

To Our Readers, Contributors and Friends,
Most Joyous Easter Greetings The STAFF

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO
THE RED CROSS AND
COMMUNITY FUND



DRAUGAS

ENGLISH SECTION

LET'S FINISH THE JOB—
BUY MORE VICTORY
BONDS!



FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1947

Former clerk in Soviet Embassy —

Exposes Top Communist in N. America

Top Communist on the North American continent is not Gerhardt Eisler, as has been widely proclaimed, but one Charles Dirba, an extremely shadowy figure who is the confidential agent of the all-powerful Comintern in the western hemisphere, according to Igor Gouzenko, former cipher clerk in the Soviet embassy in Ottawa, whose position gave him access to the innermost secrets of the Kremlin.

Describing in the April issue of Cosmopolitan magazine the manner in which the activities of left-wing labor unions in the United States are controlled by Moscow, Gouzenko declares:

"The inner workings of such fifth-column activities are known to few people outside the Comintern. In fact, not many communists themselves know the identity of the party leader in North America who is closest to the Comintern and therefore the most powerful communist on this continent.

"He is a native of Finland named Charles Dirba, who for the past twelve years has headed the control commission in the Communist party of the United States. He has the authority to dismiss any American communist from the party without appeal or hearing.

"Dirba acts as the contact man between the Comintern and party members in Communist-front political organizations and in such Communist-dominated CIO

unions as Harry Bridges' International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America and the National Maritime Union."

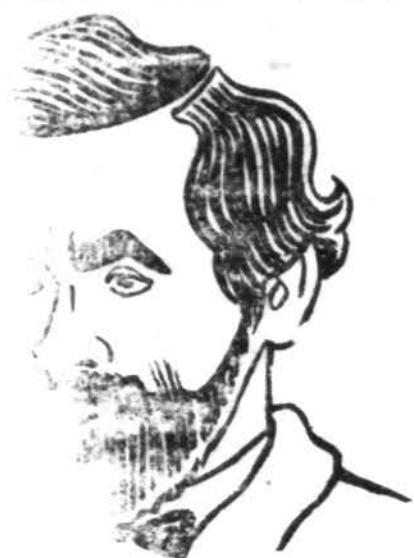
Latvian Diplomat Becomes Convert To Catholic Faith

Dr. Alfred Bilmanis Baptized By Apostolic Delegate In Apostolic Delegation Chapel

WASHINGTON — Dr. Alfred Bilmanis, Minister of Latvia to the United States, was received into the Catholic Church here last week. He was baptized by His Excellency Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the ceremony taking place in the Apostolic Delegation chapel.

Dr. Bilmanis received instruction in the Catholic

THE LITHUANIANS By A. D. Yuknis



VICTOR D. BRENNER (BARANAUSKAS) was born in 1871 in Siauliai, Lithuania. In his early twenties he came to the United States — to the birth place of his parents. Theodore Roosevelt, impressed by Brenner's work as a medalist and sculptor, insisted that he design the contemplated Lincoln one cent piece. Later, Brenner studied in Paris and returned again to the U. S. for a famous and successful career until his death in 1924.

Want To Buy a Town?

WASHINGTON — Among other things the Federal government took over during the war and now wants to get rid of is a whole town in Utah. It's called Drager-ton — 23 miles east of Price, consists of 377 acres, houses, a water system and other utilities. For sale today, "as a whole, only."

TULIPS FROM HOLLAND HAVE FEATURE SPOT IN BIG FLOWER SHOW



All the way from Holland to be exhibited at the National Flower and Garden Show in Chicago came the bulbs that produced these lovely, vari-colored tulips. They are being admired by Rose Mary Lane, 4938 Drexel Boulevard, who is of Dutch extraction. More than 15,000 tulips, narcissi and hyacinths were sent by the Holland Bulb Growers to be exhibited in a huge Spring Garden at the Show.

faith from the Rev. Gerold J. Kaiser, a former army chaplain who is presently on the staff of the Apostolic Delegation. The Lithuanian Minister and Mrs. Povilas Zadeikis were the sponsors. The Apostolic Delegate was assisted by Msgr. Joseph McShea of the Apostolic Delegation staff.

