

The Sports Trail

By WHITNEY MARTIN

NEW YORK, April 24.—(AP)—During the bleak days early this year when it looked like the major league clubs would have to call on the Elm street Tigers and the bloomer girls to fill out their rosters, the managers grabbed themselves resolutely by the shoulders and looked themselves in the eye and said sternly: "Well, what are you going to do about it?"

There seemed to be just one thing they could do about it, and that was to get out there and play themselves, which would be a fate worse than death to some of them, and quite as difficult as holding themselves at arm's length and looking themselves in the eye.

We have an idea that several middle-aged pilots, away from prying eyes, flexed muscles and took a batting stance and tried to bend over as if snaring a hot grounder, only to give it all up with a groan when their rusty joints gave out the eerie pops and creaks of a haunted house.

Five of them did manage to make their spirit overcome the weakness of the flesh, though, and they put themselves on the rosters as playing managers.

And how that list of five has sunk. Only two are in action, and those two figured to play this year manpower shortage or no manpower shortage. Mel Ott of the Giants, despite the 19 playing years behind him, still is plenty of ball player, and Lou Boudreau of

the Indians is just a kid yet, athletically speaking.

Pat Freddie Fitzsimmons of the Phillies, another of the determined five, still is on his club's roster as a pitcher, but how much he will pitch is problematical. The Phils have had some games already when they could have used all the pitching they could get, but no Fitzsimmons has appeared in the lineup.

Of the remaining two, one is missing because of an unfortunate circumstance, and the other because he felt it was better to have a young sprout out there at second base getting his mitts on the ball than to have an old guy missing them by two feet. His own two feet.

Joe Cronin, a capable, determined gent figured to stick it out at third base for the Red Sox for quite a spell, and be in there periodically all season. The broken ankle he suffered while giving it the old college try the other day ended his ambitions, and possibly his playing days.

Leo Durocher of Brooklyn lasted just three days. Then the flesh overpowered the spirit and he issued himself a bench warrant, you might say. He might be back out there briefly in dire emergency, but he's not going to make it a habit.

So, there are just two out of five who figure to be of much use as players. With the season only about 10 days old, that's quite a mortality rate.

Still Going Strong



After 20 years with the New York Giants, Manager Mel Ott continues to set new baseball records daily. Ott's newest records came last year when he erased Honus Wagner's records for runs scored and extra base hits. And just to add to his glory, Mel slammed two homers in one game five times last season.

'Happy' Chandler, Kentucky, Named High Commissioner Of The Diamond

New York Whips Phils; Mel Ott Homers Twice



Senator A. B. Chandler

CHANDLER SAYS HE WILL ACCEPT

CLEVELAND, April 24.—(AP)—Owners of the 16 major league clubs today selected Sen. A. B. (Happy) Chandler of Kentucky to succeed the late Kenesaw Mountain Landis as High Commissioner of baseball. The club executives said Chandler had been notified and had accepted the position.

The magnates said Chandler accepted a seven-year contract at \$50,000 annually. He is scheduled to take over his new duties as soon as a suitable date can be arranged.

Senator Chandler will be "immediately available" as baseball's new High Commissioner.

"Now that the war with Germany is virtually over, I can conscientiously leave my other duties," he said. "A few months ago, I could not have done so."

The stocky, jovial Southerner who has been known as "Happy" ever since his college days, told a reporter that "it's a big job, and a tremendous amount of good can be done."

The first thing that baseball should do after the war is "help to see that all the surplus athletic equipment the Government has distributed to youngsters throughout the country."

"Give the kids a ball and bat and a corner lot and you don't have to worry about juvenile delinquency in that neighborhood," he said.

"The game faces 'another trying period' during reconversion, 'the same as after the first world war,' he said, adding that "we'll have to keep a close watch to see that nothing goes wrong."

The new Commissioner had in mind the Black Sox scandals which threatened baseball's future a quarter of a century ago.

Chandler has been interested in baseball ever since he was old enough to play on the corner lot.

His boyhood idol was Ty Cobb, and he was so ambitious to become a big leaguer that his playmates at Corydon, Ky., called him "Ty Cobb."

But his friends in high school and college gave him the nickname "Happy," which has stuck with him through the years.

In high school, he started out as a catcher, but switched to pitching and the outfield at Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky.

One year, Chandler had the modest batting average of .467 and pitched his little school to a 10-4 victory over Tennessee University.

He also played semipro and organized baseball. He was with Grafton, N. D., in the Red River Valley League in 1920, winning 12 of 13 games. In 1922, he joined organized ball with Lexington in the "blue Grass League."

"One thing I left in the record book was a homerun with the bases loaded against Maysville," he recalled.

