

Nicknames

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

HERE is an "Ask Me Another" quiz in which nearly everyone can grade 100 per cent: Who is "Babe" or "The Bambino"? Who is "Little Pooker Face"? Who is "The Galloping Ghost"? Who is "The Flying Finn"? Who is "Trudy"?

If he can't, then he isn't able to read the newspapers. For, whether in Seattle, Wash., Portland, Maine, Hibbing, Minn., or Baton Rouge, La., those names in print have met his eye constantly and he rarely fails to recognize them. George Herman Ruth may have an unfamiliar sound, but not "Babe" Ruth, he of the home runs. Harold Grange is not an especially striking name in itself, but translate



"Babe"

it into "Red" Grange, the "Galloping Ghost" of football, and it becomes another matter entirely. Paavo Nurmi might be just "another of those foreigners," but "The Flying Finn" has sped across the printed page too often not to be pretty well known by this time. To the University of California, where she was a student, she was known as Miss Helen Wills, but the whole world has followed the fortunes of "Little Pooker Face." Not so long ago "Gertrude Ederle" meant no more than the name of any other girl swimmer who had a few records to her credit, but she emerged from a baptism in the English channel with the name of "Trudy," and that's the name by which 99 per cent of us know her.

Nicknames! They're as characteristic of America as baseball or hot dog sandwiches or the movies. Perhaps the fact that we are a sports-mad people accounts for the fact that we are given to thinking in terms of nicknames. Or there may be a more historic reason. Mr. Webster defines a nickname as a "name given in derision or familiarity," but long ago we dropped that derision part of it and retained the familiarity, to which we added fondness. Perhaps it was one of the natural developments of the growth of a democracy. We declared that all men are born free and equal and have the inalienable right to free and easy methods of addressing each other.

Of course, during the early years of the republic, while the aristocratic tradition still prevailed, we weren't so free and easy. If we used nicknames at all it was for some Revolutionary military hero such as "Swamp Fox" Marion or "Mad Anthony" Wayne, but not in speaking about the President of the United States. Who would have



"The Flying Finn."

been so bold as to refer to George Washington with a shorter, even though it were a more affectionate name? What headline writer (if they had had headline writers in those days) would have had the temerity to call President Adams "John" or even to refer to that first Democrat, Thomas Jefferson, as "Tom" or "Jeff"? But when the Virginia and Massachusetts aristocrats were succeeded

by a Tennessee backwoodsman and the new Jacksonian democracy came into power, it grated on no one's finer sensibilities to refer to President Andrew Jackson as "Old Hickory," a title, albeit an affectionate one, won in sundry battles with the Indians and the British. But Jackson was not the only man whom a military nickname was to carry into the White House. There was William Henry Harrison, who, even though he was the scion of a family of Virginia aristocrats, was better known as "Old Tippecanoe" than by his real name. There was Zachary Taylor, the "Old Rough and Ready" of Mexican war fame, and as late as the last quarter century the "Rough Rider" of the Spanish-American war may have helped put Theodore Roosevelt in the Executive mansion as much as did the affectionate "Teddy" or the historic initials "T. R." Although he had no military record to commend him to the electorate the man who came out of the Illinois backwoods in 1890 needed none to win for him. The "Rail Splitter" and "Honest Abe" were two nicknames well calculated to catch the public fancy until the simple name of Abraham Lincoln made him immortal.

But lest it be thought that a good nickname is a sure asset in winning the Presidency, consider the list of men whose nicknames have appeared to the imagination of the populace and should have helped them on the road to the White House but didn't. There were Henry Clay, known variously as "Harry of the West," "The Mill Boy of the Slashes" and "The Great Compromiser"; Stephen A. Douglas, "The Little Giant"; John C. Fremont, "The Pathfinder"; Daniel Webster, "Black Dan" and "The Expounder of the Constitution"; Winfield Scott, "Old Fuss and Feathers"; George B. McClellan, "Little Mac" and "The Young Napoleon"; Winfield Scott Hancock, "The Superb"; James G. Blaine, "The Plumed Knight" and William Jennings Bryan, "The Boy Orator of the Platte," all of whom aspired and aspired in vain.

