

WIT and WIT-OUT



Edited by

MANNIE MAULDIN, Jr.

Producer-Announcer:

WEBH-FM - 93.9 Chicago, Illinois

A sailor LIMPED into a naval hospital to have his FOOT X-RAYED and was asked to wait for the results. Some time later, an orderly appeared and handed the sailor a LARGE PILL...Just then a mother with a small child in need of immediate attention entered. After the orderly disappeared with the new patient, the sailor hobbled over to get a glass of water, swallowed the pill and sat down to wait...Sometime later, the orderly reappeared carrying a BUCKET OF WATER. "OK, he said, "let's drop the pill in this bucket and soak the foot."

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A man in a swank restaurant ordered POULET Ala FERRARI, and it turned out to be a CHICKEN that had been run over by a FRENCH SPORTS CAR.

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THE LANGUAGE OF THE SIGNS: In a delicatessen window near Marquette University, Milwaukee: SWISS cheese with 22% FEWER CAVITIES...On a barbershop in Gary, Indiana: "HAIRCUTS TO GO"...In the window of an Amarillo, Texas beauty shop: "Welcome, UGLY Americans"...In the office of a government official, Washington, D.C.: "Be nice to your enemies. You MADE THEM"...On a billboard in Chicago Illinois: "Now you can BORROW enough to get completely out of Debt!"...In the window of a CLOSED Bookshop: "WORDS FAILED US!"

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This column will pay \$2 for interesting stories and anecdotes. Send your items to MANNIE MAULDIN, Jr., Sutherland Hotel, 47th and Drexel Boulevard, Chicago, 53, Illinois.

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A man who says he understands his wife probably LIES about other things, too. Evangeline Carr, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Happy-tite - A cannibal chief was explaining why it is that his tribe no longer makes a practice of eating missionaries... "You know, with this new government we have, and the terrible taxes and all, we've simply had to go on a non-PROFIT basis..." Then there was a little cannibal boy who was NINE before he was ATE.

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A little seven year old was gazing into the crib at his new baby sister, who lay crying at the top of her voice... "Has she just come from heaven?" asked the youngster... "Yes, his mother replied tenderly... "Well, it's no wonder they PUT HER OUT."

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It takes both the BLACK and WHITE keys of a piano to play the Star Spangled Banner.

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(TATUM, from page 6)

stars--notably Mays, Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto and Maury Wills--possessed this unique gift.

Tatum carried the same natural talents into basketball. There are those cynics who scoff at the Trotters merry brand of basketball as "fakery for profits," and maintain that guys like Reece could not have reached stardom playing straight professional ball. These guys are dead wrong.

During scrimmages, the Trotters have a "serious" period in which they work out certain strategems of straight playing for those occasions when they'd have to forego clowning and concentrate on offense and defense to contain fast-moving opponents.

IN THESE sessions, I have seen Tatum do just about everything that is required of a top pro. He'd fast-break, dunk, weave technical patterns, block shots, and even call many plays. That's how agile and versatile the very late, great one was. On the baseball diamond, these very same talents would have made him a tremendously important "take charge guy."

But Tatum's natural talents were channeled into basketball mimicry instead. Baseball, when he hit stardom, was still "lilywhite," and guys like him who loved to eat well and live high couldn't afford to fool around waiting for integration. They were after the "quick buck," and, to Tatum, clowning seemed the natural, profitable thing.

So he became the Trotters Court Jester, leading their sleight-of-hand, pre-game routine and becoming their big box office attraction.

IT IS unfortunate that modern sports fans did not get a chance to see Tatum at his greatest in a natural baseball or basketball role. For there was a guy who definitely would have become one of the greatest, just by utilizing his natural playing talents.

If the realist could maintain that "facts are stubborn things", then optimists like this scribe could argue with equal credence that "fate is a cruel thing."

It was cruel to a guy named Reece (Goose) Tatum.

Sammy Davis Jr.

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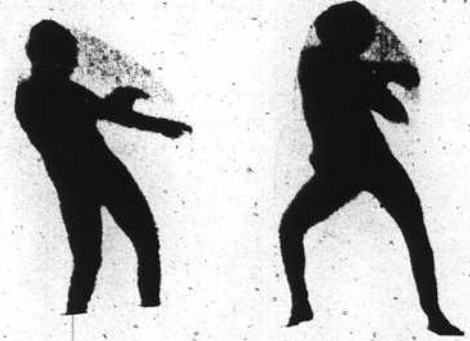
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