'Cat-Quake Fracas Slaied for Today

The scheduled game between the Goldsboro Earthquakes and New Hanover High's Wildcat nine was postponed yesterday, because of the weather, but it will be played today.

Norris Jeffries, "Quake" mentor, called Coach Rupert Ryan yesterday morning just before the "Cats" were slated to leave and said that "the field not only looked like a lake, but that it would probably rain again today."

Unless the locals hear from Coach Jeffries by 10 a.m. this morning, they will be expected to make their appearance in Goldsboro this afternoon at 4:00.

N. Y. BOXING LAW IS 25 YEARS OLD

NEW YORK, April 24.—(AP)—The Walker Law providing for the supervision of boxing in New York State, will be 25 years old next month and today its author, James J. Walker, gave credit for its success to the simplicity of its wording and to the men who have controlled boxing during that quarter century.

The former Mayor of New York City, a state senator when he wrote the law, told members of the Boxing Writers' Association that he had derived "a great deal of satisfaction from the way it has worked out by comparison with other laws." He insisted, however, that it was good supervision by the State Athletic Commission and the fact that "we never have had an important promoter who didn't do a good job" that made it work out so well.

"I had my own notions when I wrote the law," Walker said, "and they were simple. I was a boxing fan and when I bought a ticket for a fight I wanted the seat the ticket called for. I had a notion about having three men to give decisions—you get a bad one occasionally but just think what if it had been left to the man whose guess was the worst? I wanted supervision by boxing and I believed in passing matters that required judgment on to the administrative body to handle."

"It isn't possible to write an act that will meet every contingency, so I wrote the act to include only the fundamentals, leaving it to the administrative body to supply protection for the public."

Boston Snatches Ninth Inning Thriller, 8-6

GERMAN ESCAPE REPORTED CUT

German radio accounts persisted in reporting that Hitler himself still was in Berlin, personally directing its ruinous defense, even to the disposition of various troop units, but the best Allied sources held to the belief that he had incurred himself in his Berghesgaden retreat in the south.

The Russians were driving toward Berghesgaden, too. The German high command said that Red Army troops had slashed halfway across Austria to Eisenzer, 90 miles east of Hitler's home, and the Americans were closing in fast from the northwest.

The throes of Berlin held the spotlight, however, both in the Soviet communique and in German broadcasts.

Moscow announced officially that the great looping drive of the First White Russian Army north and northwest of Berlin had taken the towns of Kremen, Flatow, Welten and Nauern—38 miles east of the American Ninth Army positions on the Elbe river west of Berlin.

In this sickle movement the First White Russians took the Berlin city districts of Tegel, Wittanau and Reinickendorf inside the northern city limits.

The bitterness of the struggle was evidenced by Moscow's listing of 48 tanks, more than 200 field guns, 2,500 trucks and 88 locomotives seized in the Berlin battle Monday, plus more than 3,000 Germans captured.

On all fronts on Monday the Germans lost 110 tanks, Moscow added, and lost 6,000 prisoners on the front near Dresden.

The Germans, continuing to broadcast spasmodically, gave colorful accounts of the inferno that was Berlin, but were chary of specific locations in fighting which they said was fluctuating.

The Russians also were in the southern city districts of Lichterfeld, Lankwitz and Mariendorf and attacking northward towards Tempelhof and Schoenberg, the Germans said.

Boys of 13 were helping man the depressed anti-aircraft guns defending those sectors, the broadcasts related.

Deep inside the city, "foreigners"—probably slave laborers—hoisted the Red flag atop a hotel and were being fired upon by German artillery, the Hamburg broadcasts continued, while in the east the fanatical Hitler Youth and SS Elite Guards acknowledged loss of a subway station on the Landsberger Allee which leads to the center of Berlin.

The Nazis are not expected to make a mass surrender, Moscow reports said, but are apparently determined to sacrifice their capital block by block.

Russian artillery rained destruction on every side, with a methodical creeping barrage, destroying everything in the line of advance, then moving on to the next doomed block.

Soviet sappers and specially trained street fighters moved forward, backed by tanks, in the wake of the barrage.

The Germans fought back bitterly, but Moscow said there were increasing signs of confusion in the defense. The German military radio repeatedly barked warnings to retreat and to be shot forward, and the Russians said that prisoners confirmed that the order was being carried out.

NEW YORK, April 24.—(AP)—Elmer (Butch) Nieman smashed a story-book home run today with two on in the last of the ninth for his only hit-in the Boston Braves' 8-6 decision over the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Hal Gregg appeared to be on the way to a second straight victory on the strength of a five-run Brooklyn fourth inning when three hits off Jim Tobin and errors by Phil Masi and Rookie Norm Wallen put the Braves behind the eight ball.

