



CROSS TOWN
By Roland Coe

"If I let you go this time, will you promise to get a license?"



BOBBY SOX
By Marty Links

"Well—there goes the last of Ruthie's New Year's resolutions!"



NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



LITTLE REGGIE

By Margarita



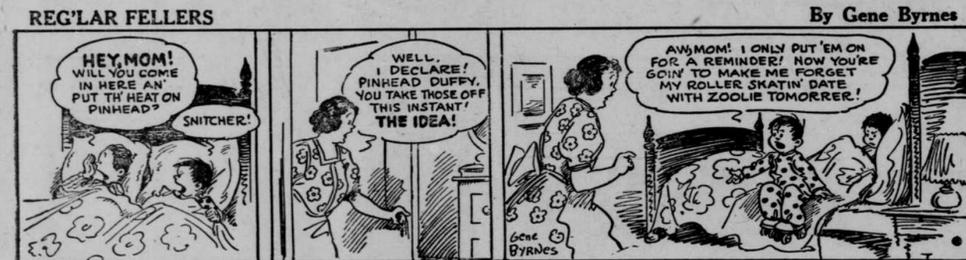
MUTT AND JEFF

By Bud Fisher



JITTER

By Arthur Pointer



REG'LAR FELLERS

By Gene Byrnes



VIRGIL

By Len Kleis



SILENT SAM

By Jeff Hayes



POP

By J. Millar Watt



LEO DUROCHER hasn't the easiest job in sport next year. He takes over, rightfully, a ball club that had its greatest year last season. The Dodgers have won pennants before, but they never won a flag with so many spectacular thrills, they never played to as many people and they never looked as good in any part world series.

Since Larry MacPhail and Branch Rickey were under fire last spring, not Durocher, his year's suspension was out of order. There was little Rickey could do except give Durocher another chance. The Dodgers were supposed to be pennant winners in 1948 — not in 1947, according to Rickey's schedule. Burt Shotton beat the gun by a year. The Dodgers were better in 1948 than they were in 1947. Durocher has the same team with a year's more experience. This can be a big help to the Dodger pitching staff which is packed with young talent that only needed a few pitching angles and better control.

It takes a year or longer for a thrower to become a pitcher, but the Dodger's raw material has been exceptional. Durocher should have five or six winning pitchers next spring, including Ralph Branca who may reach the 25-game spot. Durocher also discovered through his year's rest that even bigger crowds will come out if there is less umpire-baiting, which is no longer required. No one cares how hard the teams and the managers fight one another. Crowds today are no longer interested in arguments with umpires.

Has Fire and Color Billy Southworth, one of the greatest of all managers, has proved this for years. So has Joe McCarthy, another member of the all-time greats. Shotton proved this case beyond all argument. The crowd comes out to see a ball game — not to listen to a dull and dumb debate between some manager and some umpire. A fighting manager is all right — but why fight with umpires? This type of baseball belongs with the Dodo and the Great Auk. Being a pretty smart fellow, Durocher has sensed the big change, I believe.

No one can question the fact that Durocher isn't smart. He has fire and color and a scrappy, hustling ball club. He also has one or two tough ball clubs to beat, including the Braves and Cardinals. Also the Giants, if Mel Ott can get any pitching. The Giants have everything else.

The Cards, who made a brilliant showing last year by forging into second place after a dismal start, again will be a threat. The pitching staff will be the main worry, coupled with the advanced age of players. Only a small improvement on the part of Braves and Cardinals can make a big difference, especially if the Dodger pitching staff doesn't move up and locate, in a vague way, the general direction of the home plate.

Lack of Control Along this line, we've just received a letter from our all-time favorite pitcher — Grover Cleveland (Old Pete) Alexander, who isn't far from being the greatest all-around pitcher that ever threw a ball. And this includes Cy Young, Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson; also Carl Hubbell and Lefty Grove.

Here is Alexander's letter: "Dear Grant, I just finished reading your article on what is wrong with present day pitchers, and thought I would drop a few lines. No, I am not looking for anything. I am just trying to figure why they never have taken some old-timers on during spring training to work with these young throwers, as you aptly termed them. They teach hitting and about everything else, but not pitching.

"When I first came to Philly, Pat Moran was the coach, and about the first thing he said to me was this: 'Kid, you have a good arm, but a heck of a lot to learn.' He took me in hand and he sure did teach me. Pat was smart. Of course, it took work. Hard work.

"I never have been able to find out just what I did that put me on baseball's blacklist. I tried several times to get back, and even wrote Mr. Chandler for almost anything to do. I had a nice letter from him, and then another one saying that there was no opening and they did not expect any. I was just out.

"Pitching means control. By control I don't mean the plate — I mean one or two inches of the plate. A real pitcher ought to be able to get the ball one or two inches from where he wants it — not one or two feet. But pitchers need instruction, which few ever get. What good is stuff, the greatest stuff ever thrown, that can't cross the plate? This means hard work — hard work and instruction — learning how, maybe the hard way, which is generally the only way.



PET PEST
By ROBERT DENNIS

"I'll bet he was." Penny's comment dropped like a pebble into the deep pool of Hughie Lawler's pride. He gushed words.

