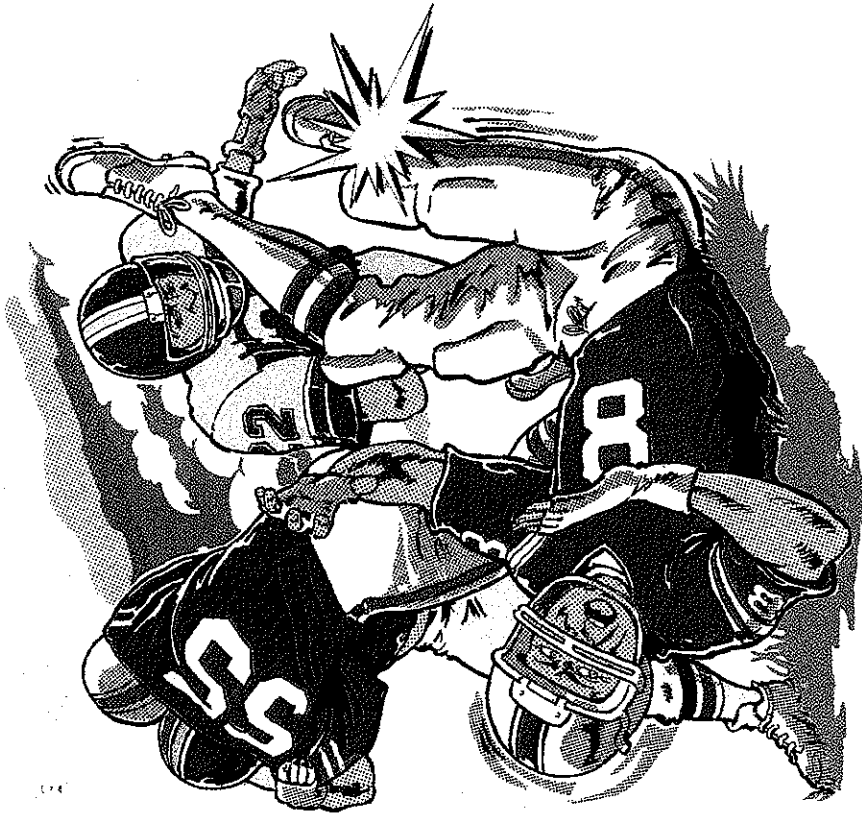




PENGUIN READERS

Lucky Break

John Escott



It is a winter afternoon in Los Angeles. Tom is playing in a football game. He likes football, but . . .

Suddenly, somebody pushes Tom. He falls and breaks his leg!

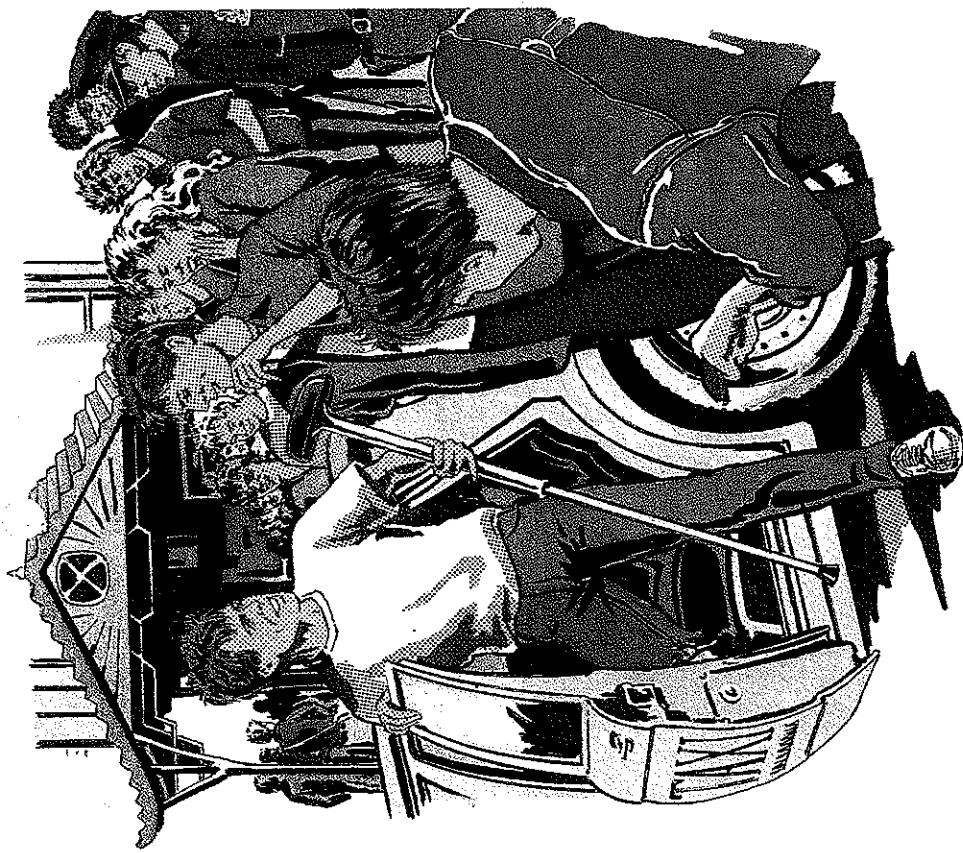
"Aaaagh!" Tom shouts. "My leg!"

