

**BOBBY SOX**  
By Marty Links

"I must be getting older. I have a terrific desire to know a man with a mustache!"

**CROSS TOWN**  
By Roland Coe

"We gotta move next week—the building commission says this place is a fire-trap!"

**The Home Town Reporter**  
in WASHINGTON  
By Walter Shead  
WNU Correspondent

**The Once Over**  
By H.I. Phillips

**Footlight**  
by GRANTLAND RICE

Japan and the New Life

Go easy, Japan, will ya? You're killing us with that contortionist act and that changing-a-warrior-into-a-turtle-dove number.

Now you've come out for a new constitution, a bill of rights, an American style declaration of independence, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of the press and freedom of the Chautauqua Salute.

You renounce war as the right of the nation and you cast out "the use of threats or force in any form." And you say "the maintenance of land, sea or air forces will never again be authorized by Japan."

But we can't help asking "Are we supposed to take it in capsule or powder form, and does it taste better in orange juice?"

There's an old adage that you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, a baby-chick out of a buzzard or a wax figure entitled "Love and Kisses" out of a record of Bataan.

We don't know which is the most disturbing, a country that comes out of a global shindig breathing red-fire and yelling "I can lick any man in the house" or one that comes out singing "Hearts and Flowers" and with a passion for necking with the conqueror.

Plenty of people think Russia thumbing its nose at all comers is more comforting than Japan thumbing through a book of good resolutions.

Never in history has a warrior state changed faster to Old Mother Hubbard with touches of Sunbonnet Sue.

Freedom of speech, freedom of thought and freedom of religion are fine but not so fast, boys with the freedom of back-slapping, freedom of grease-balling, freedom of kow-towing and freedom of fried mush!

It is great to change voices in mid-character, but the speed is a little dazzling.

The first thing we know you will be renouncing jiu jitsu, talking back to the phone girl and speaking roughly to the cat.

You may even repudiate Japanese wrestling.

Go easy, pu-lease! The emperor who never let anybody look down on him now operates at eye level. The potentate who never mixed with the folks now gives autographs in crowded department store elevators and prefers an escalator to the white horse. Fair warning, Nippon! Don't come out for compulsory radio crooning!

Mr. Hoover urges all housewives to discontinue fried foods to save fats. Fine! But what will the doctors tell a man to stop eating when he comes in with indigestion?

**LINES IN ENVY**  
"Aga Khan Weighed in Gems, Gets \$1,200,000."—news item.  
I sometimes am proud of my racket—

Quite often I think I'm the nerds, I once made those uppermost brackets—  
(And never complained "How this hurts!")

My friends I declare all quite hearty,  
And life can be sweet, I declare.  
But nobody throws me a party  
And weighs me in gems extra rare!

I sometimes feel very top-doggy;  
My line I announce is okay;  
My path isn't any too boggy—  
The stuff that I get isn't hay;  
I stand pretty well, so I figure;  
The angles all seem very nice;  
My grip on my public gets bigger  
But nobody weighs me in "ice!"

The Aga Khan has what seems to be a great racket. Once a year his people stage a great show and weigh him in diamonds, the proceeds in cash going to his coffers. The other day he tipped the scales at 243 1/2 in Bombay and got over a million. Beyond all doubt he has a better argument than any other man on earth against reducing.

**PEACE OF EXHAUSTION**  
The General Motors strike is over and there is much speculation on which side won. To us it looks like a tie in a fall out of bed.

The federal communications committee announces that in its forms for new applications and renewals of radio licenses it is working to "check advertising excesses," particularly with respect to exasperating commercials. What it means is that it thinks the commercials should end somewhere between the point where the program begins and where it ends.

"Raise Auto Ceilings."—headline. Fine! Bumps on our head are pretty numerous.

**MANAGER Eddie Dyer** of the Cardinals has about all the pitchers two teams could use. Your guess would be that Eddie has nothing to worry about. But the first section of any manager's job is to worry about something.

Two of Manager Dyer's worries now are Johnny Grodzicki and George Munger. Johnny Grodzicki, from Nanticoke, Pa., is an ex-paratrooper, who is still working on a shrapnel wound in his right leg.

George Munger, passing the officer's school test in the Pacific area, has made such a fine record the army doesn't want to let him go. The main point of this yarn is that Dyer believes both men could have been two of the best pitchers in baseball.

