

My Favorite Stories

By CARL GOERCH

A number of years ago there used to be a cotton compress in Raleigh, where the Seaboard Air-line freight depot is now located. And then, for some reason or other—probably because not enough cotton was brought to Raleigh to justify its existence—the compress was torn down. And that left a large vacant lot.

Whenever there's a large vacant lot in a town of any size, there's one good purpose to which it always can be put—a baseball field.

And that's exactly what happened in this instance. The youngsters cleared off whatever rubbish had been left when the compress was torn down, organized several teams and settled down to playing some real hard baseball.

Until four well-known gentlemen of Raleigh came along. They were Ed Crow, Brown Shepherd, Albert Bauman, and Bill Vass.

Observing the large vacant lot, they decided it would make a dan-

dy site for a tennis court. So they consulted with the owner of the property and he told them to go ahead and build a court, if they wanted to; that he wasn't planning to put up a building for some time.

So work on the court was started. Automatically, baseball was halted.

The youngsters raised Cain, but there was nothing they could do about it and in a couple of weeks the tennis court had been completed and Messrs. Crow, Shepherd, Bauman, and Vass were enjoying this beneficial means of exercise to the fullest degree.

Permit us to digress for a moment to explain that there are certain stock terms in tennis. You probably know more about the game than we do, so there's no use in going into details, but whenever a player knocks a ball out of the court and one of the other players doesn't retrieve it promptly so he can serve, he usually hollers out, "Ball!"

That's the signal for the other chap to look around and find the ball.

Adjacent to the vacant lot was a large warehouse owned by Mr. Jesse G. Ball. He was the father of a large family and several of his sons usually were around the warehouse. They were among the baseball players who had been ejected from the field when the tennis

LIFE LINE TO SAFETY IN TAMPICO



THREE MEN, including Navy seaman Bennie Bradley of the U.S.S. Saipan, cling to a rope as they rescue a youngster from a flooded street in Tampico, Mexico. Personnel from the carrier have rescued thousands stranded by floods from Hurricane Janet. Many of the victims have been taken from roofs by helicopters. (International)

court was established.

What follows was at first the result of a pure accident; it was later developed into a clever plot.

Our four tennis-players were on the court one afternoon and, as usual, one of them let out a bel-

low—"Ball!" One of the Ball boys was just entering the warehouse. He paused and then walked over to Mr. Crow who was just getting ready to serve.

"Did you call me, Mr. Crow?" he demanded.

Mr. Crow, whose arm was raised, lowered it and looked around with

a frown. "No," he said, "I didn't call you. Go away."

The Ball boy went. Mr. Crow started serving again, but the interruption annoyed him and he served doubles into the net.

A few minutes later, another of the players shouted—"Ball!"

Another of the Ball boys promptly put in his appearance. "Yes sir," he said to Mr. Shepherd.

"I didn't call you," said the latter.

"I thought you did."

"Well, I didn't."

"But I heard you call my name."

"I didn't call your name."

"But —"

More words followed. The argument practically broke up Mr. Shepherd's game for the afternoon.

At another time, when the familiar call of "Ball!" went up, one of the boys would lean out of the window and holler back: "Father says he can't come out just now, Mr. Vass; he's busy!"

Some of the other boys got onto what was taking place. When Mr. Bauman or one of the other players gave the familiar cry, they'd all yell out: "George, Mr. Bauman wants you!" And George Ball would come trotting out and say: "Yes, sir, Mr. Bauman."

Whereupon Mr. Bauman would almost froth at the mouth and holler that he didn't want to see anybody; that all he wanted to do was to play tennis in peace.

But that was something that none of the four was permitted to do from then on. Their cry of "Ball!" came out automatically, despite the fact that they endeavored to refrain from shouting it. And every time one of the Ball boys would hear it, he would respond promptly.

The long and short of it was that the whole business became so annoying to them that Messrs. Crow, Shepherd, Bauman, and Vass decided to give up the court and do their tennis-playing somewhere else.

And the day after they left, the baseball players were back on the field again and had a monopoly on the use of the field until the owner sold the property to someone else and building operations were started on it.

In the fiscal year 1955, cargo carried through the Panama Canal set a record of 40,646,301 tons—more than 1½ million tons over the previous year.

'McConnell Story' Stars Alan Ladd As U.S. Jet Ace

The heroic and romantic personal story of Capt. Joseph McConnell, Jr., is dramatized by Warner Bros. in "The McConnell Story," which will open Sunday at the Strand Theatre. Alan Ladd and June Allyson co-star in the CinemaScope and WarnerColor film. James Whitmore also stars.

"The McConnell Story" is an intimate account of America's first triple jet ace, one of the nation's great flying heroes. McConnell was known as a tiger in the sky and the film reportedly depicts the drama and happiness of his life on the ground as well as his moments of flying glory. The film story moves from an army camp in New England, where Pvt. Joe McConnell dreams of being a pilot, to the skies over Korea, where Capt. McConnell flies the most advanced aerial weapon of the day—the Sabre Jet. The story shows McConnell as the impulsive young man who falls in love with and marries the girl he called "Butch."

Simultaneously with Warner Bros.' decision to film "The McConnell Story," it is reported, Alan Ladd became the first and only choice for the role of McConnell. The actor, whose increasing popularity has landed him at the top of movie fan polls, seemed to have the McConnell measurements physically and temperamentally. He was quite anxious to play the role of a man whose dual dedication to his home and country Ladd greatly admired.

He Has The Bird

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Parakeets are more numerous than you think, says mailman Paul Duran. A parakeet took a fancy to Duran on his rounds and followed him home. He told newspapers he would return the parakeet to anyone who could identify it accurately. He said his telephone rang all the next day as owners of missing birds sought to find if the parakeet was theirs.

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TIMOTHY JOSEPH, 22-month-old Japanese orphan, is shown on the lap of his new mother, Mrs. William H. Trick, of Jeannette, Pa., after his adoption. At left is his foster father. The children (l. to r.) are: Mary Catherine, 1, who was also adopted; Vicky, 8 and Lynn, 11.

Mamie And Her Sister Are Just Farm Folks

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON — Mamie Eisenhower's sister Mike and her husband, Washington businessman Gordon Moore, are taking the lead set by the First Family and turning farmer-folk.

Mamie, who's been kept plenty busy doing over the old house on the presidential farm at Gettysburg, can give her sister some helpful tips in the renovation of the Moore's old house on Holiday Hill, the 605-acre farm the Moores bought near Leesburg, Va. Ike can give his brother-in-law some helpful tips on livestock. The Moores already have an eight-head herd of Black Angus cattle.

The Moore daughters, Mamie Eisenhower and Ellen, gave their Dad two pigs. There are three horses and a foal, two lambs, geese, kittens and rabbits, owned by Mrs. Moore's son, Michael Gill.

Mamie picked up a useful hint from Mike during one of the visits

she's made to the Moore place — with the President—a dab of Toton stuck to the screen door to keep the flies out—and she's using same idea at Gettysburg.

Ike thought the whole farm pretty fine, but he didn't go much for the original farmhouse, built in 1690, which is one of the three houses on the place. Mrs. Moore reported that when she asked him what he thought could be done with the now down-at-the-heels structure, he merely handed her a box of matches.

Mrs. Moore says she's actually more interested in fixing up the outside of the place than the interior of the house they're living in.

"Mamie and I usually go to the same manicurist and, with one look at my calloused hands and broken fingernails, she says she knows who is the farmer in the family," Mrs. Moore told Washington reporters.

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