









US YOUR COLLECTION,







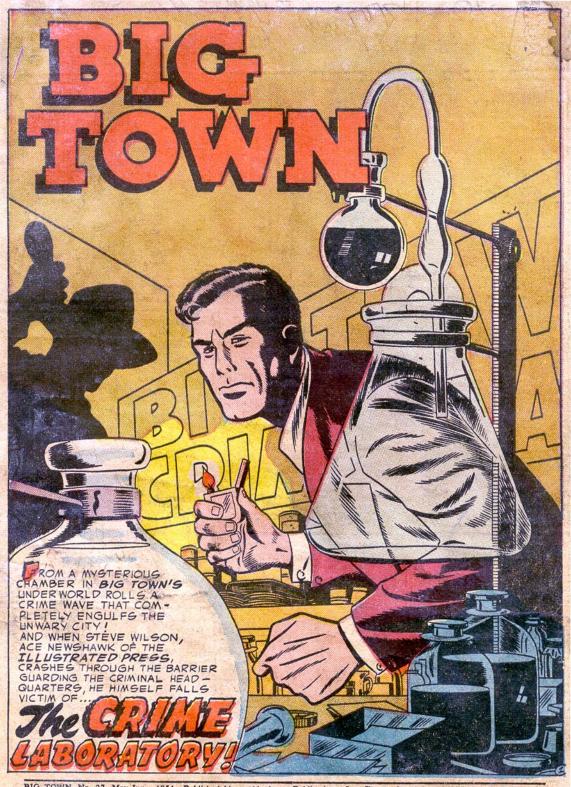
START OUR



PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U.S.

YOU SAY "PAL.

I SAY "AMIGO."



BIG TOWN, No. 27, May-June, 1954. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Elleworth, Editor. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St. New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1954 by National Comics

Publications, Inc. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.



































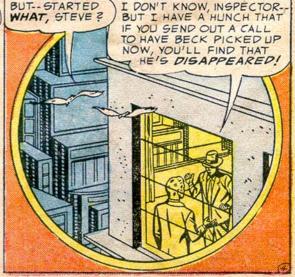






























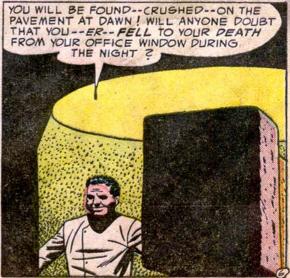














































DO NEWSPAPER ITEMS.

SOME YEARS AGO WHEN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SUSPECTED THE RIVAL UNITED PRESS OF PIL-FERING ITS DISPATCHES, IT INSERTED IN ITS STORY ABOUT A REVOLT IN INDIA THE NAME OF THE LEADER OF THE REBELLION, SINT EL OT SPUEHT. SURE ENOUGH, THE UNITED PRESS FELL FOR THE TRAP, AND ...

SEE THIS UP DISPATCH? THE UP WELL, READ THE LEADER'S NAME BACKWARDS! STOLE THIS!



DURING A CIRCULATION WAR BETWEEN THE DENVER ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS AND THE DENVER POST, EACH PAPER OFFERED UP TO FIVE GALLONS OF GAS FREE TO EVERY CUS-TOMER WHO INSERTED A WANT AD IN THE SUNDAY'S EDITION ...

THANKS FOR YOUR AD, SIR! THIS TICKET ENTITLES YOU TO FIVE GALLONS OF GAS!



THE NAME JOHN B. BOGART IS A FORGOTTEN ONE EVEN IN NEWSPAPER CIRCLES. YET IT WAS THIS CITY EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK SUN WHO FIRST OFFERED A TRADITION-AL ADVICE TO A CUB REPORTER ...







NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION BOOSTERS!

IN 1815, THE NEW YORK GAZETTE AND GENERAL ADVERTISER POSTED LATE NEWS BULLETINS ON ITS FRONT DOOR, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ATTRACT NEW READERS TO THE PAPER ...



130 YEARS AGO, THE COURIER AND NEW YORK ENQUIRER AND THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE WHETTED READER INTEREST BY PROMOTING. RACES BETWEEN THE PAPERS' SCHOONERS THAT SAILED OUT TO MEET INCOMING FOREIGN SHIPS BEARING NEWS FROM OVERSEAS...



