

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS



VIRGIL

By LEN KLEIS

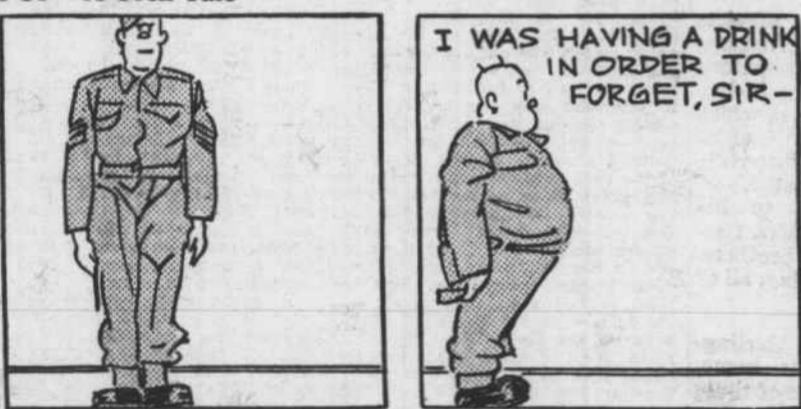


REG'LAR FELLERS—Just a Retainer



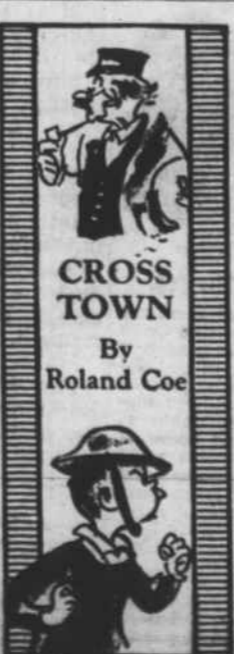
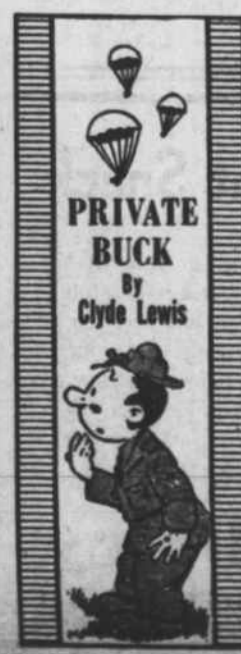
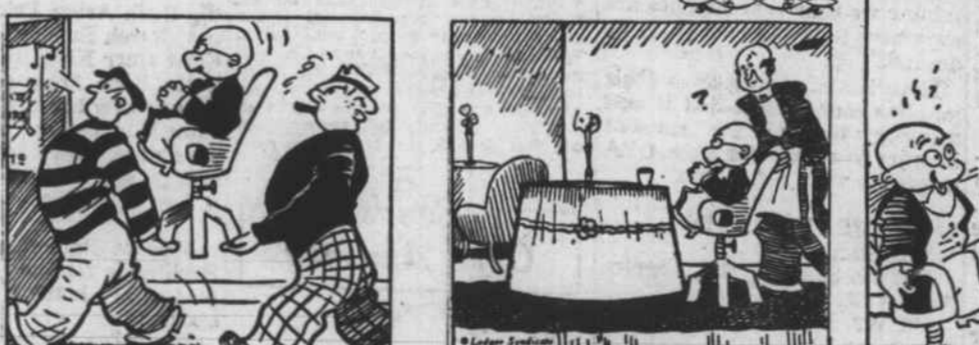
By GENE BYRNES

POP—A Cock Tale



By J. MILLAR WATT

SOMEBODY'S STENOG—One Way to Do It!



DAVE FERRISS, the Merlin of the mound, the ex-airman with the Boston Red Sox, is now after big game, meaning the star pitching records of the last 40 years. When you are leveling with dead aim on such past stars as Lefty Grove, Christy Mathewson, Carl Hubbell, Grover Alexander, Smoky Joe Wood, Ed Walsh, Spud Chandler and a few others, you have to adjust your sights to an unusual angle. For in these 40 years of big league baseball there have been others who have set up a number of incredible marks that the brilliant Ferriss must look at, face to face, or figure to figure.

Dave Ferriss

Here are just a few among those who have won more than 20 games in any given season:

Robert Moses Grove, Athletics, 1931: Won 31, lost 4, pct. .886.

Smoky Joe Wood, Red Sox, 1912: Won 34, lost 5, pct. .872.

Lefty Gomez, Yankees, 1935: Won 26, lost 5, pct. .839.

Walter Johnson, Senators, 1913: Won 36, lost 7, pct. .837.