The game stops. Two men come and take Tom away.

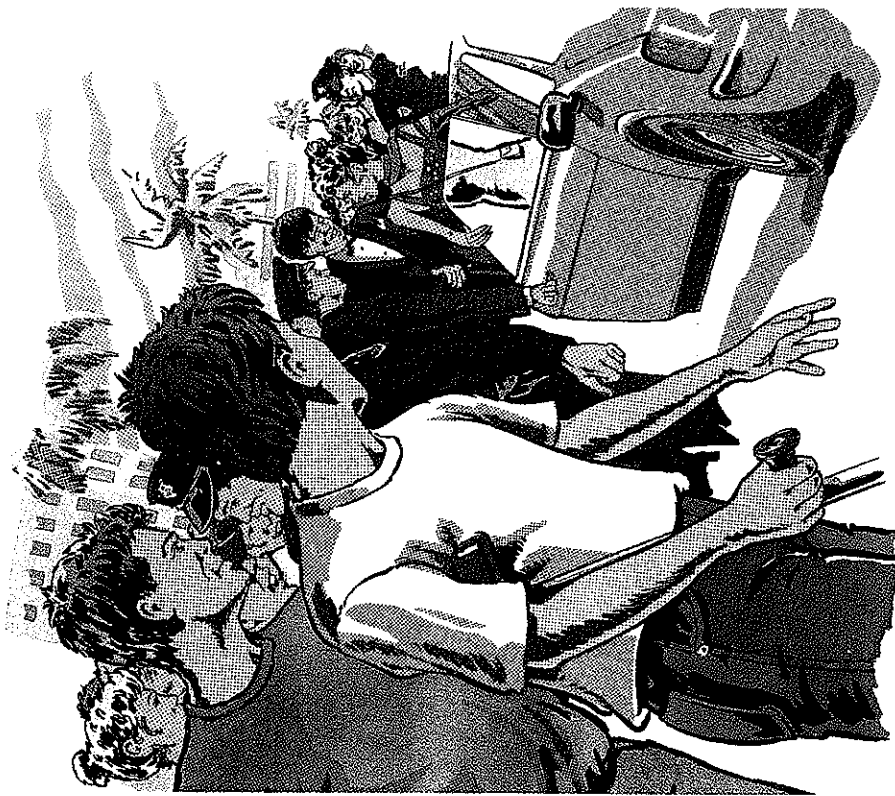
"It's not your lucky day, Tom," one man says.



A week later, Tom is reading a Los Angeles newspaper. "Laurel Rowe's new movie opens this evening," he thinks. "She's beautiful. She's my favorite movie star. Maybe I can get her autograph. But my leg—" He looks at his leg. "I'm going!" he thinks. "Why not? I can get a taxi to the movie theater."



That evening, Tom goes to Mann's movie theater. There is a crowd of fans in the street. They are waiting for the famous movie stars. Tom's taxi stops at the movie theater. "Is this man famous?" the crowd asks. Tom laughs. "Hi!" he calls to them. "You're not famous!" the fans shout.



