Hiya, Joe, Where Did It Go?—One of the greatest of all-round, all-time ball players, Joe DiMaggio—after his customery post-season trip to the hospital—unlimbers his potent batting swing during a benefit game for a Children's Home. The scenery is Florida, and from this angle there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with that swing, although Di Mag appears in no hurry to start heading for first.

SPORTS-&c

by A Sixbit Critic

Good baseball umpires are theoretically absolutely fair and unbiased in their decisions. Actually, they aren't, but lean just a trifle to the visiting club. As one veteran ball-and-strike caller—we think it was Tim Hurst—used to put it, "Yees can do stuff in the gray that yees can't get away with in the white."

* * *

By that he meant—as we have most likely explained before—that umpires tend to be a bit more strict with the white-uniformed home team players, and to take less sass and backtalk from them, than they do with the grey clad visiting team.

* * *

The reason for this is obvious, even though most umpires will strenuously deny that they do do anything of the sort. A home town player who argues with the umps, or shows signs of disgust at some of the arbiter's decisions, is far more likely to stir up trouble among the fans than a visitor. So, the home-towner often gets chucked out of the game for things which would get by with one of the opposition.

* * *

Continuing our unasked-for, and no doubt unwanted advice to the professional hockey folk, we would advise that the President—or whoever it is that's the real boss of the National Hockey League—should instruct the referees not to be so lenient about putting a player's cue in the rack for the balance of the game, or even for several games, when he's guilty of actions designed to set a boil the feelings of some of the morons who seem to attend hockey in such numbers these days.

* * *

Throwing coins, and torn up pieces of paper is bad enough, but when it comes to bottles, sooner or later somebody is going to get hurt, and very badly. Yet practically all such rubbaruks get their start with some hoque-town players giving the folks the idea that the referee is giving the local club all the worst of it.

* * *

A case in point—as the lawyers put it—is a recent game at which Ray Getliffe was making his first Toronto appearance as a whistle-wielder. Most of those we talked to afterwards—that is to say those whose opinions on hockey we rate worth listening to—agreed that Mr. Getliffe, although still somewhat green, had turned in a pretty fair chore.

* * *

Yet from the sounds and actions of a lot of Maple Leaf supporters, a casual visitor might very well have thought that Ray was a direct, although slightly illegitimate descendent of Jesse James and a whole line of bandits reaching right back to Attila the Hun, whoever he may have been.

* * *

Why did such a thing happen? Principally, perhaps because certain Maple Leaf athletes were trying to cover up their ineptness by making a description as possible—play, by making the referee look bad. And the dumb fans—mentally dumb, that is—fell for it and fell for it hard in a manner which was a disgrace to a town where folks are supposed to know something about the game.

* * *

So, in addition to the suggestion made at the start of this piece, we have another couple to make. One is that the Maple Leafs should have, in their dressing room, a phonograph continually playing nothing but that once-popular ditty entitled, "It Isn't What You Used to Be, But What You Are Today."

* * *

The other—that the Toronto players should be ordered to cease and desist from running any more pictures showing Conn Smyth, with a beneficient look on his face, basking in that nice Florida sunshine. If they'd print pictures showing Mr. Smythe's face showing the expression it's liable to be wearing when he comes north, and starts telling the boys exactly what ails them, it would be far more liable to secure the desired results.

* * *

For what's been happening to our beloved Maple Leafs must stop, and the sooner the better. For already we know of several of their most ardent fadio supporters who are forced to nerve themselves with three or four stiff shots of soda pop before they even dare to tune in of a Saturday night, and hear the Voice of Hockey tell of the dire things that are happening down around the corner of Church and Carlton Sts.

* * *

In conclusion we would just like to quote a few remarks regarding the game of hockey as played today, and the athletes who play it. "They have no guts and they don't know how to skate.—How can a man expect to play hockey when he straggles himself by skating bent over like a pretzel.—He isn't any good for more than two or three minutes unless you attach a spare skate to the seat of his pants.—In my days we played because we liked to. For the players today it's only plain hard work—and hard cash."

