

What Young People Think

New Health Menace Rising: Since 1951 Interest in Active Sports Has Been Declining Among Nation's Young People

By EUGENE GILBERT
(President of the Gilbert Youth Research Co.)

Parents soon may be facing a new problem: why doesn't Johnny play baseball anymore?

Baseball remains our national pastime, and with the World Series just around the corner, chances are Johnny's interest is at a fever pitch right now.

But chances are even better that Johnny will grudgingly that interest in playing himself to the television set rather than grabbing a glove and heading out to the nearest sandlot.

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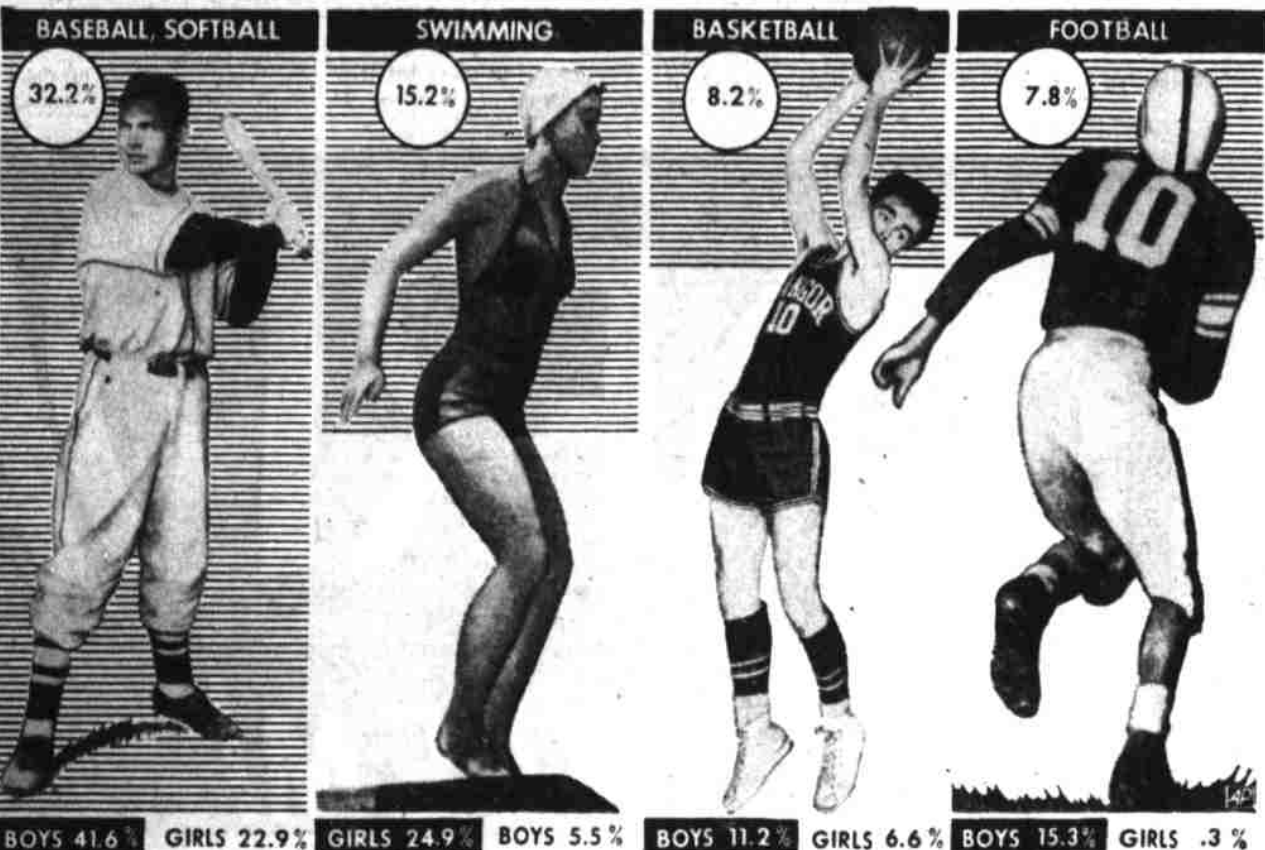
Our organization interviewed 8,400 boys and girls in the 9-20 age group and found that baseball is still the favorite participating sport, with 32.2 per cent putting it first place. But in 1951, the figure was 37.7 per cent.

