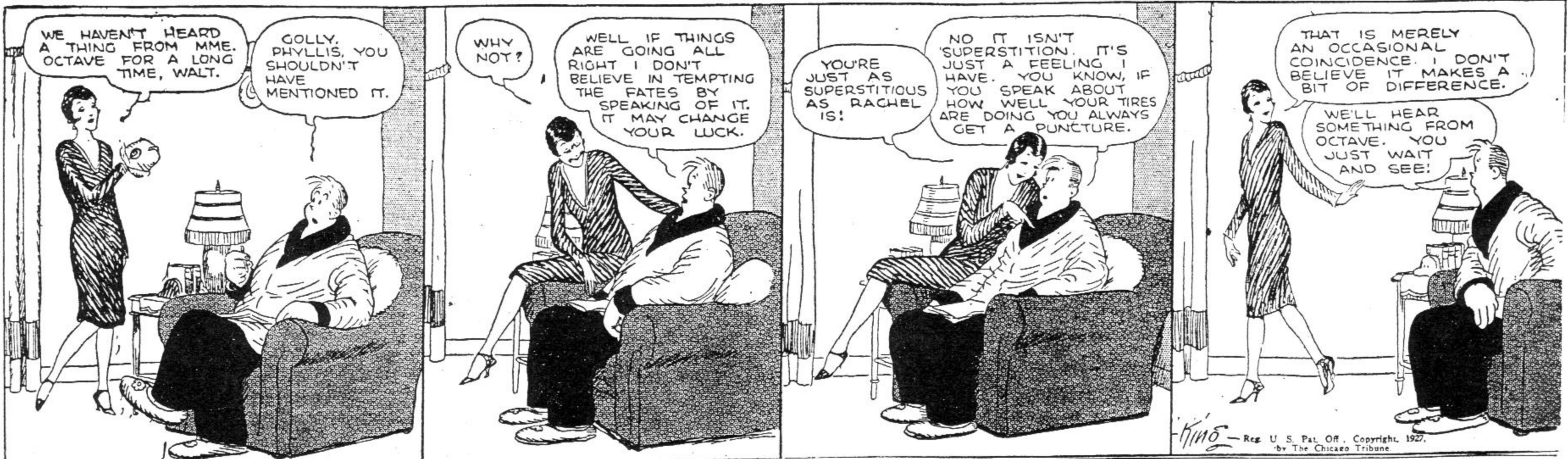




# GASOLINE ALLEY — MERELY A SCIENTIFIC FACT



WE HAVEN'T HEARD A THING FROM MME. OCTAVE FOR A LONG TIME, WALT.

GOLLY, PHYLLIS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT.

WHY NOT?

WELL IF THINGS ARE GOING ALL RIGHT I DON'T BELIEVE IN TEMPTING THE FATES BY SPEAKING OF IT. IT MAY CHANGE YOUR LUCK.

YOU'RE JUST AS SUPERSTITIOUS AS RACHEL IS!

NO IT ISN'T 'SUPERSTITION'. IT'S JUST A FEELING I HAVE. YOU KNOW, IF YOU SPEAK ABOUT HOW WELL YOUR TIRES ARE DOING YOU ALWAYS GET A PUNCTURE.

THAT IS MERELY AN OCCASIONAL COINCIDENCE. I DON'T BELIEVE IT MAKES A BIT OF DIFFERENCE.

WE'LL HEAR SOMETHING FROM OCTAVE. YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT SOUNDS SPOOKY

HEAR IT TICK PAL?

SKEEZIX IS GETTING A LOT OF FUN OUT OF THAT WATCH THAT CAME OUT FROM UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

AND WE HAVEN'T DISCOVERED YET WHO IT CAME FROM!

MAYBE I WAS SUPERSTITIOUS ABOUT YOUR MENTIONING MME. OCTAVE'S NAME YESTERDAY. ANYWAY IT WON'T DO ANY HARM TO SPEAK IT AGAIN.

WELL THEN, I'VE HAD A HUNCH RIGHT ALONG THAT MME. OCTAVE HAD THAT WATCH PUT THERE...

I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT TOO, WALT, BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW SHE COULD HAVE DONE IT.

THAT WOMAN IS UNCANNY, I TELL YOU. AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING SHE'D LIKE TO DO IT WOULD BE TO MYSTIFY US...

SHE MUST HAVE BRIBED A DELIVERY BOY OR THE ELECTRICIAN BUT EVEN THEN I DON'T SEE HOW IT WAS POSSIBLE.

NOT THAT I CAN SEE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT'S PROPHECY COMES TRUE

TELEGRAM FOR PHYLLIS BLOSSOM WALLET.

MADAME OCTAVE WIRES SHE WILL BE AT THE WHITESAND SPRINGS HOTEL NEXT WEEK.

SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU! YOU SPOKE ABOUT OCTAVE AND HERE'S A WIRE FROM HER.

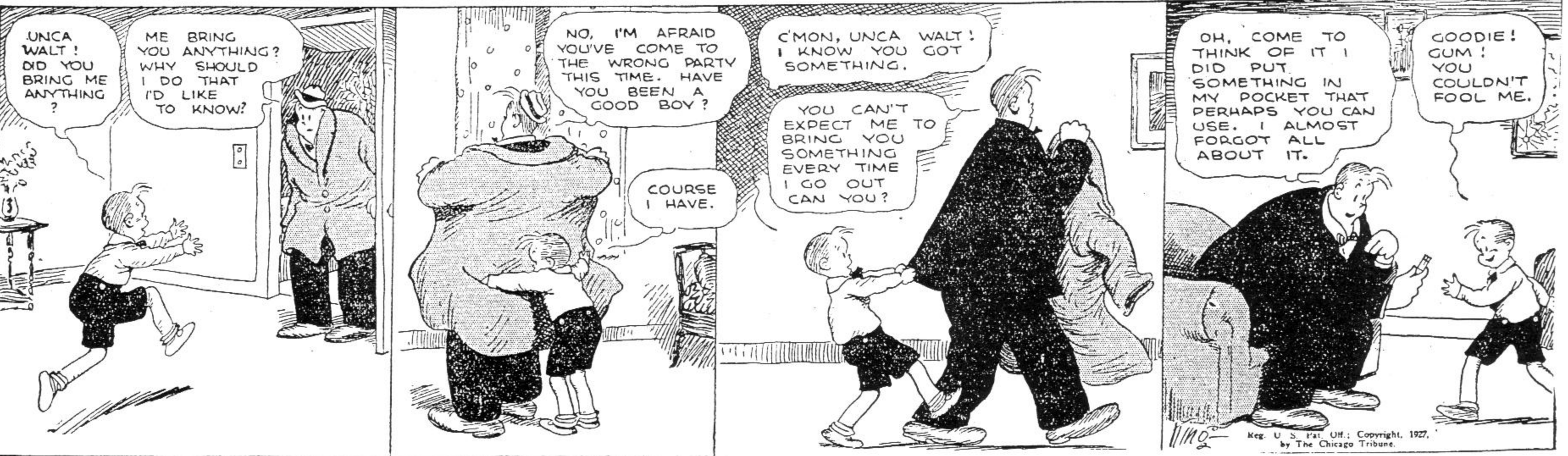
THAT WAS A COINCIDENCE. I IMAGINE SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE US INVITE HER HERE FOR A FEW DAYS.

NOTHING DOING! HER CONTINUED ABSENCE IS THE ONLY THING ABOUT HER THAT IS POPULAR WITH ME. I TOLD YOU WE'D HEAR FROM HER DIDN'T I?

THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU SPOKE ABOUT HER THE OTHER DAY WHILE EVERYTHING WAS SAILING ALONG SO BEAUTIFULLY.

YOU'RE SUPERSTITIOUS, WALT. IT WAS PROBABLY THE FACT THAT I WAS GOING TO HEAR FROM HER THAT MADE ME SPEAK OF HER.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX KNOWS HIS CONFECTIONERY



UNCA WALT! DID YOU BRING ME ANYTHING?

ME BRING YOU ANYTHING? WHY SHOULD I DO THAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW?

NO, I'M AFRAID YOU'VE COME TO THE WRONG PARTY THIS TIME. HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD BOY?

C'MON, UNCA WALT! I KNOW YOU GOT SOMETHING.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO BRING YOU SOMETHING EVERY TIME I GO OUT CAN YOU?

COURSE I HAVE.

OH, COME TO THINK OF IT I DID PUT SOMETHING IN MY POCKET THAT PERHAPS YOU CAN USE. I ALMOST FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.

GOODIE! GUM! YOU COULDN'T FOOL ME.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—DECISION A DRAW

I ALWAYS HAVE A DISTURBED, UNSETTLED FEELING WHENEVER I KNOW THAT MME. OCTAVE IS ANYWHERE NEAR AND THINKING OF US, MR. WICKER.

WHY IS THAT, WALT? I DON'T SEE HOW SHE CAN DO YOU ANY HARM.

WELL YOU'LL KNOW SHE KIDNAPED SKEEZIX ONCE AND KEPT HIM FOR A MONTH. SHE'D PROBABLY NEVER DO IT AGAIN BUT I CAN'T HELP WORRYING SOME.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN SKEEZIX AT TIMES. THEN FOR LONG INTERVALS NONE AT ALL.

JUST ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO, SHE CLAIMED TO BE HIS MOTHER. THAT WAS ABOUT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION HEARING IN COURT AND SHE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO GET CONTROL OF HIM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, WALT?

IT HAS NEVER BEEN PROVEN OTHERWISE BUT I NEVER COULD UNDERSTAND WHY SHE SHOULD LET HIM GET AWAY IN THE FIRST PLACE IF SHE WAS. AND SHE NEGLECTS HIM FOR MONTHS AT A TIME.

VERY TRUE. ON THE OTHER HAND WHY SHOULD SHE HAVE ANY INTEREST IN HIM AT ALL?

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—GO BOTHER WALT AWHILE

RACHEL,  
WHO IS  
MADAME  
OCTAVE?

GLORY CHILE, HOW DO  
I KNOW! YOU OUGHTA  
KNOW. SHE BEEN  
AFTER YOU LONG  
ENOUGH.

ELMER  
SAID  
MAYBE  
SHE'S  
MY  
MOTHER.  
SHE  
ISN'T!  
IS  
SHE?

I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'  
ABOUT IT. BESIDES' YOU  
BETTA TALK TO YOUR  
UNCA WALT ABOUT  
SECH SUBJECTS.

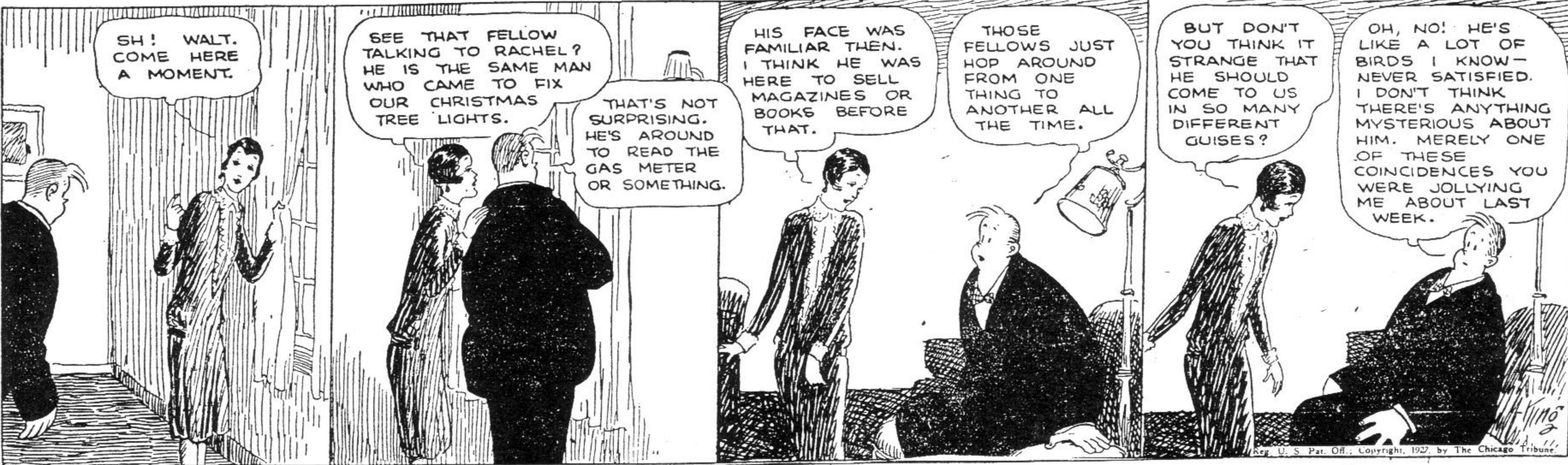
I DON'T  
THINK SHE  
IS. MOTHERS  
ARE MORE  
LIKE AUNTIE  
BOSSOM,  
AREN'T THEY.

I GUESS THEY IS.  
ANYWAY YOU RUN  
ALONG AN' PLAY.  
YOU AIN'T GOT  
NOTHIN' TO WORRY  
OVER.