"When I had Grodzicki at Columbus in 1941," Dyer says, "I thought he was the best minor league pitcher I ever saw. Six-foot-one, 185 pounds, he had what you might call everything. That season Johnny won 19 games and lost 5 when his record might just as well have been 22 wins and 2 defeats. In addition to a fine arm he had both head and heart, but an uncertain right leg due to a shrapnel wound which has been healing slowly. But he is still undiscouraged. In shape Johnny might easily have been a 25 or 28-game winner.

"George Munger, in my book, is one of the best pitchers in Cardinal history. In his last season with the Cardinals in 1944, Munger won 11 games and lost 3. But he was just beginning to find himself. He is now on duty in the Far East and I don't know when we'll get him back. Munger is another who might have led the league."

These two are not the only cases. The game through 1946 will give you many others from other clubs.

Vets Will Dominate

The pennant races of 1946 will feature largely returning players from the service forces. Among those I might mention are Bob Feller, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Tex Hughson, Joe Gordon, Bobby Doerr, Bill Dickey, Phil Rizzuto, Johnny Mize, Hank Greenberg, Dick Wakefield, Spud Chandler, Charlie Keller, Johnny Beazley, Howie Pollet, Peeewe Reese, Pete Reiser, Country Slaughter, Terry Moore, Dave Ferriss, Dom DiMaggio, and many, many more.

It is from this ex-service list that you will find the pennant winners the leading hitters and the leading pitchers. They will dominate the double show. There will be others who were not in service who will play good ball.

Here is an example. In 1945, Snuffy Stirrweiss led the American league hitters with a season's average of .309. Yet it is the opinion of many smart baseball men that it will take a mark of .360 or .370 to lead the punting parade this season in the junior circuit. I put this query up to six American league veterans, including Bill Dickey and George Selkirk, who know their way around. There were four or five others from American league clubs. It was also their opinion that the 1945 winning mark of .309 wouldn't finish in the first 12.

Pitching Won't Matter

"What about the better pitching that is coming in?" I asked. "I mean such men as Feller, Hughson, etc." "This will make little difference," one veteran answered. "Hitters like Ted Williams, Wakefield, Greenberg, DiMaggio, Keller and many others will still keep on hitting the ball. Good pitching can wreck the ordinary hitter. But it never wrecks the true hitter who knows how to swing a bat and get his hits.

"The National league with Phil Cavarretta, Tommy Holmes and others was far ahead of the American league last season. That won't happen again. Watch and see. The American league will take back its old spot as the harder-hitting league, and it will have to face pitching that is just as good."

S. American Baseball

No one can shake Larry MacPhail, the Dodgers' owner, loose from the idea that baseball is headed for a big boom in Latin America and that what we often call "The National Game" will soon be the national game of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba and other tropical spots.

"The answer is simple enough," MacPhail says with emphatic gestures. "The kids of these countries are baseball crazy. It is the only game most of them want to play. It is the only game most of them care to talk about. Their knowledge of baseball today is amazing. I'm not guessing about this, for I've been in the middle of it at least part of it. "To my mind this will be the best possible build-up for any good-neighbor policy for Latin American friendship. Baseball could do more good in this respect than all the diplomats we could ever assemble.

**NANCY**  
By Ernie Bushmiller

LOOK---HE'S SHOOTING THE APPLE OFF THE BOY'S HEAD  
HEY!--- LET'S PLAY DIS GAME  
NOW YOU STAY THERE---I'LL GO GET MY LITTLE BOW AND RUBBER ARROW  
NOW I WONDER WHERE I PUT IT  
WHAT TOOK YA SO LONG?

**MUTT AND JEFF**  
By Bud Fisher

WELL, THERE IT IS! MY NEW ATOMIC ALARM CLOCK I INVENTED!  
MUTT IS A SOUND SLEEPER I SHALL TRY IT OUT ON HIM!  
FIRST IT RINGS WITH SOFT MELODIOUS NOTES THEN IF YOU DON'T AWAKEN IT RINGS LOUDER-LIKE THAT!  
AND SUPPOSE THAT DON'T WAKE YOU?  
WAIT A SECOND! TIME WILL TELL!  
SUCCESS!