Our poll showed that swimming has the number two spot on the list of favored sports and was the only one to show a gain the five-year period. Its popularity among girls accounted for the increase to an overall rating of 15.2 per cent.

Basketball, slumped into third place, skidded in popularity from 11.5 to 8.2 per cent. Football wound up in fourth place, dropping in popularity from 10.3 to 7.8 per cent. This was the only sport which evoked comment that parental authority was decidedly against their children's participation.

Baseball is most popular among 11- to 13-year old boys, swimming among girls 17 to 20. Basketball's chief zealous are 17 to 20 year old youths. Football has two popularity peaks—one among the 8 to 10 year olds, and the other among the 17 to 20 year old groups.

Many mothers and some fathers



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survey provided more evidence of lack of muscular coordination and muscular fitness among our young people. It showed that of 3.7 million men examined for military service, 1.7 million were rejected as physically unfit.

President Kenneth L. Wilson of the U.S. Olympic Committee recently took cognizance of the problem. "I am concerned," he said, "over the trend of our times, when youngsters will stay away from the playfields and go out and get a job in order to buy a car."

Health is not the only concern raised by dwindling sports participation.

When young people do not expand their energy in athletics, some are bound to wind up in trouble... the age-old warning of idle hands and idle minds. Juvenile delinquency thrives in the vacuum of inactivity.

Sports also are an excellent way for youngsters to develop a sense of social responsibility and fair play among their contemporaries.

The spoiled boy who takes his ball and hat and goes home soon learns that he can't play alone. But the boy who is a sports spectator may have to wait a long time to learn this lesson. And, in later life, the learning process is always more painful.

Are we becoming a nation of softies? The next few years will tell.

of European youngsters failed. The tests were simple exercises like touching toes without bending the knees, sit-ups, and lifting the legs while lying flat on the back.

The six tests are known as the Kraus-Weber tests for muscular fitness and have been administered to 4,264 boys and girls in the United States and to 2,870 in Australia, Italy and Switzerland. A 1954 armored forces draft

Fire Damages Negro Home In White Area

MOBILE, Ala., Sept. 27 (AP) — Fire Wednesday damaged the home of a Negro who wants to move out of the white section where the house is located.

Patrolman H. C. Jones said a container he pulled from under Booker T. Gulley's house "apparently had contained kerosene."

The flames destroyed a rear bedroom and damaged the kitchen. The other three rooms received some smoke damage.

Gulley, 37, and his family had left the modest house to stay with relatives a few three shotgun charges were fired at it last night. They left all their furniture except a television set, however.

Gulley said today he was moving as quickly as he could sell out and find another place.

Gulley, his wife, their five children and a cousin were in another room watching television. They were not hurt.

Gulley, who is employed as a night mechanic by a bus line, told reporters the shooting was not the first incident since the family moved into the house Sept. 4. He said windows had been smashed by bricks frequently and he had received threatening telephone calls.

Police Capture Girl Following Shooting Threat

GRANTS PASS, Sept. 27 (AP) — A 14-year-old girl, sought by police who said she threatened officers with a revolver while riding on a stolen horse, was held in jail Wednesday for juvenile offenders.

The girl was captured by Sheriff's Deputy Paul Shelton. He advanced into a darkened woodshed after her, despite believing the girl was armed. She wasn't.

He said the girl had threatened him and another deputy earlier with a revolver.

Nixon Raids Adlai's Home State With Verbal Attack

By WILLIAM F. ARBOGAST
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 27 (AP) — Vice President Nixon invaded Adlai Stevenson's home state tonight and tossed a handful of verbal bricks at the Democratic presidential nominee.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the National Guard Armory, Nixon accused Stevenson of "political quackery," said he offered a "defeatist and reactionary" program and has adopted the policies of "Harry Truman economically and of Dean Acheson politically."