But if the popularity of nicknames in politics has declined in recent years the increasing popularity of sports has more than made up for that loss. Naturally the national pastime has given



"The Galloping Ghost."

us the greatest number of national heroes whose nicknames are household words. Christy Mathewson is dead, but the name of "Matty" and "Big Six" will last as long as there are men living who saw that great pitcher in action. It is said that his fame was so great that one morning the mail man brought to him a letter which had traveled across the continent. The only mark on it was a big figure "4" on the address side.

The great baseball pitcher may be the hero of the hour, but when his arm loses its cunning then the crowd soon forgets, unless he has had a popular nickname to fix his personality in the mind of the fan. So Christy Mathewson is almost unique in the history of baseball.

They may soon forget the man on the mound, but the man who pulls them out of their seats when he slams one into the bleachers or over the fence for what the sports writers call a "circuit clout"—well, that's a different matter. Of course there's only one "Home Run King." But you don't have to use that name in speaking of George Herman Ruth of the New York American league team. Just say "Babe," "Bambino" or "Sultan of Swat" and anyone will know whom you mean. Time was when Tyrus Raymond Cobb held somewhat the same position in public esteem that Mr. Ruth does. Perhaps that was because he was known as "The Georgia Peach," and even the fact that he is not now the great baseball player he once was, this veteran of many years' service is still good enough to hold a

position on a major league team, and "Ty" is still a nickname that means one man and only one to the fan. Flistiana also has its long roll of nicknames, beginning with the great and one and only John L. Sullivan, for whom "John L." was sufficient to identify him at any time, although he was also known as "The Boston Strong Boy." Pugilism has known the following: James J. Corbett, "Gentleman Jim"; Bob Fitzsimmons, "Ruddy Bob" or the "Kangaroo"; Jack Johnson, "LI Artha"; Sam Langford, the "Boston Tar Baby"; Battling Nelson, the "Durable Dane"; Harry Greb, the "Pittsburgh Windmill"; Fred Fulton, the "Plastered Plasterer"; Jess Willard, the "Man Mountain" or the "Potawatomi Giant"; John Harrison

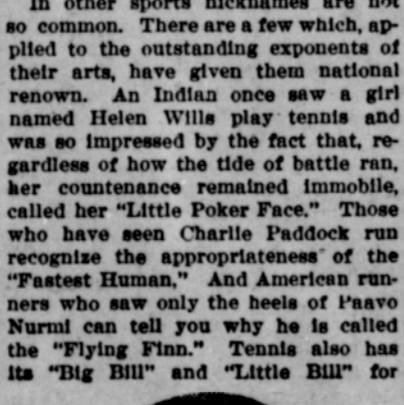


"The Georgia Peach."

Dempsey, the "Manassa Mauler"; Georges Carpentier, the "Orchid Man"; and Louis Angel Firpo, the "Wild Bull of the Pampas."

Football has furnished some great individual stars, of course, but for some reason or other popular nicknames never clung to them. That is, until one Harold Grange streaked across gridiron history and left behind him the titles of "The Galloping Ghost," "The Red Rover" or just "Red." Team nicknames, however, have been popular and more enduring. Who will soon forget the "Four Horsemen" of Notre Dame, who rode roughshod over a great Army team to win that title? Or the "Praying Colonels" of Center college, who sprang into sporting fame when they humbled the mighty Crimson of Harvard. Virtually every college has its nickname, based upon the colors of the school or some animal mascot, but few enjoy the picturesque descriptive names, such as the "Golden Tornado" of Georgia Tech, the "Green Wave" of Tulane or the "Thundering Herd" of the University of Southern California.

In other sports nicknames are not so common. There are a few which, applied to the outstanding exponents of their arts, have given them national renown. An Indian once saw a girl named Helen Wills play tennis and was so impressed by the fact that, regardless of how the tide of battle ran, her countenance remained immobile, called her "Little Pooker Face." Those who have seen Charlie Paddock run recognize the appropriateness of the "Fastest Human." And American runners who saw only the heels of Paavo Nurmi can tell you why he is called the "Flying Finn." Tennis also has its "Big Bill" and "Little Bill" for



"Little Pooker Face."

