

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



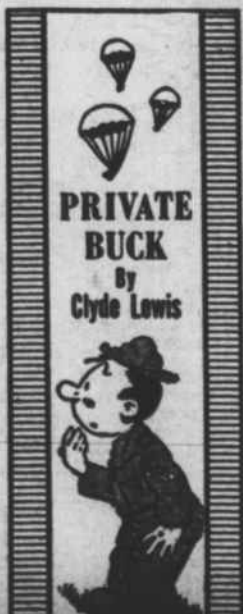
REG'LAR FELLERS--Sweet Prize



POP--Lucky Break



SOMEBODY'S STENOG--Family Stuff



BACK in the dim and far away season of 1876, Chicago won the first National league pennant under the leadership of Albert G. Spalding. Today in the 70th campaign of the older league, Chicago's Cubs are heading for another pennant with the Cardinals still in hot pursuit. As the count stands at this moment Chicago and New York are tied with 15 National league pennants each and if the Cubs win this year, they will have a one pennant lead over their closest all-time rival from Manhattan.

After Albert Spalding won in 1876, Cap Anson won three in a row in 1880, 1881 and 1882, and the slugging Cap repeated again in 1885 and 1886.

Old Cap was one of the most interesting characters I ever knew in baseball. He was a great hitter for close to 25 years. After the Anson cleanup, the Cubs took a dizzy dip for the next 19 years. until Frank L. Chance, the Peerless Leader, arrived on the scene in 1906 to win four pennants in five years against his famous rival, John J. McGraw. McGraw won 10 of New York's 15 pennants, but even his aggressive leadership was not quite enough to catch up with the Cubs.

Outside of the Cubs and Giants, of the 69 pennants already delivered, Boston has 9, St. Louis 8, Pittsburgh 6, Brooklyn 5 and Philadelphia lays claim to her one and only flag which Alexander's pitching brought about 30 years ago.

It has been stated, unofficially, that the Phillies will not win the pennant this season. But we have an idea that under her new owner there will be a change for the better later on.

Grimm's Victories

Returning to the leading Cubs and Chicago's long pennant success, it was Charley Grimm who won for Chicago in 1932 and 1935, using a number of pretty good ball players for this purpose.

Now the cheerful Cub leader has a shot at his third flag, a dream that only the Cardinals can turn into a nightmare. And I don't believe they can with the edge in pitching the Cubs carry. In losing such ball players as the Cooper brothers, Stan Musial and Max Lanier, from last season's squad, the Red Birds apparently have lost more than they could afford.

In spite of these heavy blows, Billy Southworth has turned in one of his best jobs, a statement to which the Dodgers can testify. Southworth's best chance is the 12 games his Cardinals have left with the Cubs.

There may be a wide gap between the Cubs of 1945 and the 1906-1910 teams. That Chance outfit was one of the greatest baseball has ever known. It had one of the game's smartest catchers in Johnny Kling. It had a strong pitching staff headed by Miner Brown and Ed Reulbach. And it had "Tinker to Evers to Chance," plus Steinfeldt at third. It also had such workmen as Scheckard, Hofman, Slagle and Spuhle in the outfield. This club was good enough to set a National league record for a season's total -- 116 victories.

This 1945 round-up is no 1906 brand. But it is a pretty good ball club for these war years. Above all else it has the most consistent pitching staff in either league. When Charley Grimm calls on a starting pitcher, the odds are he will have one who can finish or at least pitch well.

Two Best Basemen

In Hack at third and Cavarretta at first the Cubs have two of the best now left from either league. Stan Hack has been a badly underrated ball player for several years. He has been one of the best, pre-war or through the war. Phil Cavarretta has been one of the most improved players of 1945. A good outfield headed by Bill Nicholson has given Grimm a solid phalanx compared to so many other teams who have had few dependable workmen.

After a straggling start, the Giants and the Dodgers out in front, the Cubs hit their stride in early June and have had no bad spots since. Through June and July they had everything it takes against the opposition offered, which wasn't any too hot. But above all, in Passeau, Wyse, Derringer and others they had better pitching than any other club in their league could show.

As the two leagues are today, anything can still happen with several weeks of play left. But there are only the Cardinals to threaten the Cubs, and outside of Washington's Senators I can't see any other American league team threatening anybody.

Whatever happens, the Clark Griffith -- Ossie Bluege delegation lounging in the shadow of the Washington monument have been the surprise team of the year. They have proved again what pretty good pitching can do for any pennant cause.

Cereals cooked with prunes, raisins, or dates need little sugar to sweeten.

Cover photographs in folders with a piece of cellophane pasted inside the folder. Then when the cellophane gets soiled, slip it out and replace it with a clean piece. In this way the photograph is kept clean.

It is not practical to unravel a machine-knit sweater with side seams. Best you can do is treat it like regular fabric and cut into small pieces for remaking. If this is done, seams must be carefully overcast.

If seams in flour bin or sugar drawer aren't tightly sealed, pour melted paraffin over them and let it harden.

To brighten overshoes, rub with a cloth moistened with diluted ammonia, wash with soap and water, then rinse.

Early digging reduces the potato yield. The crop may be left in the ground as long as a month after maturity provided insects are not present in great number.



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