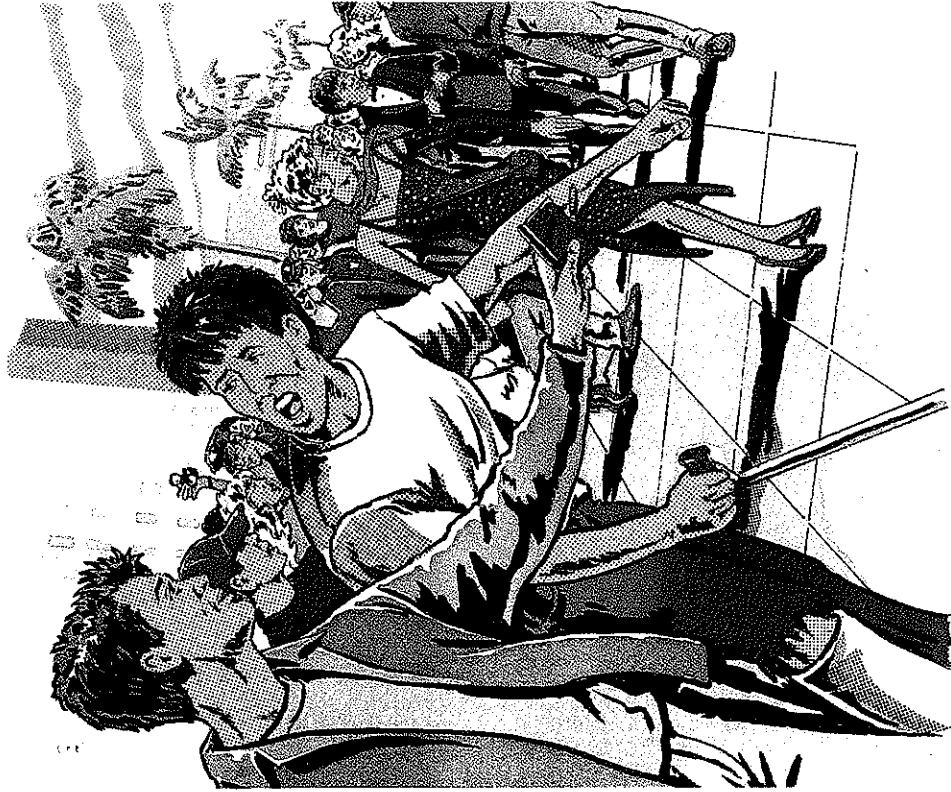
Now a long car arrives at the movie theater. It stops, and a door opens.

"It's them!" somebody shouts.

"It's Hugo White and Laurel Rowe!" the fans shout.

They are right.

Reporters run and take photos. The crowd moves, and people push Tom.



"Stop! You're pushing me!" Tom shouts at the people behind him. "I can't—"

But the people in the crowd don't hear him. They are talking about their favorite movie star. The famous

Laurel Rowe!

"She's very beautiful," they say. "Hi, Laurel! We love you! Can we have an autograph?"



"Stop! You're pushing me!" Tom shouts again, but the people in the crowd don't hear him.

Tom falls.

Laurel Rowe's foot hits Tom's crutch—and suddenly she is falling, too!

"Aaaagh!" she shouts.

"Oh, no!" Tom says.



The famous movie star falls!

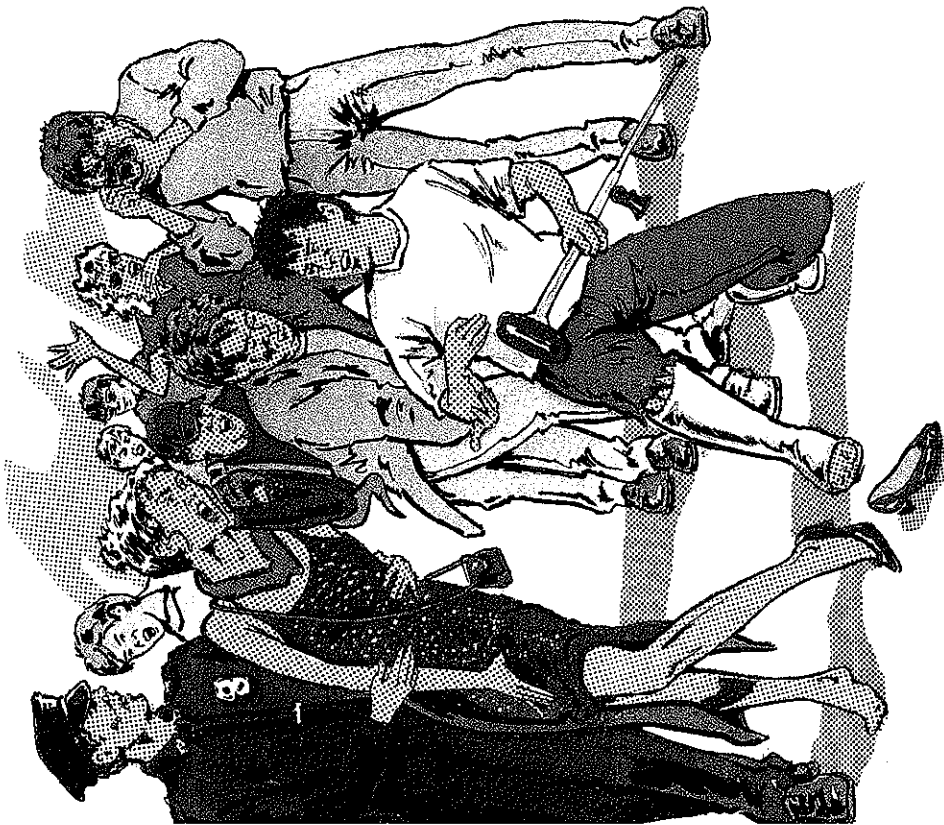
"Oh, my hair!" she shouts. "And where's my shoe?"

