TEEN-TOWN TOPICS

By BARRY MURKAR

Vince Lunny, columnist and feature writer of the Montreal Standard, in a recent issue, blames the radio for crimes and atrocities committed by the youth of our country. He mentioned the two young men connected with a bank robbery at Pickering with whom we had the pleasure (?) of riding to court, who were sentenced to seven years in Kingston Pen. Mr. Lunny failed to mention that every daily newspaper in the country splashes its front page with the most gruesome stories and pictures it can find and this too, may give the younger set some of the hair-raising ideas they get. However, Mr. Lunny is a member of the Fourth Estate and naturally he has his limitations in his remarks.

Free T-B Tests Great Stuff

Owing to the fact that many towns and villages throughout Ontario will receive the free T-B tests campaign that is currently on the go, we are asking for the co-operation of everyone—especially the teen-agers—to make these campaigns a success. Most of the adults realize how important this free check-up is; but some of the kids, thinking they are in perfect health, just don't bother. This test may be a guarantee that you will have a future—be sure you heed the call when it comes.

Lucky Little Ladies, You!

Two lucky little girls in the news recently were Marjorie Norman of Erindale and Judy Schopf of Owen Sound. Marjorie, who is 15, won the gate prize of a beautiful pony at the Cooksville fall fair a few weeks ago. She will call him Jo-Jo and says that she has wanted a pony of her own since she was a little girl. Judy defeated all contestants in a beauty contest to win the title "Miss Owen Sound". This event was held at the annual fall fair too. Runners up were Owen Sound girls, Jackie Ruck and Doreen Bye. All these girls in their teens are well known in their respective communities and their popnlarity will no doubt leap to greater heights with the recent awards they have won.

Good Listening

Now that fall is well on the way, all the good winter programmes are back on the air. In case you have forgotten, you will catch Phil Harris Sundays at 7.30, Charlie McCarthy at 8, Lux, Monday's at 9; Bob Hope and Red Skelton on Tuesday nights; Bing Crosby on Wednesday and Al Jolson, Wayne and Shuster and Abbot and Costello on Thursdays. Other big-time radio shows will no doubt have made their appearance by now, so see your local paper.

TEEN-TOWN REPORTERS

Parry Sound—Audrey Harris—We have a Friday-Nite Club dance weekly and the majority of the Hi crowd attends. Skating, skiing and sleighing parties are planned for the winter. We had a school track and field meet in late September. The school was divided into four houses, each house with an executive, colours, cheers and cheer leaders. The idea of the house system is to increase comptetion and also to make for good sportsmanship. Marg Howe and George Ryder were senior champions and Isobel Makins and Cal Nichols won the intermediate cups, while Betty Sheridan and Jim Darlington carried away junior honours.

Rydal Bank—Gail Martens and Isabel McLeod—We have been appointed correspondents to Teen-Town Topics and will send in reports. We are both students of Bruce Mines Continuation School and are interested in the activities of teen-agers in the district.

Runnymede, "Village Club" — Velma Davis—This is the third year of operation for the Village Club. Last week we held a dance and accomodated 350 people, while dozens were turned away. We are making plans for a larger building. Runnymede Dramatic Society also has big plans. They recently held a social, when the student body enjoyed several plays that were student acted and student directed.

Thanks a Lot, Gang

Many thanks to all you kids out there who have been appointed as correspondents for your town for this column. The letters are starting to roll in and we are trying to answer them all as soon as possible. If we do not answer your requests for a few days after receiving same, please be patient and, in the meantime, send along any news you can think of that would be of interest to teen-age readers.

★

He Caught It

Puffing and blowing, the cadet just managed to jump into a carriage as the train left the station.

The middle-aged man in the corner eyed him with scorn.

"When I was your age, my lad," he said, "I could run a half mile catch a train by the skin of my teeth, and yet be fresh as a daisy."

"Yes, sir," gasped the young fellow, "but I missed this one at the last station."

★

Photograph by your Ful-O-Pep Photographer

Marmora—A closely contested race at Marmora. Here the "ponies" are seen going into the home stretch.

Sports – And One Thing or Another

By FRANK MANN HARRIS

("A Sixbit Critic")

The other day a friend, who is not too athletically-minded, asked us why it is that sports stuff coming over the air sounds, as a rule, rather more sickening than matter appearing in print regarding the same subject. As one who has been guilty of a considerable amount of material that has been used in both these forms, the only honest reply we could make was that the reason is exactly the same as the one for the black cows eating more than the white ones—there were far more of them.