RACHEL,  
DOES  
MADAME  
OCTAVE  
WANT ME  
NOW AN'  
WHY DOES  
SHE?

GRACIOUS TO GOODNESS,  
I GOIN' BE GLAD WHEN  
YOU GOES TO SCHOOL  
AGAIN MONDAY MORNIN'!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—A JACK OF ALL JOBS



SH! WALT. COME HERE A MOMENT.

SEE THAT FELLOW TALKING TO RACHEL? HE IS THE SAME MAN WHO CAME TO FIX OUR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS.

THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. HE'S AROUND TO READ THE GAS METER OR SOMETHING.

HIS FACE WAS FAMILIAR THEN. I THINK HE WAS HERE TO SELL MAGAZINES OR BOOKS BEFORE THAT.

THOSE FELLOWS JUST HOP AROUND FROM ONE THING TO ANOTHER ALL THE TIME.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT STRANGE THAT HE SHOULD COME TO US IN SO MANY DIFFERENT GUISES?

OH, NO! HE'S LIKE A LOT OF BIRDS I KNOW—NEVER SATISFIED. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM. MERELY ONE OF THESE COINCIDENCES YOU WERE JOLLYING ME ABOUT LAST WEEK.



# GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL IS DEAF, BUT NOT SO DUMB

WHO WAS THAT MAN I SAW YOU TALKING WITH AT THE DOOR YESTERDAY RACHEL?

HIM? HE WAS HERE TO LOOK AT THE GAS METER AN' GET THE SCORE. BUT HE GOT A NEW JOB. HE GOIN' BE THE MILKMAN NOW.

WHAT DID HE TALK ABOUT?

HE ASK A LOT A QUESTIONS. HE JES' ABOUT THE INQUISITIVEST PERSON I EVAH COME IN CONTACT WITH. BUT HE CANT PUMP ME.

WHAT QUESTIONS DID HE ASK?

OH, HE LIKE CHILDREN AN' HE WANT TO KNOW ALL 'BOUT SKEEZIX. AN' HOW HE GITTEN AN 'BOUT YOU, AN' MISTA WALT AN' EVERYTHIN'.

YOU MUSTN'T TELL ANYBODY LIKE THAT ANYTHING, RACHEL. I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION.

ME? SAY, THEM QUESTIONS 'O' HIS WENT IN ONE EAR AN' OUT THE OTHA' AN' DIDN'T ENCOUNTA' THE SLIGHTEST INTELLIGENCE ON THE WAY THROUGH.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — NOW HE'S THE MYSTERIOUS MILKMAN

HELLO SKEEZIX! HOW IS THE BOY THIS MORNING? I WISH I HAD A LITTLE BOY LIKE YOU.

SKEEZIX! YOU COME HERE THIS MINUTE.

I WANT YOU TO COME IN THE GARAGE WITH ME AND STAY THERE.

LISTEN HONEY, YOU STAY AWAY FROM THAT MAN. HE'S BEEN AROUND HERE AS ELECTRICIAN, AND GAS MAN AND NOW HE'S THE MILKMAN. I HAVE A SUSPICION HE ISN'T REALLY ANY OF THEM.

I DON'T LIKE HIM ANYWAY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — NO HELP WANTED



HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR MOTOR? MAYBE I COULD HELP YOU.

NO TROUBLE. THANKS, I DON'T NEED ANY HELP.



BY THE WAY MR. WALLET, I'M A GOOD CHAUFFEUR WOULD'N YOU LIKE TO TAKE ME ON? I WOULDN'T ASK MUCH MONEY.

NO, I'M GOING TO DO MY OWN CHAUFFEURING FOR QUITE SOME TIME YET.



AND IF I WAS GOING TO HIRE A CHAUFFEUR YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE HE WOULDN'T BE THE ONE.

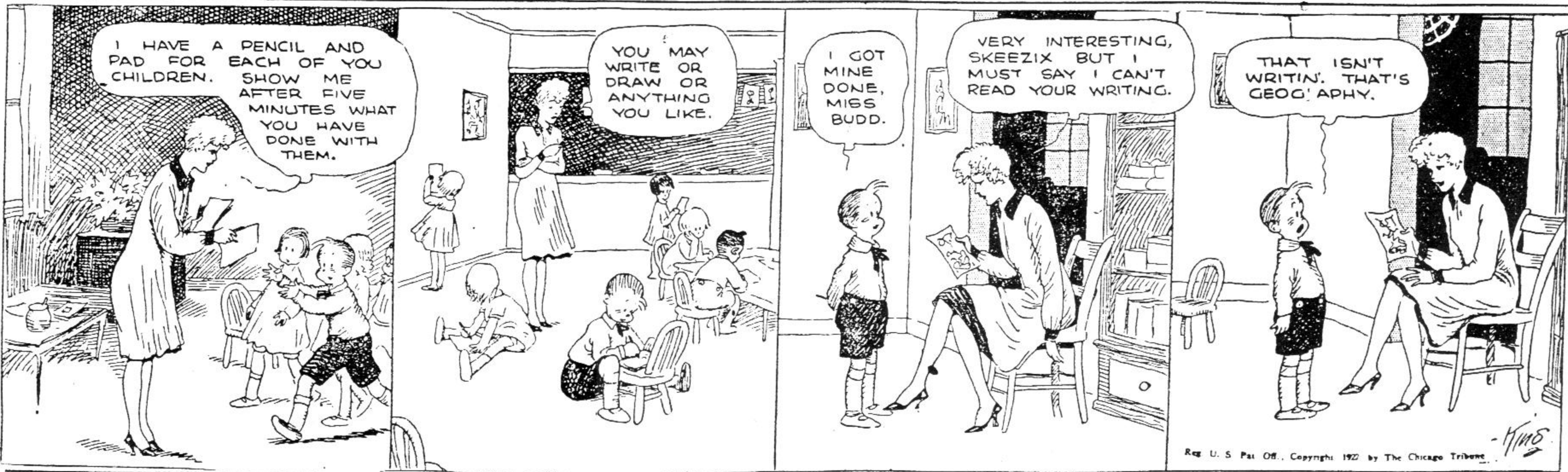
HOWEVER. WHAT WALT DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT TWO BLOCKS DOWN THE STREET THE MILK WAGON, CAP, COAT AND BOTTLE CARRIER WERE TURNED OVER TO THE REGULAR MILKMAN, AND THIS PERSON WENT TO HIS ROOM AND WROTE A REPORT

oo  
oo




DEAR CHIEF: AM ACTING AS MILKMAN AND CALL AT THE WALLET HOME EACH MORNING. HAVE GLEANED CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION FROM THE NEIGHBORS THOUGH THE MAID IS UNCOMMUNICATIVE. AM ACTING ON YOUR SUGGESTION AND AM TRYING TO LAND JOB AS CHAUFFEUR TO THIS BIRD WALT. THIS COUPLE IS AS GREATLY ATTACHED TO SKEEZIX AS EVER. CONTRARY TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS MARRIAGE HAS NOT WEAKENED THE BOND IN THE LEAST. MORE ANON.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THIS IS ONE ON MISS BUDD




# GASOLINE ALLEY—CONCERNING OCTAVE




MADAME OCTAVE REALLY HAS A HEART, WALT. OTHERWISE WE NEVER COULD HAVE GOTTEN ALONG AS WE DID. IN FRANCE SHE WAS IMMENSE— FEARLESS UNDER FIRE, TIRELESS AND EFFICIENT.

THAT'S THE SIDE OF HER I DIDN'T KNOW AT ALL.




BUT TO BE HAPPY SHE JUST HAS TO RUN THINGS. SHE HAS A WILL THAT MUST BE INDOULGED. I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT INFLUENCE SHE WIELDED OVER ME UNTIL I GOT AWAY FROM HER.

WELL SHE'S THROUGH NOW.



YOU KNOW, SHE EXPECTED CONFIDENCES FROM ME BUT SHE NEVER OFFERED ANY. COL. CODA THAT SHE MARRIED WAS A PECULIAR CHAP BUT VERY INTELLIGENT. THEY DIDN'T LIVE TOGETHER A GREAT WHILE— ABOUT TWO YEARS.

HE DID WELL AT THAT.



WHERE IS HE NOW? AS FAR AWAY AS HE CAN GET, I'LL BET.

HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE GONE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND HAVE BECOME VERY WEALTHY IN THE MAHOGANY TRADE. SHE HAS NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HARD BOILED WALT



WALT! HERE'S AN INVITATION FROM HELENE— YOU KNOW, MME. OCTAVE— FOR US TO SPEND A FEW DAYS WITH HER OVER AT THE WHITESANDS HOTEL.

COUNT ME OUT.



SHE URGES US TO COME. SHE SAYS SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR US SINCE WE WERE MARRIED AND WANTS TO NOW.

SURE SHE HAS. SHE'S STAYED AWAY



SHE WANTS US BOTH. BUT SHE SAYS IF YOU CAN'T COME FOR ME TO COME ANYWAY.

WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GO IT'S OK WITH ME, PHYLLIS. BUT I'M UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED. SO IS SKEEZIX.



SHE IS ANXIOUS TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES SHE SAYS SHE IS VERY MUCH IN EARNEST

SO AM I. I'M WILLING TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES — AND TO LET ALL FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BE BYGONES TOO.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALL ALONE

YES MME. OCTAVE CAN HAVE YOU FOR A FEW DAYS BUT SHE CAN'T HAVE SKEEZIX. HE'S GOT TO LOOK AFTER ME

I WON'T BE AWAY LONG, WALT.

BUT I THINK I OUGHT TO GO.

FIND OUT, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ABOUT HER REMARKABLE CHANGE OF HEART. IT IS NATURAL FOR SWEET THINGS TO TURN SOUR BUT NOT FOR SOUR THINGS TO TURN SWEET SO SUDDENLY.

HURRY, WALT, AND GET OFF. THE TRAIN'S STARTING!

REMEMBER NOW, LEARN ALL YOU CAN BUT TELL HER NOTHING.

WELL SKEEZIX, HERE WE ARE—ALL ALONE JUST LIKE WE USED TO BE BEFORE AUNTIE BLOSSOM 'CAME TO LIVE WITH US.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — PHYLLIS' EARS MUST BE BURNING





# GASOLINE ALLEY — OCTAVE AND PHYLLIS TALK IT OVER

PHYLLIS IS VISITING MME. OCTAVE AT THE WHITESAND SPRINGS HOTEL. OCTAVE INVITED WALT TOO AND WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD TO INCLUDE SKEEZIX BUT WALT DECLINED AND HAS THE LITTLE FELLOW WITH HIM WHERE HE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

PHYLLIS, I'M AWFULLY GLAD YOU CAME. YOU KNOW IT'S A FRIGHTFULLY LONELY LIFE I LEAD. I AM MEETING PEOPLE ALL THE TIME BUT IT IS THE OLD FRIENDS LIKE YOURSELF WHO REALLY COUNT.

IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE YOU, HELENE. I AM VERY HAPPY AND I'M SORRY YOU ARE NOT.

HOW IS SKEEZIX? I AM JUST DYING TO SEE HIM. BUT I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO BRING HIM WITH YOU BECAUSE I FEEL THAT YOUR HUSBAND, WALT, IS SUSPICIOUS OF MY MOTIVES. HOWEVER HE NEEDN'T BE.

YOU DID TAKE SKEEZIX AWAY FROM HIM ONCE YOU KNOW AND HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN THAT.

I'M SORRY I EVER LET HIM GET AWAY FROM ME IN THE FIRST PLACE. BUT THE WAY THINGS HAVE WORKED OUT PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST—MY CAREER AND EVERYTHING. HE IS WELL CARED FOR AND YOU ARE HAPPY TO HAVE HIM.

I COULDN'T BEAR TO GIVE HIM UP SO I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME TO THAT CONCLUSION ABOUT HIM.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT BEING FROM MISSOURI!

HERE'S A LETTER TO US FROM AUNTIE BLOSSOM, SKEEZIX. SHE SAYS SHE MISSES US FRIGHTFULLY BUT MME. OCTAVE IS TREATING HER WONDERFULLY.

IS SHE COMIN' BACK?

"MME. OCTAVE IS A DIFFERENT PERSON, ALMOST. I THINK SHE HAS GIVEN UP ALL IDEA OF MAKING ANY TROUBLE FOR US OVER SKEEZIX. SHE SEEMS PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE.

DOES SHE MEAN ME.

"SHE IS MORE FRANK WITH ME AND HAS TOLD ME A LOT OF THINGS I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I GET BACK. SHE WANTS YOU TO COME AND GET ME AND TO STAY A DAY OR TWO. CAN YOU DO THAT?"

I'LL GO.

I'M AFRAID IT'S THE OLD INFLUENCE WORKING AGAIN. OCTAVE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCHE HER OF HER GOOD INTENTIONS WHEN SHE SEES HER. BUT SHE CAN'T HIGH PRESSURE ME SO EASILY.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL IS IN CHARGE TODAY

WELL WELL, JES LIKE OL' TIMES. MIS WALT IS GONE AWAY AN' I IS NOW MONIKER OF ALL I SURVEYS — FOR A COUPLE O' DAYS.