Trailing 6-4 with one gone in the last frame, Manager Bob Coleman sent Bill Ramsey in to hit for Tobin and he singled. Dick Culler's fourth hit of the day and Tommy Holmes single produced one score and set the stage for Nieman's clout into the right field stands, his third of the year.

BOSTON		ABRHOAE			
Stanky, 2b	3	0	2	6	2
Sukofort, c	5	1	3	4	0
Galan, 1b	5	0	2	11	0
Walker, rf	4	1	0	1	0
Aderholt, lf	4	1	0	0	0
Olmo, if	4	1	0	0	0
Durrett, cf	3	1	0	0	0
Hart, 3b	4	1	1	0	1
Basinski, ss	3	2	4	4	1
Gregg, p	4	0	1	1	1
Totals	37	6	10	25	12

NEW YORK, April 24.—(AP)—Probable pitchers for tomorrow's major league games. (Won and lost records in parentheses).

National League	
Philadelphia at New York—Lee (0-1) vs. Feldman (1-0)	
Brooklyn at Boston—Lombardi (0-1) vs. Barrett (0-1)	
Chicago at Cincinnati—Passeau (0-0) vs. Walters (0-0)	

American League	
New York at Philadelphia—Duble (2-0) vs. Black (1-0) or Flores (0-0)	
Boston at Washington—Dreise-wald (0-0) vs. Niggeling (0-0)	
Detroit at Chicago—Benton (1-0) vs. Lee (1-0)	
St. Louis at Cleveland (2)—Pot-ter (0-1) and Hollingsworth (0-1), vs. Bagby (0-1) and Smith (0-0)	

HOW THEY STAND

YESTERDAY RESULTS

American League
St. Louis at Cleveland ppnd.
Detroit at Chicago ppnd.
Boston at Washington ppnd.
(Only games scheduled)

National League
New York 5, Philadelphia 2.
Boston 2, Brooklyn 6.
Chicago at Cincinnati ppnd.
(Only games scheduled).

STANDINGS

American League

Team	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	5	0	1.000
New York	5	1	.833
Detroit	4	2	.667
Philadelphia	4	2	.667
Washington	3	3	.500
Cleveland	1	4	.200
St. Louis	1	5	.167
Boston	0	6	.000

National League

Team	W	L	Pct.
New York	6	2	.750
Chicago	4	2	.667
St. Louis	3	2	.600
Cincinnati	3	3	.500
Boston	4	4	.500
Brooklyn	3	4	.429
Philadelphia	2	5	.286
Pittsburgh	2	5	.286

PETAÏN TO FACE TREASON CHARGES

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have an explanation with them after the victory."

Before the Allies invaded France, De Gaulle publicly had termed the aged PetaÏn an "evangel of decadence," and branded Laval and other Vichyites as a "band of traitors."

The French foreign office announced that Switzerland had notified the marshal's arrival and that PetaÏn had requested permission to pass through Swiss territory in order to surrender himself as a prisoner at the French frontier.

The French communique announced that PetaÏn would be summoned to appear for his treason trial May 17—the date was set today by the ministry of information before news of PetaÏn's surrender was received here—but that the erstwhile proxy hearing would be postponed then to give him time to prepare his defense.

A government spokesman disclosed that the Germans originally applied to the Swiss government for permission for PetaÏn to pass through Swiss territory.

The marshal and his wife arrived at the Swiss-Austrian frontier shortly before 9 a.m. He remained in his car during the hour-long frontier proceedings but waved to the crowd as he left tiny Saint Margarethen for Saint Gallen where he presently is staying until he leaves for France.

France was electrified by the news of the Marshal's arrival in Switzerland and of his plans to stand trial.

Few Frenchmen had ever expected that the former hero of Verdun, whose troops successfully stood off 80 of Germany's best divisions in the first world war, and who coined the famous slogan "they shall not pass," would ever stand in the docket. But they had eagerly awaited the public reading of his private papers.

The charge of high treason against PetaÏn is based on probably the largest dossier ever compiled against any accused person in France. Thousands of documents, official communications, letters and records of his correspondence with the Germans will be introduced.

The prosecution, headed by Andre Mornet, said PetaÏn's dossier would show the whole story of events immediately leading up to the fall of France and the record of what occurred thereafter—most of which has not been disclosed.

The prosecution also said the dossier would show with almost complete accuracy the extent to which the French collaborationists acted on direct orders from him.

It also was known that the prosecution would attempt to prove that PetaÏn was in communication with the Nazis even before the war.

Gen. De Gaulle himself may be called upon to testify since he was present at the stormy session in June, 1940, when PetaÏn announced he was going to sue for an armistice. The marshal was adamant when De Gaulle and other military leaders argued that the French army still was capable of holding a large section of France, especially the Brittany coast.