Dr. Bilmanis was formerly a Lutheran. His wife is a Catholic.

Story of Christ Being Broadcast

Believing that the time is now for a re-telling of "the greatest story ever told", an Ohio rubber manufacturer is sponsoring a nation-wide broadcast of dramatized incidents in the life of Christ and His teachings, Sunday evenings at 6:30 E. S. T.

The program is purely in the public service since there is no commercial or even institutional announcement, and the sponsor is named only to comply with Federal Communications Commission dictates.

March Issue of "Cal. Lithuanian" Offers Outstanding Reading

OAKLAND, CAL. — The March issue of "California Lithuanian" (Kalifornijos Lietuvis) magazine has many valuable articles with many illustrations. In a concise form the American Lithuanian Achievements in 1946 is given, biographies of Rev. Dr. K. Urbonavicius (writer) and Mrs. A. Luzas, articles "Health and Climate", "Who is punishing the Russian War Criminals", "Danger Looming over the United States", "Apie tremtinis moksleivius ir studentus"; also expert chronicles of Lithuanian Activities in Arizona, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Besides there is a short commentary of President Truman's speech and Highlights of other important facts are given.

The subscription \$2.00 per year. Address all communications to: 2721 Logan St., Oakland 1, Calif. Anthony Skirius is the editor and publisher.

Good Friday

There is an interesting custom followed in some Oriental countries whenever a murder has been committed by an unknown murderer. All the village's inhabitants are gathered around the corpse. Each one must advance singly, put his left hand on the bloody body, raise his right hand to heaven, and swear that he is innocent of the blood of the murdered man. Now, if blood flows afresh on any hand, that man is accused as the murderer and is condemned to die for his crime.

Today is Good Friday, the anniversary of the day that Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, died on the cross of crucifixion to redeem the whole world from its sins. Ever since that first Good Friday, Christian tradition has kept alive the grateful and loving memory of the sufferings and death of Our Savior by gathering all men in spirit about the cross of Christ on this day.

We know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent by His Heavenly Father to atone for the sins of all men and to reopen the gates of heaven which had been closed since Adam committed the first sin. We know that Christ did not die to save only the Jews with whom He lived but all men from Adam until the last man who will ever live on this earth. We know, too, that the men who tortured and crucified Our Lord were not only the Jews and Roman soldiers but every single one of us by our sins, because it was for the sins of all men that Jesus had to pay the debt of justice. If therefore, in recalling the sufferings of Christ, we look at the men who killed Our Savior we will see represented in them all men who sin against God — even ourselves. This terrible sight will show us, as nothing else will, that Jesus Christ is still suffering and dying in the world He made, in the world that rejects Him by sin.

Judas was the traitor who betrayed Our Savior with a kiss. Judas represents all traitors to Christ: men, who once knew and loved Christ, but men who deserted and betrayed Christ because He did not give them all the fleeting pleasures they expected. Cowardly Pilate, who sentenced Jesus to death, stands for all men who pass judgment on God's law forbidding murder, even under the name of euthanasia; forbidding injustice in economic life. These men by disregarding the law of God find Christ guilty of death. Christ suffered the savage scourging to make up for all those repulsive sins of the flesh: birth-control, free love, abortion, adultery, fornication. These crimes against nature are the lashes that cut and tear the innocent flesh of the God-Man. Men who commit them have forgotten or never known the sacredness of human generation or the beauty of human love. The soldiers mocked Our Lord by putting a crown of thorns on His head. The atheists today try to get rid of Christ by tearing the love of Him out of the hearts of men.

After all these other sufferings Christ was nailed to the cross. He hung on that cross in agony for three hours, praying for all of us, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." At last He died. Men have murdered God. But God has redeemed men.