Penny Alder actually was glad to see Clint's rust-colored head appear. She almost welcomed his deep frown when he spotted her caller. Old Hughie turned to Clint.

"I've got something for you to write up, Clint."

Clint's nod toward his office was about as friendly as an umpire's thumb. "I can only give you a minute."

"Sure—" The old fellow turned. Penny found the Lipton frown aimed at her. "You're a pal," he

accused, "you know that old guy gets me down."

She looked up at him, and that chip was on her shoulder.

"For holding him," he scowled, "you're going to break down and go out to dinner—and places—with me tonight."

"Is that a pass—or a penalty?" "Take your choice—only get your hat on." He wheeled away.

Penny stared after the back of his sun-burned neck. Why could he annoy her more than any other man she'd ever known? His very vitality; the way that shaft of late sun put sparks in his rusty hair—everything about him bothered her.

Clint Lipton—with his head of wild rusty hair, and that habitual frown wedged between his deep-set gray eyes—was part of his muscle management, as far as she was concerned.

"My grandson, Miss Alder—" You'd have thought the scrappy kid in the sailor suit was an admiral, from the pride in old Hughie's voice. "You ask Clint if The Kid wasn't on his way of being welterweight champ—before he wanted to enlist."

"You really like old Hughie Lawler," she said abruptly.

"Sure—if I didn't like the old pest I wouldn't let him bother me, would I? ... But you wouldn't understand. You never give a guy a chance to see if you can like him—"

For a moment Penny matched frowns with her pet pest. She could feel his puzzled eyes follow her as she stood slowly, and moved toward the coat rack. He was right—she hadn't been able to understand why she'd let him bother her—but it was becoming clear. She must have liked the real Clint Lipton all along — even when she was carrying a chip on her shoulder for a tough guy who didn't exist—

When Penny Alder turned she was smiling—and had her hat on.

REA Setup Gives Impetus To Farm Electrification Half of all United States farms have been electrified since the REA program was started.

In announcing the basic allotments for REA loans in the states, the department of agriculture compared the number of un electrified farms in each state with the total number of farms in the state to give the percentage of un electrified farms. The eight states having the highest proportion of electrified farms were Connecticut with 98.5 per cent, followed by Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, North Dakota, and Oregon, all of which were more than 92 per cent electrified.

At the other end of the list were North Dakota, with only a little more than 15 per cent of the farms electrified, preceded by South Dakota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, Montana and Tennessee, which had nearly 42 per cent electrified.

The other 32 states ranged between the 42 per cent and 92 per cent limits. For the country as a whole, the July, 1947, figures show 61 per cent of all farms electrified as compared with 54.3 per cent a year earlier. Nearly 400,000 farms were electrified during the 1947 fiscal year, the largest increase on record for any year since the program started. In 1935 less than 11 per cent of U. S. farms had electric service.

operates on the modulated-light principle. It sends a beam of light which is interrupted 900 times per second. The photoelectric relay is tuned so that it is responsive only to light at this frequency. Its performance is not influenced by changes in natural or artificial illumination. The light source has an infra-red filter which removes most of the visible light from the beam.

Enclosed in a weatherproof case, the device is so mounted that it has a wide field of operation.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Horizontal
1 Insects
5 Egg-shaped
9 Head covering
12 Kind
13 Infant
14 Literary scraps
15 Cognizant
17 Lucidity
19 Slang: error
21 God of war
22 Light
24 Symbol for gold
25 Drink made from rye
26 Maltbeverage
27 Confectionery nut
29 Interjection
31 W's measure
32 —Duce—
33 Mussolini
34 Colloquial: father
34 Against
35 By
36 Heavenly body
38 Poetic: to enclose
39 Duct
40 Conjunction
41 Increased
42 Siberian river
43 Space devoid of matter
44 Mythological monster
46 Meattime
48 Upright
51 Dry
52 Persia
54 To swing about a fixed point
55 Timber tree
56 To remove
57 Isle Napoleon escaped from in 1815
Vertical
1 Man's name
2 Right this minute
3 To hamper

Solution in Next Issue.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17 18
19 20 21
22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34
35 36 37 38
39 40 41
42 43 44 45
46 47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54
55 56 57

Answer to Puzzle Number 45
S T O W M O P A R A B
A U R A E R A R A L E
G R A V E L M O U T C H
B E T W E E N
O D O R C A S E
C U R S A R I B D U N
A T V A T S O
P E S B E T E L M E T
P A L L S O F A
I M A O O L A S T S
T E R E T S C L I Q U E
R D E N L O O L U N A
R E S T P E P S E B M
Series B-47

New Electric Eye Has Wide Field of Operation

An "electric eye" which can see nearly four times as far as present equipment and which is not adversely affected by outside light, snow or rain, has been developed, says National Patent Council.

Engineers see applications as including automatic counting of automobiles on highways, operation of traffic signals upon approach of a vehicle and the "fencing" of restricted locations. When the beam, sent by the light source to the relay, which may be up to 1,000 feet away, is broken by any object, the relay sets into operation alarms, signals, counters and other electric equipment.