Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS — By BOODY ROGERS

REG'LAR FELLERS—Thrifty Gardener — By GENE BYRNES

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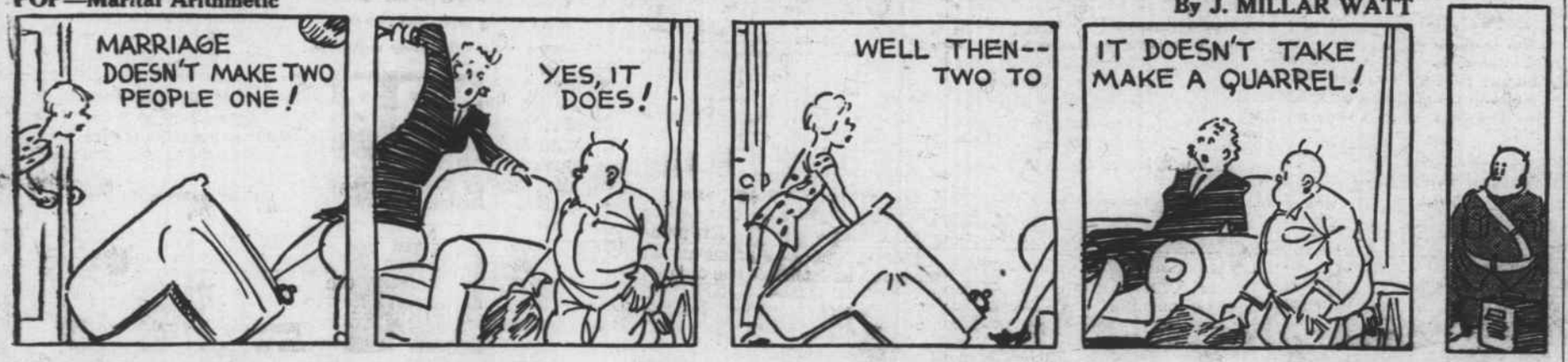
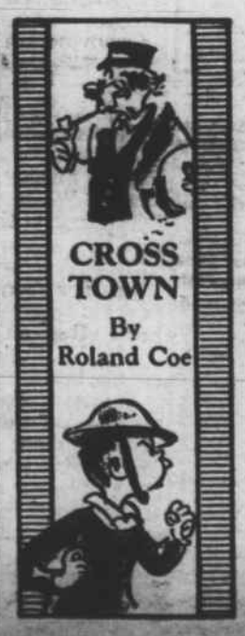
POP—Marital Arithmetic — By J. MILLAR WATT



SOMEBODY'S STENOG—Ready for the Gale

"A cigarette? Doggone it, I've almost forgotten what smoke looks like!"



"Don't you think we'd better make him be more explicit than just 'he has a friend with a printing press'!"

Sportlight
By GRANTLAND RICE

WHETHER or not he is the greatest, Harry Gilmer of Alabama is beyond any argument the most amazing back that football can show today.

Doc Blanchard, army's brilliant back, weighs 205 pounds and can run the 100 in 10 flat.

Glenn Davis, another army brilliant, 180 pounds, is the fastest man in football.

Harry Gilmer, barely 19 years old, weighs 158 pounds and he has no such speed as either Blanchard or Davis can show. And yet I saw him pass and run Alabama into 26 points against Duke last winter, while tackling all over the field.

Grantland Rice

This fall he threw three touchdown passes against a strong L. S. U. team to carry Alabama into a 26 to 7 victory over the team that wrecked Georgia. He then passed and ran Tennessee dizzy to win by 25 to 7.

Gilmer has already proved himself to be one of the best passers of all time. I'd rank him as the greatest passer in football today, college or pro. But the most amazing part of this 158-pound kid is that he is one of the best all-over-the-field tacklers you'll see in many years, that he is a fine ball carrier who is not only elusive but who can hold his feet with a 190-pound back. Also that he is one of the most accurate kickers in the game today.

Batters Big Linesmen

Against Tennessee he kicked out of bounds on the Volunteers' 4-yard line. The play was called back. On his second shot Gilmer again kicked out on the 4-yard line. Also against the big forward walls of L. S. U. and Tennessee he drove his way through the lines as well as he cut around the flanks, carrying 200-pounders for 4 and 5 extra yards.

How often do you see a star passer, a fine ball carrier and a good kicker starring in a defensive role? After the Duke-Sugar Bowl game last winter I ran into Tom Davis, Duke's fast, 190-pound back.

"Gilmer?" he said. "He is no 158-pounder. He must have nailed me 10 times today, and I thought he was going to tear me apart." But 158 to 160 is Gilmer's weight, with which he does the job of four men. For example, in three big games against Duke, L. S. U. and Tennessee, he was largely responsible for the 77 points Alabama scored.

Gilmer's three main ingredients are poise, timing and skill. The Alabama star has thin shoulders, a rather thin chest, but he also has a pair of powerful legs and two big, strong hands.

Knocking on wood for the sake of Frank Thomas, he is also as durable as hickory. He can handle a heavy battering without slowing down. The kid is as cold as an iceberg. You never see him rattled or hurried. He has a pair of blue-gray eyes that get the picture before him in a flash—even when he is in mid-air throwing a pass. Handling the ball from center on a running or a passing play, he always seems to be taking his time, and yet he gets the ball away or starts his run without any waste of time.

Coolness and Timing

Frank Thomas tells me that no breaks of the game ever upset him in the least. "I've never seen any one," Thomas says, "who knows better exactly what to do under all conditions. He can whip a bullet pass as Baugh does, or give you a 50-yard arm throw of the Luckman type. And he rarely misses his target. If he ever made a single bad or wild pass, I never saw it. But it is his coolness, his timing, his durability that makes his skill stand out. He throws his shorter passes with a wrist flip that can't be intercepted. And he can also nail a receiver 50 yards away, after leaving his feet for the jump."

While Gilmer has been a leading factor in carrying Alabama to victory, he isn't the only football player Frank Thomas has on his squad. Big Mancha, one of the best centers in football, heads a strong, fast charging line. Tew and Hodges are two hard running backs. This is the best team Alabama has sent into action in some years, and Alabama has had more than her share of winning games and winning years. Also such stars as Don Hutson, Pooley Hubert, Mack Brown, Howell, Hurry Cain, Jenkins, Whitmire and now Gilmer and Mancha.

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Fumbling All Around

If you happen to look over various accounts of football games around the map you will run into stories of constant fumbling. This is partly due to the shape of the modern football which is fashioned largely for a passing attack. It is built more like a short javelin than anything else, being narrow and pointed. A fumble, recovered by the other side, usually costs from 40 to 50 yards. The shape of the ball is at least a big part of the epidemic.

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• • •

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