It is in remembrance of this redemption, that we gather each Good Friday in spirit around the cold body of Christ. If the traitors, the cowards, the atheists and the advocates of sexual sins were to put their hand on that body to perjure themselves, the blood of Christ would flow afresh on each hand.

We go up to that body in love and sorrow. We won't swear that we are not guilty; we know that we did murder Our Savior every time we sinned. But we will swear that we will avenge His blood in our own lives, that never again will we renew His passion and death by sin.

About Special "Topix"

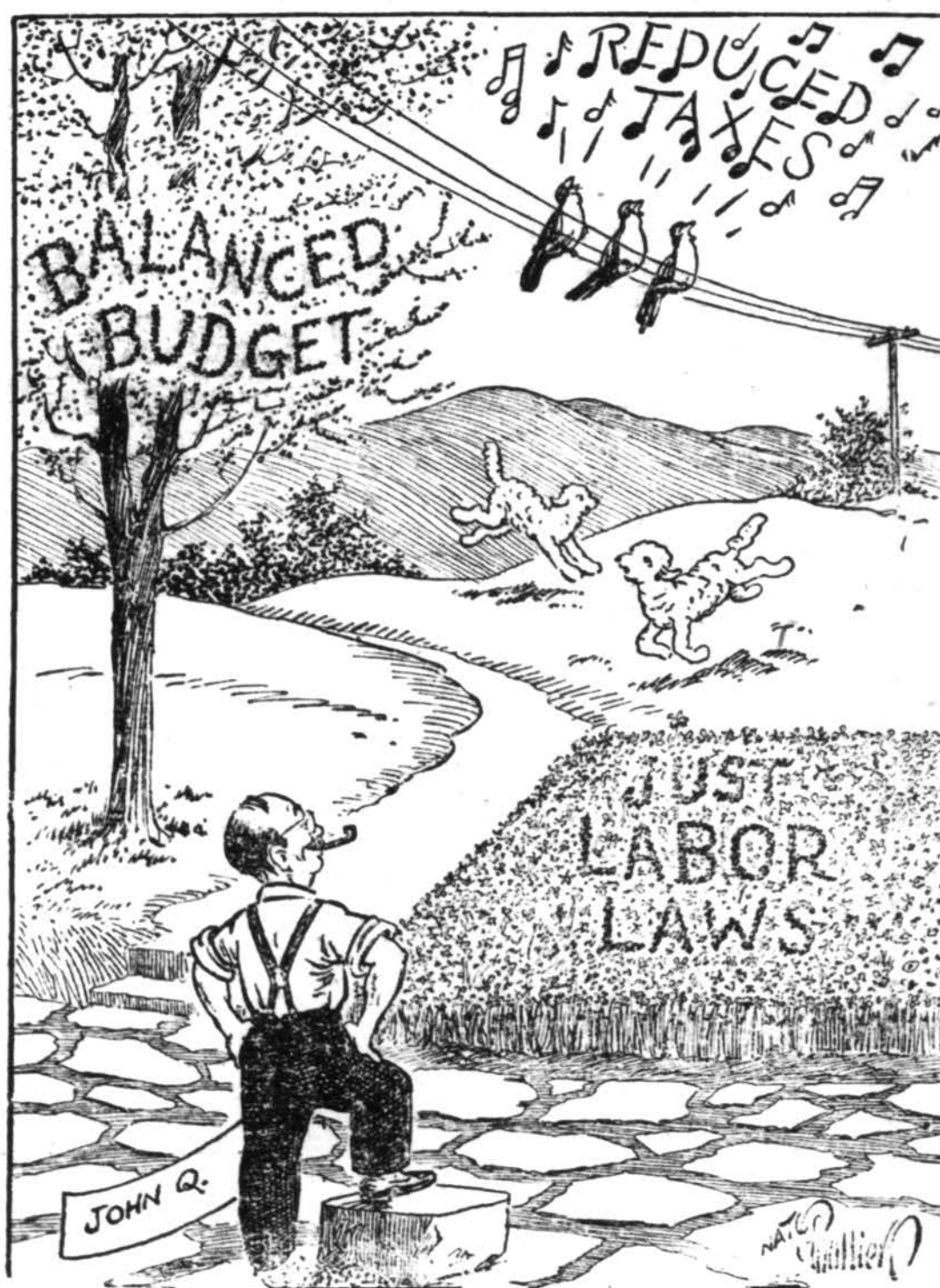
Comics...comics... and more comics. The world is flooded with comic books. Millions read them... and I suppose you and we are no exception. Ah but what kind of comic books do we read? If we are like the average comic book reader whose age runs from six to sixty (or over), we aren't very particular with what we read.