The reporters are taking photos.

"Stop! No pictures!" she shouts at them.

Then Laurel Rowe looks at Tom. She looks at his crutch. She is very angry.

"You!" she shouts.



A policeman helps Laurel Rowe. She stands up. Some people in the crowd help Tom.

"You—you—!" the movie star shouts at Tom.

"I'm sorry," Tom says. "Are you OK?"

"No, I'm *not* OK!" she shouts at him. "Look at my dress! My expensive dress!"

"I'm sorry," Tom says again.



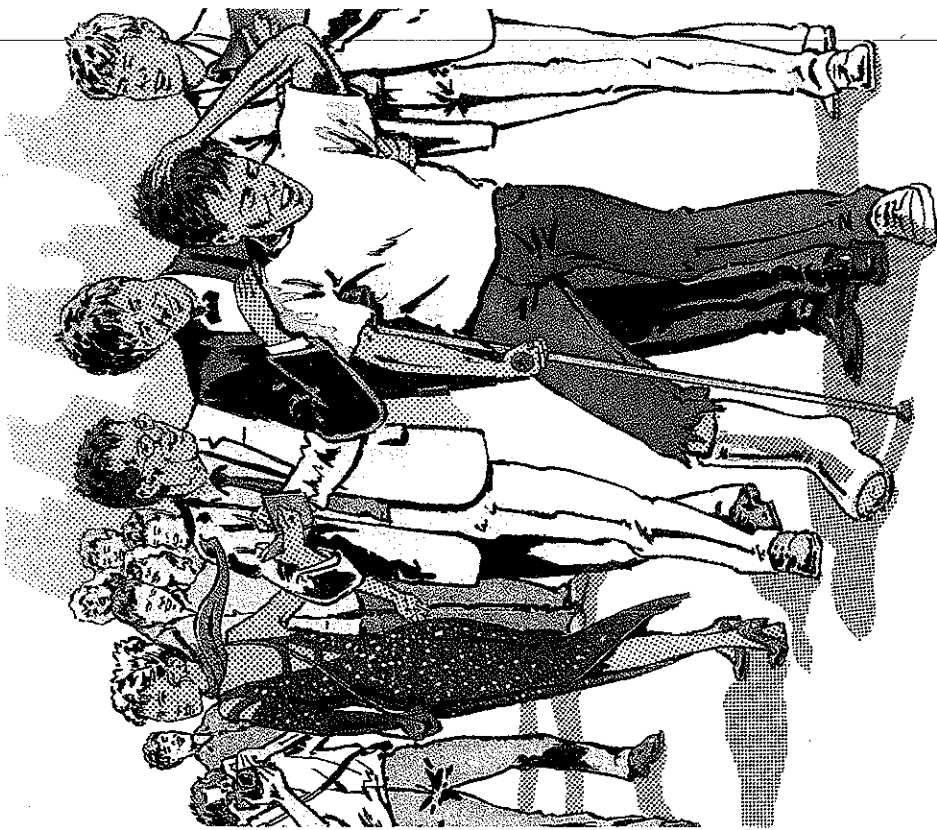
Laurel Rowe is angry. Very angry. This is her big night—the first night of her new movie—and people are laughing at her!

She takes Tom's crutch—and she hits him with it.

"No, Laurel, stop it!" Hugo White shouts.

