

# Dale Carnegie

## 5-Minute Biographies

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

BILLY SUNDAY

### The Ballplayer Who Led A Million Souls Down The Sawdust Trail To Salvation

The most popular preacher in the history of the Christian pulpit was an ex-baseball player and the ex-ball player—Billy Sunday. Eighty million people—two-

thirds of all the men, women and children in America—flocked to hear his rough-and-ready, rip-snorting message of sin and salvation.

I saw Billy Sunday many times. He was a fury, a human dynamo in trousers. I saw him thump his chest, tear off his coat, collar and tie, leap up on a chair, stand with one foot on the pulpit, and then fling himself on the floor in imitation of a ball-player sliding into home plate. Nobody ever went to sleep listening to Billy Sunday. His sermons were as entertaining as a circus. He preached so strenuously that he carried a physical trainer with him and never a day passed that he didn't get a pummeling and a rub-down.

Unlike most evangelists, Billy

Sunday appealed mostly to men. He used to say: "I am a rube of the rubes. The odor of the barnyard is on me, yet, I have greased my hair with goose grease and blacked my boots with stove blacking. I have wiped my old proboscis with a gunny-sack towel, I have drunk coffee out of my saucer, and I have eaten with my knife. I have said 'done it' when I should have said 'did it' and I have said 'I have saw' when I should have said 'I have seen,' and I expect to go to heaven just the same."

He was born in a log cabin in Iowa and reared in an orphan asylum. When he was fifteen, he got a job as janitor in a school. This job paid him \$25.00 a month and gave him a chance to get an education. All he had to do was to get up at two o'clock in the morning, carry coal for fourteen stoves, keep all fourteen fires going during the day, sweep and polish the floors, and then keep abreast of his studies.

His first real job was as assistant to an undertaker in Marshalltown, Iowa. It was while holding down that job that he began to make a name for himself as a ballplayer.

He could run the bases so fast that Pop Anson, a leader of the Chicago White Sox, sent for him; and before Billy Sunday was twenty-one, he was a star performer in the big leagues. "I could circle those bases in fourteen seconds," he used to say, "and that's a record that's never been beaten."

It was five years after he left the undertaker's shop that the revelation occurred which changed him from a hard-drinking ballplayer into the most hypnotic preacher since the days of John Wesley.

Here is what happened to him—and now I am quoting, Billy Sunday's own words:

"One day in 1887, I was walking down a street in Chicago in company with some famous ball-players. We went into a saloon. It was Sunday afternoon and we got tanked up and then went and sat down on a corner. Across the street a company of men and women were playing on instruments—horns, flutes and 'slide-trombones'—and the others were singing the gospel hymns that I used to hear my mother sing back in the long cabin in Iowa, and I sobbed and sobbed. Then a young man stepped out and said,

"We are going down to the Pacific Garden Mission. Won't you come down to the Mission with us? I am sure you will enjoy it. You will hear drunkards tell how they have been saved and girls tell how they have been saved from the red-light district."

"I arose and said to the boys, 'I'm through, I am going to Jesus Christ. We've come to the parting of the ways,' and I turned my back on them. Some of them laughed and some of them mocked me; but one of them gave me encouragement."

That is the way he described his own conversion.

The skeptics and scoffers used to accuse Billy Sunday of exploiting religious hunger for the mere sake of money. Yet the truth is, he gave up a salary of five hundred dollars a month as a ball player to work for the Y. M. C. A. for eighty-three dollars a month—and it was sometimes six months before he collected even that!

I remember Billy Sunday when he came to New York in 1917. Never before or since has the town called Babylon-on-the-Hudson seen such a frenzy of religious excitement. His arrival was heralded months in advance. At least twenty thousand prayer meetings were held in preparation for his coming.

During his stay in New York, Billy Sunday preached to a million and a quarter people, and nearly a hundred thousand sinners came forward and renounced their evil ways.

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### ELKIN YOUTH WINS HONOR AT N. C. STATE

Included in the bids sent out today by Blue Key, National Honorary Fraternity with chapters in 72 colleges throughout the country, was one to Russell Burcham of Elkin, a junior in the Textile School of North Carolina State College, Raleigh.

Two seniors and five juniors were extended bids to the fraternity which recognizes scholarship, campus leadership, and moral character, as primary requirements for admission.

Burcham is president of the junior class; a member of Phi

Psi, honorary textile fraternity; a member of Upsilon Sigma Alpha, honorary military fraternity; a member of the college publications board; and a member of The Technician, campus news weekly.

Burcham's election brings the number of Elkin boys who are members of Blue Key fraternity to two in the last year.

Charles Dunnagan, business manager of The Technician, President of North Carolina Collegiate Press Association, member of Golden Chain, senior honorary society; State College Publications Board, Upsilon Sigma Alpha, Scabbard and Blade, Order of 30 & 3, Phi Psi, the Monogram Club, Red Masquers, college dramatic society and head cheerleader, was elected into Blue Key last fall.

### Dazed

A man stepped up to Henry Ward Beecher one day and said, "Sir, I am an evolutionist, and I want to discuss the question with you. I am also an annihilationist. I believe that when I die that will be the end of me."

"Thank goodness for that!" said Mr. Beecher, as he walked off and left the man dazed.

### Agreed

Mary: "Really, Henry, you are the worst dressed man in town." Henry: "And you, darling, are the best dressed woman in town—which accounts for it."

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