* * *

Now the gentleman who made those remarks is not any Johnny-come-lately or even a disgruntled sports writer. His name is Eddie Shore, who—if he isn't Old Man Hockey in person—comes close to being that mythical being. Mr. Shore played hockey as well as, or possibly better than—any man before or since his time. When Mr. Shore opens his mouth and gives his views on hockey, his words are worthy of consideration. So, maybe some of the rest of us haven't been so far astray after all.

A New York fortune-teller employs white mice to pull horoscope envelopes out of a box.

WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD

by Norman Blair

GREAT BRITAIN

Although it never attained anything like the popularity of its predecessor of twenty years before, "Tipperary", some of the more widely sung ditties during the early part of World War Two was "Lili Marlene".

It is now almost forgotten, But memories of that song were revived by a recent anecdote regarding Winston Churchill.

Not long ago the great British War Leader had a vacation at Monte Carlo. One evening, while dining at the Hotel de Paris, he asked the orchestra leader to play "Lili Marlene".

The orchestra obliged. But next day Churchill issued his instructions. "Please never play that song again while I'm present—it made me dream all night of Rommel."

Rommel—El Alamein—and all the rest of it—how long ago it seems!

FRANCE

Although most of the French people fear—and with good reason—the idea of a revived Germany, with the possibility of further German aggression and perhaps another war, there are thinking people in the first-named country who are coming to take a different view of the matter.

These people believe that the further weakening of German industry and the dismantling of the great Ruhr Valley industrial system will be a real mistake. In their opinion the only way to make another Franco-German war impossible is to develop such strong bonds between those two, and other Western European nations, that another European conflict would be as unthinkable as one between—for example—France and Britain, or Britain and the United States.

This is the view taken in an article appearing in one of the greatest and most authoritative of French newspapers—Le Monde, Paris—and to onlookers in other countries it came as something of a shock. But to many of the more far-seeing among the French it represents a little noticed, but highly significant, change in public thinking in their country. And to the Germans it appeared as a glimpse of reason at a time when the dismantling of their great industrial system seemed like nothing but vindictive revenge on the part of the victors in the last World War.

The article in the Paris paper appeared late in November. It took on greater significance when the French Foreign Minister—Robert Schuman—gave out a semi-official statement just before leaving for a two-day conference in London with his British "opposite number" Foreign Minister Bevin. Schuman said that hatred and vengeance had been removed from French policy toward Germany with a speed that would have been impossible following World War One.

To many thoughtful observers—especially in Britain—Schuman's statement came as a real gleam of sunshine on a cloudy and troubled sky. They have been, as one reporter puts it, "for many weeks searching for some sort of basic formula that would bring Germany and Western Europe together." For with a strong and united Western Europe—which would have to, of course, include Germany—the threat of Russia on the westward march would become far less troublesome.

But whether anything will come out of such proposals remains a matter of considerable doubt. For in the minds of the majority of the French people, the name of Germany still stands for that of an enemy—an enemy always to be feared and kept, if possible, under strongest restraint.

SOUTH AMERICA

Latin America has long been known as a land of many revolutions. But recent happenings show that way make one wonder whether the latest of these representsjust the keeping up of an old South American custom, or if, in those parts, there is a concerted movement against democracy and the democratic form of Government.

Last October a military revolt overthrew the popularly elected Government of Peru. In November a anvil-moving group of army officials quietly but efficiently snatched the reins of Government from the elected President of Venezuela, Romulo Gallegos. During December a military clique in El Salvador tossed President Salvador Castro on his ear, while exiled Costa Ricans staged an armed invasion of their homeland.

In Chile the government managed to break up a revolution before it was well started, and the President of Bolivia has been having his own troubles with plotters and schemers. And in other countries there were rumors of trouble.