He and a policeman stop her and take away the crutch.

The reporters take photos.



The angry movie star walks away. Hugo White helps Tom onto his feet again.

"Are you OK?" Hugo asks him.

"Yes, thanks," Tom says. He laughs. "She's my favorite movie star. And she's strong! Maybe she plays football!"

"Who are you?" a reporter shouts.

But Tom doesn't answer.

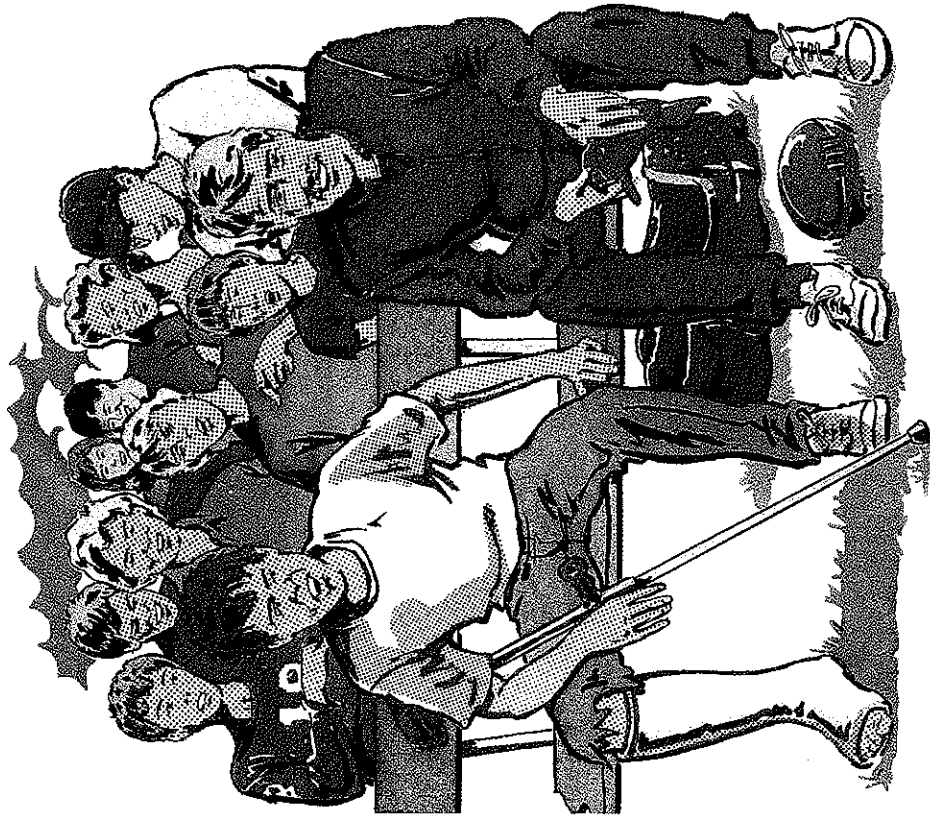


In the morning, Tom opens the newspaper in his apartment.

"Oh, no! It's a picture of me!" he thinks. "And here's the story of Laurel Rowe and me at the movie theater."

The newspaper calls Tom a "mystery man." But he isn't a mystery man to his friends.

"You're famous, Tom!" they say.