THINGS IS MORE LIKE THEY SHOULD BE. I HAS LEISURE TO READ THE PITCHAS IN THE DAPAH BEFO' ALL THE WORK IS DONE. IT SORTA HELPS THE MORNIN' TO PASS.

HEY, YOU! YOU GOT A BIG NERVE SNOODIN' INTO MY KITCHEN! THIS AINT NO PUBLIC CONVEYANCE.

SO YOU DON'T APPRECIATE A LITTLE REGULAR SERVICE, HEH?

JES' BETWEEN YOU AN' ME THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I DOES APPRECIATE AN' THAT'S DISTANCE. NEX' TIME YOU SITUATE THAT MILK ON MY DOORSTEP AN' BEAT IT!

TA TA!

King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT WEAKENS

MR. WICKER, YOU KNOW PHYLLIS IS VISITING MME. OCTAVE. OCTAVE WANTS ME TO SPEND A FEW DAYS WITH THEM. BUT I WOULDN'T ANY MORE BE HER GUEST THAN FLY!

WHY NOT, WALT? I THINK YOU ARE FOOLISH TO LET YOUR PREJUDICES STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT.

BUT SHE HAS BEEN SO MEAN AND I CAN'T FORGET IT. BESIDES SHE SEEMS TO GET ON THE GOOD SIDE OF PHYLLIS SO EASILY.

LISTEN. YOU WANT TO HAVE ALL THIS MYSTERY CLEARED UP DON'T YOU? THEN WHY NOT SWALLOW YOUR RESENTMENT FOR A WHILE AS A FIRST STEP.

WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?

WELL, YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED MUCH HANDLING IT, AS YOU HAVE. WHY NOT GET ON GOOD TERMS WITH HER.

GO ON DOWN AND BE HER GUEST. YOU MAY LEARN A LOT.

I HATE LIKE THE DICKENS TO DO IT BUT YOU MAY BE RIGHT. BELIEVE ME SHE DOESN'T GET ANY INFORMATION OUT OF ME.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—OFF FOR ANOTHER ADVENTURE

RACHEL,  
REMEMBER  
TO WATCH  
SKEEZIX  
CLOSELY.

DON'T YOU  
WORRY, MISTA  
WALT! AIN'T  
NOBODY GOIN'  
SLIP NOTHIN'  
OVA WHILE I  
GOT MY  
EYES SHUT.

WHO WOULD EVER THINK THAT  
I WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP  
TO VISIT MME. OCTAVE! WELL,  
SINCE I FIRST PLUCKED SKEEZIX  
OFF MY DOORSTEP I'VE DONE  
A LOT OF THINGS I NEVER  
EXPECTED TO.

IF SHE IS NICE TO  
US THERE'S A REASON  
FOR IT AND I'M GOING  
TO FIND OUT WHAT'S IN  
THE BACK OF HER HEAD  
IF POSSIBLE.

ON THE OTHER HAND IF THIS  
IS ONLY A GRAND GESTURE OF  
HOSPITALITY AND SHE GETS  
ME DOWN THERE JUST TO MAKE  
ME UNCOMFORTABLE I'VE STILL  
GOT A FEW TRICKS UP MY  
SLEEVE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—RACHEL VISITS SCHOOL

TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL I ALWAYS BEEN WANTIN' TO SEE THAT MIS BUDD I HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.

YES, SCHOOL WILL BE OUT IN FIVE MINUTES. WILL YOU WAIT?

YES'M. I'M RACHEL AN' MISTA WALT AN' MIS' WALT OUT O' TOWN SO I COME TO GET SKEEZIX.

NOW SKEEZIX MAY GO.

GLORY BE, HONEY, WHERE YOUR MITTENS? CAN THAT BOY LOSE 'EM! THIS SCHOOL HOUSE AN' YARD OUGHTA BE PLASTERED WIT' 'EM.

YASSA, SKEEZIX. IF YOU IS INCRUSTED TO MY CARE I GOIN' SEE I DELIVERS YOU OVA IN A NUMBA ONE SHAPE AGAIN.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—EVERYTHING O. K. SO FAR

THIS IS A GRAND PLACE TO RELAX, MR. WALLET—MAY I BE SO BOLD AS TO CALL YOU WALT? PHYLLIS AND I HAVE BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS I DON'T FEEL THAT WE SHOULD STAND ON FORMALITIES.

IT IS MIGHTY NICE OF YOU, MME. OCTAVE, TO HAVE US HERE. I KNOW PHYLLIS HAS BEEN HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME.

WHEN SHE LOOSENS UP, PHYLLIS, SHE ISN'T SUCH A BAD SCOUT AT THAT!

YOU HAD SEEN ONLY THE OTHER SIDE OF HER NATURE, AND I AM GLAD SHE'S HAVING A CHANCE TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH YOU.

AND SHE'S FITTED US UP NICE AND COZY.

YES WALT, SHE REALLY SEEMS ANXIOUS THAT WE HAVE A GOOD TIME. WHILE WE ARE HERE SHE WANTS US TO MEET SOME OF HER ARTIST FRIENDS.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — THESE THOUGHT WAVES ARE OVER WALT'S HEAD

MR. MILLETS-WRIGGLETON, I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. WALLET WHO FOUND A BABY ON HIS DOORSTEP, ADOPTED HIM AND WHOSE LIFE HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL PLOT FOR A NOVEL. MR. MILLETS-WRIGGLETON, AS YOU OF COURSE KNOW IS AN AUTHOR.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU MR. WRIGGLETON.

NOW SCIENCE HAS ALSO REVOLUTIONIZED NOT ONLY OUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE BUT EVEN OUR CONCEPTION OF MATTER. MATTER IS MERELY ENERGY IN SPACE — ATOMS BOWLING ABOUT WITH SUCH TERRIFIC FORCE THAT THE POWER OF A SINGLE ONE COULD TEAR US TO BITS. BUT WHAT IS THE ATOM? THERE YOU ARE. NOT MATTER BUT ENERGY. CONSTITUTED OF THE SAME MATERIAL AS SUNLIGHT OR THOUGHT.

I WRITE A BOOK. IT'S PAPER AND INK, ATOMS — ENERGY IN SPACE — THE SAME AS THOUGHTS I PUT INTO IT. SEX, THE ATTRACTIONS WHICH HOLD THE HEAVENLY BODIES IN THEIR ORBITS, MATTER, — ALL ONE. MY BOOK, MY THOUGHT, MAY' HAVE IT'S INFLUENCE ON THE PLANETS, THE SUN, THE STARS —

WHO WAS THAT YOU WERE TALKING WITH SO EARNESTLY WALT?

AN AUTHOR FRIEND OF MME. OCTAVE'S BUT I WASN'T TALKING.

LIKE SUN-SPOTS PERHAPS.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS GETTING AN EDUCATION

YOU MEN. AMUSE YOURSELVES A FEW MOMENTS. PHYLLIS AND I ARE GOING OUT ON THE TERRACE.

SURELY MME. OCTAVE, MR. ANTIPASTO AND I WILL GET ALONG SWIMMINGLY.

DID YOU NOTICE THAT? HOW AN ARTIST COULD PAINT A THING LIKE THAT AND CALL IT A PICTURE IS BEYOND ME.

A PHOTOGRAPH, NO. BUT A SWIRL UFF EMOTION. A FLASH UFF BEAUTY AN' POWER IN THE ABSTRACT, YESS



YOU MUST NOT SEE ONLY A WOMAN. YOU MUST SEE A WOMAN'S JOY, SUFFERING—SOUL. THE CONCENTRIC HALOS UFF HOPE AN' DESPAIR THE URGE UFF THE UNATTAINABLE.

YOU FEEL THE SUBTLITIES UFF FORCE AN' THE CLEAVAGE UFF LIFE AN' OBLIVION. I PAINT IT MYSELF.

YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON ME OL' CHAP, BUT I DIDN'T GET IT AT FIRST. NOW THAT YOU'VE EXPLAINED IT IT'S QUITE CLEAR.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE REALM OF ART

WALT AND PHYLLIS ARE STILL BEING GORGEOUSLY ENTERTAINED AT THE WHITESAND SPRINGS HOTEL BY MME. OCTAVE. TONIGHT SHE HAS ANOTHER GUEST, HARLOW BOWLDERTOP, ONE OF THE MINOR BUT MODERN POETS, WHO HAS CONSENTED TO BROADCAST SOME OF HIS POETRY TO THEM.

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00

THE ROCK IS HARD.  
THE ROCK IS ROUGH.  
I TOUCH IT WITH MY TOE.  
IT FALLS ASUNDER.  
AM I THE MIGHTY POWER  
WHOSE MAGIC TOUCH  
ANNIHILATES THE  
EVERLASTING WORKS OF GOD?  
NO, I AM NOTHING.  
TIME HAS GROUND IT  
WITH HIS UNREMITTING HEEL.  
I AM BUT THE MAGGOT  
WHO BRUSHES THE DRY AND  
DUSTY SHELL TO ASHES.

DELIGHTFUL,  
MR. BOWLDERTOP.  
WOULDN'T YOU  
GIVE  
ANOTHER?

AND THIS ONE IS CALLED "CITY."  
CHANCE DROPPED A HUMAN MUSTARD SEED  
UPON THE SOIL. IT GREW AND SCATTERED.  
FERTILIZED BY THE DREGS OF LIFE IT GREW.  
ACTIVATED BY THE SLUDGE OF DESTINY IT GREW.  
IT SCARRED THE EARTH AND SMEARED  
THE DOME OF HEAVEN.  
YET IN THE MUSTARD SEED  
THERE WAS THE CITY.

GOLLY, PHYLLIS!  
I CAN'T STAND  
THIS RARIFIED  
ATMOSPHERE  
MUCH LONGER.

WE'LL GO  
HOME SOON,  
WALT, BUT  
HELENE DOES  
SO ENJOY  
SHOWING OFF  
HER  
PERFORMING  
FRIENDS.

King  
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# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT HAS SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THAT FACE AGAIN

DON'T THINK I HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT SKEEZIX, PHYLLIS, JUST BECAUSE I HAVEN'T MENTIONED HIM. I'LL TAKE HIM OFF YOUR HANDS ANY TIME.

NO CHANCE HELENE. AND I ADVISE YOU NOT TO MENTION SUCH A THING TO WALT.

SKEEZIX IS SUCH A BIG PART OF THE LIVES OF BOTH OF US.


OH WELL, IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT A WONDERFUL ONE OF YOUR OWN CAME ALONG YOU WOULDN'T TAKE SKEEZIX SO SERIOUSLY.

SO THAT IS THE WAY HELENE HAS IT FIGURED OUT. SHE'S ALL WRONG. I MUST GO AND FIND WALT.

I'LL BET THAT'S THE MAN WALT SAID LOOKED SO FAMILIAR TO HIM. WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE?


I KNOW - HE'S THE MAN WHO WAS OUR MILKMAN AND ELECTRICIAN AND GAS MAN! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS A SKEPTIC




I'M GLAD WE ARE HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED, WALT. I KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING MY ACTIONS WHICH HAVE TROUBLED YOU.

WELL TO BE FRANK, THERE HAVE BEEN THINGS HARD TO EXPLAIN.




I FEEL THAT THE ONLY WAY IS TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK WITH EACH OTHER. IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO DISPEL ANY OF YOUR UNCERTAINTIES I WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO DO IT.

IF YOU REALLY MEAN THAT, MME. OCTAVE, WHAT IS OUR MILKMAN DOING AROUND HERE? I SAW YOU TALKING WITH HIM.



YOUR MILKMAN? I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW YOUR MILKMAN. YOU ARE CERTAINLY MISTAKEN.

I MEAN THE MAN YOU WERE WITH IN THE WRITING ROOM THE DAY YOU WERE HAVING A COMMITTEE MEETING. I HAPPENED TO WALK PAST.



OH, HE'S A FICTION WRITER! HIS NAME IS KLECK. IF YOU HAVE SEEN HIM AS A MILKMAN HE WAS COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR SOME STORY. HE WILL DO ANY SORT OF WORK TO GET LOCAL COLOR.



I HAVE TO HAND IT TO HER— SHE'S A RAPID THINKER. BUT THAT YARN DOESN'T SATISFY ME.

-KING

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SO TAME IT WAS ALMOST DISAPPOINTING

A TELEGRAPH FOR ME, SKEEZIX! I WASN'T EXPECTIN' NONE.

GOLLY, IT MAKES ME KIND'A FAINT! SOMEBODY MUS' BE SICK OR A ACCIDENT OR SOMETHIN!

WHY DON'T YOU OPEN IT?

GLORY BE, CHILE! I IS AFRAID TO OPEN IT. MAYBE IT'S BAD LUCK AN' I DON'T WANT NO BAD LUCK! WHO KIN IT BE FROM I CAN'T IMAGINE.

TAINT SERIOUS. UNCA WALT AN' AUNTIE BLOSSOM COMIN' HOME TOMORROW!

