cardinals were wrecking the National.

This all speaks for the complete honesty of baseball, which I believe today is taken for granted by every known proof, but it is of no vast help to nationwide interest.

I agree with Larry MacPhail that the 1945 season may easily give us five or six clubs from each of the two big leagues which might easily be under a blanket from time to time during the coming months.

It is my tip that baseball is on its way to one of the most interesting seasons in many years unless it is so badly riddled that it isn't given a chance.

Long straight draperies will add height to a low room. Choose plain material or one with a pattern that carries the eye up and down from top to bottom. Tie-backs will break the line and tend to shorten a room.

Men's shirt collars will fray less if turned up before being laundered.

Never crowd the rinse tub. Clothes must have room to move about freely to get soap out.

Rugs should be swept or vacuum cleaned, but never beaten, shaken, or snapped, as this may loosen or break the fabric and binding or fringe.

**REALLY S-O-O-T-H-ING**  
because they're really medicated