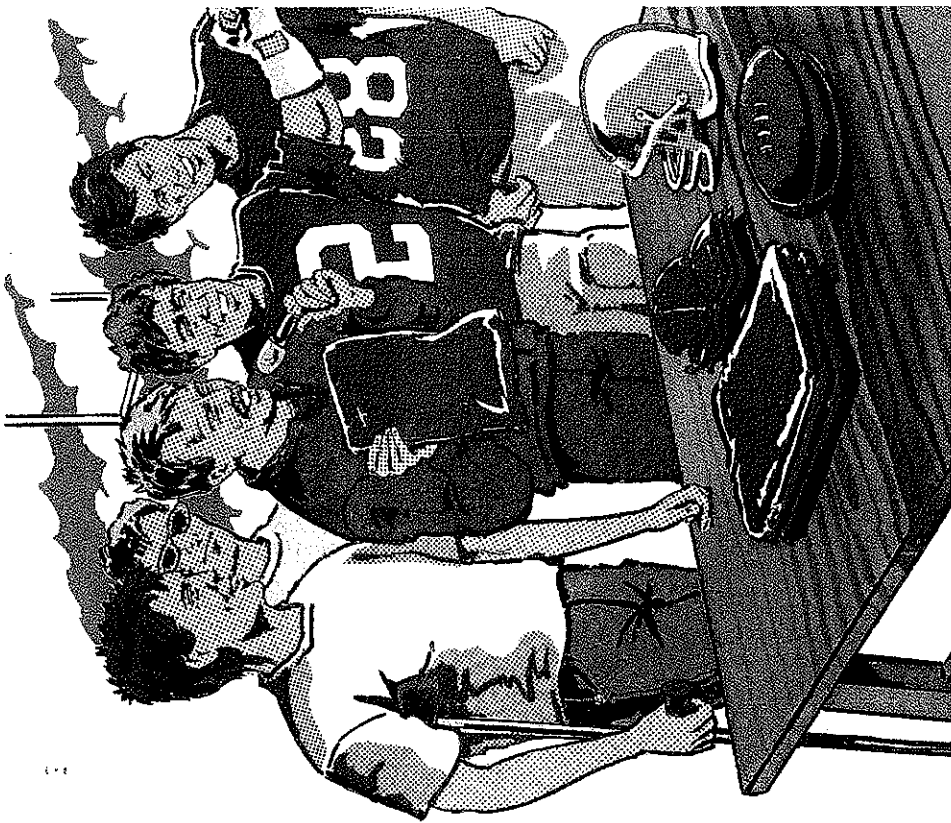


Tom goes to the football game on Saturday. Some people in the crowd remember his face from the picture in the newspaper.

"Look! It's the man with the crutch!" a boy shouts.

"He's famous!"

"The *crutch* is famous!" a woman shouts. "I want it. I'm a big Laurel Rowe fan."



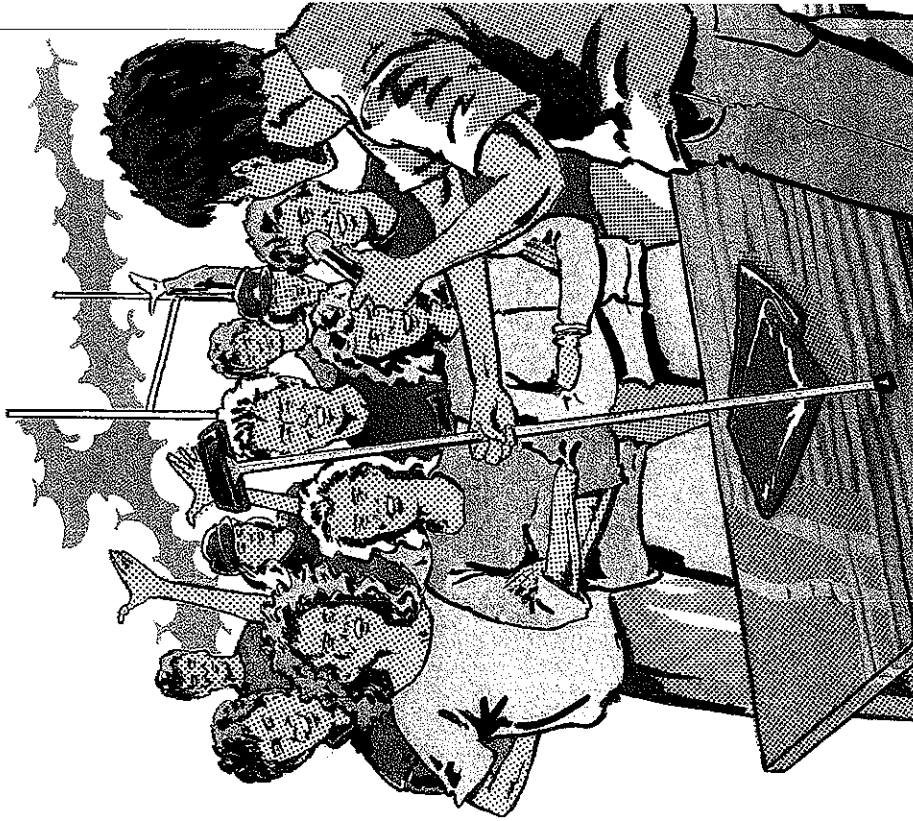
After the game that day, there is an auction. The football fans give money for footballs, football shirts, and hats. The money is for a children's hospital.

"Fifty dollars for the shirt!" a woman calls.

"Sixty dollars!" a man shouts.

"Seventy!"