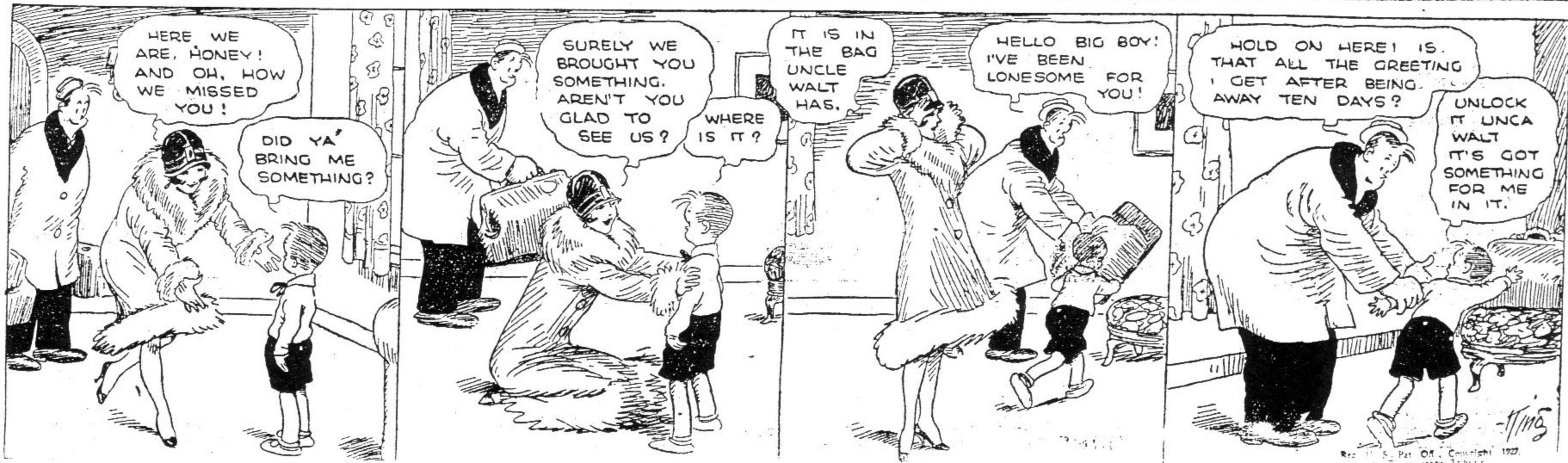
GOODIE.

?

I'LL OPEN IT

Hino

# GASOLINE ALLEY—REUNITED



HERE WE ARE, HONEY! AND OH, HOW WE MISSED YOU!

DID YA' BRING ME SOMETHING?

SURELY WE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING. AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE US?

WHERE IS IT?

IT IS IN THE BAG UNCLE WALT HAS.

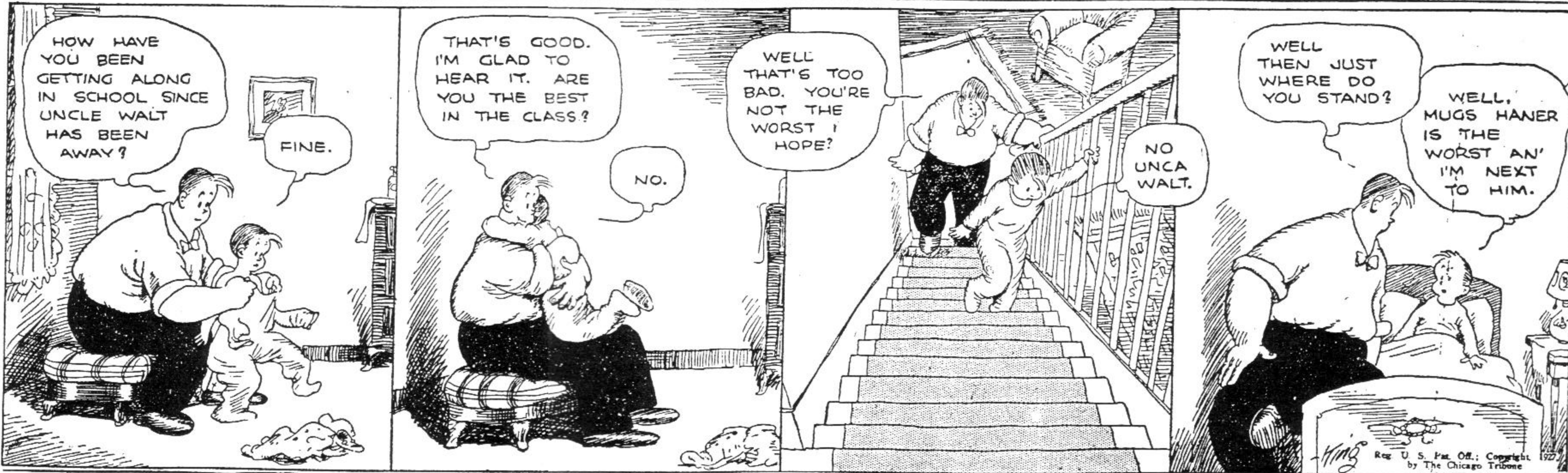
HELLO BIG BOY! I'VE BEEN LONESOME FOR YOU!

HOLD ON HERE! IS THAT ALL THE GREETING I GET AFTER BEING AWAY TEN DAYS?

UNLOCK IT UNCA WALT IT'S GOT SOMETHING FOR ME IN IT.

—TING

GASOLINE ALLEY—IT COULD BE MUCH WORSE



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ALONG IN SCHOOL SINCE UNCLE WALT HAS BEEN AWAY?

FINE.

THAT'S GOOD. I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT. ARE YOU THE BEST IN THE CLASS?

NO.

WELL THAT'S TOO BAD. YOU'RE NOT THE WORST I HOPE?

NO UNCA WALT.

WELL THEN JUST WHERE DO YOU STAND?

WELL, MUGS HANER IS THE WORST AN' I'M NEXT TO HIM.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT WANTS THE POWER OF VETO



WALT, DO YOU THINK MME. OCTAVE'S FRIENDLINESS AND HOSPITALITY ARE LEADING UP TO ANYTHING?

I TRY NOT TO, PHYLLIS, BUT I CAN'T GET RID OF A CERTAIN HUNCH.

SHE REALLY DID SEEM TO ENJOY GIVING US A GOOD TIME.

YES BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING THIS BIRD THAT WAS MASQUERADING AS OUR MILKMAN WAS A SPY FOR HER.

SHE GAVE ME AN OPENING AND I ASKED ABOUT HIM. HER EXPLANATION WAS PRETTY LAME. A FICTION WRITER GATHERING MATERIAL, SHE SAID

YES, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY DUBIOUS. I DON'T THINK HE LEARNED ANYTHING IMPORTANT.

WELL IF ANYBODY IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT US I WANT TO OK. IT BEFORE IT COMES OUT—THAT'S ALL.

- King

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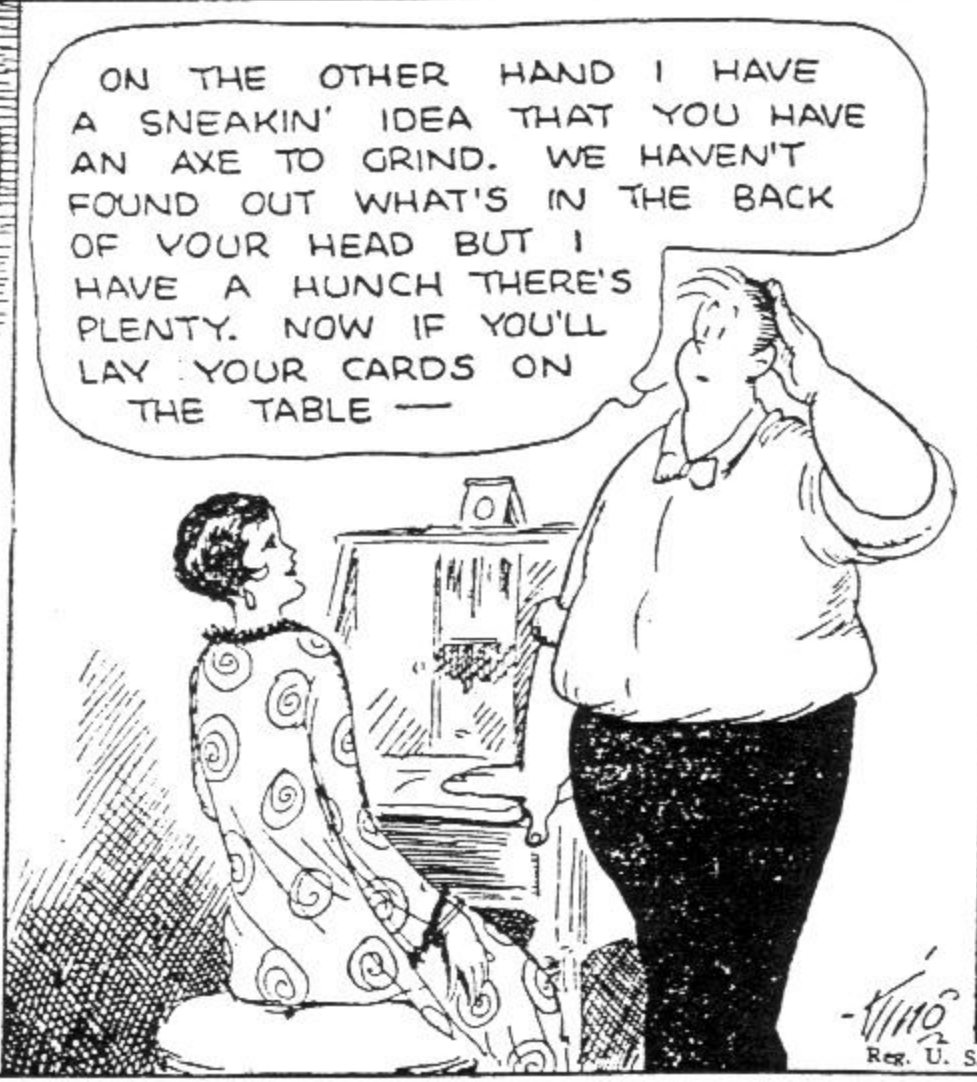
GASOLINE ALLEY—DICTATED, BUT NOT SENT



I MUST WRITE OCTAVE AND THANK HER FOR THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD WHILE SHE WAS ENTERTAINING US.

I'LL HELP YOU— I'LL DICTATE ONE. TAKE A LETTER:

DEAR MME. OCTAVE: YOU CERTAINLY SHOWED US A SWELL TIME. WE ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT. NOW IF YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD AND BE A GOOD FELLOW LIKE THAT WE'RE FOR YOU. AND WE'LL GET BACK AT YOU SOME WAY.



ON THE OTHER HAND I HAVE A SNEAKIN' IDEA THAT YOU HAVE AN AXE TO GRIND. WE HAVEN'T FOUND OUT WHAT'S IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD BUT I HAVE A HUNCH THERE'S PLENTY. NOW IF YOU'LL LAY YOUR CARDS ON THE TABLE —



NO WALT, I THINK I'LL WRITE THE LETTER.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT SEEMS TO BE A FAVORABLE REPORT

I DON'T MIND RACHEL'S NIGHTS OUT, WALT, NOT WHEN I HAVE SUCH AN AMIABLE SUBSTITUTE.

WELL I CAN BE AN AMIABLE SUBSTITUTE ABOUT ONCE A WEEK.

OCTAVE WANTS TO COME AND VISIT US IN OUR HOME. DO YOU THINK I'D BETTER GIVE HER A DEFINITE INVITATION?

I'M GOOD NATURED TONIGHT. GO AHEAD.

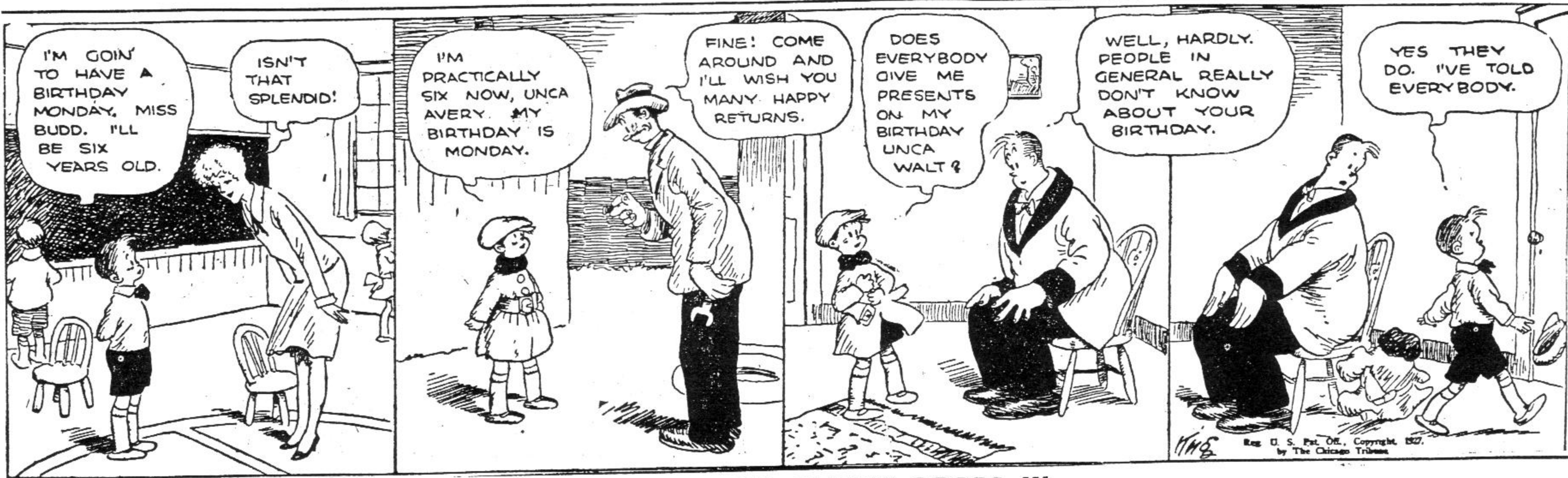
WE'LL SHOW HER A COMBINATION THAT CAN'T BE BEATEN. SHE'LL BE DISCOURAGED FROM THE START!

