

# SHORT STORY

## Home Run

By GROVER REIMAN

Mary's eyes had been serious as Matt turned to go into the clubhouse and he knew she was going to say something. He didn't want to listen, but he waited.

"I wish you would quit baseball and go into business with Father," she said, twisting her gloves in her long fingers.

"We've talked about this before, darling. Hundreds of times. I thought it was a closed subject."

"I'm reopening it, Matt. I've worried sick about it after night."

"We'll talk about it after the game," he said wearily and the old anger grew large in his chest. Why this again!

They had been married less than a year and it had been the same story since spring training. Sure he had been lucky to get her. Or was it lucky to marry a girl who had cooled the Red Legs when the team poured out of the clubhouse was music to his ears.

The cheer of the crowd that greeted the Red Legs when the team poured out of the clubhouse was music to his ears.

There were his people—the fans. Rich and poor, they had come to see him. Baseball was king in this square of grass circled by stands and myriads of fans.

The game rocked along as a pitcher's duel. Matt worked a fast double play in the top of the eighth to win a Greenie rally and the stands went wild. Matt glanced at Mary, but there was no sign of elation.

The Red Legs needed this win to move into first place, but the outlook was dim when the first two batters swung three times and then came back to the dugout.

Matt chose his bat and took his place at the plate.

Mary was still on his mind and he watched the first ball slant in and faintly heard the umpire call a strike. The next pitch was a strike and Matt gave the ball of his cap a jerk and leaned forward. Slow burning anger boiled up then and he was eager for the next throw.

He wanted to hit it with everything he had, wanted to hurt the ball because he was hurt. It came and he swung.

The solid crack of the bat told the fans and they rose as one to cheer. Matt looked over his shoulder after touching second and grinned. A home run! The ball game. He noticed the two girls sitting next to Mary, on their feet and cheering.

Mary was waiting for him at the clubhouse. He wanted to hear her say it was a good hit, but her face was clouded in thought. She took his arm and they walked to the gate. A mass of humanity met Matt, and he had to halt. He autographed the ball and then books, tickets and anything else they shoved into his hands.

A tousle haired boy standing on Mary's side turned a firkled nose to the boy standing beside him. "Boy!" he murmured in awe. "Matt Johnson. That's what I want to be—a ball player like Matt."

They ate dinner and conversation was sparse. Matt wasn't happy, not with Mary feeling this way. It looked like a choice—Mary or baseball. He knew it would be Mary, but he loved baseball. The bank job with Mary's father would drive him crazy. If only she could understand!

As he paid the check he heard a man at a nearby table say to a woman in a turban:

"That's Matt Johnson, one of the greatest second basemen in the game. That guy is a credit to the game and to the country. Really a clean sportsman and the idol of a million kids."

Matt took Mary's arm and they departed. He didn't want to hear more. In the car he made up his mind. It would be better to break with the game now than later. He knew it because he knew himself. "Mary... about baseball..." She put her finger over his lips and kissed his cheek. "I've been a fool, darling. A selfish fool. I realized it when you hit the home run and when the fans wanted your autograph. And the way they cheered. Those boys by the car, what they said, and the man in the grill. You can't leave baseball, Matt. You are baseball!"

# Australia's Great Barrier Reef Is Still Showplace

Scientists call it "one of the marine wonders of the globe." Artists describe it as a place where "nature has allowed herself to run riot."

The average Australian, less articulate but just as appreciative, simply refers to it as "wonderful." Its official name is the Great Barrier Reef. A formation of multi-colored coral reefs, it stretches for 1,200 miles off the Queensland coast of northeastern Australia.

The Great Barrier Reef has always been a mecca for beauty-loving Australians and recent suggestions in government circles are that it may be fitted up with enough concrete towers to make it the Common-wealth's showplace.

A year-round, warm-weather resort, it draws all types of visitors. Among the most famous was the late novelist Zane Grey, who loved it for the deep-sea fishing it offered. Tourists take the trips in glass-bottomed boats to watch the marine life, including the old shark. Another novelty is watching the natives ride along the beach to deposit eggs, natives hop on their backs as they slowly jog out into the water.