The comics are generally the meeting place of a world of fantasy, abnormalities, sharpshooters, sharpshooters, crime-busters; the melting pot of a thousand odd, different, distorted and depraved views on the true meaning of real life and living. Violence is glorified, modesty ridiculed — if not by words at least by an unending array of scantily attired female characters. Intriguing

(Continued on page 3)

HOPES BLOOM IN THE SPRING

By COLLIER



Dusty Road

The long, dusty road
Just repeated its mode
Windingly

For mile after mile.
Its dust and its gray
In monotonous way
Tiringly
Continued one style.

The dust and the dirt
And the soil and the earth
Blindly
Had ris'n to be free.
But Joy dancing by
Couldn't help wond'ring why
Puzzlingly
Some men wouldn't see.

Since there'mid the mud
Was a pink pebble stud
Cheerily
Attempting to beam.
Here stones were of blue
And some yellow peeping
through;
Shiningly
Resplendent...some green.

So 'tis on Life's way
Mid the mud and the gray
Neglectingly
Remains some one's guile.
Then let us stoop down
And lavabo his frown
Helpingly
Restoring the smile.

E. d. M.

Esmond, Nebr.

Said a politician:

A man in my condition
is not in a position
to question the sources
of the checks he endorses.

CORN and STUFF

By J. A. SKELLY

"Marry by all means" says
Socrates (and I, too), "If
you get a good wife, you
will become very happy. If
you get a bad one, you will
become a philosopher — and
that is good for every
man."

★

Do you think the baker
(k) needs the dough?

★

A pessimist is not caviar,
but one who feels bad when
he feels good for fear that
he'll feel worse when he
feels better.

★

Some tavern's feature the
longest bars. There is a rea-
son! Their roaches are so
big, they need a long runway
to take off.

★

Zonja — "Have you no-
ticed that my new boy friend
always says 'fair lady' when
speaking to me?"

Penja — "Yes, he used to
be a street-car conductor."

★

Judge — "You stink as a
driver. A menace to pedes-
trians. No driving for you
one year, you hear!"

Motorist — "But, but my
living depends on it!"

Judge — "So does theirs!"

THE ENGLISH SECTION

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afternoon to appear in the following Friday's issue.

It happened during the Dodgers' first 1946 visit to Wrigley field. There were Cubs on first and second and the rookie first baseman was at bat. Manager Leo Durocher scurried to the mound for a conference with Kirby Higbe.

"Wake this busher up," Durocher ordered.

Higbe fired a fast ball high and inside. The rookie sprawled in the dirt. Higbe fired again — this time on the outside corner.

C—R—A—C—K. When the Brooklyn center fielder retrieved the ball, the rookie was dusting his pants on third base.

A few minutes later Durocher swaggered to the first base coaching box. The Cub infielders were arching warmup throws. S-W-I-S-H. Lec's cap twitched. The ball (which somehow had escaped the first baseman) rolled into the Brooklyn dugout. The rookie was apologetic. "Gosh, I'm sorry, Mr. Durocher, that one got away from me."

Two innings later, the rookie lined a double to right center. Durocher grunted. "Who is that busher?"

"Waitkus... Eddie Waitkus."

"After this," Durocher ordered, "let him sleep."

★ ★ ★

The Dodgers always smiled when they said things to Waitkus after that. Eddie finished the season with a .305 batting average and was an almost unanimous choice for Rookie of the Year.

