

# Fun for the Whole Family

## SPARKY WATTS



## By BOODY ROGERS



## Those Absentee Lawmakers

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IF YOU had been with me on a recent visit at the Capitol building, you would have noted several significant circumstances which would have given you cause to wonder.

As a matter of fact this particular day was a routine day at the capitol. Most legislative days are routine, nothing spectacular but when visitors from over the nation become disturbed over an unspectacular day in the national legislative halls, folks out in the country and the small towns of this land of ours may well shake a speculative head.

On this day you would have watched from the galleries in the house of representatives as the members voted themselves a \$2,500-a-year-tax-free salary increase under the guise of an expense allowance.

Over on the senate side of the beautiful old building, you would have noted tier upon tier of empty seats and watched a half-dozen members of "the most august body in the world" fiddle around for more than an hour attempting to get a quorum of its membership into their seats so business could go on.

And if you had stepped with me into a senate subcommittee hearing you would have blushed with shame at the spectacle. For there you would have watched a witness before this subcommittee heckled, taunted and derided... assailed with sarcasm, his motives impugned, bullied, even as a trial lawyer seeks to confuse and befuddle a defendant in a court of law. You would have wondered, "with what crime is this man charged?"

Not all senate or house committees are like that, of course. But many are, even though they are supposed to be fact-finding hearings pertaining to some measure up for consideration... to ratification of some presidential nomination. Many committee hearings, say a full-press hearing of the senate agricultural committee, are conducted in a dignified atmosphere of democracy.

Then you would have remembered that the government is doing everything in its power to "hold-the-line" against inflation and to prevent wage increases and higher prices for all our citizens and yet these congressmen, our lawmakers, voted to increase their own pay, tax free. And you would have heard one congressman say that his taxes and expenses took all but \$3,000 of his salary... and another one say that "we voted those taxes ourselves, didn't we, and we oughtn't be granting ourselves any allowance or special privilege to take care of our taxes."

Some newspaper men have figured out that time wasted in the senate alone in obtaining a quorum in one year, at the senate rate of pay, would almost pay the salary of two senators. These are routine and unspectacular things you admit, the voting of salary increases totaling \$1,640,000 annually in the house under present-day circumstances, the lolling attitude of the senate and the undemocratic procedure in the subcommittee hearings, but still, you wonder if they are not misuses of power... unrepresentative of their constituents.



WHAT game is played more throughout the world than any other? This is one of the queries you get from servicemen billeted in Europe and the South Pacific. And then they lead you on to a comparison of tennis and golf. This includes courses, courts and all other ingredients that make up an argument. I put this debate up to one of our leading tennis statisticians and here are the facts:

"Why compare tennis with golf? Why not compare tennis with any other national or international sport? You won't find any other game even close, in an international way."

"Here's something that may shock national and international sport followers. In 1939, just before the recent world war broke out, the International Lawn Tennis association had a membership of 59 nations, headed for the Davis cup. No other sport has even come close to this mark."

"This entry list embraced every continent and every civilized country from the U. S. to Kenya and China. And each of these 59 nations has a tennis governing body."

"Without any argument, the most famous international sporting trophy is the Davis cup, donated in 1900 by Dwight Davis from St. Louis. No other international cup is in the same class."

"Fifty-nine nations — what other sport can equal that? Or even come close, including soccer, golf, basketball, or track and field?"

"Strangely enough the two most famous cups — the Davis cup for tennis and the Walker cup for golf came from two famous St. Louis sportsmen — Dwight Davis and George Herbert Walker. Dwight Davis and Bert Walker, both from inland St. Louis, were main factors in putting tennis and golf on the international sporting map."

"There may have been two finer sportsmen, but I can't recall their names. Their international appeal reached to more than millions — it moved close to the billion mark."

## 15,000 Tennis Courts

Our tennis expert then began to get eloquent. "As you may know," he said, "there are about 5,000 golf courses in the country. But don't forget there are 14,800 municipal tennis courts in 983 towns and cities of the U. S. There are 2,300 municipal courts located in as few as 10 cities, and New York isn't one of them. There are 706 tennis clubs, members of U.S.L.T.A., and 77 others not members. And this doesn't include the enormous number of tennis courts at private homes."

"Golf claims around 3,000,000 players in the U. S. We happen to know that tennis can claim around 5,000,000 players — possibly more. After all, golf requires from 100 to 130 acres for a course. Tennis requires far less."

"The main point is that tennis and golf belong largely to competitors, not to spectators. And that's the way it should be. We have had entirely too many spectators in this country and far too few actual players or competitors. This goes especially for football, baseball and boxing. These are largely spectator games. But these conditions may also change later on. Millions of spectators only mean box office receipts. They mean nothing in the way of physical condition."

Now back to tennis. Our expert continues—"Tennis is the only sport played in countries all over the world under the same rules and regulations. Tennis is an international matter, not a local affair. We figure there are something like 40,000,000 tennis players in the world, men and women. No other sport can even approach this mark. Before the war we had something like 300,000 tennis rackets turned out each year. This will be doubled after the war. Tennis will be one of our greatest games. It takes up far less space and gives far more action than golf."

To forestall any wild squawks from bowlers, softball players and basketball players, we'd like to step aside on this part of the argument. The bowlers and the basketball players claim around 20,000,000. The softball players over 30,000,000. We'll let them fight this out. But people don't read so much about their stars or their teams. The four major reading sports in the United States are baseball, football, boxing and racing—with golf next.

## The Best Golf Swing

Craig Wood reopened a hot argument a few days back: "The biggest improvement in golf, one of the reasons the leaders give you those record scores is this—they use the squared-face on the backswing and keep the squared-face working through the downswing. "This means less pivot, less body turn. It means more hand control. You should take the club head away squarely from the ball and keep it in this position so you can bring it back squarely to the ball."

## VIRGIL

By LEN KLEIS



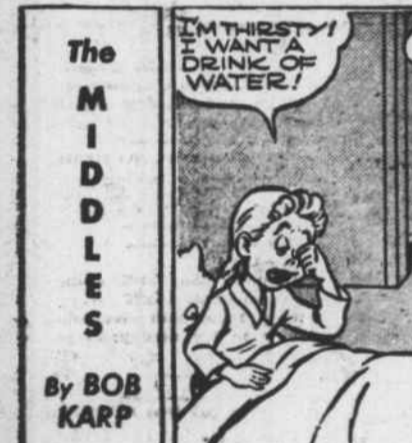
## REG'LAR FELLERS—A Fair Trial

By GENE BYRNES



## The MIDDLES

By BOB KARP



## POP—A Good Definition

By J. MILLAR WATT



"I seldom see my husband. When he isn't away on a fishing trip he's down in the basement tying feathers and things on fishhooks."

"I can't hear a thing you say, Sarge. My girl sent me a set of ear-plugs for my birthday!"

## PRIVATE BUCK

By Clyde Lewis