Messrs. Tilden and Johnson, respectively, and "The Comet" for the brilliant Maurice McLoughlin. But for alluring alliteration in nickname nomenclature has anyone ever yet in all different realms of sport been able to conjure up the equal of the "Bounding Basque of Biarritz" for Jean Borotra the French tennis champion?

Hood River's new high school auditorium was dedicated last week, when commencement exercises were held there for the class of 1927, 30 boys and 54 girls, the largest ever graduated by the school. The new auditorium seats 1200. Thomas M. Miller, 88, bailiff of the Clackamas county circuit court for 57 years, has retired, and E. P. Carter of Gladstone was appointed to take over the duties. Mr. Miller was the oldest bailiff in Oregon in appointive service.

change our habits on this account, because the lengthening of the day is estimated to amount to one-tenth of a second in a thousand years.

Cotton on Throne
"Cotton is King" is an expression used by James H. Hammond, in the Senate in March, 1858. The figure of speech means that so important is the state of the cotton industry that its condition rules the destiny of men connected with it.

some antiquity, says: "When I was a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."—Thomas Paine, in "The Rights of Man."

Historical Period
The "Hundred Days" is the name given to the period which elapsed between the departure of Napoleon Bonaparte from the island of Elbe where he was in exile, and his crucial and final defeat at Waterloo on June 18, 1815.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers.

The 22d annual convention of the Oregon Bankers' association was held in Gearhart last week.

The summer improvement program at Springfield includes the laying of more than two miles of concrete sidewalks.

The largest senior class in the history of The Dalles high school, numbering 111 students, was graduated last week.

Drillers at the new city well at The Dalles have reached a depth of 740 feet and are planning to sink the shaft to the 1000-foot level.

Between 150 and 175 delegates from coast and down-river communities attended the Roosevelt highway meeting in Portland last Monday.

Veterans of foreign wars from 13 of the 16 Oregon posts were represented at the annual state encampment held in McMinnville last week.

The state land department turned over to the state treasurer in May a total of \$78,779.42, according to George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board.

Construction of an \$120,000 logging road which will lead from Algoma ten miles into a heavily timbered area in central Klamath was announced last week.

A grower-packer plan of marketing for the northwest prune industry was unanimously adopted by the state prune convention held in Corvallis recently.

The Marion and Yamhill county courts awarded the contract for rebuilding the Newberg bridge over the Willamette river to the Clackamas Construction company. The bid was \$25,760.

The 34th annual commencement of the Medford high school was held last week and the largest graduating class in Medford's history, 92 members, received their diplomas.

A large delegation of Oregon dairymen is expected to attend "Guernsey Gaities" annual gathering of state Guernsey breeders to be held in Astoria June 9, 10 and 11.

The frost danger season of the Rogue river valley was officially declared at an end last Saturday, as the latest frost ever recorded there was on May 28 several years ago.

Virginia Hastings, 19-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hastings, was suffocated when fire destroyed the ranch home of the family 20 miles southeast of The Dalles.

The state board of control approved the organization of an association in Salem to include the superintendents of the various state institutions. Meetings will be held monthly and quarterly.

Pure tin is being extracted from the rocks near Gold Hill, in the Rogue river valley. That the white metal tin has been attested by assayers in San Francisco, Denver and other places.

State Senator McNary will be one of the principal speakers at the Willamette valley Chautauqua session at Gladstone park Friday, July 15, which is Grange day. His subject will be "Farm Relief."

Rhea Luper, state engineer for four years, was re-elected to the office by the state reclamation commission. Mr. Luper will serve as secretary of the reclamation commission, in addition to state engineer.

Portland's nine high schools will graduate the largest class in their history this June. The graduation list will total 1267. Of these 553 are boys and 714 are girls. The June class of 1926 had 1187 members.

While the apple and pear crop of the neighboring district was not affected by the April cold weather, George Chamberlain, Mosier grower, reported that the cherry crop will be only 10 per cent of normal.