Eddie is the only player in major league history who achieved stardom by not playing baseball for three years. Here's the explanation:

Eddie wore a Cub uniform briefly at the start of the 1941 season. He batted .164 in 12 games and was rewarded with a new address: Tulsa. He spent 1942 at Los Angeles — without exhibiting pronounced major league symptoms — and then signed up with the army amphibious engineers.

There were no bulletins on Waitkus until early in May, 1945, when Jim Gallagher, the Cubs' general manager, received a letter postmarked Manila. It told about a game between two army teams. "We lost, 4 to 3, but I smacked one pretty good — a double to right — and it certainly was a thrill, Jim, playing again after two years in the jungle. Here's hoping next spring I'll be back in Wrigley field."

The writer was Sgt. Eddie Waitkus. The odds were 1,000 to 1 that Sergeant

Rookie of the Year



EDDIE WAITKUS

By WILLIAM FAY

(Reprint from Chicago Tribune)

Eddie would ever set spikes on Wrigley field again. That was 1945, remember. There was considerable doubt whether established prewar stars — the Joe Di Maggios and Bob Fellers who were playing plenty of service baseball — would return to the majors in first class hitting and pitching condition. What chance then had Waitkus, the rookie who flopped in 1941? The machine gun squad leader who didn't throw a baseball in 32 months while batting out four battle stars in the Japanese league?

Just to make things tougher, the Cubs had a first baseman, Phil Cavarretta, who was the National league's leading hitter and most valuable player. Maybe the odds were 2,000 to 1 when Waitkus reported to the Cubs in 1946.

Whatever the odds, Eddie was the Cubs' regular first baseman on May 5 — exactly one year after Gallagher opened the letter post-

marked Manila. The ex-sergeant was slugging .400 and fielding like a vacuum cleaner. Cavarretta? The league's most valuable player was still working every day — in right field.

In June, Manager Charley Grimm dispatched a memo to Chicago scouts, reminding them that Rookie Waitkus was only 26, and not to worry about finding a first base replacement until some time in 1957. Charley didn't try to explain why the flop of 1941 was the rookie of the year in 1946.

Even Eddie could not account for the miraculous improvement which three years of not playing baseball had made. "I felt right at home the first day of practice," he recalls. "Who knows? Maybe the army really builds men, like it says on the recruiting posters."

The army had excellent raw material to work on. The Waitkuses are rugged. Edward Sr., 60, a brewer,

(SPECIAL "TOPIX", from page 2)

ing criminal techniques and methods are passed on to the unsuspecting reader for future meditation. Fantastic and impossible situations are continually paraded before our eyes. Philosophies of life and a moral code of living hardly compatible with the true Christian philosophy of life are advocated and unconsciously absorbed.

"But just a minute", you may interrupt — "you can't condemn all Comics." True....yet there are so few that escape our censure.... and fewer still that we can wholeheartedly and unreservedly endorse. And it is those few that we want to bring to your attention.

Let's take one in particular...Ever hear of "Topix"? No? Neither did we till someone forwarded us a free copy. And before we had finished reading the 48 pages of fun, excitement, adventure that "Topix" offered us for only a dime, we were a goner. Before long we sent out a \$1.20 check to Topix, 128 East 10th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota for a years subscription — and we sent out a few paid subscriptions for others.

Topix is a comic book, the exact opposite of what we've been "preaching" about above. You have your fun and enjoyment, sport heroes, animal stories, and even some of the lives of the Saints thrown in for entertainment. Each issue is an exciting adventure.

"Who can read Topix", did you ask? Why everyone — children, parents and even grandmothers. But don't let me try to convince you. Send in your \$1.20 yearly subscription or invest a dime for a single copy and convince yourself. "Topix" will speak for itself. So hurry up and get that subscription out. It is rarely that we take the time to recommend a comic magazine — so Topix must be tops.

