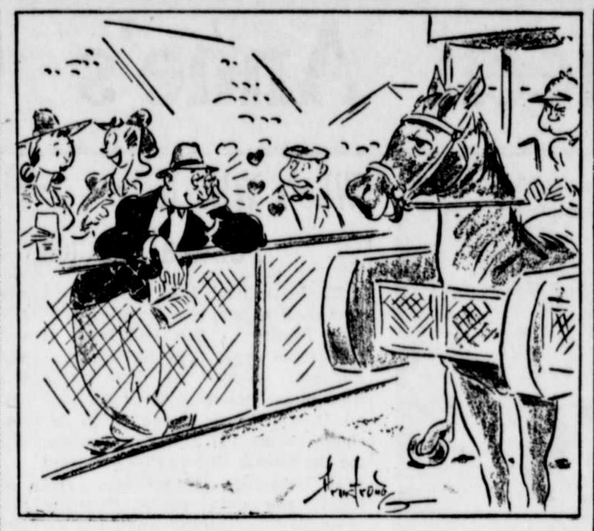
# Fun for the Whole Family

## THE SPORTING THING

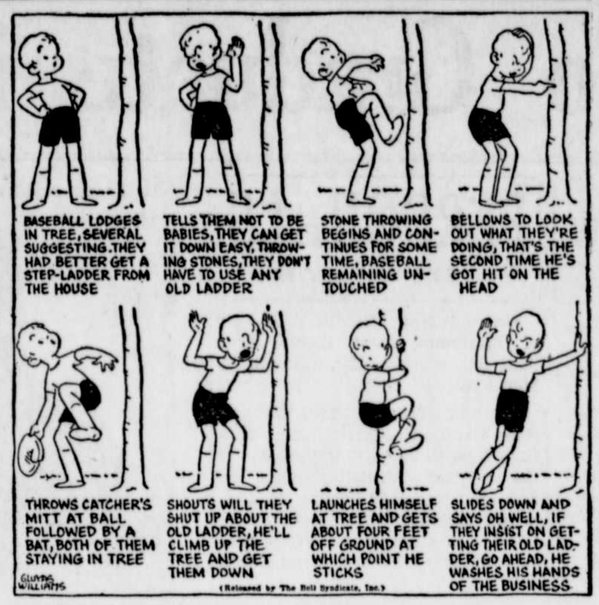
By LANG ARMSTRONG



"I think Ernie has found one he likes in this race!"

## BALL IN TREE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS




## BIG TOP

By ED WHEELAN

## REG'LAR FELLERS—The Old Army Game

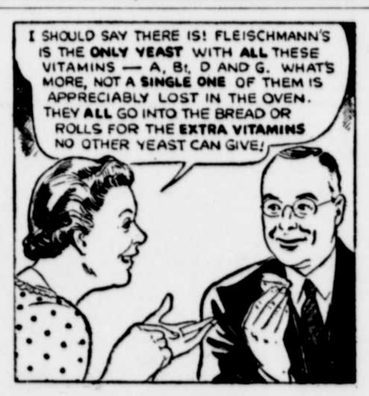
By GENE BYRNES

## POP—Too Much Work

By J. MILLAR WATT

## LALA PALOOZA —No Escape

By RUBE GOLDBERG



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## Star Dust
### STAGE SCREEN RADIO

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

By VIRGINIA VALE

WARNER Brothers' "Heroes Without Uniforms," a story of the American Merchant Marine, will be the first of a group of films telling us things that the government wants us to know. Lowell Mellet, co-ordinator of government films, recently submitted to industry leaders a list of 30 topics about which the government wishes the public to be informed. Originally it was planned to use his ideas as material for short subjects, but it now seems likely that some of them, at least, will be developed into feature-length pictures.

"Parachute Nurse" has what might be termed an All-Starlet cast, virtually an all-feminine one. When Charles Barton, the director, counted noses he found Marguerite Chapman, Shirley Patterson, Alma Carroll, and eight other beauty-contest winners.

Now it's Priscilla Lane who's having to learn card tricks. Jan Grippo, who tutored Veronica Lake for her

PRISCILLA LANE

sleight-of-hand role in "This Gun for Hire" is doing the same for Priscilla, for "Silver Queen," in which she plays opposite George Brent.

**Three of the cast of Columbia's "The Invaders" have signed rather unusual contracts. Glynis Johns, Eric Portman and Anton Walbrook have agreed to appear in Hollywood within three months after the war is ended; won't leave England till then.**

When you see Paramount's "Wake Island" you'll see a setting that's absolutely authentic. The contracting firm which made the actual defense installations for the Wake Island marine garrison before the Japanese attack is in charge of construction at the Salton Sea location for the picture. It is recreating on the shores of the California island sea an exact duplication of the Pacific atoll establishment. John Farrow is directing "Wake Island," with a cast including Brian Donlevy, Robert Preston, Albert Dekker and Barbara Britton.

"Crossroads," the Hedy Lamarr-William Powell picture, brought up a slight dilemma at Metro. Powell, Basil Rathbone and Felix Bressart all had mustaches, and all were loath to part with them—but three was just too many for one film. Powell is a suave diplomat in the picture, Rathbone felt that a villain must have a mustache. Bressart couldn't bear to part with his. You'll have to see the picture to find out who lost out.

**That's Ginger Rogers' mother whom you'll see as Ginger Rogers' mother in "The Major and the Minor"; she'll be making her screen debut. She had been a drama editor and a dramatic coach, she's been in charge of the younger players at RKO and this past year she's been installing a dairy at Ginger's 1,100-acre ranch in Oregon—but never before has she been an actress.**

The famous musicians of the future may find themselves forming a "Those Who Were Helped by Major Bowes" association. For instance, take the Aquaviva brothers. Anthony, 17, a clarinetist, recently on the Major's program, said that if he won a prize he'd help his younger brother, Nicholas, to get the kind of tutoring he was getting. Anthony won $100, second prize. The Major suggested that he have Nicholas audition for the program. Nicholas, 14, won first prize. So Major Bowes, with the help of everybody who voted for the lads, helped them along.

*ODDS AND ENDS—Returning to the lot where she was an important star, Evelyn Brent reported to Paramount to play a role in "Wrecking Crew"; Richard Arlen, Jean Parker and Chester Morris co-star in it . . . Harry Sherman may reunite several famous western stars in "Buckskin Empire"—William S. Hart, Hoot Gibson, William Farnum, Jack Holt and Richard Dix . . . Vivian Leigh is being sought for the lead in "Frenchman's Creek" . . . William Warren is in London during an air raid in his new "Lone Wolf" comedy thriller; last time he was actually there was during a zeppelin raid during the last war.*