WALT, YOU STILL LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE SURE YOU ARE STILL AS CRAZY ABOUT ME AS YOU WERE?

AM I? I GET CRAZIER AND CRAZIER EVERY DAY!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALL SET TO FIND OUT



I'M GOIN' TO HAVE A BIRTHDAY MONDAY, MISS BUDD. I'LL BE SIX YEARS OLD.

ISN'T THAT SPLENDID!

I'M PRACTICALLY SIX NOW, UNCA AVERY. MY BIRTHDAY IS MONDAY.

FINE! COME AROUND AND I'LL WISH YOU MANY HAPPY RETURNS.

DOES EVERYBODY GIVE ME PRESENTS ON MY BIRTHDAY UNCA WALT?

WELL, HARDLY. PEOPLE IN GENERAL REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR BIRTHDAY.

YES THEY DO. I'VE TOLD EVERYBODY.

WAGS  
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# GASOLINE ALLEY—MANDY DROPS IN

WELL IF IT  
AIN'T MANDY!  
LOOKIN' SWELL AN'  
ALL DRESSED UP  
FIT TO KILL!

HELLO, RACHEL.  
BUSY? I JES'  
DROPPED IN FOR  
A LITTLE CHAT.

EVERYBODY'S  
OUT, SIT DOWN.  
WHERE YOU  
WORKIN NOW?  
YOU AIN'T  
MARRIED IS  
YOU?

ME? NO I AIN'T  
MARRIED AN' I AIN'T  
WORKIN' BUT I STILL  
ENGAGED. CINDER WANTS  
TO GET MARRIED BUT I  
BEEN PROCRASTINATIN'  
THE DATE.

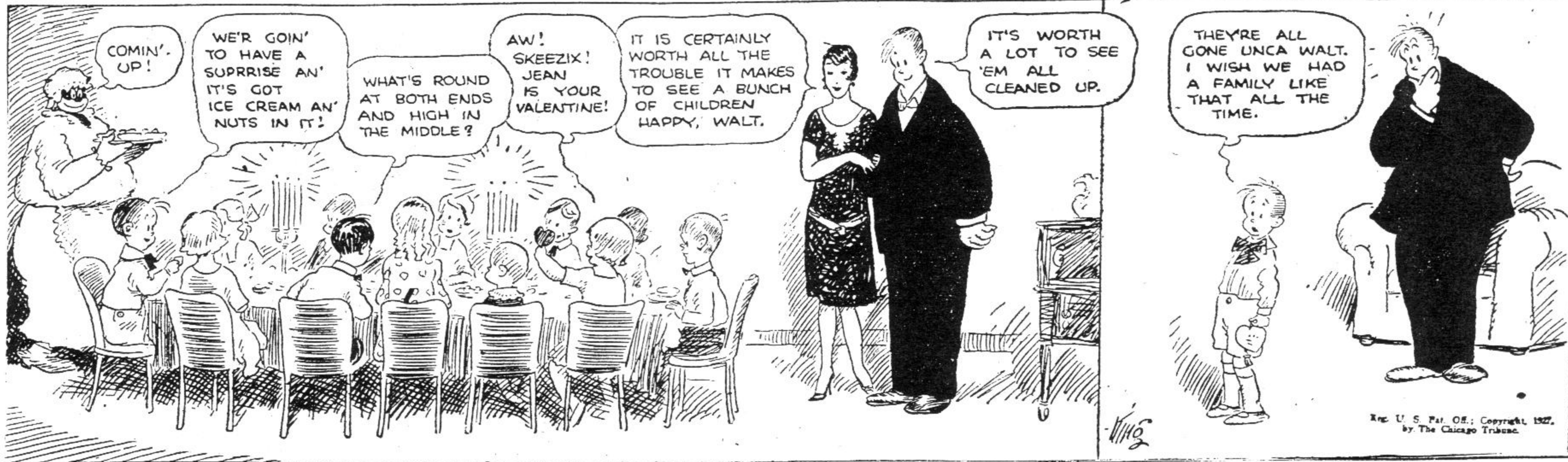
WHAT  
FOR? HE  
WELL  
OFF FROM  
ALL I  
HEAR.

YES THAT'S WHY  
I BELIEVE IN STAYIN'  
ENGAGED. YOU MAY  
LOSE CONTROL OF  
'EM IF YOU MARRY  
'EM.

CINDER,  
THAT'S  
HIS NAME  
IS IT?

NO THAT'S  
JES' A PET NOM  
DE PLUME WE  
CALLS HIM BY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SIX YEARS OLD TODAY



COMIN' UP!

WE'R GOIN' TO HAVE A SUPRRISE AN' IT'S GOT ICE CREAM AN' NUTS IN IT!

WHAT'S ROUND AT BOTH ENDS AND HIGH IN THE MIDDLE?

AW! SKEEZIX! JEAN IS YOUR VALENTINE!

IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE IT MAKES TO SEE A BUNCH OF CHILDREN HAPPY, WALT.

IT'S WORTH A LOT TO SEE 'EM ALL CLEANED UP.

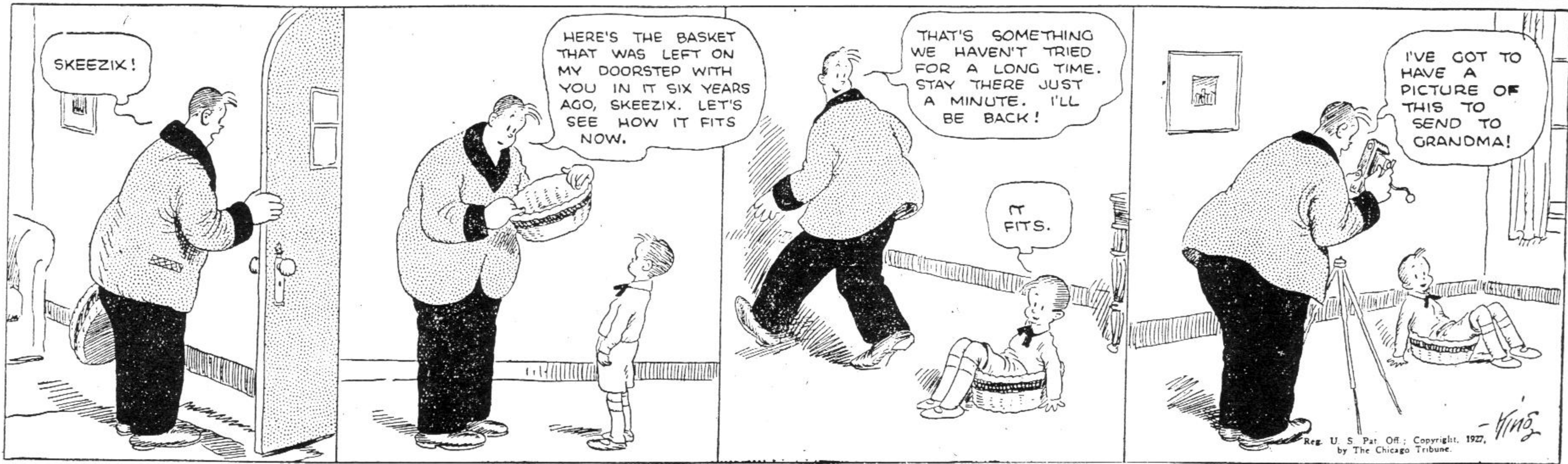
THEY'RE ALL GONE UNCA WALT. I WISH WE HAD A FAMILY LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT HAS HISTORICAL VALUE



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—EXCESS BAGGAGE



SKEEZIX!

HERE'S THE BASKET THAT WAS LEFT ON MY DOORSTEP WITH YOU IN IT SIX YEARS AGO, SKEEZIX. LET'S SEE HOW IT FITS NOW.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T TRIED FOR A LONG TIME. STAY THERE JUST A MINUTE. I'LL BE BACK!

IT FITS.

I'VE GOT TO HAVE A PICTURE OF THIS TO SEND TO GRANDMA!

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- King



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS SUSPICIOUS OF STRANGERS

I'M LOOKING FOR A MR. WALT WALLET. CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE TO LOCATE HIM?

THAT'S MY NAME.

WELL I'M A PUBLICITY MAN AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS BOY SKEEZIX BEING LEFT ON YOUR DOORSTEP. IT WOULD MAKE A CORKING PUBLICITY STORY.

BUT I'M NOT LOOKING FOR PUBLICITY.

WELL IT WOULD BE GREAT STUFF FOR MME. OCTAVE. I'M HER PRESS REPRESENTATIVE. I CALLED TO SEE IF YOU WOULD SANCTION SUCH A STORY.

SORRY BUT IT CAN'T BE DONE. YOU'LL HAVE TO GET HER JEWELS STOLEN OR WORK UP A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

THINK IT OVER. I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU THE BIG SCHEME YET. I'M GOING TO LOOK YOU UP AGAIN TOMORROW.

## GASOLINE ALLEY—THIS MAKES NO HIT WITH WALT

THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT THAT PUBLICITY SCHEME FOR MME. OCTAVE I HINTED AT YESTERDAY?

NO, IT'S ALL FINISHED AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

JUST THINK OF THE WONDERFUL HEADLINES: DIVA DISCOVERS HER CHILD AFTER SIX YEARS. STOLEN AT BIRTH. LEFT ON STRANGER'S DOORSTEP. ISN'T THAT A WOW!

WHO SAID IT WAS HER CHILD?

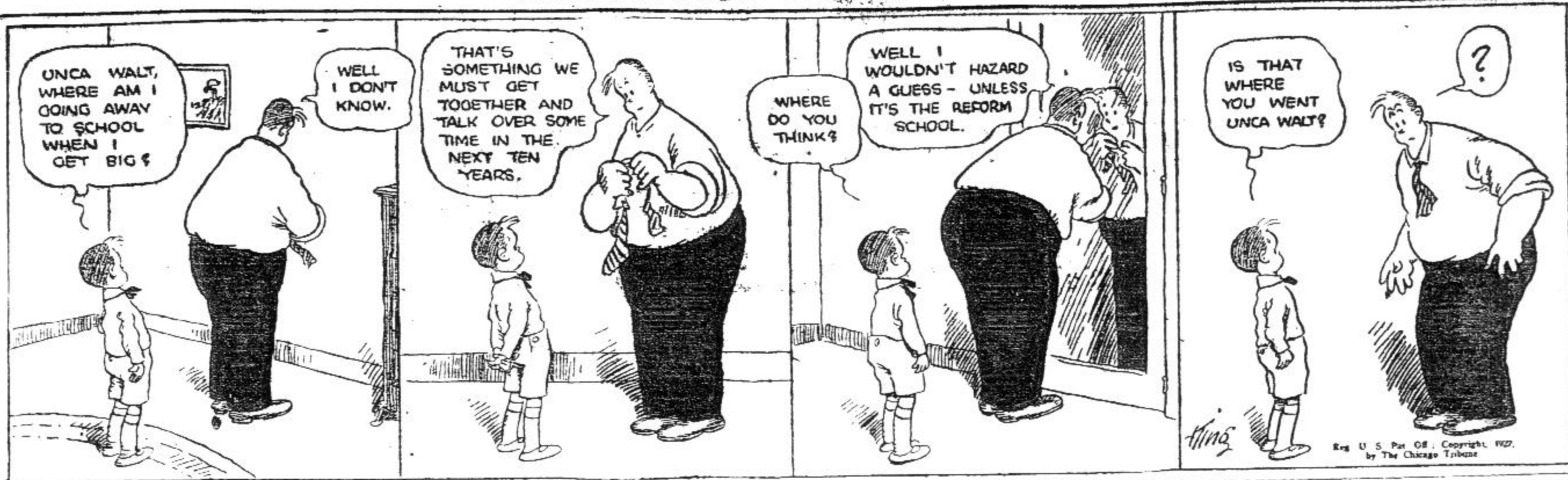
I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, AND IT'S MADE TO ORDER FOR THE FINEST PUBLICITY SPREAD EVER PUT OVER. I COULD GET THAT ONE INTO EVERY PAPER IN THE COUNTRY.

WELL YOU'D BETTER NOT TRY IT.

WAIT! YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT A WORLD BEATER THIS IS.

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING DOING! YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND THE WORLD ANOTHER THRILL.