It will require 40,000 loaves of bread, 12,000 pounds of meat, 4000 pounds of beans, 2500 pounds of coffee and 30,000 dozen eggs to feed the 3000 members of the Oregon National Guard during the annual encampment at Camp Clatsop beginning June 15. The encampment will continue for 15 days. The total cost of the encampment, including compensation to the guardsmen, will be \$115,000.

The meadowlark is the winner in the Oregon state bird contest, receiving more votes than all of its opponents combined. An unofficial estimate made by those in charge of the contest gave the meadowlark 40,000 votes out of 75,000 cast.

Crews from the state highway department are making the final survey for grading work which will start on the 12-mile uncompleted stretch of the Pendleton-John Day highway between the Lazinka ranch and Teal tunnel within the next two weeks.

A Friend's Advice
She—Yes, I appreciate the fact that Robert is rich, but how am I to live happily with a man who is my inferior?

Widow Wyse—Don't tell him my dear, and he'll never know it.

Waiting
Rod—You say Mae didn't reject you?

Bill—No. She said any time she felt like making a fool of herself she'd marry me.

Oiling operations have started on the Old Oregon Trail highway from Pendleton to La Grande by the state highway department and all traffic is being detoured over the Duff grade between Pendleton and Mission.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Walker, prominent pioneers and residents of the Cottage Grove section for more than 60 years, were both seriously injured in an automobile accident when their car skidded on the Pacific highway.

Lane county has 15,054 registered voters, according to County Clerk Dilard, who checked up the registration books after they closed a few days ago for the special election June 28. Of the total number registered, 843 are men and 5619 are women, the records show.

The directorate of the Apple Growers' association made tentative plans for construction of a plant for removing spray residue from fruit. It is proposed to erect the building on the Union Pacific tracks in Hood River. The plant will have a capacity of 5000 boxes a day.

Senator Joe E. Dunne and Representative J. O. Bailey of Multnomah county and W. J. Herwig, secretary of the National Narcotic association, were appointed as members of the state narcotic commission authorized under a resolution adopted at the last session of the legislature.

The Dalles plant of the Libby, McNeil & Libby cannery will open for the season next week using new equipment installed during the winter that will speed up production considerably. It was announced. The cannery will open on strawberries largely purchased from Hood River valley.

Virgil Learned, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Learned, is in a serious condition in a Medford hospital from severe burns suffered when a spray rig engine caught on fire and the gasoline tank exploded on the Learned orchard ranch on the Crater Lake highway, near Medford.

The Nestucca Improvement association held a picnic at Blaine Grange hall, May 29. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together people of Beaver, Blaine, Silver Falls, Carlton and Yamhill who are interested in the proposed Nestucca route as a shorter road between Portland and Tillamook.

A proposed amendment to the See side city charter to authorize a water commission to issue \$25,000 in bonds for construction of a pipe line along the west side of the Necanicum river and maintenance of the present system was defeated at a special election by five votes. The count was 9 for, 102 against.

First-half taxes in the amount of \$2,233,140.06 have been remitted to the state treasurer by the various Oregon counties, according to a statement prepared by the treasury department. There are eight counties which have not yet completed their remittances. There was due the state in first-half taxes the amount of \$2,613,103.62.

Bids for grading an eight mile section of the Wapinitia spur of the Mount Hood highway in Wasco county were opened by the United States bureau of public roads. The bid of F. L. Brown of Boardman, for \$51,108 was lowest. There yet remains about six miles of the spur to be graded, the contract for which will be let next year probably.

A smokers' code which would prohibit smoking while a person is in motion in a forest has been partially worked out by forest service officials in session at Bates, near Bend. Under the proposed code, persons will not smoke while walking, driving or riding. The theory advanced was that smokers will put out all lighted material while standing still.

Action which may eventually lead to changing the name of the Dalles-California highway was taken recently by directors of the Bend chamber of commerce, who went on record as favoring a new name for the north-south route through central Oregon. Names tentatively considered are the Fremont trail, the Cascade highway and the Dalles-Bend-Klamath highway.