THE NEW YORK DAILY GRAPHIC WON NATION - WIDE PUBLICITY IN 1873 BY ARRANGING TO HAVE A BALLOON CARRY A REPORTER AND ARTIST ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO EUROPE -- A PROJECT THAT FAILED...



A CIRCULATION -BUILDING STUNT USED BY THE NEW YORK EVENING POST IN 1856 OFFERED A SIGO PRIZE FOR THE BEST CAMPAIGN SONG USED IN FREMONT'S PRESIDENTIAL RACE AGAINST BUCHANAN...

BUY THE POST AND GET YOUR PRIZE ENTRY BLANKS!



I WANT TO EXCHANGE MY LUCKY NUMBER FOR



































































BACK INSIDE ...









I FOLLOW STEVE!



LISTEN, MIKE, THERE'S A GRADE OUTSIDE RUNNING DOWN TO THE FLATS BY THE RIVER! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE! WE'LL GIVE THIS WAGON A SUDDEN PUSH, GET IT ROLLING, AND...











MOMENTS AFTERWARDS ...

















(DC)





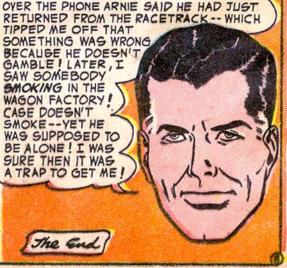


















REEL COMPANY.

WOW.

Edna Hancock

A TAILOR FOR DOGS!

AN UNUSUAL GAL IN AN UNUSUAL PRO-FESSION. SHE RUNS A SNAZZY SHOP ON NEW YORK'S FIFTH AVENUE THAT CATERS TO PUPS. EDNA MAKES SNAPPY JACKETS, BOOTS, RAINCOATS AND LEASHES FOR FIDD. SHE GOT STARTED BY MAKING DRESSES FOR DOLLS



JOE MADE HIS SPECIAL AUTO HIMSELF.

RECENTLY A STORM HIT NEW YORK. JOHNNY TOOK HIS CAMERA TO THE ROOF OF

A BUILDING, TIED HIMSELF DOWN IN A 100-MILE-A-HOUR

GALE AND GOT PICTURES

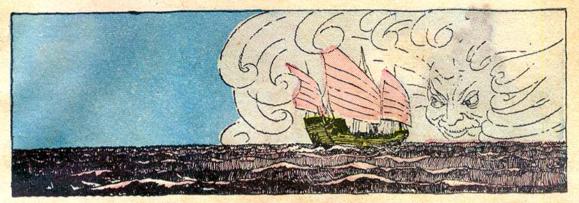
OF ROOFS PEELING AWAY.

STORLEN B





LOCATING THE MISSING



MORE than 250,000 persons are reported missing in the U. S. each year. Happily, a substantial percentage of these are located and returned to their families.

How the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in cooperation with local police authorities, and with the aid of the nation's press, act swiftly to seek out those who, voluntarily or otherwise, wish to lose themselves, is fairly well known by now.

The mystery of the missing person is always an intriguing story, and the press delves into a case with relish—not only because it is able to render invaluable help by publicizing the event, and publishing descriptions to the millions who read newspapers, but because it always makes for a good story.

The fact is, however, that it is the big failures, not the stunning successes, that people remember. When John Doe suddenly tires of his humdrum existence, and decides to take off, leaving a wife and three children destitute—chances are, after the police and press get done with him, he'll be back home, a sadder though wiser man.

And the average reader will finish the newspaper account of Mr. Doe, yawn, and turn the page. But let John Doe cover his traces completely—let him vanish into thin air—and his neighbors will be talking about it for years—wondering all the time, Whatever became of him, and what's he doing right now?

Possibly, that's all part of human nature—the fact remains, however, that while most missing persons are eventually found, it is the remote and rare unsolved case that grips and holds our imagination and memory.

For example—one hot August night some years ago, a tall, portly man was lunching with his attorney in a Times Square restaurant. He chatted amiably throughout his meal, mentioning offhand that he planned to spend a few weeks at his summer home in Maine.

Sometime after 9 p.m., he left the restaurant and hailed a taxicab. When that cab rounded the corner, it touched off one of the most baffling disappearances in modern police history.

