

Confessions tonight  
for First Friday. How  
long have you been away?

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 1, 1948

(Ill) Mrs. Christine Bell,  
Bob Popp, aunt and friend  
of Bill Bradley (Cav).

Hack Wilson Writes a Bulletin

Back in the '30s, Hack Wilson gave Babe Ruth a race for the homer run honors. Hack was a great ball player. At least the Cubs thought so, because Wilson used to receive an annual five-figure check from them.

Hack died a few days ago, a most obscure death. He was poverty stricken and nearly friendless. How did this fall from the heights come about? -- Drink. Two weeks ago Hack spoke over "We, the People" program. Here is a partial summary of the dialogue he carried on with Dwight Weist during that broadcast.

Weist: "You hit enough homers (56) to establish a record that no one has come close to beating in the National League."

Wilson: "I was quite a guy in those days. I had a lot of natural talent. I guess I was what you call a born hitter. But I sure lacked a lot of other things like humility and common sense. Baseball came so easy. Hack Wilson knew everything.

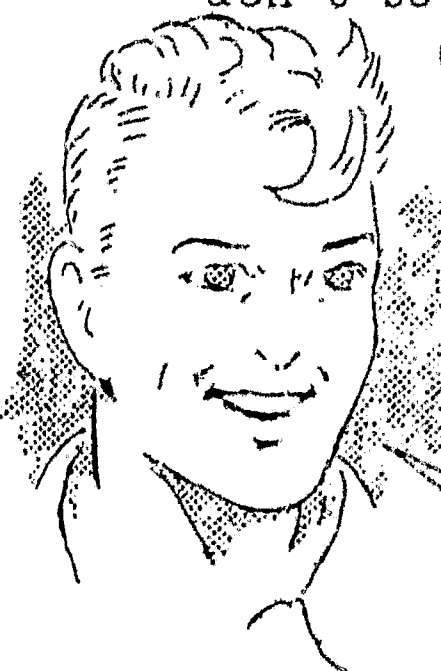
"It didn't catch up to me for a while. People let me have my own way. They needed my hits. I was a bog shot and when anyone tried to give me advice, I laughed at them -- then things began to change."

Weist: "When was that, Hack?"

Wilson: "I was at the top of my career. It happened in 1930. That was the year I won the most valuable player award. I received a salary of \$40,000. I started to drink heavily. I argued with my manager (Joe McCarthy) and the rest of the players. Then things began to happen to Wilson.

"I began to spend the winter in taprooms. When spring training rolled around I was 20 pounds overweight. I couldn't stop drinking. I couldn't hit. That year most experts figured I'd break Ruth's record. But I ended up hitting only 13 home runs.

"I was suspended before the season was over. I drank more than ever. I got booted from one minor league club to another. I worked at odd jobs, and spent all my money, most of it in bar rooms. Finally, I got sick. While I was recuperating in that hospital, I had a lot of time to think. There are kinds in and out of baseball who think they have the world by the tail because they have talent. It isn't so. In life you need things like good advice and common sense. So listeners, don't be too big to accept advice. Be considerate of others. That's the only way to live."



BE SURE  
TO MAKE  
HALF-HOUR

This story of a misspent life ties in well with the Novena for Purity. Alcohol has reaped a harvest of sins among modern youth. Taken in excess, it inflames the passions and has led many into mortal sin. If you cannot handle alcohol, take a pledge. Talk it over with your confessor. Another vacation is coming. You won't stay sober and pure, unless you pray and go to the Sacraments.

ADORATION  
FROM 8 TO 5 FIRST FRIDAY