

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS

REG'LAR FELLERS—Boney Ballyhoo



By GENE BYRNES



By LEN KLEIS



By BOB KARP



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The HOME TOWN REPORTER in Washington

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Home or Hatrack

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Spotlight of GRANTLAND RICE

IN TOO many instances today, the home is pretty much of a hatrack instead of a place of knowledge.

This is the indictment against indolent American parents by J. Edgar Hoover, boss G-man of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in explaining that the nation faces "the biggest juvenile crime problem in history."

Principal cure, says Mr. Hoover, is widespread education of adult population as to its responsibilities and the inculcation of religion in the homes. An estimated 1,393,655 crimes were reported in 1944, according to fingerprint cards examined by the FBI. Of this number age 17 stood out as the predominating single age group among arrested persons, followed in this respect by ages 18, 19, 21 and 22 in the order indicated.

With the passing of each hour during 1944, more than 158 serious major crimes were reported to local police authorities. That's a major crime about every 23 seconds. Every day during last year brought 23 felonious killings, 30 rapes, 150 aggravated assaults and left 120 persons robbed, 555 with their automobiles stolen and the home or business place of 749 others burglarized. On top of these 2,176 larcenies occurred in the average day.

And crimes in rural areas and in the small towns kept pace with crime in the larger centers of population. Rural murders and rapes decreased in 1944, whereas urban crimes of these types increased. On the other hand, rural robberies were up 1.7 per cent while urban robberies declined 2.1 per cent. For offenses of negligent manslaughter, assault, burglary and auto theft, the trend in both rural and urban crime figures was upward in 1944.

Arrest records received by the FBI during 1944 in Washington showed that 49.3 per cent of those arrested for major crime have previous criminal records and that of the youngsters committing serious crime a larger percentage will continue in a career of crime.

"Blame for juvenile delinquency and crime can be laid on the shoulders of the lax parent and the home . . . a lack of discipline and knowledge of right living is at fault," Mr. Hoover said.

Efforts to shift the blame from the home to the clergy, to school teachers and public officials don't hold water, for a knowledge of right and wrong, the love of family and neighbor and the tenets of religion must be inculcated early and often within the walls of the homes in the lives of the nation's youngsters.

Mr. Hoover believes return of gangsterism in this country such as grew up following the last war can be prevented. There has been a large increase in hijacking recently such as developed during the prohibition days, and there is evidence that remnants of old gangster gangs have taken part in these crimes . . . but through the efforts of the FBI those mobs have been broken up and the enactment of national laws such as the kidnaping and extortion statutes, the unlawful flight to avoid prosecution law, the national stolen property act and other laws, have curbed the activities of gangsters . . . the success of the FBI in tracking down criminals and their high rate of convictions . . . about 97 per cent . . . is also proving a deterrent against the organized crime of post-World War I days.

There likely will be no more John Dillingers, or Dutch Schultzes or Capone gangs, for through the efficiency of the FBI itself, its tough, hard-hitting, straight shooting agents . . . placing detection of crime on a scientific basis . . . and the FBI national police academy, where police chiefs and other police officers are trained to fight crime scientifically . . . highly organized gangs just cannot get a foothold as they once could.

And speaking of crime . . . according to the Wickersham report, it is costing the taxpayers of the nation about 15 billion dollars each year. That's more than the total quota of the Seventh War loan. It is more than the cost of education.

The FBI has won the respect and the trust of the nation, particularly during these war years when it has had the responsibility of espionage and sabotage and has prevented any act of sabotage by enemy action.

Every agent must have an impeccable reputation, must be a graduate of an accredited law school and admitted to the practice of law, or a graduate of an accredited accounting school with at least three years experience in commercial accounting or auditing. So an FBI agent is not just a police officer. He is trained in criminal investigation work after he becomes an agent of the FBI and is qualified for all types of investigation within the bureau's jurisdiction. Selection is careful and discipline is strict.

A FEW old-timers were talking a day or two ago about the best combination pitching staffs, including two stars. It all began on a visit to Detroit where naturally they were talking about Newhouser and Trout, who came close to winning the pennant for the Tigers last fall.

I could take them back to the days of Mathewson and McGinnity, a pretty fair two-man combination. There were others, including Jack Chesbro, who were just as good or just as effective, anyway. But those were times far away and long ago. Few modern fans recall their names. But this is getting away from all-star pitching strength where two men are concerned on one team. Several requests have come in from servicemen, especially those overseas, to hear more about Newhouser and Trout, the winning Tiger combination.

We put this problem up to E. A. Batchelor, the Detroit expert, who came through promptly with the following:

"Newhouser had threatened to be a fine pitcher ever since he joined the Tigers at the age of 18, with a very limited minor league experience. He had plenty of 'swift' and an excellent curve, but he also had two serious defects. He never could get the ball over the plate without easing up on his stuff and he sulked and pouted whenever things went wrong for him. It used to be said that Harold was licked as soon as an error was made behind him—that he was a rank quitter if he didn't get all the breaks.

Couldn't Stand Defeat

"The trouble seemed to be that he couldn't get over the idea that he should win every game he pitched. No matter how good his performance, if the other team outscored the Tigers he felt that Fate had kicked him right in the seat of the pants. There may be better ways of acquiring unlimited unpopularity with one's teammates than a chronic martyr complex, but we don't recall any of them at the moment. Newhouser was cordially disliked by the entire Tiger squad. When he pitched the whole team tightened up and played its worst ball.

"Paul Richards probably is deserving of a great deal of the credit for Newhouser's development from a problem child into a real pitcher. This veteran backstop was acquired by the Tigers from Atlanta, where he had been manager, to help fill the hole left by the departure of George 'Birdie' Tebbets for the army.

"He conveyed the idea that a successful pitcher works on the batters' weaknesses and does not merely try to throw the ball past them by main strength. And so, in one year, he developed all the latent talent of the young southpaw and helped to earn for him the award of most valuable player in the American League.

Gay, Eccentric Trout

"Trout, in many respects, is the exact opposite of Newhouser in mental make-up. Instead of being a sulking, self-centered athlete, he was always the 'good fellow.' He worked all his waking hours at his trade of being a charming eccentric. Nothing seemed to worry him—not even the necessity for winning an occasional ball game. It was the feeling of the fans that he was more interested in clowning than in pitching; that he would rather get a laugh than a digit in the win column. Everybody liked him and everybody wanted to see him win, everybody, except, it seemed, himself.

"Then, all of a sudden, Paul seemed to tumble to the idea that his extra curricular activities as the life of the party could be reconciled with doing a serious job on the mound. Just about the time he was ready to receive one of those long green railroad tickets to the minors, he settled down to work. He won 20 games in 1943 with a club that wasn't going anywhere in particular and he liked the idea of being a winner so well that he kept it up in 1944 with 27 victories.

"It wasn't that Paul suddenly uncovered some new stuff. He hasn't a bit more on the ball now than he had when he was struggling to break even. He always has had a fine curve ball and exceptional control, to say nothing of poise that even an earthquake couldn't disturb. He just naturally grew up at long last.

"One characteristic that these two pitchers have in common is their willingness to work. One or the other was in over half of the games that the Tigers played last year, in almost 70 games of record. Even when they were starting games far oftener than is customary in the major leagues, they were doing relief work for faltering associates. And their associates last season had a positive genius for faltering. In fact, all the rest of the Tiger pitchers combined, won only 33 games, or a little over half as many as the two stars.