A man buys the football shirt for ninety-five dollars.



Suddenly, Tom has an idea.

"Who wants this famous crutch?" he shouts. "The

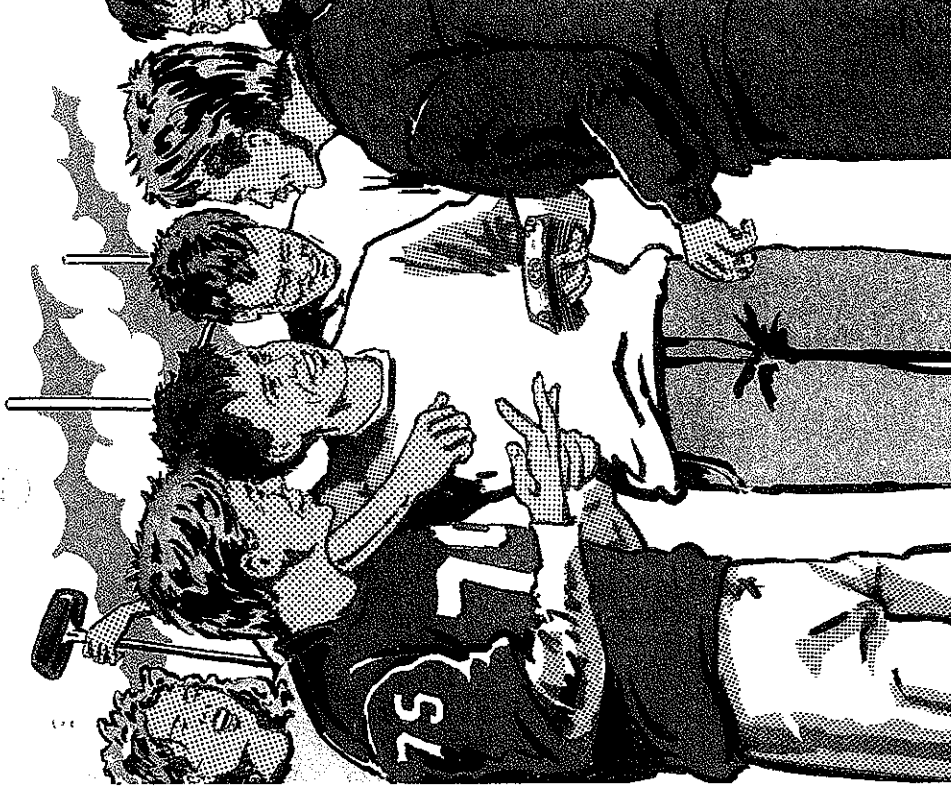
Laurel Rowe Crutch!"

People laugh, but there are Laurel Rowe fans in the crowd.

"Three hundred dollars!"

"Four hundred!"

"Five hundred!"



"Good idea, Tom!" his friends say.

"Look at this money for the children's hospital!"

Tom says.

"How's your leg?" a friend asks him. "Can you walk on it?"

"No, I can't. But it's OK," Tom says. He laughs. "It was a lucky break!"

WORD LIST with example sentences

- auction** (n) He buys old cars at *auctions*.
- autograph** (n) I have the *autographs* of ten famous footballers.
- break** (n/v) I can't move my hand. It is a very bad *break*.
- crowd** (n) The stores aren't open, but there is a *crowd* of people in the street.
- crutch** (n) He is at home again now, but he is walking on *crutches*.
- dollar** (n) The coat isn't very expensive. It is only ninety *dollars*.
- fan** (n) Are all George Clooney's *fans* women?
- favorite** (adj) Black coffee is my *favorite* drink. I drink it all day.
- help** (v) Can you *help* me with my homework, please?
- hospital** (n) My mother is in the *hospital*. She is very sick.
- idea** (n) I have an *idea*! Let's go to New York for the weekend.
- laugh** (v) Why are you *laughing*? I like this hat.
- lucky** (adj) They live in that beautiful house. They are very *lucky*.
- mystery** (n) Why is she famous? I don't know. It's a *mystery*.
- push** (v) *Push* the door and let's go in.
- reporter** (n) He is a *reporter* for a newspaper in Miami.
- shout** (v) An angry man is *shouting* at his children.
- somebody** (pron) Look! There is *somebody* in our house!
- star** (n) He is a movie *star*—and he is famous for his music, too.
- was** (v past) I *was* a teacher, but I don't work now.