On Civic Rights
Nixon came here from Louisville where he spoke on civic rights at noon. His plans called for an evening stop in Nashville and speeches tomorrow in Nashville, Cincinnati and Wheeling.

"There is no question," Nixon said, "but that we face as grave a threat to peace and freedom as we have ever confronted in the history of the country. The ship of state must be piloted through some stormy waters in the months and years ahead. If we are to come through safely we should not take the risk of putting our fate in the hands of a pilot who may be a perfectly well-intentioned man, who has read a lot of books on how to run a ship, but who has never had the experience of guiding a great ship through a stormy sea."

Sleepless Pickets Block Noisy Trucks

BAYONNE, N.J., Sept. 27 (AP) — It had gotten so noisy on the street that a person couldn't even hear himself snore.

So, early Wednesday, a line of sleepless women clad in wrappers over their nightclothes called a halt to the snarling trucks that they claimed made sleep impossible.

They marched up and down blocking the trucks that rumbled to and from Sabastian Lomanno's truck terminal all night long.

"We Want Sleep," protested their placards.

And sleep, they'll get, said Mayor C. Thomas D'Amico, who heard of the ruckus and came to the scene.

"You can't keep those people up all night," the mayor told Lomanno after hearing one truck back in and out of the terminal.

Okay, said Lomanno, who open the terminal Aug. 7, "rather than a light I'll move." He stopped his trucks.

And so, back to bed.

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Ex-Showgirl Dies in Leap From Hotel

CHICAGO, Sept. 27 (AP) — Beautiful Faith Bacon, who gained fame as one of the country's first "strippers," died Wednesday, poverty-stricken, after a plunge from a hotel window.

She suffered a fractured skull, a perforated lung and internal injuries earlier today in the plunge from the third-story room of a woman friend on the near North Side.

Miss Ruth Bishop, 40, a grocery store cashier with whom Miss Bacon had been staying, said the former showgirl had seemed depressed prior to the leap.

Miss Bishop said she grabbed Miss Bacon's skirt as she climbed out the window but the dancer tore loose.

The ex-stripper, still a shapely beauty, came to Chicago from Erie, Pa., three weeks ago to look for a job. She was unsuccessful.

She was separated from her husband, Sanford Dickinson of Buffalo, N. Y.

No one in Chicago could provide her age, but it was estimated she was between 40 and 50. Doctors at Grant Hospital, where she died, said she appeared much younger.

She was a featured attraction at Chicago's World's Fair in the early 1930s. She also had appeared in the late Earl Carroll's Vanities in New York.

A New York grand jury once refused to indict her on indecency charges growing out of an appearance before one of Carroll's audiences bearing only two ostrich feathers.

She also featured bubbles and flowers as part of her near-nude acts.

Erie's Fax of the American Guild of Variety Artists, who identified her, said the Guild will make funeral arrangements.

New Pipeline Termed Near For Canada

VANCOUVER, B. C., Sept. 27 (AP) — The Province says a second oil pipeline from Alberta to Vancouver is wearing the "positive project" stage because of shifting world oil economics.

The paper did not name the company which might build the line to parallel the existing \$100,000,000 one owned by Trans Mountain Oil Pipeline Co.

The existing pipeline now is operating at half its 300,000-barrel-a-day capacity and the paper says the Suez Canal crisis and other factors will shortly see volume increased. The Trans Mountain line carried only 20,000 barrels in its first month's operation in 1953 — not enough to break even.

In Vancouver, a spokesman for Trans Mountain said the newspaper report was news to him and "came as a complete surprise."

E. C. Hurd, Trans Mountain's administration manager, told the Canadian Press he does not know of any company planning a new oil pipeline between B.C. and Alberta and that his company has "no authorization for such a project."

However, he said his company "like any other on top of the oil business" is continually making new studies and that among their current studies is the possibility of a new loop or second pipe along the existing line.

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