

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS

VIRGIL

By LEN KLEIS



REG'LAR FELLERS—Bird of an Idea



By GENE BYRNES

The MIDDLES

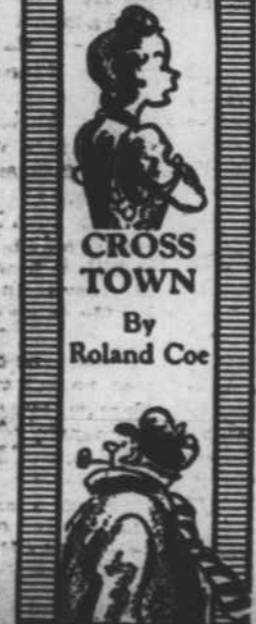
By BOB KARP



POP—Logic



By J. MILLAR WATT



CROSS TOWN

By Roland Coe



A NOTHER big league baseball season is well on its way. We were thinking about this as we sat on the Yankee bench with Art Fletcher, Joe McCarthy's field marshal.

Art began his baseball career 38 years ago and he is still a spark-plug, nearing 80, lean, hard and full of fire. We soon started talking about the Yankees and the new American league pennant race.

"This should be a great race," he told me. "I know many are picking the Browns to win again, and maybe they will, as they haven't suffered much from the draft so far. But if we can keep the lineup we have today, I still believe the Yankees have a great chance."

"No complaining, you understand, but the Yankees have taken the worst beating from the draft in baseball—Dickey, Gordon, DiMaggio, Henrich, Ruffing, Rizzuto, Keller, Hemsley, Johnson, and I could give you ten more. Now we start a new season with a pretty good club. A ball club good enough to win—or finish close-up. But suppose we lose Johnny Lindell, Snuffy Stirrweiss, Eitzen and one or two more? Then we are pretty well shot. No one knows what will happen for the Browns are pretty well set, and they are the team to beat—with what they have on hand right now."

Over in the National

After leaving Art Fletcher, we called on two other pilots, Mel Ott and Leo Durocher.

Mel, who makes several records every time he walks to the plate, refused to concede anything to the Cardinals and Pirates, picked to run 1-2.

"Maybe they will," Mel said. "But only maybe. The Cardinals look best on copy paper and the Pirates look next best. But ball games are won on the field—not on copy paper. All I can say is that our 1945 Giant team will give them all a battle. We have an improved team all along the line. We'll have better pitching and a better punch. You know what that means. You don't have to tell me what the Cardinals and Pirates have. But I am conceding them nothing. We'll give them a scrap all the way, moving on with what we have. What we'll have later, no one knows."

I happen to know that Frank Frisch, disabled all through the spring campaign, has full faith in his Pirates.

"We were good enough to beat the Cardinals nine straight games down the stretch," Frank said, "and they won't be any better this season. If as strong."

But the fact remains that the Cardinals are still the team they must all worry about—and they all know it—whatever they may say.

As Leo Durocher put it, "Any team that can beat out the Cardinals can win this pennant. The Dodgers? No. We are the guess team of the league, and I'm not going to try any early season guessing."

In talking over the 1945 rating with a number of ball players, managers and old timers who have been around—I picked up this order of finish for the two pennants:

National League—Cardinals, Pirates, Giants, Reds, Cubs, Braves, Dodgers, Phillies.

American League—Browns, Yankees, Tigers, Red Sox, Athletics, Indians, White Sox, Senators.

In any event the main problem seems to be St. Louis and its two 1944 winners. They are the teams to stop.

Army Sports Program

The army is going to do all it can to provide entertainment and physical fitness for the fighting men in Europe, who simply can't be rushed home. Here is the general idea in behalf of the millions left in Europe, temporarily at least, as given to me from the war office in Washington.

The Commanding Generals of the European and Mediterranean Theaters have estimated that over 60 per cent of the soldiers within their commands will elect to participate in the new athletic program. In General Eisenhower's command alone, plans call for 150,000 participants in track and field events; 800,000 in organized baseball, approximately 800,000 in informal softball games, 800,000 in volleyball, and 400,000 in informal football and touch-football.

The entire program will assist in "de-combatizing" personnel scheduled for demobilization by replacing the combat skills it was necessary to teach during the period of mobilization, with competitive and recreational sports.

"Purchasing equipment and supplies for the program presented serious problems. Funds, priorities, sources of supply, production schedules, rail transportation and water shipping space were but a few. Upon approval of the plan, the Special Services Division set the wheels in motion.

Button-On-Frocks For Old Furniture

WOULD you ever guess that the homely old chair at the right could be made to seem at home in a smart modern room? A simple frock of medium blue cotton rep with darker blue binding and fringe made the trans-



formation shown here. It is not difficult to make covers for a whole set of chairs in this manner for, after you have fitted one cover, the pieces may be used as patterns for cutting all the others. Notice the ties that hold the cover firmly from the inside. The center back closing adds both style and convenience. The buttons are made by covering wooden molds with the slip cover material, and the bound buttonholes are quickly made.

NOTE—The slip cover shown here is from Book 5 which also gives large diagrams showing how to make bound buttonholes. This 22-page booklet is full of other ideas for making the most of old furniture and things you have on hand. To get Book 5, send 15 cents with name and address direct to:

MRS. EUTH WYETH SPFRANS Bedford Hills New York Drawer 19 Enclose 15 cents for Book No. 4 Name Address

Room of Inlaid Wood Creates Optical Illusion

A small room that has to be touched as well as seen to be believed is on exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, says Collier's. Acquired from a 15th-century Italian palace, its four walls contain 12 wooden cupboards whose open doors reveal on the shelves about 100 objects, including an hour-glass, a celestial globe, books and musical instruments. The wall space around the cupboards is paneled, and benches line the sides of the room.

However, it is all an optical illusion, a flat surface on which the uncanny perspective and shadows are produced by inlays of some 500,000 pieces of wood in a vast variety of shapes and colors. So convincing is the three-dimensional effect that several visitors have attempted to sit on the benches.

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