MERGER IS ASKED ON FOOD CONTROL

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sary to guarantee the meat industry against loss and thus "destroy the reason" for black market operations.

3—Merger of the War Food Administration and OPA.—"Let's get all the distribution, allocation, production, pricing and control together."

Fiery as ever, his hair awry and his spectacles shoved up on his forehead as though forgotten, the mayor told the separate agriculture subcommittee investigating the food situation, that "the meat shortage doesn't surprise him. He saw it coming last fall."

CLOTHING DRIVE NEARING CLIMAX

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clothes are shipped to the State central warehouse at Raleigh.

Church auxiliaries and PTA's are being kept busy packing the clothes at the various centers, Doshier said.

The chairman appealed to all citizens to carry their used clothing to the nearest church or school this week, the final week of the drive.

Negro Demonstration Clubs To Hold Revue

The New Hanover Negro home demonstration clubs, under the direction of Rebecca E. Lawrence, will note their spring achievement day with a dress revue in Willis-ton Primary school at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Models from feed bags, reconditioned garments and all-new outfits will be displayed. A specialist from Greensboro will award prizes for the best outfits modeled.

AMERICANS TAKE HILL ON OKINAWA

(Continued from Page One)

resources, 100 to 150 Marianas-based Superforts hit Tokyo yesterday morning, concentrating on the big Hitachi aircraft engine plant for the first time. It was the seventh B-29 assault on Nippon and the third on Tokyo in 10 days.

A communique of the 20th Air Force at Washington said four of our planes were missing after the raid which achieved good results despite some fighter opposition and heavy anti-aircraft fire.

The Seventh Division on the east coast of Okinawa and 27th Division on the western flank inched forward with flamethrower and artillery support. The 96th Division chopped at endless fortifications in the center of the four-mile deep line.

With the Third Marine Amphibious Corps conquest of the more lightly defended center and northern part of the island, Nimitz said that three-quarters of Okinawa is in American possession.

"We don't have to wait for complete control of the remainder to start our development work," Nimitz said.

"Acquisition of Okinawa will permit us to project our sea and air power to the China coast and the Japanese homeland and will speed up future operations."

U. S. Asked To Use Arms To Catch War Criminals

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ishment on the grounds that his crimes were committed as "acts of state."

In its strongest paragraph the resolution calls upon the government to make it an expressed policy to cross neutral borders, if necessary.

It asks the United States to join other allies "in the use of such means as may be necessary—in respect of the limitations of any treaties of extradition—to secure the person or property of those persons determined to be war criminals who have already fled or who may hereafter flee to any neutral nation, or any other nation that may harbor them or afford them a place of asylum."

The committee killed, by tabling, a resolution offered by Rep. Celler (D-NY) which would have requested the President to appoint a special commission to work with the United Nations war crimes commission in defining war crimes. The King resolution sets up no special group but it calls upon the Government:

"To cooperate with the nations allied with the United States in the present war in the determination of those persons, irrespective of rank, who shall be brought to trial, or summarily punished, as war criminals, for the perpetration of or the participation in acts of atrocity or treachery, oppression, or pillage by political, military or economic means."

Army Will Release Men Over 42 Years of Age

WASHINGTON, April 24.—(AP)—The War Department today announced that enlisted men 42 years of age or over will be discharged from the Army at their request.

The ruling will not apply to any soldier who is undergoing disciplinary action or who is in need of further medical or surgical treatment.

Approximately 50,000 men in the Army are 42 or over, the department said.

Soldiers overseas who apply for and are eligible for discharge will be brought back to this country for release at the "earliest practicable date."

Forest Fire Damage Set At \$145,455 in State

RALEIGH, April 24.—(AP)—Forest fire damages totalling \$145,455 in state protected areas were reported to the Forestry Division of the Department of Conservation and Development in March, a department spokesman said.

Of the 943 fires reported during the month, 261 definitely were determined as incendiary, the department said, while 322 were set by careless smokers. The fires burned over 73,125 acres compared with 10,134 acres damaged or destroyed in February.

George Leftwich Named New Baptist Moderator

The spring session of the Wilmington Baptist Association was held at the Carolina Beach Baptist church recently with George Leftwich, of Temple Baptist church, presiding as moderator. The Rev. Earle Bradley resigned from this position, and now is serving as missionary with the State board.

I THANK YOU!
Your vote and support in the City Councilman Primary is deeply appreciated.
W. RONALD LANE



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NOTICE BEER & WINE DEALERS

Beer and Wine license expires April 30th, 1945. Before new license can be issued it is necessary to file application with the undersigned. Any person, firm or corporation selling beer or wine without a license is liable to indictment for violating said ordinance.

C. R. MORSE
City & County Tax Collector.