

YARNS ON THE NATIONAL PASTIME

By Billy Evans.

Johnny Mullen, the American league umpire, is the father of four children. On the field he looks like a youngster, yet he is 32.



One day last winter Mr. and Mrs. Mullen and the children were on a crowded car. When the car stopped at Mullen's destination, it required some time for the six to make their exit. While Mullen is a slender chap, he has a decidedly fat voice.

Some of the passengers tittered as father and mother squeezed the youngsters through the exit. As his wife stepped off, Mullen said:

"Jennie, have you all the children?"

"I guess so," replied his wife, who was a bit sore the way the kiddies were cutting up.

"Don't start the car, motorman, until we count them," replied Mullen, trying to keep a straight face.

The motorman was wise. He threw on the juice and the passengers guffawed. What Mrs. Mullen said to her husband isn't part of the story.

"Cy" Morgan is some pitcher, but as a hitter he wont cop any automobiles. He stands about five feet from the plate and stays long enough to let the opposing pitcher curve over three on the outside.

"Cy" says many unkind remarks have been made about his swatting, but it remained for a couple of bushers to cap the climax. Morgan was pitching an exhibition game in a minor league city. His reputation had preceded him and the fans kidded him as he missed the first strike. "Cy" fanned thrice. Only 11 men had been taken on the trip and the extra men were used early. So when Morgan went to the bat in the ninth, with two men on the bases and two out, there was no one to hit for him.

"When I left the bench I noticed the man at the score board delayed no longer, says Morgan. "Before I had reached the plate he posted the score and was walking in.

The crowd overtaxed the capacity of the park and to handle it easily, exits seldom used were thrown open. After I missed the first strike I heard ushers shouting: "This way out, please." "This way out."

"I saw the crowd was going. In the meantime the pitcher sneaked over the second strike. I decided it would be a shame to disappoint that gathering, so instead of making a base hit, I struck out."