Marion county filed a demurrer to the alternative writ of mandamus in proceedings brought by the state to recover a part of the county's share of the Oregon & California railroad grant land tax refund. The case against Marion county involves approximately \$41,000. The outcome of the state's suit against Marion county is being watched closely in that it will affect the grant land tax refund to 17 other counties in Oregon. The aggregate tax refund to the 18 land grant counties in Oregon involves more than \$8,000,000, of which amount the state claims more than \$1,350,000.

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Luxor to Khartum



Group of Natives of Sudan.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

TRIP from central Egypt to Khartum, disclosing life along the Nile and in the desert, is described by a recent traveler.

"We traveled south," he writes, "in a little white train, with blue glass windows to lessen the shock of the rushing sunshine."

"Before we were a mile from the station at Luxor the desert began to assert itself. The temperature in the coach climbed to almost unbearable heights; yet when we opened the window for what we thought would be a breath of fresh air, the glare of the sun struck us like a blow in the face. We had never conceived of such violent sunshine."

"Late in the afternoon we reached Shellal and transferred to a boat on the Nile for Halfa, whence stretches the railway to Khartum, completed by Kitchener between 1897 and 1899, when he made war on the forces of Mohammed Ahmed, the 'Mad Mahdi,' concentrated at Omdurman."

"The Nile trip from Shellal to Halfa lasted from five o'clock one afternoon to noon of the second day. The boat was too small to permit the passengers to move about. There was nothing to do but sleep and eat, read and talk."

"For half the distance to Halfa the desert was saffron-colored, sienna, burnt orange; in the high light of noon it was golden. Most of us think of the Sahara as composed of white or gray sand. To the contrary, it is colorful. Often the 'sand' is broken rock, and there are many ledges and ridges. Everywhere are the grand heaves and swells."

"The desert Arabs live in desperate squalor, on the fringe. On what they subsist is more or less a mystery. The Nile flows close by, but it is not used for bathing. Half the inhabitants seem to have sore eyes, and the slightest ones are everywhere."

Sunrise Over the Desert.
"The heat in the cabins of the small boat was almost unendurable, so we turned out at daybreak and went on deck to breathe."

"We saw the sun rise over the desert. A huge brass disk slid into place with astonishing rapidity. One moment there was a soft haze; the next, a bright, hot sun assailed the land."

"Along the shore small palm trees grew delicately out of the water itself and gently waved green branches at us. Off toward the horizon were hummocks and pyramids of crumbly rock. Near at hand an Arab mud village slept soundly and odorously. Swarms of wispy gnats moved down from nowhere to settle in our hair for a short-time warmth."

"The steersman, a Mohammedan, came out of the little deckhouse to say his prayers on the roof of the lower deck. It was the season of the Feast of Ramadan. He faced Mecca. He stood. He lifted both gaunt hands. He dropped his hands. He bowed. He knelt. He prostrated himself. He laid his forehead to the deck."

"At midday the heat was so enervating that we would sit and eat in silence. Those of us who were new to the country ate very little."

"The only animals we saw in the desert were lean white camels. They browsed and grazed, apparently on nothing, or reclined on shadeless sands hot enough to burn the skin from one's hands."

History Along the Nile.

"The banks of the Nile are a panorama of history. We passed Philae, the ancient shrine of Isis, which since the building of the Aswan dam is submerged almost half the year. We passed a Roman fort high on a rocky and desert shore, set there to watch over the barbarians while Antony's romance with Cleopatra flourished. We passed a temple supposedly erected by Cleopatra herself—in a fit of remorse, we presumed to think."

"When we came to a Temple of the Sun, carved out of rock, we were

given an opportunity to land, and we entered its cavernous depths at night with torches that threw weird shadows.

"We passed Kitchener's camp, where the great British soldier spent something like three years equipping an army with machine guns and artillery to go into the Sudan to subdue a religious zealot and his fanatical followers."

"The train from Halfa to Khartum was scheduled to leave at 1:30 p. m. one day and to arrive at Khartum at 4 the next afternoon. We arrived at our destination 18 hours late, having been marooned an afternoon and a night in the desert with masses of sand hurling over and around us."

"We did not dare to go forward, for when these desert storms swirl, often they blow the roadbed out from under the crossties and leave the rails suspended in the air, like bright steel ribbons. Eventually, before the full train was permitted to proceed, a hand-car had to be sent ahead as a scout to see if all were well. It was late in the afternoon when the full force of the sirocco struck us, turning the daylight to darkness."