To a casual looker on it almost resembles the old situation of the Irishman who—observing a brawl going on—politely inquired, "Is this a private fight or can anybody get into it?" But it may be far more important than that. In most South American countries, the masses are terribly unhappy, and with good reason. Why they should be so can be seen from the situation in Venezuela, where LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE OWN MORE THAN SEVENTY PER CENT OF THE LAND.

Trouble—really serious trouble—seems to be a-making south of the equator. And the rulers—the exploiters of the masses—seem to be trying, through their military power, to squelch that trouble before it goes too far.

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ISSUE 6 — 1949

CHEER UP FOLKS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. R. Barclay Warren

Jesus Faces Opposition

Mark 2:3-8; 16-17; 3:1-6

Golden Text:—Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.—Romans 12:21.

Anyone who takes a leading part in public life is always the object of severe criticism. Of course leaders make mistakes which warrant criticism. But Jesus was exceptional. He never erred, yet he was intensely hated and envied and ultimately crucified.

Jesus pronounced forgiveness of sins upon the man sick of the palsy. This they termed blasphemy, for "who can forgive sins but God only?" But Jesus demonstrated that he was God by immediately healing the man. The man who had come carried by four, walked out carrying his bed.

Then they found fault because Jesus ate with publicans and sinners. He erred socially. He replied by asserting, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

The third criticism recorded in the lesson was that on healing on the Sabbath. The man with the withered hand in the synagogue was probably "planted" by the Pharisees. They watched. He asked the man to stand forth, and inquired, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" They did not answer. He healed the man. Jesus was not seeking his own pleasure on the Sabbath, but was rather ministering to the needy.

Criticism did not make Jesus veer from His course, though He knew it would lead to the Cross. He continued to forgive sins, befriend the outcasts of society that he might lift them from sin and shame to happiness, and to do good on the Sabbath.

When we are censured it is well that we examine ourselves. One has said, "My critics are the unpaid guardians of my soul." We may learn some valuable lessons from our critics. But if we are following closely the example of Jesus, let us keep on despite the unkind words that may be spoken of us. Let us "overcome evil with good".

A Real Giant

One of the best-known giants in modern medical history was Robert Waldow of Alton, Illinois, who died in 1940 after reaching the amazing height of eight feet ten inches. His overactive pituitary was first observed by a doctor when Robert's father brought him to the hospital to find out why the boy was growing so fast.

Although he weighed only nine pounds at birth, he weighed 30 by the time he was six months old. At a year and a half he weighed 62. At nine, he had reached a height of six feet one inch, and weighed 178.

At 18, when he entered college, Robert Wadlow was eight feet three and a half inches tall and still growing, although his muscular development was beginning to slow down. Hitherto his appetite had been normal, but now it began to increase so rapidly that he had to have 8,000 calories a day, compared to the normal intake of 2,500 to 3,000.

It is easier to swim up Niagara Falls than to promote the Brotherhood of Man by inciting class hatred.

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CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

We had a near-tragedy in our animal family last week—and I was just about ready to give Honey her walking papers! It was after breakfast and I was busy in the pantry. Honey was running around as usual; Joseph Mark was asleep on a chair. Presently I heard a bit of a scuffle and then a plop, but I didn't pay any attention as the cat and the pup are always chasing each other around anyway. But when I did turn round there was Mark stretched out on the floor, stiff as a ramrod, mouth open and showing absolutely no sign of life at all. As I picked him up I wondered what on earth the pup could have done to knock him out so completely: "Perhaps she grabbed his throat—perhaps he needs air," I thought. So I ran outside to the front step and set rubbing poor Mark's throat. Presently he started the most awful twitchings, like a chicken before it dies. "Oh dear, this is the end," I thought. "Poor Kitty, to think I saved you when you were small and then to have you die like this." However, I kept on rubbing—and Mark kept twitching. And then he opened his eyes!