E. C.

swims four miles each summer day in the surf near Cambridge, Mass., where Edward Jr. was a .600 slugger for Cathedral Latin High school in 1937.

The .600 average earned a week-end tryout with Worumbo Mills, a semi-pro team in Lisbon Falls, where the fans really took balls and strikes seriously. Eddie made his debut on the Sunday afternoon the town grocer hocked his delivery truck to cover a \$500 bet. With the score tied in the ninth and the winning run on third, Waitkus whacked a single to left. That wallop saved the truck and — more important for a fellow making \$65 a month — eliminated grocery bills for two summers.

Worumbo competed in the national semi-pro tournament in 1938 and Eddie stampeded the scouts by batting .500 in nine games. The New York Yankees made the top offer, but Eddie signed with the St. Louis Cardinals because "the Yankee chain was loaded with first basemen and I thought I'd move up faster with the Cards."

★ ★ ★

Eddie did move up fast — but not with the Cards. The Cubs were so impressed by his work at Moline and Tulsa that they purchased him for 1941 spring delivery. Unfortunately, Eddie moved down even faster. He tarried only 12 games in Wrigley field.

The army was more hospitable than the Cubs. It gave Eddie an opportunity to establish what may be a global record for coffee drinking and battle stars for the New Guinea, East Indies, Solomon Island, and Philippines campaigns, but asked him to take part in one ball game. Rizal stadium in Manila thoroughly wrecked. Advance elements of the 1st cavalry division and retreating Japanese had played a double-header between the first and third base dugouts. Foxholes pockmarked center field.

(Continued on page 4)

Cancelled Stamps

Readers are kindly asked to save their cancelled postage stamps for the Missions. All sorts of stamps needed.

Please send stamps to:

MARIAN MISSION CLUB

MARIAN HILLS
SEMINARY

HINSDALE, ILL.

This And That From

The Lithuanian University Club

There is less than one month's time left until the 15th Anniversary B. A. L. F. Benefit Concert of the Lithuanian University Club which will be presented on Sunday, April 27th, at the Lithuanian Auditorium. The club will donate all proceeds of the evening to the Lithuanian American Relief Fund (BALF) and is doing its utmost in the way of ticket selling to make the donation as big as possible. Next week we'll let you know where you can get tickets in your own neighborhoods — we want to be very sure you'll come!

At the March meeting Joe Kuczynski returned to our little fold after a several months' absence, during which time he very successfully went into the design engineering business with a friend. Congratulations on the very wonderful beginning you've had, Joey! We certainly are proud to hear these glowing reports of your successful break into "big-time" business...

Helen Slakis dropped in on us at the meeting looking very prosperous and happy with life down in Bloomington. She really is sold on the town — and her sales promotion work down there.

We have been very sorry to hear that Isabelle Barsevsky's mother still is in the hospital where she has been convalescing for several months now. Our very best wishes for a quick recovery, Mrs. Barsevsky.

With Spring in the air we naturally start thinking of the summer fun ahead of us — including the L. U. C. Initiation Banquet which comes in June. Just a reminder to you who have been putting off joining the club. Keep the April meeting in mind — by June you can get in three meetings —

How They Compare -

U. S. A. and U. S. S. R.

With only seven per cent of the world's population and six per cent of its land area, the United States under our free enterprise system has 30 per cent of the world's total railroad mileage, 40 per cent of the total telegraph wire mileage, a telephone in practically every home, an automobile for every four persons, a radio for every three.

Russia, with 8.8 per cent of the world's population and 14 per cent of its land area, has only one-sixteenth of the total rail trackage, one telephone for every 188 inhabitants, one auto for every 252, and a radio for every 45... They also have Communism!

just in time to be initiated as a regular member during the banquet ceremonies-

J. C. M.

QUOTES
OF THE WEEK

"I cannot be drafted for any political office."—Gen. George C. Marshall, becoming Secretary of State.

"I can make twice as much as by teaching school."—Erskine Richmond, Beckley, W. Va., quitting school principalship to mine coal.