"We were fascinated by its approach. Thin, angular Arab figures danced in its path, like grotesque scarecrows, trying to escape. It whirled across the Nile, striking us broadside on, and for a few stuffy minutes the air was unbearably hot."

"The storm carried all the sand and scenery with it. For a half hour we breathed dust, swallowed dust, and spat dust. Then it passed over, and we could watch it playing havoc on the horizon."

"Khartum was a welcome sight! Luxor, Aswan, Halfa, Omdurman and Khartum are river-bank villages. Because of their fame, one thinks of them as cities. Khartum plays at being the capital of the Sudan; Omdurman, just across the Nile, is an all-mud native village covering a vast area."

"Khartum is 1,000 miles south of Cairo. This was the frontier, the end of civilization."

In and About Khartum.
"Late afternoons we rode donkeys along the Nile, past the palace of the governor general, where Gordon was killed by the Mad Mahdi's men, toward the statue of Gordon sitting on a camel, looking out across the desert."

"The Gordon hotel, where we stayed, faced on the public square, perhaps a hundred yards across. There was no grass. There was only sand. Step out into this square under the midday sun without one's pith helmet and one may have a sunstroke before he takes a hundred steps. A short time before our arrival a Greek trader attempted to cross the square at noon on a rush errand, without his topee. He was stricken and died before he reached his destination."

"With evening came relief. A gentle breeze blew from the Nile and we sat on the earth terrace in front of the hotel from dinner until midnight, drinking lemon squashes and whiskeys-and-sodas. Off across the square, tom-toms beat perpetually and white figures of dervishes danced to the wild music. During Ramadan, every day is a fast and every night a festival."

"A delegation went over to watch the show. Three muscians shuffled backward in a perpetual circle. They thrummed tom-toms—shallow hoops with skin stretched taut across. They sang; they chanted."

"From time to time figures broke away from the tightly packed 'mob' which inclosed the torches, and danced furiously, whirling after the manner of dervishes. Around and around they went, barefooted fanatics, leaping and gyrating in their long white robes and odd white turbans. One minute they struck a self-approbative pose, and held it; the next, they were in a frenzy again. They resembled nothing so much as chickens with heads cut off, fluttering in the purposeless dance of death."

"Say dat ag'in," said Wash, "and I'll bust yo' jaw!"

"Consider it said ag'in!"

"Consider go' jaw busted!"

Old Marine Policy
Marine insurance is really older than the Christian era. Lloyds still possesses a copy of a policy (not its own, of course) dated 1680. This was believed to be the oldest marine policy in existence until, six years ago, a document dated 1550 was found—Exchange.

Selects Her Own Nest

C. E. Heron, of Wilson, N. H., owns a notional hen which wandered one day from her usual haunts down back of his store on Main street along the sidewalk, past the shoe store and the news stand, to the entrance of Drapers' brothers' garage. She entered, went into the office and looked around awhile. At last she hopped and flew on a shelf and settled down, apparently comfortable and content. A little

Beautiful Birds

Bird of Paradise is the name of a family of birds found in New Guinea and in the neighboring islands of the South Pacific. The male bird is noted for the extraordinary beauty and luster of its plumage.

To Freshen Furniture

Equal parts of olive oil and turpentine, applied with a flannel cloth, form an ideal polish to keep the shine on the furniture.

later she flew down and left. An egg was found where she had been. Every day since then she repeats this stunt and if the big door happens to be closed she will stand there waiting for some one to open it.—Boston Globe.

Days Becoming Longer

The oft-expressed wish of the busy man that the day were longer is being gratified, for the earth is steadily reducing its rate of rotation. It will be some time, however, before we need

Titles

Titles are but nicknames, and every nickname is a title. The thing is perfectly harmless in itself, but it marks a sort of foppishness in the human character, which degrades it. It reduces man into the diminutive of man in things which are great, and the counterpart of woman in things which are little. It talks about its fine blue ribbon like a girl, and shows its new garter like a child. A certain writer, of

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Cotton on Throne

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