Then he started to breathe very noisily—like something being rattled around in a tin can. By that time I had begun to hope and—to cut a long story short—my hope was justified. Mark actually did recover but for the rest of the day he couldn't walk properly, didn't eat and couldn't raise his hind leg to scratch his ear. He breathed noisily all day and was so scared all he wanted was to get out of the house. That I could not allow—you know how an animal will crawl away to a dark corner if it is sick or injured and you don't know whether it is alive or dead. So I kept Mark in the house but it meant a sort of Washington Post all day—taking Mark down the cellar and bringing up the pup; then after an hour or two taking the pup down the cellar and bringing up Mark. The cat, naturally, had to be kept away from the pup until he was able to look after himself.

And what did I do to the pup? Nothing at all. Honey had done no more than she had any other time—I think it was just that the cat, being asleep, was taken off guard. I believe the pup must have grabbed him near the end of his spine and he dropped like a log to the floor.

Believe me, we are certainly glad Mark recovered. Apart from the fact that he is a splendid pet, he is also more than worth his keep. No mouse is ever likely to become a grandmother while Mark is around—he is as quick as a flash.

* * *

Our next adventure was on Saturday. After dinner I was all set to go down town with an order of eggs and chicken when Bob came in. "You certainly can't drive downtown yourself," he said, "better get ready and I'll take you down in the big truck. That'll be the safest thing on the road today." I had no idea what he was talking about until I looked outside. Oh my — freezing rain and slippery as glass underfoot! I was glad enough to go in the big truck. And even that did a bit of slithering around on the road.

Later that afternoon my sister phoned — would it be all right if she came out for the weekend? "Sure it's all right," I said. And then added—"but the roads are terribly icy." She was so surprised. "But there is nothing but slush in Toronto," she exclaimed. A little later the phone rang again. Sister had missed the train. "But there is a train going to Georgetown in twenty minutes, could you meet me there?" she asked.

* * *

"We certainly couldn't — not on these roads," I answered. "You had better come out in the morning." So she did, and got a taxi from the station. On the way here the taxi-driver told her a bit about the awful driving conditions the night before. I was very glad he did because I was a little afraid Sister might think I had been making excuses and did not want her to come. But I needn't have worried because the paper on Monday morning had all kinds of stories about traffic tie-ups, as you very well know. Sometimes it is hard for people in the city to realise how different weather conditions can be in the country. So why beat about the bush? Better risk giving offence to someone than to risk life and limb on dangerous roads. Explanations can mend hurt feelings but explanations won't mend broken limbs.

Random Shots

The rescued airmen's account of their ingenuity in building shelters while marooned on a Greenland ice-cap suggests that they be put to work on the housing shortage.

* * *

The only real certainty in 1949 is that political experts and pollsters can't possibly be as wrong as they were in 1948.

* * *

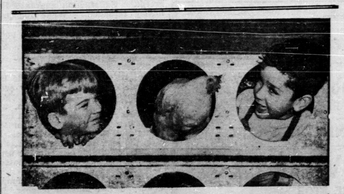
A modern model house has steel walls. That should stymie a housewife who is always switching around the pictures.

* * *

One musician we've heard of claims he can play 11 different instruments at the same time. Anybody need a new next door neighbor?

SALLY'S SALLIES

"Why can't I take the place of your hobbies, dear?"



Hen House Buddies.—Bobbie Alden, 4, left, and Joseph Fergul, 6, find out for themselves how it goes with this white leghorn hen being cooped up in a metal hen house all day long. The boys were visiting a poultry exhibition and decided to try the chicken house accommodations for size.

Reverence

An Irishman and a Scotsman were passing a Catholic cathedral in Montreal. The Irishman removed his hat; the Scot did the same.

After they had passed, t' Irishman said: "I thought you were a Presbyterian. I was glad to see you take your hat off when you passed the cathedral."

"Cathedral!" said the Scotsman. "Mon, I thought it was the Bank of Montreal."

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