## GASOLINE ALLEY—HIS ALMA MATER?



GASOLINE ALLEY—SOME SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON AT LEAST

RACHEL, WHAT'S A MIR'CLE?  
DONT YOU KNOW, HONEY? THAT'S WHEN SOMETHIN' HAPPENS THAT AINT NATURAL LIKE MAKIN' A LOT O' FISHES OUT O' ONE FISH OR STOPPIN' THE SUN.

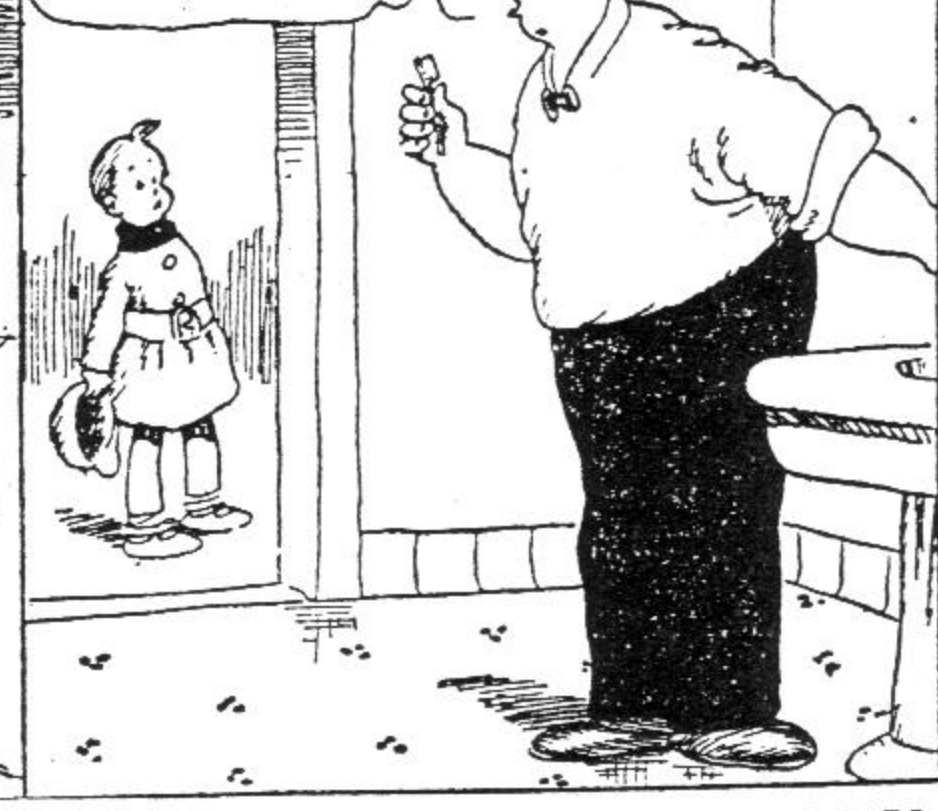


SKEEZIX, DID YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH THIS MORNING?



YES, UNCA WALT.

WAIT A MINUTE. I FIND YOUR TOOTHBRUSH AS DRY AS A BONE. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?



I DUNNO. MUST BE A MIR'CLE, UNCA WALT.



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GASOLINE ALLEY WAIT LEARNS A LITTLE HISTORY

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT LEARNS A LITTLE HISTORY

NO! DIDN'T I TELL YOU LAST WEEK I WASN'T INTERESTED IN A MME. OCTAVE PUBLICITY STORY?

I KNOW BUT WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FAKE A THING. SHE'S TOLD ME THE WHOLE PLOT SO I KNOW HOW GOOD IT IS.

WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU? COME IN, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT.

SHE TOLD ME HOW AT THE TIME OF THE BABY'S BIRTH SHE HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM HER HUSBAND AND ASIDE FROM A FAITHFUL SERVANT WAS PENNILESS AND ALONE.

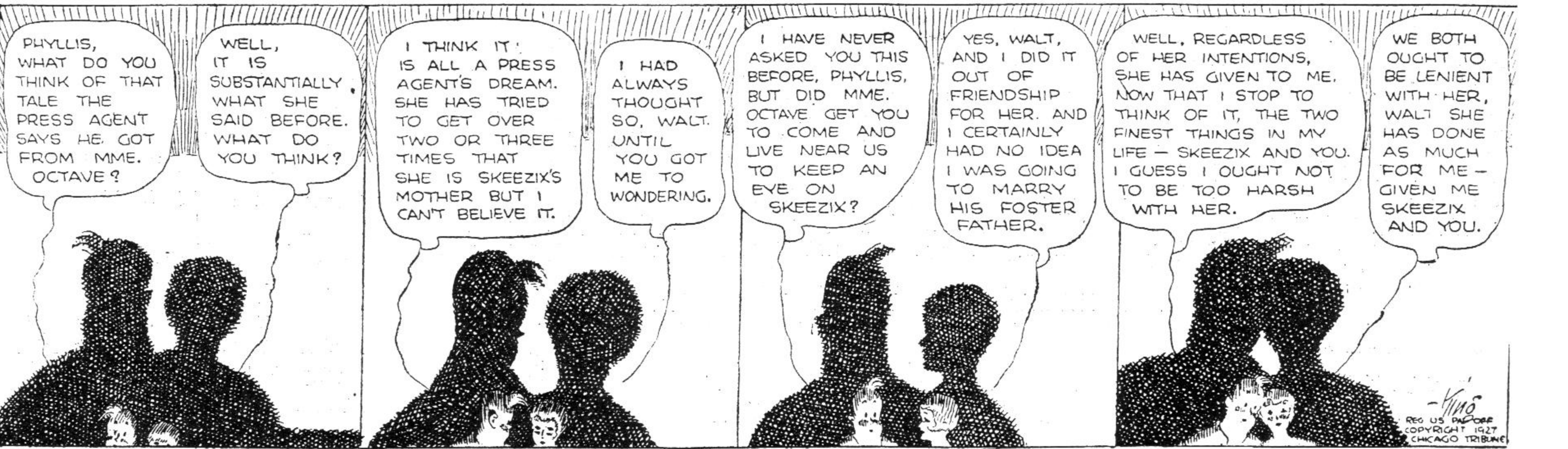
WHAT BABY WAS THIS?

DON'T SPOOF ME. THE BABY THAT WAS AFTERWARD, LEFT ON YOUR DOORSTEP—SKEEZIX. SHE DECIDED YOU WERE THE ONE TO PLACE HIM WITH—EASY GOING, A LIKING FOR CHILDREN AND NO WIFE TO SCRAMBLE THINGS ALL UP. TO MAKE A GOOD STORY WE'D SAY SHE JUST FOUND HIM AGAIN.

SHE CLAIMS TO BE HIS MOTHER?

WHY, OF COURSE. SHE HAD THE SERVANT LEAVE HIM TO YOU BECAUSE SHE KNEW HE WOULD BE CARED FOR AND WAS SURE SHE COULD PLAY ON YOUR SYMPATHIES AND GET HIM BACK LATER. SHE STILL HAS THAT THOUGHT. I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU. IF THAT ISN'T A WOW I'M NO PUBLICITY MAN—I'M A MERE PRESS AGENT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—OCTAVE'S EARS ARE BURNING



PHYLLIS,  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK OF THAT  
TALE THE  
PRESS AGENT  
SAYS HE GOT  
FROM MME.  
OCTAVE?

WELL,  
IT IS  
SUBSTANTIALLY  
WHAT SHE  
SAID BEFORE.  
WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?

I THINK IT  
IS ALL A PRESS  
AGENT'S DREAM.  
SHE HAS TRIED  
TO GET OVER  
TWO OR THREE  
TIMES THAT  
SHE IS SKEEZIX'S  
MOTHER BUT I  
CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

I HAD  
ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
SO, WALT.  
UNTIL  
YOU GOT  
ME TO  
WONDERING.

I HAVE NEVER  
ASKED YOU THIS  
BEFORE, PHYLLIS,  
BUT DID MME.  
OCTAVE GET YOU  
TO COME AND  
LIVE NEAR US  
TO KEEP AN  
EYE ON  
SKEEZIX?

YES, WALT,  
AND I DID IT  
OUT OF  
FRIENDSHIP  
FOR HER. AND  
I CERTAINLY  
HAD NO IDEA  
I WAS GOING  
TO MARRY  
HIS FOSTER  
FATHER.

WELL, REGARDLESS  
OF HER INTENTIONS,  
SHE HAS GIVEN TO ME,  
NOW THAT I STOP TO  
THINK OF IT, THE TWO  
FINEST THINGS IN MY  
LIFE — SKEEZIX AND YOU.  
I GUESS I OUGHT NOT  
TO BE TOO HARSH  
WITH HER.

WE BOTH  
OUGHT TO  
BE LENIENT  
WITH HER,  
WALT SHE  
HAS DONE  
AS MUCH  
FOR ME —  
GIVEN ME  
SKEEZIX  
AND YOU.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—MERELY ANOTHER LITTLE ANNOYANCE

I WANT TO GIVE OCTAVE THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE DOUBTS I CAN. I HOPE WE CAN IRON OUT OUR DIFFICULTIES AND ALL BE THE BEST OF FRIENDS.



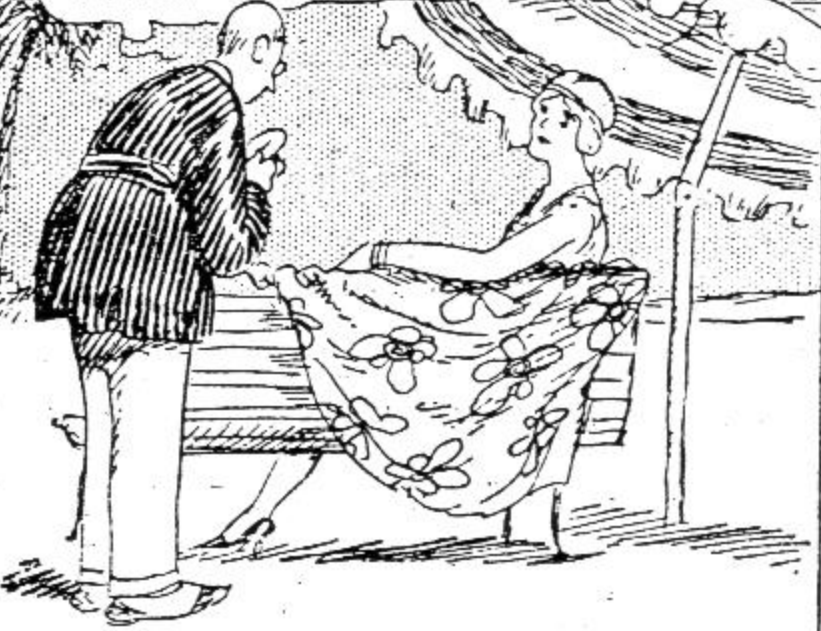
FOR MY PART I DON'T CARE SO MUCH. BUT PHYLLIS IS SO FOND OF HER I DON'T WANT TO STAND IN THE WAY PROVIDED I CAN FEEL EASY AND COMFORTABLE ABOUT IT.



MEANWHILE, DOWN IN FLORIDA MME. OCTAVE IS BASKING IN THE SUNLIGHT WITH ONLY AN OCCASIONAL SHADOW TO DARKEN HER OUTLOOK!



PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOU, MME. OCTAVE, BUT I HAVE TRIED SEVERAL TIMES TO REACH YOU AT YOUR HOTEL. I HAVE SEVERAL BILLS SOMEWHAT OVERDUE WHICH—



OH, DON'T LET THAT WORRY YOU AT ALL! THEY WILL BE PAID SHORTLY.

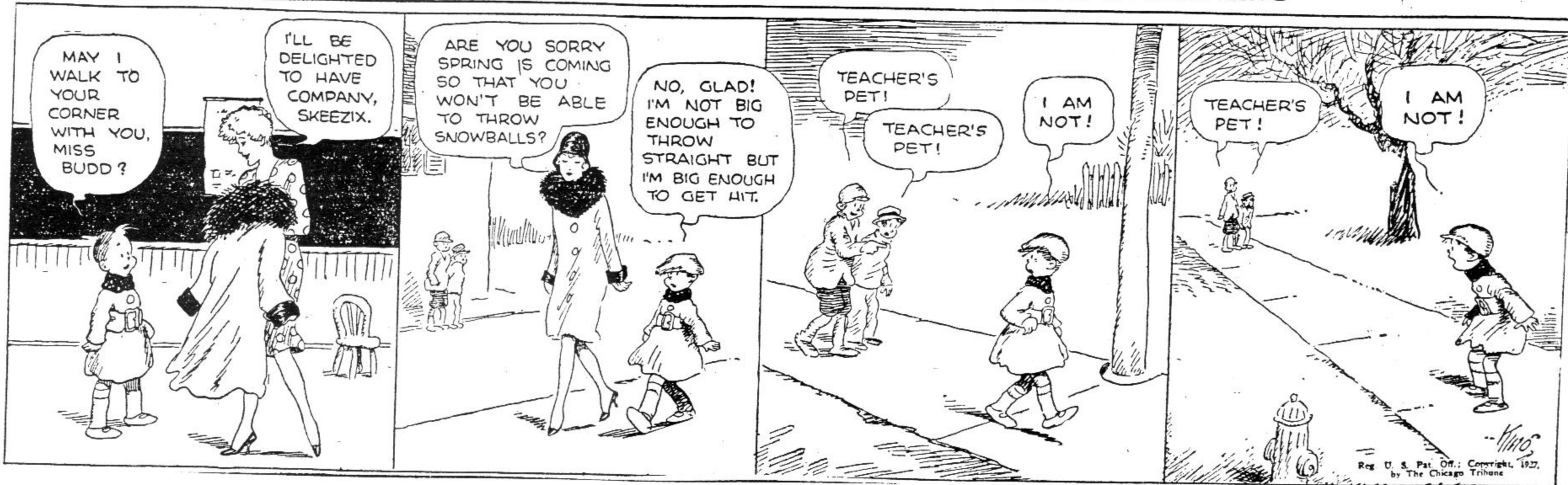
I'M NOT WORRIED BUT—

IT'S PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT. MY CHECK FOR THIS MONTH HAS NOT ARRIVED. I'M SURE IT WILL BE HERE PROMPTLY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU AMONG THE FIRST. I'LL SEND IT TO YOU. GOOD DAY.



