

## Memphis $\frac{\text { Ui/ Democrat }}{}$

THE VOICE OF THE UPPER RED RIVER VALLEY

## EX-CONVICTS PROBLEM

$\mathrm{N}_{\text {his try-out in in Sing }}^{0 \text { Sits, the athlete who got }}$ $\mathrm{N}_{\text {his try-out in Sing Sing prison, has made e his }}^{\text {bow to }}$ bow to the baseball fans, it is worth while to
have a look at some of the implications in his case.
Pitts emerged from Sing Sing to be offered a baseball contract by which he could earn an honest living. An official ruled that baseball
was too pure a game to be contaminated by the was too pure a game to be contaminated by the
presence of an ex-convict, and the whole basepresence of an ex-convict, and the whole oase-
ball community got up on its hind legs in a display of indignation that did crecit to the sports world's sense of fair play
As a result of this outburst the idiotic ruling was reversed, and Pitts got his chance. From like anyone else
In ail of this argument, one point well worth to urge the ex-convict to "go straight" if sociehim to earn an honest living. This is one of those self -evident propositions that need no arguing, of course;
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operate if it is to redeem its one-time law brea ers.
Pitts got his chance, and everybody was glad men who leave prison and who are not lucky them? What happens to them?
Pitts, after all, was only one among many. of being a talented ball player, he had beens, ead of being a talented bair player, he had been, say,
a talented filing clerk: would his chances of finding a job have been good?
That question hardly needs to be answered. There are too few jobs and too many men lood ing for them. Few employers will take on a man of a prison record when they can get
of men who have never broken any law. yet it puts a a tragic obstacte attitude, certainly man who has been in prison and who doesn?
want to go back there. He makes contacs want to go back there. He makes contacts in
prison, in spite of himseeff-contacts with law decides
it is pathetically easy to see how he might turn to such circles for help.
The story of Alabama Pitts dramatized the cause the sports world rallieed to Pitts support te might have had a different ending of his ta than basebail.

OUT OUR WAY By "Cowboy" Williams

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