With the world press front-paging his likeness on its front pages, and every policeman alerted from one end of the world to the other, the tall, portly man was never again seen. His name? Supreme Court Justice Joseph F. Crater.

Hundreds of thousands of missing persons have been found since Judge Crater entered that taxi—but comedians still gag about the missing Justice, and critics of police methods continue to refer to the absent judge as a measure of their value.

The fact is, that when a person is reported missing, whether he be an important personage or an ordinary little man, the highly-geared, intricate system of the Missing Persons Bureau immediately meshes into swift action.

A daily mimeographed bulletin, listing names and descriptions, is sent to all municipal lodging houses, Y's, shelters, police stations, morgues, etc. If there is reason to believe that the persons have skipped town, teletyped alarms are flashed to all police agencies in 15 states. On important cases 29,000 police stations throughout the U. S. are alerted.

When the police get on a case, so thoroughly do they honeycomb the nation that 99.5 per cent of the cases are solved each year and the books closed on them. But what about the remaining one half of one per cent? What happened to them?

Officially, the cases cannot be considered closed while the missing person remains missing—and police have been known to run down a clue 10 and 15 years after the original disappearance. Sometimes with success.

A notable example concerns a man listed missing for over 30 years. No one ever found out what came over him the day he came home from the office earlier than usual, packed his bag, and simply took the first train out of town.

He wound up in a middle-sized city 2,000 miles away, starting life anew, with a brand new name and a new personality to match it. He had committed no wrong, legally or otherwise, and wasn't on any police list except the one in the missing persons bureau.

He left no dependents—only a number of friends who were concerned at the possibility of foul play. As noted above, he was finally tracked down 2,000 miles away, living under another name, and identified by his finger prints, taken when he took a job in a war plant.

Needless to say, the "missing person" was amazed at the long memory (and arm) of the law—but his only reply, when questioned as to his motives for disappearing, was: "I really don't know why I did it . . . I guess I just felt like it."

Only one occurrence of the police track-

ing down, after the passing of many years, a long-lost person, is sufficient to raise the hopes of those whose loved ones also disappeared in the long-ago, and since presumed by law to be dead.

Remember Amelia Earhart? Her plane disappeared in the Pacific in 1937. Rumors are still cropping up concerning her. The most popular seems to be that she is living on a tiny atoll, far from the Pacific sea lanes, still awaiting rescue.

Another famous missing person called to mind is Richard Halliburton, the travel author. On March 23, 1939, his vessel, the 75-foot Chinese junk Sea Dragon, was plowing through mountainous seas west of Midway Island, when its captain radioed a "Having wonderful time" message to a passing liner.

It was the last message ever heard from the craft. Naval ships scoured 152,000 square miles of ocean for many weeks, but not a trace of the Sea Dragon was ever found.

Without a doubt, the most famous—or, we should say, infamous—missing person of modern times is the Fuehrer himself, Adolph Hitler. The facts are these:

In April of 1945, Hitler retreated into the Reichschancellery, and ordered all doors and windows barricaded. As Russian and Allied shells hit closer and closer, Hitler and Eva Braun retreated into his private bunker. From here he issued his final orders.

Then, finally, came the suspenseful announcement—Hitler had killed himself, and the war was over. When the Russians plowed into the building, they began an immediate search for the body of the former dictator—but found nothing, not a trace.

After a careful search, the Russians announced that Hitler had pulled a fast one—that he was still alive and in hiding. The Allies chose to believe the story of the suicide. Who is right? Did Hitler take the easy way out? Or did he become the Number 1 missing person? What do you think?

Famous NEWSPAPER FIRSTS!

THE FIRST SYNDICATED COLUMN
ORIGINATED IN THE JOURNAL OF
OCCURRENCES (1768) AND WAS A
PROPAGANDA ACCOUNT OF BOSTON'S
SUPFERING UNDER BRITISH MILITARY
RULE AND TAXES ...

HERE IN NEW YORK WE NEVER
SUSPECTED HOW MUCH THE
PEOPLE OF BOSTON HAVE
SUFFERED AT THE HANDS
OF THE BRITISH!

NOAH WEBSTER WROTE THE FIRST "EDITORIAL" IN HIS COLUMN APPEARING IN THE NEW YORK MINERVA OF 1793--PRESENTING HIS COMMENTS ON THE DAY'S NEWS WHILE EMPLOYING THE USE OF THE EDITORIAL "WE"...