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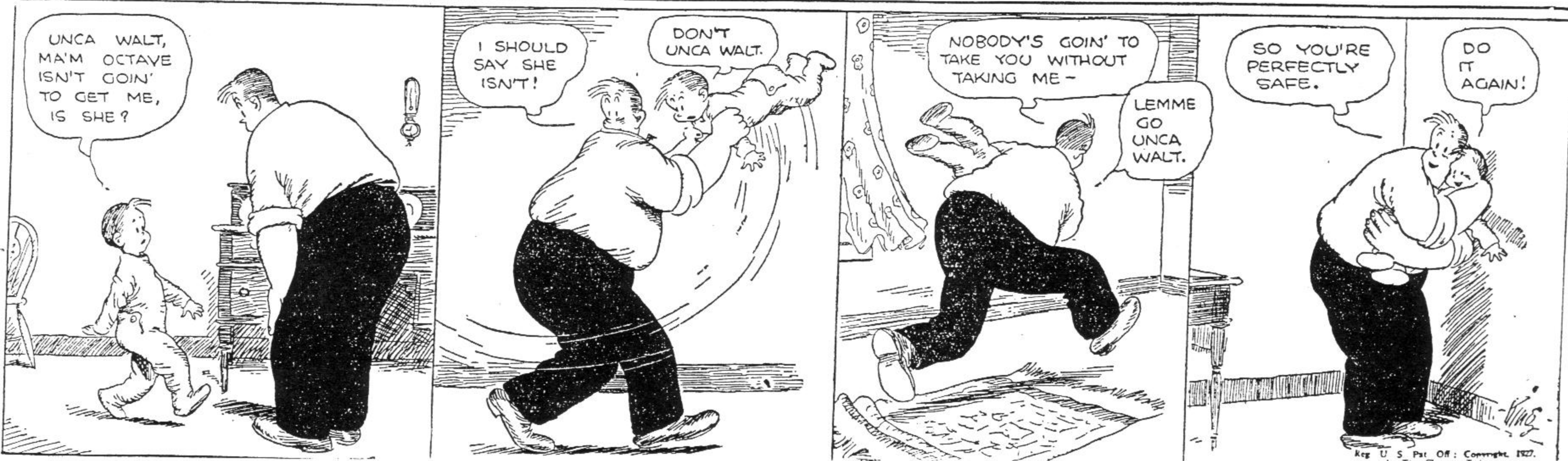
GASOLINE ALLEY—SOMEBODY ALWAYS MISCONSTRUES EVERYTHING



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—SAVED



# GASOLINE ALLEY—LOOK OUT FOR DISASTER

RACHEL, SEE THE PRETTY UMBRELLA MR. WALT GAVE ME YESTERDAY.

LAWSY MIS WALT, YOU AIN'T LETTIN' HIM GIVE YOU NO UMBRELLA IS YOU?

CERTAINLY. I WOULDN'T STOP HIM FROM DOING ANYTHING AS NICE AS THAT.

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S TERRIBLE BAD LUCK?

I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS, RACHEL. I'M SURE IT WON'T DO ANY HARM.

I AIN'T SUPERSTITIOUS EITHER BUT I HAD A FRIEND WHO WAS GETTIN' ON FINE WITH HIS WIFE TILL HE GIVE HER A UMBRELLA FOR HER BIRTHDAY.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? HIS FIRST WIFE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM. SHE'S GOIN' TO PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR BEIN' A BIGAMY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE OMNIPRESENT OCTAVE

LET'S HAVE  
A WILD  
NIGHT— LET'S  
GO TO THE  
MOVIES.

I FEEL  
RECKLESS TOO.  
I HEAR THERE'S  
A GOOD SHOW  
ON AT THE  
TURQUOISE.



SAY, WE  
CAME HERE TO  
SEE SOMETHING  
EDUCATIONAL  
OR AMUSING!

## REELOGRAMS

MME. OCTAVE, THE  
CELEBRATED SOPRANO,  
ENTERTAINS THE YOUNGSTERS  
AT THE FLORIDA CHILDREN'S  
HOME

HER PRESS  
AGENT GOT ONE  
OVER AT THAT—  
AFTER WE  
TURNED HIS  
SKEEZIX STORY  
DOWN. HE'S  
CLEVER.



BUT DID YOU  
NOTICE THE KIDS?  
SHE ADMITS SHE DOESN'T  
LIKE CHILDREN. AND YOU  
COULD TELL BY THEIR  
EXPRESSIONS THAT THE  
KIDS ALL KNEW IT.

IT MAY NOT  
HAVE BEEN SO  
EDUCATIONAL,  
BUT YOU  
CERTAINLY  
SEEMED TO BE  
AMUSED,  
WALT!



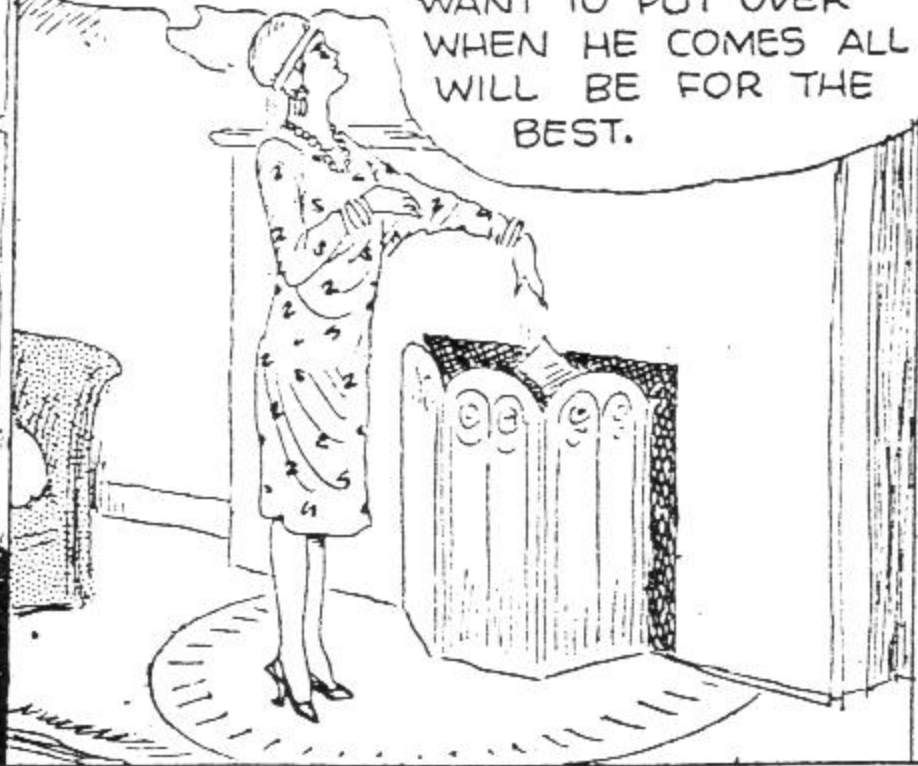
# GASOLINE ALLEY—NEWS FROM ABROAD

A CABLE FROM HENRI! HE IS SAILING FOR NEW YORK THE 15TH, LANDING THERE THE 21ST. HE WILL BE HERE THE 23RD. I WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN POSTPONING IT ANY LONGER.

COL. HENRI CODA SAILING FOR AMERICA! I HAVE SEEN HIM ONLY TWICE SINCE AUGUST 1920. AND I HAVE BEEN DELAYING THIS MEETING FOR MONTHS. BUT THIS TIME HE INSISTS. NEARLY SEVEN YEARS! IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE WE SEPARATED.

HENRI WOULD MAKE AN ADMIRABLE HUSBAND FOR SOMEONE BUT HIS IDEAS OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND MY INDEPENDENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL NATURE COULDN'T BE MADE TO HARMONIZE. WELL, IF I AM SUCCESSFUL IN WHAT I WANT TO PUT OVER WHEN HE COMES ALL WILL BE FOR THE BEST.

I WOULD LIKE TO DELAY HIM ANOTHER MONTH BUT THAT I KNOW IS IMPOSSIBLE THIS TIME. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE. BUT I AM READY. I HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS EVENTUALITY FOR SOME TIME. I AM NOT CAUGHT NAPPING.



King  
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# GASOLINE ALLEY—NOT SO FAST, WALT

PHYLLIS! IT'S COME! - THIS IS THE JOKER THAT COMES OUT OF THAT PACK OF ENTERTAINMENT OCTAVE HANDED US.

A WIRE FROM HER! SHE WANTS US TO LET HER TAKE SKEEZIX WITH HER IN FLORIDA—FOR THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH.

WELL, SHE CAN'T HAVE HIM!

SHE SAYS WE CAN TRUST HER WITH HIM AND THAT SHE WILL SHOW HIM A WONDERFUL TIME. SHE WANTS TO GET HOLD OF HIM AT THAT TIME FOR SOME VERY SPECIAL REASON.

WE WILL LET HER KNOW THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I'LL SEND HER A HOT ANSWER RIGHT OFF THE BAT!

NO, WALT. THERE IS NO USE BEING ROUGH OR RUDE. LET ME WRITE AND EXPLAIN THAT WE CAN'T TAKE SKEEZIX OUT OF SCHOOL.

I DON'T WANT TO GO!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—MME. OCTAVE REMAINS

MME. OCTAVE HAS BEEN HERE FOUR WEEKS AND HASN'T PAID A CENT ON HER BILL. IS SHE PERFECTLY GOOD FOR IT?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE HAS LET IT RUN THAT LONG. PERHAPS I HAD BETTER REMIND HER OF IT.

PARDON ME FOR BRINGING IT TO YOUR ATTENTION, MME. OCTAVE, BUT THERE IS A MATTER OF FOUR WEEKS HOTEL BILL—

THANK YOU MR. SMITH BUT THAT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF IN DUE TIME. I HOPE IT ISN'T YOUR INTENTION TO COLLECT IT NOW?

NO, NO, MME OCTAVE. I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU HAD OVERLOOKED IT WAS ALL

DON'T WORRY. I HAVEN'T. AND THERE ARE OTHER HOTELS ON THE BEACH HERE WHICH WOULD BE GLAD TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY IF I FIND THINGS AT ALL DISAGREEABLE.

I BEG YOUR PARDON BUT YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU HERE INDEFINITELY. PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE.

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY. I SHALL PAY YOU EVERYTHING IN A WEEK OR SO. MEANWHILE PLEASE DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX LEARNS HIS LESSON

YOUR IDEA IS GOOD, SKEEZIX, BUT YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL ENOUGH.

I WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER ONE TOO.

THAT IS THE WHOLE TROUBLE, SKEEZIX— YOU ARE TOO ANXIOUS TO GET THROUGH WITH WHAT YOU ARE DOING. YOU OUGHT TO TAKE MORE PAINS AND TIME.

SKEEZIX, IT TAKES YOU FOREVER TO GET DRESSED! WHY ON EARTH DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE SO MUCH TIME?

MISS BUDD SAID I WANT TO GET THROUGH TOO FAST, SO I'M SLOWER AN' TAKIN' MORE PAINS.

NEXT MORNING

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—KING—

# GASOLINE ALLEY—RIGHT BACK AT HER

I MUST READ HELENE'S LETTER AGAIN. SHE IS STILL INTENT ON SKEEZIX VISITING HER.

DEAR PHYLLIS: IN SPITE OF WALT OPPOSING THE IDEA, I WANT SKEEZIX FOR THE END OF MARCH. I'M SURE, PHYLLIS DEAR, THAT YOU ARE NOT UNFAVORABLE AND I WISH YOU WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE WALT THAT IT WILL NOT DO YOU FOLKS OR SKEEZIX ANY HARM AND IT WILL DO ME A WORLD OF GOOD. WALT IS A DEAR BUT HE'S TERRIBLY STUBBORN ON THAT ONE SUBJECT. LOVE, HELENE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OCTAVE'S LETTER, WALT?