Spud Chandler, Yankees, 1943: Won 20, lost 4, pct. .833.

Carl Hubbell, Giants, 1936: Won 26, lost 6, pct. .813.

Dizzy Dean, Cardinals, 1935: Won 30, lost 7, pct. .811.

Eddie Cicotte, White Sox, 1919: Won 29, lost 7, pct. .806.

Christy Mathewson, Giants, 1909: Won 25, lost 6, pct. .806.

The above are the high-ranking percentage records since 1904. Ed Walsh won 40 and lost 15 in 1908 for .727. Alexander won 31 and lost 10 in 1915 for .756. Bob Feller's best year was 1939 when he won 24 and lost 9 for .727.

Quite a Target

It is Lefty Grove's record mark, set in 1931, that now becomes the main Ferriss target. Here's quite a target, no matter how keen a sharpshooter you may happen to be—WON 31, LOST 4—PCT. .886. Only Smoky Joe Wood of the Red Sox in 1912 has even approached these miracle figures and Joe was 14 points away at .872, which is not part of a bust or a flop.

To beat Lefty Grove's 1931 mark, Ferriss will have to win 31 games and drop only 3. This means that Miracle Dave will have to win 14 out of his next 15 starts. You will have to admit this is quite an order.

This reminds us that Lefty Grove, the silent mountaineer, had the 6 greatest consecutive years any pitcher has ever known: .750 in 1923—.769 in 1929—.848 in 1930—.896 in 1931—.714 in 1932 and .750 in 1933. In 1930 and 1931, Lefty won 59 games and lost only 9. Try and match that combination for something over .870 for two straight seasons.

There are those perennial pessimists, who live in ancient history as they stroke their mossy beards, who have this to say:

"This is a soft year for pitchers. They are only facing a bunch of minor leaguers, most of them class B and class C. This is an off year. It shouldn't count."

But wait just a few seconds. Why aren't the rest of the pitchers mopping up as Ferriss is? Newhouser of the Tigers is one of the best from many seasons, but though working for a much better ball club he hasn't been able to follow the Ferriss pace.

No Real Support

And looking back to Grove's big year, has Ferriss another Jimmy Foxx or another Al Simmons betting in runs for his side? Simmons hit .390 that season and Jimmy Foxx hammered 30 home runs over the wall. And there were others. Connie Mack had a world series team that year, back in 1931. Don't forget that Grove drew far better defensive and offensive support than the 1945 Red Sox can offer.

Without Ferriss, the Red Sox would be in seventh place, badly outclassed by every team in the American League except the Athletics. Leave out the Ferriss record and the Red Sox would have only 25 victories against the 42 they held after Sunday's list.

Don't forget again that Lefty Grove and Joe Wood were working with two pennant winning, two world series teams, while Ferriss has been pitching for a team that without him would be next to last among lot of bad ball clubs. His infield and outfield support has been nothing to compare with the support Grove and Woods knew in other better years.

Football's Coming Boom

"This will be the greatest war season football has known," remarked Steve Owen, coach of the New York Giants. "I am not referring alone to the pro game. I am also speaking for the colleges. We have been getting in a number of reports lately from our scouts. I've heard from a number of college coaches and they tell me their material will be much better than it was a year ago. They won't be beating Army or Navy but they will still be good."

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

The washer manufacturers have carefully worked out the amount of water that will give best results in their machines. On most machines the water line is clearly marked. Follow this guide for best results. The size of the load is also worked out, usually in pounds.

Try a dash of cinnamon on cold watermelon.

Linoleum can be cleaned easily if it is kept waxed. A dry dust mop is generally all that is needed. Scrub only when dirty.

Varnish the soles of children's shoes, allow them to harden, then varnish a second time. This will render them impervious to dampness and also make them wear longer.

Never use waxed thread in stitching wools. In pressing, heat of the iron melts wax and leaves a greasy line. This gathers dust and may attract moths.

Add a few chopped ripe or green olives to either plain or lemon sauce served with fish.

Before starting to polish leather-seated chairs, wipe off the seats with a cloth dipped in sweet milk. You will be surprised at the dirt that will come off. Polish as usual.

SNAPPY FACTS about RUBBER

Tire conservation is important on the fighting fronts, too. Winning slogan in a contest conducted by Stars and Stripes, Army newspaper, was "Bring victory, and the fight, conserve tires day and night."

A new highly maneuverable combat vehicle called the "Staghound" uses tires four feet high. Rubber required for one such tire is equivalent to five passenger tires.

S. F. Goodrich is building a new \$1,500,000 research laboratory located at Brecksville, a century-old village between Akron and Cleveland, Ohio.



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