**LITTLE REGGIE**  
By Margarita

AQUARIUM  
DO NOT FEED THE FISH  
GUM

**JITTER**  
By Arthur Pointer

BEAUTY SHOPPE  
MAKE YOUR FACE BEAUTIFUL WITH A MUD PACK  
GUM

**REG'LAR FELLERS**  
By Gene Byrnes

"NAME A TRIPLE RICH VANILLA SUPPINE WITH TWO INCHES OF CHOC'LATE SYRUP AN' MARSHMELLER, HEARDED WITH SLICED BANANAS AN' A CHERRY ON TOP!"  
"PRETTY GOOD TO YOUR SELF AREN'T YOU?"  
"NO SELF-SACRIFICING FOR YOU BY PINHEAD?"  
"ORDERING A DISH LIKE THAT WHILE PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE GOOD AN' HUNGRY!"  
"YESSIR--MINE WOULD SURE BE PROUD OF YOU!"  
"WAKE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE THAT ORDER."  
"NEVER MIND THAT CHERRY ON TOP!"

**VIRGIL**  
By Len Kleis

"I KNOW DA KID'S GOT A PEGGY BANK SOMEWHERE--FIND IT!"

**SILENT SAM**  
By Jeff Hayes

OPA Will Be Continued In Watered-Down Form

IS IT true what they say about OPA? Are OPA policies sending business firms into bankruptcy? Is it true that production is being curtailed by price control? What about subsidies? Shouldn't they be dropped?

Answers to these questions will depend largely on your particular point of view, upon whose "ox is being gored" and, indeed, largely upon your honesty.

For there is no question that, immediately an OPA regulation is issued, whether good or bad... and there have been some bad ones... the first question which arises in the minds of many people is... how can we get around that regulation? And there generally is a way. What happens amounts to a virtual conspiracy to evade the orders of OPA. This writer believes that if the same folks would spend as much time and energy in attempting to make OPA work, in co-operating, then this agency which has become the one bulwark against rising living costs would function far better than it does, battered, repudiated and kicked around as it is by special interests and the congress.

In spite of all the criticism directed against OPA, it is so popular with the people generally that congress does not dare repeal the law, and will extend it beyond June 30. How it will be extended is another matter. The same coalition of Democrats and Republicans which cut the heart out of the housing bill in the house and which has made ineffective every liberal piece of domestic legislation yet offered, is bent on stripping OPA of every power it can possibly take away from it.

Business Failures Dwindle

Here are a few statistics which may answer some of the criticism directed against OPA. On the charge concerning business bankruptcies, the records show, according to Dun & Bradstreet, there were 14,768 bankruptcies in 1939 and 13,619 in 1940, before OPA. The first full year of OPA control was 1943, when there were 3,221 bankruptcies. In 1945 there were only 810. So it appears to your Home Town Reporter that those 810 firms which went bankrupt in 1945 did so in spite of OPA, and not because of OPA.

The National Manufacturers association, the National Retail Dry Goods association and others are trying to persuade congress and the public that OPA pricing policies are responsible for existing shortages. The fact is that the record shows that for the five months after V-J Day, production was at a rate exceeding that of any previous year, even of 1941 when defense production lifted output above real prewar levels. In December of 1945 production output was 51 per cent above 1939, which can hardly be considered as a production failure.

The committee for economic development says employment is at the highest peacetime level in our history despite strikes and labor-management disputes. Payrolls and earnings are now only slightly below wartime peaks and are rising.

What about subsidies? Farm organizations are against them... always have been. They came as a wartime emergency and are still being used in the reconversion emergency. Can they be dropped? Of course, they could be dropped. If they were, this is what would happen. Food prices would shoot up 8 per cent at retail overnight, and there is no reason to believe they would stop there. On our 40 billion dollar annual food bill that would mean an increase of 3.2 billion dollars in the annual price of food. The subsidy on food amounts to only a billion and a half annually and it is paid in federal taxes largely by those with the most ability to pay. The rise in food costs would be borne alike by rich and poor.

Profits 4 Times Greater

What about the charge that profits are being curtailed? The per cent of gain in profits in 1944 over the 1936 to 1939 average in the retail field, before taxes, was as follows: Hardware retailers, 494 per cent; variety chain stores, 339 per cent; men's apparel stores, 398 per cent; department stores, 609 per cent; chain groceries, 152 per cent; auto dealers, 200 per cent.

The gain in profits before taxes in the industrial field shows the same large percentages with all manufacturing showing a 450 per cent average. Textiles and leather show a 730 per cent gain; metals and products, 650 per cent; building materials, 270 per cent; chemicals, 230 per cent; food, beverages and tobacco, 200 per cent.

Another complaint from some businesses is OPA's cost-absorption policy which if abandoned would, according to OPA, boost cost of foods 700 million dollars, none of which would go to farmers.