AS THE FORERUNNER OF THE MODERN COMIC STRIP. APPEARS ING AS A WEEKLY DRAWING IN THE IB90'S, IT RECEIVED IMMEDIATE POPULAR ACCLAIM. LATER THE TITLE WAS CHANGED TO "THE YELLOW KID".

"HOGAN'S ALLEY" IS ACCEPTED



Editorial Advisory Board

DR. LAURETTA BENDER

Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, New York University College of Medicine

JOSETTE FRANK

Consultant on Children's Reading
Child Study Association of America



DR W. W. D. SONES
Professor of Education and
Director of Curriculum Study
University of Pittsburgh

DR. S. HARCOURT PEPPARD Director, Essex County Juvenile Clinic Newark, N. J.

ACTION COMICS

ADVENTURE COMICS

ALL-AMERICAN MEN OF WAR

ALL STAR WESTERN

ANIMAL ANTICS

BIG TOWN

BOB HOPE

BUZZY
COMIC CAVALCADE

DEAN MARTIN

and JERRY LEWIS

A DATE WITH JUDY

EVERYTHING HAPPENS TO HARVEY

FLIPPITY & FLOP

FUNNY FOLKS

FUNNY STUFF

HERE'S HOWIE

HOPALONG CASSIDY
HOUSE OF MYSTERY

LEADING COMICS

MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MYSTERY IN SPACE MUTT & JEFF OUR ARMY AT WAR

PETER PORKCHOPS
REAL SCREEN COMICS

REX THE WONDER DOG STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES

STRANGE ADVENTURES

SUPERBOY

SUPERMAN
THE FOX & THE CROW

TOMAHAWK

WESTERN COMICS
WONDER WOMAN

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS







N FULL VIEW OF A STUNNED THEATRICAL AUDIENCE, A MAN IS MURDERED -- AND YET NO ONE CAN BRING THE CUNNING KILLER TO JUSTICE! CRACK NEWSHAWK STEVE WILSON TREADS A STRANGE AND PERILOUS MAZE OF CONFLICTING CLUES IN AN EFFORT TO DISCOVER WHO KILLED ACTOR ALAN HAINES -- AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT-WHY!

DELIE TARES THE STEAGE!













































ITI











DOWN THE CARPETED AIGLE MARCH THE TWO-









"I LEARNED THAT JOHN JAY HAD AN OLDER BROTHER WHO HAD DIED -- TO WHOM HE HAD BEEN VERY DEVOTED! I MADE HAINES A PROPOSITION ..."

NEED SOMEONE TO FINANCE YOUR
ACTING COMPANY--AND I NEED
MONEY TO BUT A SUCCESSFUL PRODUCER! DO WHAT I TELL YOU--AND
WE'LL BOTH REACH OUR GOAL!
HOW?

"I TALKED HAINES -- WHO WAS AN EXPERT MIMIG-INTO IMPERSONATING THE GHOST OF JOHN JAY'S LONG - LOST BROTHER! AND ONE NIGHT."

MY BROTHER! HAROLD - SPEAK TO ME! J.J. HAS ONE SOFT SPOT IN HIS MAKE-UP AND I FOUND IT! WE'LL GET ANYTHING FROM HIM AFTER THIS!



"HAINES MADE MANY 'SPECTRAL' VISITS TO JOHN
JAY'S HOME, ALWAYS APPEARING SUPPENLY AS
A PROPER GHOST SHOULD! THE OLD BOY NEVER
TUMBLED TO A THING!"

JOHN, IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ME
HAPPY, DO A GOOD DEED--SEND
THE PETERS' RUBY TO A YOUNG
MAN I'VE BEEN WATCHING WHO
NEEDS HELP! HIS NAME IS OF COURSE,
PAUL HUNGERFORD...
ANYTHING
YOU SAY!

"BUT AFTER RECEIVING THE RUBY, HAINES GOT COLD FEET! HE SENT IT TO YOU!"

YOU KNOW THE REST! I AND NOW YOU'RE HAD TO KILL HAINES OR GOING TO KILL HE'P HAVE SPILLED AGAIN-IF YOU -- LIKE THE FOOL HE







