

The MILL WHISTLE

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 MANUFACTURING DIVISION

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GIVE THE BOYS A LITTLE TIME: Baseball is in the air and about all you hear these balmy days is that the Trips are no good, that we're sure to finish at the bottom of the heap, etc., etc.

If we were in Manager O'Neil's shoes we'd be well pleased, because in nine cases out of ten these "experts" guess wrong. These experts—whose sole experience in baseball was gained in cow pasture ball or on village teams—are always quick to pick out imaginary flaws, but seldom find anything to praise.

Let's look at facts, for a change. The boys had excellent training weather. Then when the season opened a series of cold, rainy days took the edge from their training. That hurts a lot, especially the pitchers.

Again, regardless of what a lot of "experts" seem to think, there is more than one way of playing baseball. True, the fundamentals of the game are standard, but players are individuals and few players do the same things in the same way.

For example, suppose Shortstop Bill has been playing with Second Baseman Bob for the past four years. Bob has a habit of coming into second somewhat to the right of the bag for double plays. Naturally, Shortstop Bill has formed the habit of tossing to second at the spot where it is easier for Second Baseman Bob to take the ball for a quick relay to first base. As even "experts" know, a shortstop and a second baseman must work as a unit if they are to work together at all. Each must know the other's habits, strength and weakness. A professional ball player **must** have the gift of "split-second glance"; which means that he must be able to see, at a fleeting glance, what is going on even as he fields the ball.

Now, getting back to Bill and Bob. Shortstop Bill, as we know, has always thrown the ball to the right of the base to accommodate Second Baseman Bob. So Shortstop Bill comes to play with the Trips and his new playing partner at second base is Second Baseman Jim.

Jim has always played with a shortstop who accommodated his habit of coming into the base on the left—or inside—of the base. So here on our team we now have two fine young players playing together as strangers, each having their own habits and manner of playing. You realize, of course, that it will take more than a few games to change these habits of four, or more, years standing. It takes time to become so well acquainted with the other fellow's habits that you know instinctively what he will do under various circumstances.

Suppose you, yourself, go to a strange town to work for a company you know only by hearsay or reputation. How long do you think it will be before you get to know the people working with you? How long will you have to work before you get that feeling of "belonging"?

Well, baseball and baseball players are no different from industrial workers. Both have to get the "feel" of the job; to get acquainted with the people whom they are working with, before they can give their best to their job.

What is true of Shortstop Bill and Second Baseman Jim is true of the entire team. If Third Baseman Ted has always played on a team that had a left handed first baseman he naturally forms the habit of throwing to the right of the first baseman. Suppose the Trips have a right handed first baseman, then Ted will have to remember to throw straight, or to the left—and in baseball, particularly professional baseball—a player cannot afford to take time out to remember such things; he must do it instinctively, and it takes a little time to do things that way when working with people who are almost strangers.

Give the boys time! If you want to knock, there may be plenty of time for that later on. Again, there may be no more opportunities, for the Trips may start winning tomorrow and keep right on winning. You never can tell about those things, but you can—and certainly should!—

give your home town team all the encouragement possible. They are not intentionally falling down on you, so why fall down on them at this stage of the game?

Batter up!—and take a sweet cut at it, feller.

Bleachery

By Charlotte Martin

Well, folks, now don't go getting excited 'cause I'm turning in some gossip for the Bleachery—but when you don't have any news you can't turn it in—and I've always heard "That no news is good news." So there you are.

We welcome the following new employees to the Bleachery: Vena Alexander, Mellie Seal, Dewey Hopper, Lottie Grogan, Elsie Tuttle, Florence Shreves, and Thelma Hundley. Glad to have you folks and hope you'll like us and your work.

Those who have been out sick and returned to work are Mary Ward, Pearl Dean, Odessa Taylor, Maggie Vestal, and Evelyn Snow. Those who are still out are Ester Burroughs, Annie Mae Neal, and Catherine Price.

Hurry back to work, Harold Shough. We sure do miss you and hope your operation was a success.

We're glad to hear that our machine fixer, Ethan Pendleton, is improving and hope it won't be so very long before he is back with us. We sure do miss you, Ethan.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Martin and children, Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Mrs. John A. Martin, William Martin, Barbara Ann and Billie Martin, James Martin, Mrs. Frances Channey, Mrs. Edith Harris and daughter enjoyed a birthday dinner in honor of Mrs. John A. Martin at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Arthur French, in Danville Sunday. Mrs. Martin was the recipient of many nice and useful gifts.

We're glad to have Ann Robertson back who has been out due to illness and death of her uncle.

There is a new "sparkler" in the Bleachery. I think I hear wedding bells for around June 15. How about it, Mary Ann? Good luck to you.

Mabel Shuford went shopping in Danville Saturday.

On a rainy day a lady in a sable-coat got on a New York street-car. "I don't suppose I've ridden on a street-car in two years," she said to the conductor, a gloomy fellow, as she gave him her fare. "I ride in my own car," she explained.

The conductor rang up the fare. "You don't know how we've missed you," he said.

Bachelorhood is love's solitary confinement. And do you know—the biggest mystery to a married man is what a bachelor does with his money.