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"Don't worry, Mom-it's only my teddy bear."

NANCY By Ernie Bushmiller NANCY--- HOW ABOUT ONE GAME OF CHECKERS ?---IT'S PLAYED WITH A SMALLER BOARD I WISH HE'D LEAVE --- I'VE OH, SLUGGO-BEEN HINTING FOR INVENTED HOURS A NEW KIND OF CHECKER THEN I'LL GO HOME GAME O.K.







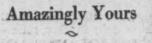












By VERN GODKIN

L COKING at her husband as though it were his fault, Amelia Ames complained, "this chow mein is too crisp."

George Ames grinned good-naturedly and winked at his daughter and son-in-law. They started to smile, sobered as Mrs. Ames spoke again. "Judy, eat your egg foo yung. It's go'd for you, and you need it. I think I'll have to come and spond prother week with you. and spend another week with you and get you built up."

Judy opened her mouth to say something, then started eating. Ted frowned. "She weighs as much as she ever did," he said. frowned.

"Well, she wouldn't if I didn't watch over her. Look what hapwatch over her. Look what happened when you moved to Albany. Poor Judy was worn out just from the packing up. If I hadn't gone right along with her and helped her get settled she'd have been in bed for a month . . and also I had to come up there every other week to see that she took care of herself. That's why I insisted that you move back here again near us so that I could keep a closer eve on her. Even could keep a closer eye on her. Even now I hate to go off on this trip with George for fear she'll do some-thing foolish."

George gave up. But it was time to do something about it. He lay awake long that night as an idea formed.

At the office the next morning he stopped in the middle of prepara-tions for a month's business trip through the West to phone Ted to



Amelia Ames . . . her crisp manner was just a cover up for a soft heart.

lunch with him. It was going to take some careful planning to get around Amelia, they agree.

around Ameila, they agree.

Things went along fairly smoothly for three weeks. New towns and new faces always appealed to Amelia. Then, on the day before they were to start their return trip, George came back to the hotel room to find her feverishly packing.

"Wa're leaving in an hour," she

"We're leaving in an hour," she announced. "I got plane reserva-tions by telling them that Judy was

in a serious situation."
"Judy! What's happened?" "She . . . she . . . Oh, read the letter. It's there on the dresser." George smothered a grin. "I don't see anything here to get excited about. It just says they've bought a ranch."

"Not only a ranch, but a cattle ranch," she almost shrieked. "Well, why not? That's what Ted studied for at college." Amelia ig-

nored him. "Imagine, taking poor Judy out on a place like that . . . twenty miles from the nearest town and they've already moved.

That letter's over a week old. . . Oh, my poor lamb! . . . all alone in a deserted ranch house.

George managed to send a tele-gram to Ted. "Get out the Welcome mat and make it big."

Ted tried his best. He even had neighboring cowhands on horseback meet them at the ranch gate to escort their taxi the last half mile.

Amelia was impressed, but not fooled. She was looking for Judy. They found her at the ranch house, dressed in jeans, riding boots, and an orange silk shirt open at the throat.

Amelia gulped in unbelief. "Why, I was never so amazed in the she declared to George as they got she declared to George later. "My into bed a few hours later. Judy, dressed like a movie cowgirl . . . and proud of it . . . and the house, all in perfect order . . and she wouldn't let me do a thing!"

"That dinner wasn't bad either," George added.
"Bad! It was perfect. I couldn't

have done better myself. It's amaz-ing," she repeated, almost regreting," fully. George chuckled. "Well, isn't she

your daughter?"
He would liked to have seen Ted about now and said "I told you so," as he recalled their lunch a month

ago.
"Judy's really all that you could want her to be, Ted," he'd said.
"Just give her a chance to break the said at going by the apron strings and get going by herself and you'll see."

Ted hadn't looked too convinced then, but he had the proof now. In fact when he had said goodnight, he had whispered, "She's a regular chip off the old block," and winked and nodded at Amelia.



THE ash-swinging mix-up in the American League among such riflemen as Ted Williams, Hank Greenberg, Charlie Keller and Joe

DiMaggio has been more hectic than it at first looked to be. Ted Williams, the Red Sox blaster, was the man to beat back in mid-April, and he is still the one to beat through the long August and September march ahead. Only Wakefield

Ted Williams

has fallen behind schedule among the big hitters. The others have picked up just about where they left off and the scramble still will be keen along most of the remaining route. There is little chance now that anyone will come close to overtaking Babe Ruth's high mark of 60 homers, or the two big years that Jimmy Foxx and Hank Greenberg had in the past — but it will take around 45 homers to lead the two circuits, and the four present leaders all have a shot at this target.

While Joe DiMaggio's general average has been well below other years — his lifetime mark is around .337 — the Yankee outfielder hasn't lost his grip on the home-run bat. His long-distance range remains. It has remained for Charlie Keller to improve in both departments — the Maryland Maul-er has moved into his biggest sea-

son and so far he shows no signs of slipping back.

While Yankee hitting generally has been below the expected average up to this July date, its homerun count has been healthy enough. In the way of long distance blows In the way of long distance blows, Keller, DiMaggio, Henrich, Gordon, Lindell and others have managed to hold their own or do just a shade better. The American League still has the margin in power.

In the National

Johnny Mize of the Giants is still the top home-run hitter in the older circuit. National League supporters will tell you that National League hitters have to face smarter and better pitching. This may be true but we doubt it. We can't quite visualize better National League pitching than Feller, New-houser, Chandler, Hughson, Ferriss

houser, Chandler, Hughson, Ferriss and a few more have been offering. For the past 25 years the American League has adopted the old Babe Ruth slogan — not to "hit 'em where they ain't" but to hit 'em where they can't get at 'em. In the way of a home run market, it is almost a certainty that the American will have the four ton men. ican will have the four top men.

Baseball again has proved, as boxing proved in the case of Joe Louis, that the punch is the last thing to leave the athlete's system. Hank Greenberg certainly has proved it to a marked degree. Hank is no elastic cat around first base—the old legs are not what the young legs used to be. They never are. But the Tiger slugger has proved that he can keep on getting his home runs, whatever else may have happened through the enervating process of added years and a long war layoff.

Your Money's Worth

From which sport does one get the best return for the money he invests as a spectator? We offered this query to a rather large group of sports-loving fanatics who follow the fortunes of many games. We began to figure out the cost, plus the excitement, the thrill and the satisfaction derived. It broke down

1. For a World Series game, the cost for a reserved seat is \$5.50. The cost of a seat for a series of three games is \$16.50.

2. For an Army-Notre Dame or an Army-Navy football game the top seat cost is \$4.40. The price is no higher for a Michi-gan - Ohio State or a Pennsyl-vania - Army contest — for any football contest.

3. For an Open Golf contest the cost is \$2.50.

4. For an International Polo match the cost tag is around \$5. 5. No championship or high-ranking basketball game costs more than \$3 or \$4 for a seat. 6. You can see a national tennis championship match for no more than \$5 if that much.

7. For a day at the Olympic games you could get a good seat

8. You can get one of the best seats at the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness or the Belmont for prices that range from \$5 to \$10.

It was here the argument warmed up, all on one side. Then why should a boxing match range from \$16.50 to \$100, when on a general average the contestants involved are far below the average skill of baseball, football and other stars, including golf?

One answer might be that the public is willing to pay. It is, of course, all up to the sporting public. It still can be said that no law exists which forces anyone to pay far more than a show is worth — and the public is the only agent that can handle the situation: