

A N. Vietnam Setting

By Father John S. Kennedy

Charles Collingwood, chief foreign correspondent for CBS and well known to millions of TV watchers, has produced a novel, "The Defector" (Harper and Row, 49 E. 33rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10016. \$6.95), which has an unusual setting, North Vietnam.

The narrator in this instance is Bill Benson who is, of all

things, a TV newsman. Benson has long wanted to get into North Vietnam, and has applied to Hanoi for an entry permit, with no success. He is visited by Ned Bailey, who he suspects is employed by the CIA. Bailey says he can get Benson into North Vietnam, but a condition is his assistance in spiriting out of there a man high in the Ha-

noi government who wants to defect.

Reluctantly, Benson accepts the condition, journeys to Hanoi, and accomplishes his mission after much uncertainty, some indignity, and several brushes with death. But did he succeed after all? The ending is as cryptic as the North Vietnamese themselves.

This novel starts slowly and the early pages bristle with cliches. But it picks up speed, and many of its complications are neatly arranged. The total yield of the narrative itself is modest. What counts is Mr. Collingwood's description of conditions in North Vietnam, and his account of the work of a TV correspondent.

Nor does he neglect Sunday worship. "I'm always late in showing up at the stadium for Sunday games," he says, "but the manager understands this."

Lindy McDaniel

Religion's His Pitch!

New York —(RNS)— When the New York Yankees get into a tight situation, manager, Ralph Houk is likely to call for the 34-year-old righthander Lindy McDaniel.

Now in his third season with the Yankees, the star relief pitcher earns respect on the mound by his methodical way of putting down a string of opposing batters and by his current 1.20 earned run average. At the same time, he earns respect in the Yankee dressing room for the seriousness of his religious commitment.

A symbol of that is the way his teammates have modified some of their language. "Profanity in the clubhouse has been reduced to a minimum since he came," says an observer on the Yankee staff.

"If my presence makes them aware of their relation to God, that's good," Lindy comments. "But I would like for it to go beyond that. I'm not the 'reverend' of the ball club."

The other Yankees, nonetheless, are well aware that he is a preacher. For one thing, they all get "Pitching for the Master," a monthly publication consisting primarily of Lyndall Dale McDaniel's writings on biblical themes. His home church in Baytown, Texas, the Pruett and Lobit Street Church of Christ, sends the paper free to about 4,500 persons, including all major league baseball players.

McDaniel does consider baseball an occupation in which a Christian can render a service, however. He sees that opportunity not only in the influence he may have on teammates, or on young people who may look up to athletes, but also in the contribution it makes by enriching the lives of spectators, particularly shut-ins, via radio and television.

He has three children—Dale, 12, Kathryn, 10; and Jonathan, 2 — and his wife brings them up from Texas after school is out to spend the Summer in a house Lindy has rented near New York.

"Dale is just now getting excited about Little League," he reports, "and getting to where he can hit well." From a man who has struck out more than 1000 major league batters, it is a judgment worthy of respect.

As he shies away from exploiting his celebrity status for the church, he likewise rejects the idea of trying to exploit religion to help him win games. "I don't have any special prayer before I pitch," he says. "The Christian should pray always and about everything. But if prayer causes us to think God will take care of our mistakes, we're wrong."

Lindy is not particularly concerned about ritual acts, like trying to get the team to have a prayer together before a game. "First we need to consider the more basic issues of what it means to be a Christian," he says. When Yankees are on the road, he has Bible classes in his hotel room for those who are interested in considering the "basic issues."

Mini-Math

By Sam Stein

A	B		C	D
E			F	
G	H		I	J
K			L	

HORIZONTAL

A +3
C -7
E 0
F +2
G +1
I +1
K +5
L -9

VERTICAL

A +6
B -3
C -2
D -3
G -2
H +8
I -5
J -3

INSTRUCTIONS: Mini-Math is worked like a crossword puzzle. Use numbers 1 through 5 only. For example: (A) Horizontal may call for +3 in two squares, which may be (+4 and -1), (+5 and -2), (+1 and +2), (-2 and +5), etc. The same with Verticals.

(Answer on Page 3B)



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