The actual reef is not populated. Year-round residents and visitors are themselves up on small islands which lie between the reef and the continent. Most of these atolls are protrusions of sunken land through some of the coral. The majority of the islands are coral.

Fair and Circus Time Again—On vacant lots on the outskirts of town and in city parks, fairs, carnivals and circuses are doing a land office business. Summer joys to make the long holidays speed away. Midway operators, an eye to the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition, proclaim this will be their greatest year in Canada.

## Agricultural Societies' Fairs and Exhibitions, 1947

August	Aug.
Almonte	28-30
Amherst	25-27
Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (Fort William and Port Arthur)	4-9
Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto	22-Sept. 6
Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa	18-23
Elmira	29, 30 & Sept. 1
Harrow	28-30
Hymers	Aug. 30 & Sept. 1
Kenora	21, 22
Kinmount	29, 30
Minden	20
Napan	28-30
Port Hope	28-30
Ridgeway	26-28
Sutton	26-28

September 1-6	Sept.
Apsley	3, 4
Blackstock	3, 4
Brighton	2, 3
Chester	5, 6
Chesterville	3, 4
Chute	3, 4
Delta	1-3
Dryden	4, 5
Durham	2, 3
Midleton	4, 5
Orillia	5, 6
Parham	1
Perth	5, 6
South Mountain	4, 5
Sturgeon Falls	1
Tavistock	5, 6

September 8-13	Sept.
Aylmer	9-12
Blyth	10, 11
Bracebridge	11, 12
Centralville (Addington Co.)	9, 10
Charlton	9, 10
Clarence Creek	9, 10
Cochrane	9, 10
Coe Hill	9, 10
Cowdwater	9, 10
Danby	10, 11
Dresden	9-11
Embsay	12, 13
Fergus	12, 13
Georgetown	12, 13
Grand Valley	11, 12
Hamover	8, 9
Lanark	11, 12
Lansdowne	8-10
Lindsay	10, 11
Lions Head	10, 11
Lorham	12, 13
Marbleton	11, 12
Mount Forest	8, 9
Murilo	9, 10
New Hamburg	12, 13
Newington	11, 12
Orangeville	9, 10
Oshawa	8-10
Port Egan	11, 12
Porcupine Junction	11, 12
Renfrew	9-12
Riverview	9, 10
Richmond	11, 12
Ripley	11, 12
Shannonville	12, 13
Shelburne	11, 12
Stratford	11, 12
Sundridge	11, 12
Trout Creek	9, 10
Uxbridge	11, 12
Vankleek Hill	11-13
Welland	10-13
Wellesley	9, 10
Wilketton	9, 10
Windsor	10, 11

September 15-20	Sept.
Beaverton	16, 17
Birkbeck	16, 17
Brantford	16, 17
Burke Falls	16, 17
Canby	16, 17
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# Not All Maniacs

We hear many wild tales of maniacs from the poor patients who are forced to pick up their heads and go through this high-speed game of hide-and-seek in the madhouse.

Although permanent residents of the Great Barrier Reef district manage to make a bare living, their mode of life is hard. The principal industry, aside from the tourist business, is fishing or hunting for the pearls which are known as the pearls of the reef.

The reef, submerged at high tide, is a vast, low-lying island, both in size and in importance as one of Australia's natural attractions.

Cast reinforced concrete pillars are being made in concrete, except where, where and drawers.

Concrete Freight Car

For constant Smoking Pleasure Roll your own with "EXPORT" Cigarette Tobacco

Also available in 1/2 pound tins

Police Chief is Hero in Dramatic Rescue Wins Dow Award

Professional basketball has been in the city of Toronto—tried, found wanting in just one vital point. The advance ballgame was not as good as the old-fashioned game.

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# What Science is Doing

Cascan Bristles

Hog bristles seem to be fighting a losing battle. Long years ago, such bristles were used in brushes until displaced by the hair spring of steel.

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