* * *

What our friend was mainly referring to was the broadcasts of the last World's Series. So we tried to explain to him that the quantity of wordage those slaves of the microphone had to turn out would, if printed, probably fill a whole newspaper. Such being the case, it is surely only natural that the chaff would outbulk the grain by a considerable margin—a far greater margin than if they could boil their matter down to a column or so.

* * *

It seems that every sports broadcaster—and we do not know of a single exception—is gripped with a secret fear. He fears that if he leaves even one split-second of silence, all his listeners are liable to take a runout powder on him. And as we have said before, he also appears to be mortally afraid of coming right out and saying that a contest is downright lousy——even if everybody knows it is—but seems to feel it his duty to try and make you feel that you are missing the thrill of your life by not being present.

* * *

Why these things should be you will have to ask somebody a lot older—or anyway wiser—than we are. Personally we thought that the World's Series artists did a pretty fair job, only slipping to any painful extent in their incense-spreading at the feet of High-Commissioner Chandler for his "master-mind" innovation of placing the couple of spare umpires down on the foul lines, instead of leaving them on the bench or in the bull pens. However, as the same Mr. Chandler has much to say regarding who is to do the broadcasting, possibly they can be forgiven, human nature being what it is.

* * *

Once upon a time there was a Strike Conciliator who got the warring parties together and addressed them something like this. "You both say that you refuse to give in an inch" he said, "so let's imagine that this strike has been going on for six months. You, the workers, have lost a lot of wages and your families are really feeling the pinch. You, the employers, are short a whole heap of sales and profits that are going to be highly embarrassing to account for when your stockholders are expecting their dividends. So now that you have all this firmly in your minds, where do we go from here?" The stirke was settled in half an hour flat; but we had better explain that this is a wholly imaginary case, such peurile tactics being far too direct and simple to be used in the upper reaches of Capital and Labor relations.

* * *

Back there a piece we made reference to some of the sports ballyhoo which comes over the air, and hinting that the perpetrators of same—like the dame in the old song—were really more to be pitied than censured too harshly. Now, with the hockey season busting into full bloom, comes the time when the sports writer who is nine-tenths press agent and one tenth reporter is seen at his best—or worst, if you like. And, like his erring brethren of the airwaves, for this type of writer it is also possible to find excuses.

* * *

For he, too, has his bucket which must be filled whether or not bossy is brimming over with milk or rapidly running dry. Besides, possibly there are plenty of folk who revel in knowing just what color of eyes their latest hockey hero possesses, and what tinge of talcum he favors; in this business, as in many others, the customer is always right.

* * *

So we have hockey stars who look and dress like moving picture leading men, who know exactly which knife to eat their pie with, and who are much more at home at a tea dance than in the back room of Hennessey's Tavern. But make no mistake about it, they still suffer for the cause. That gaudy sports shirt still covers a multitude of abrasions, and plenty of bruises still lurk underneath that flowing, hand-painted cravat.

* * *

Still—it must be old age—more and more as we look over the papers we wonder whether we are still on the sports page, or have strayed into the Hollywood jottings by mistake; and more and more we find ourself yearning for the days when lads like Sprague Cleghorn, Bad Joe Hall or Scotty Davidson would spit out a mouthfull of teeth and continue on their way without breaking stride, little caring how their next photograph would look or what effect such marring of their manly beauty would have on the volume of their fan mail. Ho, hum! maybe it's the weather; for even it appears to have gone slightly haywire in this definitely screwball era.

Spray Keeps Fruit Hanging on Trees

Freight trains, jammed to the roof with boxes of B.C. apples are leaving the bustling Okanagan Valley fruit-growing centre every 15 minutes bound for the fresh fruit markets of the Prairies and the United States.

Plagued by a shortage of pickers and fearful that the apples might fall prematurely, many growers for the past few weeks have been experimenting with a hormone spray that may revolutionize the fruit industry.

A. T. Howe, of Vernon, B.C., reputedly the owner of the largest McIntosh orchard in the British Empire, said the spray which is scattered over the trees from a helicopter "apparently is successful" in making apples hang on more tenaciously.

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