"Let your husband know that he's the boss!"—Mrs. Daniel Sutton, Rochelle, Ga., on how to be happy though wed 71 years.

"Industry-wide bargaining is death to free enterprise."—Clarence B. Randall, vice-pres., Inland Steel Co.

"Big business makes the headlines, but small business makes the nation."—H. E. Humphreys, Jr., chairman finance comm., U.S. Rubber Co.

For Theatre Goers

"Greatest of These" Has
Characterization, Drama, Humor

"The Greatest of These," the Max Wylie play directed by Eddie Dowling now playing at the Selwyn Theatre, handles the Anglo-British situation with fairness, freshness and challenge. Furthermore, the author's pleas for interracial justice and universal brotherhood rings true.

The play presents the problems of an American University professor, Hackley Chard, whose love for a Mohammedan girl involves him in her brother's revolutionary activities. Gene Raymond as the professor handles the role with understanding and Bramwell Fletcher, who poses as a wastrel but in reality is a liberal journalist, is Raymond's confidant.

Mary Boland gives a characterization that is at once dramatic and humorous. She plays the English dowager who has spent most of her long life in India and loves and understands the people. Barbara Young is cast as the Indian girl and Peter Coe is her revolutionary brother. Sam Jaffe is the Indian patriot — and plays the part with his usual sincerity and understanding. A. J. Herbert crisply portrays the British inspector, and

Edwin Jerome the governor in best British manner.

The two beautiful sets by Donald Oenslager are Chard's living room and the hall of the Siraj-Uddin palace and both contribute to the overall effectiveness of the play.

(WAITKUS, from page 3)

But the C. G. of the 37th division thought the weary troops would like to see a ball game, so the engineers went to work. They probed with mine detectors. They eliminated foxholes with bulldozers and a salvaged Jap steamroller. They repaired the broken seats... and finally they took a 10 minute break to steal two dozen white T-shirts from the navy.

As Waitkus noted in his letter to Gallagher: "We wore T-shirts, fatigue pants, and combat boots. The stadium looked better than we did, which might be what the general had in mind all along. It was a deluxe repair job."

Eddie rejoined the Cubs on Catalina Island last spring. That made him happy, and when Eddie is happy he sings. He was leaning against the batting cage, half way thru the second chorus of "Dear Old Girl", when somebody said:

"So we've got a left-handed tenor for first base. Tell me, young man, do you also play the banjo?"

★ ★ ★

The interrogator was Charley Grimm, former lefthanded first baseman, baritone, and banjo player extraordinary.

Eddie admitted he had no talent whatsoever for the banjo, but added hopefully: "I fool around a little on the mouth organ".

Grimm thought for a moment. "Young man, I don't know whether to give you a tryout or an audition, but trot down to first base and I will see how you handle low grounders — the high notes can wait."

Grimm tried to smash the ball past Eddie for 15 futile minutes, then predicted: "Young man, if you can sing like you field, you're going to be a helluva first baseman."

Charley wasn't far wrong.

The Spirit of Easter



THE stately and graceful lily, familiar to everyone as an Easter decoration, has a deeper significance—a symbol of the Resurrection.

The lily was a popular spring flower in ancient Egypt. It blooms at the time of the Spring Equinox, and it is known that the Resurrection took place when lilies were in bloom.

There is a Judean legend that, wherever the Risen Saviour walked, white lilies sprang from the earth and blossomed in His footsteps. The lily has also been likened to the white robe worn by Christ.

No more appropriate flower could be found to adorn the religious

Easter cards which millions of Catholics will be sending to friends and relatives this year. These spiritual messages reflect the true joyous mood of Easter, expressing the common faith of Catholics everywhere in the promise of the Redeemer.

Among the inspiring designs shown on these truly religious Easter cards are the familiar symbol of the Cross, the Risen Saviour and scenes showing the angels guarding the empty tomb. The sentiments on these cards are equally in keeping with the true significance of Easter—conveying messages that speak from the Catholic heart.