

Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS



By LEN KLEIS



REG'AR FELLERS—Another Business Failure



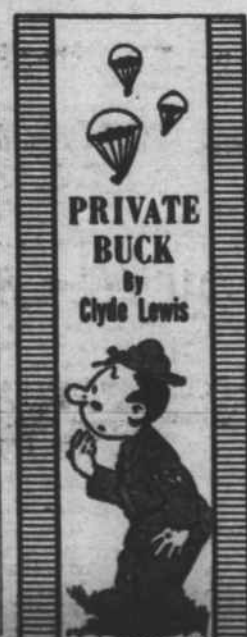
By GENE BYRNES

POP—Perils of Home



By J. MILLAR WATT

SOMEBODY'S STENOGR—That's Getting Out of It!



THE boxer-puncher argument takes on a new form in the case of Joe Louis against Billy Conn. For in addition to being a knockout puncher, Louis was also among the better boxers. So Conn had to gamble his boxing skill and his greater speed against an opponent who could box and wreck you with either hand.

Here's the story Conn told me of their only meeting: "When we came to the 12th round, I knew I was out in front. At least I felt sure I had a lead on points. Then a funny thing happened. The 12th round was too good for my own good. I outboxed Louis by a good margin in that round, adding to my lead. Near the close of the round I found a good opening and I nailed Louis square on the chin with a right."

"I saw his eyes roll and his knees sag. I knew Joe was hurt. So all I had to do in the next three rounds was to box and keep away. I know I could have done that, for at the time Louis was a tired man. But this is where I got dumb in place of being smart. I decided I could knock Joe out. I honestly thought he was all through."

"So instead of keeping away I sailed in and started slugging with him, toe to toe. The pictures showed that I made no effort to keep away from a fellow who could out-hit me with either hand. The great Conn wasn't willing to win a world's championship on points. He also had to be Killer Conn."

"Well, I got what I deserved. I got knocked out. But I still figure a better boxer can handle a harder puncher, even when he is badly out-weighted. These hard punchers don't like shifting, moving targets that are hard to tag."

Boxer vs. Slugger

Past records of the ring have usually shown the boxer can hold his own against the slugger. Jim Corbett proved it against John L. Sullivan, looking back some 53 years. Sullivan at the moment, however had been all through for some time, after 10 years of strong alcoholic indulgence.

What about Corbett and Fitz at Carson City? Well, don't forget that Ruby Robert could box as well as punch. Fitz in fact was a great boxer. Jack Johnson was another able boxer, one of the best.

What about Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, used as the leading example of boxer vs. puncher? They fought 20 rounds of which Tunney won at least 16—possibly more.

But don't forget that the Dempsey of Philadelphia and Chicago was far from being the Dempsey of Toledo. Seven years on top take their toll. Sam Langford was a great fighter and a great puncher. But check Old Sam's record against 139-pound Jack Blackburn, who trained Joe Louis. Blackburn told me once that in seven fights Langford had never knocked him down. "I hurt Langford as much as Sam hurt me," Blackburn said. Blackburn was a master boxer, one of the greatest. Sam Langford will tell you that.

Langford looked better against Jack Johnson and Harry Wills than he looked against Blackburn—as Blackburn explained the case some years ago.

Why Conn Wasn't in Navy

With Joe Louis in the army, why wasn't Billy Conn picked for the navy? This question has been asked more than once. This is the story we get from a high navy official. "We had Conn all set to go into the navy. This was also O. K. with Conn. At the time we figured an army-navy ring match might help out a lot in some financial war campaign. Even if this never took place, we wanted Conn in the navy. So Conn reported at a navy recruiting station. But instead of waiting in line, Billy wandered around the place. Finally a navy petty officer, not knowing who Conn was, ordered him to get in line. The order was given somewhat brusquely. It made no hit with Conn. In place of obeying the command, Conn told the petty officer what he thought of him and just where he could go. And after this Conn left the navy recruiting place and went out to enlist in the army."

This is 100 per cent Conn. Just how Billy ever got by in taking army orders is another mystery. There is nothing the Pittsburgh fighter hates worse than taking orders, or even suggestions. He wants his own way.

\$80,000 a Year Men

Ruth drew an \$80,000 salary one year in baseball and that figure still remains tops in the diamond game. Walter Hagen made more than \$80,000 around that time, but no golfer in those days ever drew important money from tournament play.

It is all different now. Nelson is already around the \$60,000 mark this year with several big money tournaments left in the South, all in the \$10,000 class.

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