PLENTY. AND I'VE GOT A WIRE ALL COMPOSED TO SEND BACK—WAIT TILL I WRITE IT.

YOU'RE TOO IMPULSIVE, WALT. I THINK YOU COULD WORD IT BETTER.

WELL THAT'S MY WAY OF HANDLING IT.



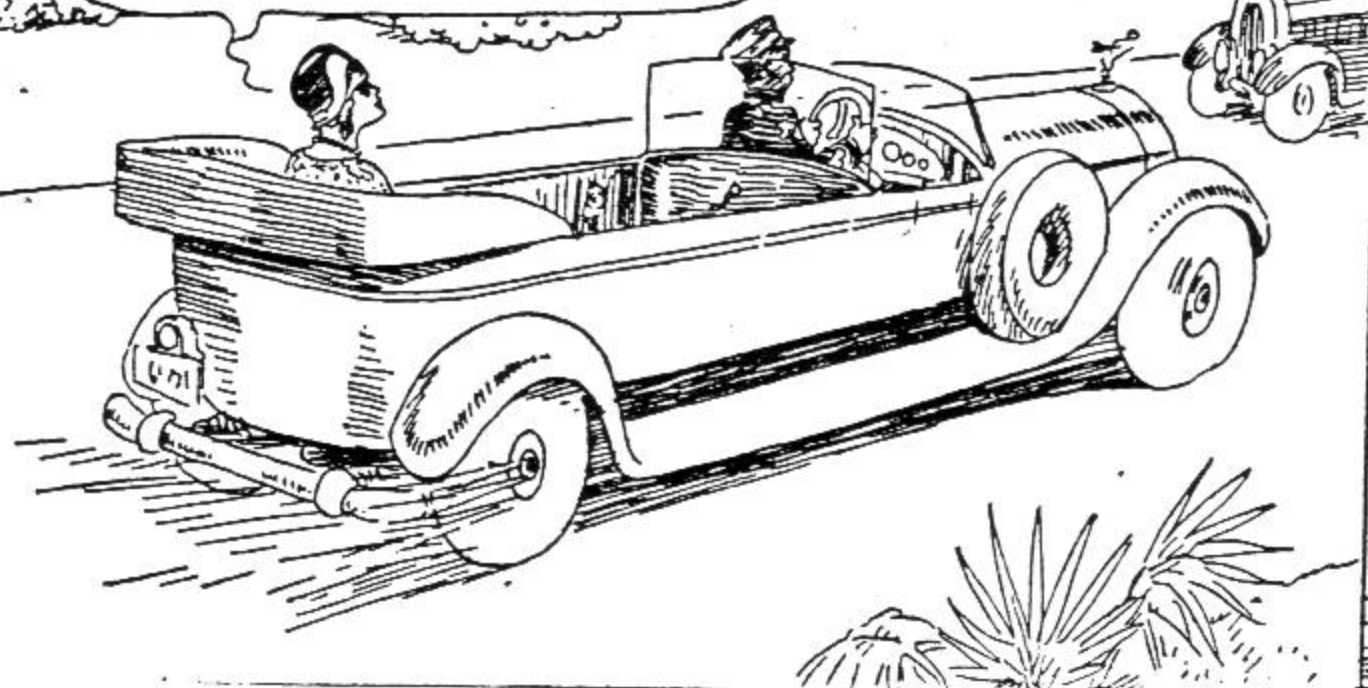
GRAM  
More Octave  
Palm Beach, Flo.  
Try and get him  
Walt Waller

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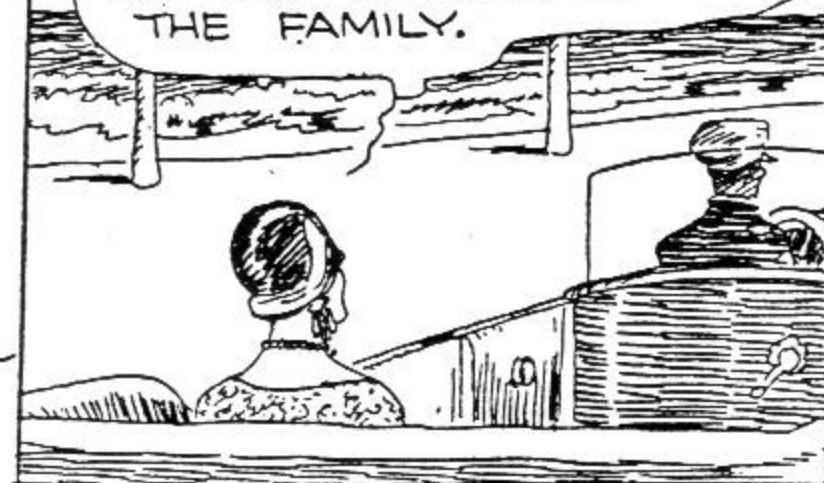


# GASOLINE ALLEY—MME. OCTAVE GOES FOR A DRIVE

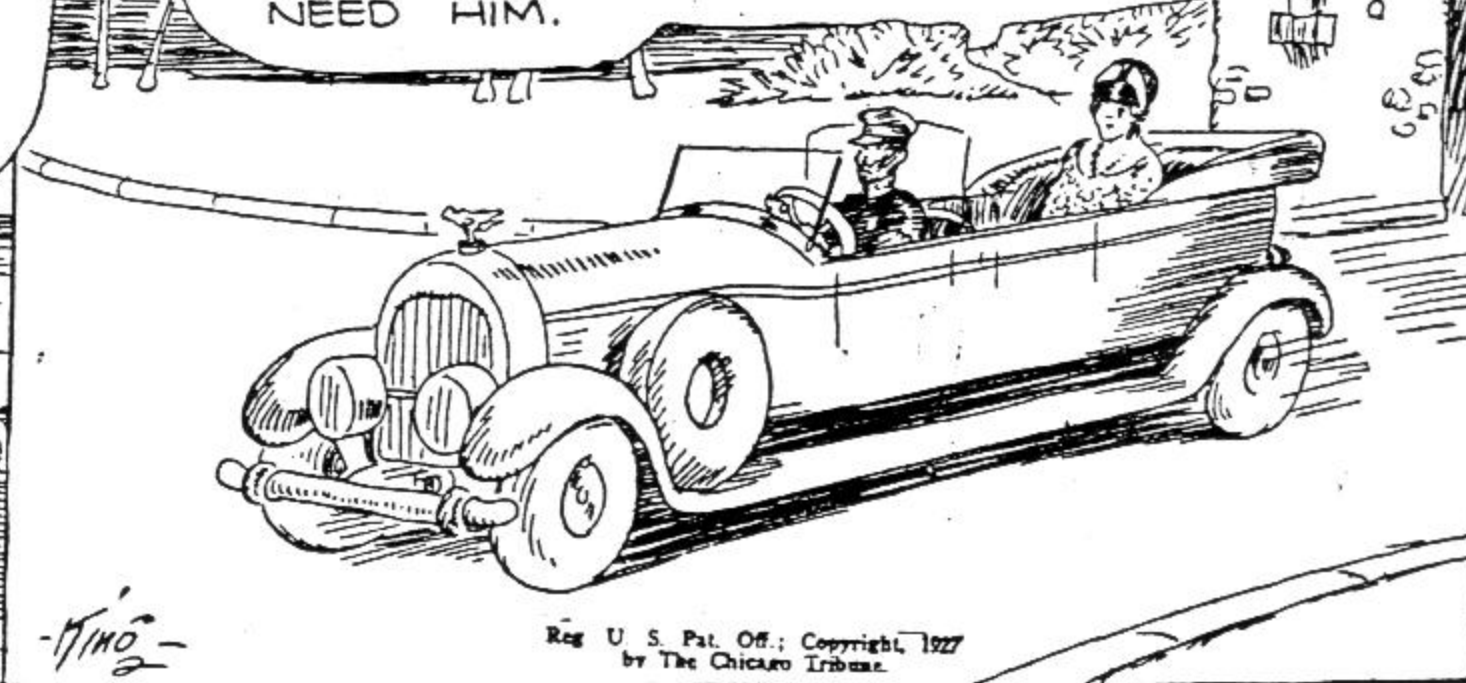
WALT AND PHYLLIS TURN ME DOWN. THEY WON'T LET ME BORROW SKEEZIX FOR THE LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH. I MUST HAVE HIM WITH ME WHEN HENRI IS HERE. HE HAS NEVER SEEN SKEEZIX AND OF COURSE WILL INSIST. THAT IS HIS REAL REASON FOR HIS TRIP FROM PARIS.



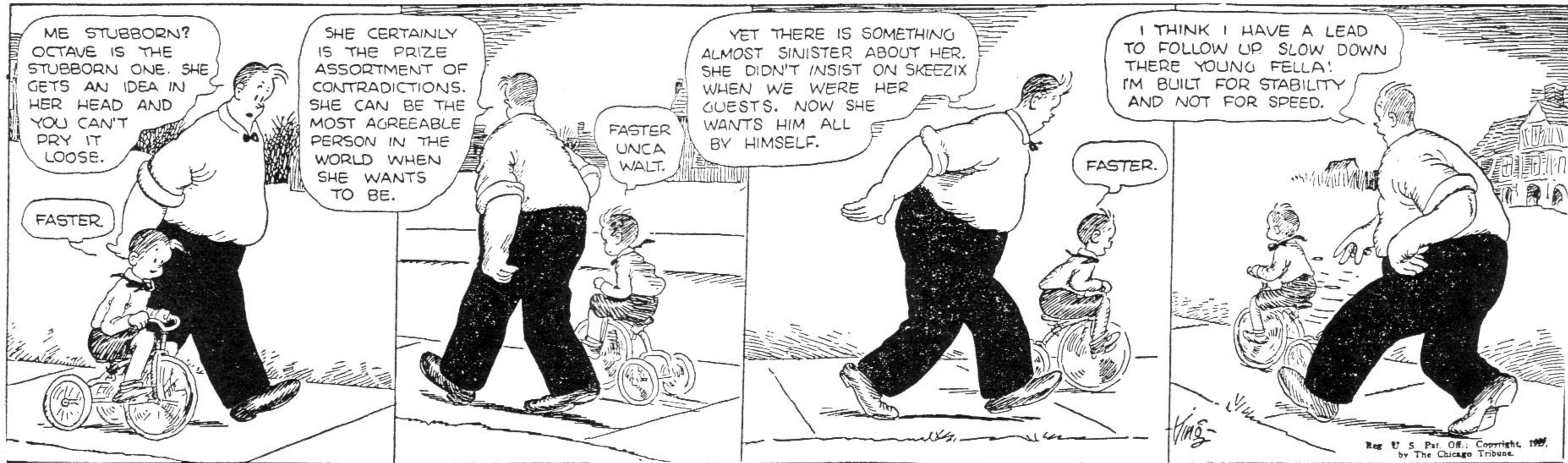
IF ONLY THIS MEETING WITH HENRI COULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED! IF A BABY SHOULD EVER ARRIVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF WALT AND PHYLLIS IT WOULD BE THE MOST WONDERFUL THING IN THE WORLD TO THEM AND MY PROBLEM WOULD BE MUCH EASIER. SKEEZIX WOULD LOSE HIS POSITION AS THE CENTER OF THE FAMILY.



THAT WAS THE HOPE I HAD WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO FAVOR THE MARRIAGE. BUT EVENTS ARE MARCHING FASTER THAN I EXPECTED. WELL, I MUST TRY OTHER EXPEDIENTS, FOR EVERYTHING DEPENDS THIS TIME ON MY HAVING SKEEZIX WHEN I NEED HIM.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX—WALT TAKES THE AIR



ME STUBBORN?  
OCTAVE IS THE  
STUBBORN ONE. SHE  
GETS AN IDEA IN  
HER HEAD AND  
YOU CAN'T  
PRY IT  
LOOSE.

FASTER.

SHE CERTAINLY  
IS THE PRIZE  
ASSORTMENT OF  
CONTRADICTIONS.  
SHE CAN BE THE  
MOST AGREEABLE  
PERSON IN THE  
WORLD WHEN  
SHE WANTS  
TO BE.

FASTER  
UNCA  
WALT.

YET THERE IS SOMETHING  
ALMOST SINISTER ABOUT HER.  
SHE DIDN'T INSIST ON SKEEZIX  
WHEN WE WERE HER  
GUESTS. NOW SHE  
WANTS HIM ALL  
BY HIMSELF.

FASTER.

I THINK I HAVE A LEAD  
TO FOLLOW UP. SLOW DOWN  
THERE YOUNG FELLA!  
I'M BUILT FOR STABILITY  
AND NOT FOR SPEED.

King

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GASOLINE ALLEY TIME FOR WALT TO

# GASOLINE ALLEY—TIME FOR WALT TO DO SOME SLEUTHING



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—MR. WICKER TAKES THEM IN ROTATION

NOW LET'S SEE HOW MUCH OF THIS CAT'S CRADLE THING I REMEMBER.

I KNOW HOW.

OH, MR. WICKER! YOU KNOW DURING SKEEZIX'S ADOPTION HEARING A WOMAN CLAIMED TO HAVE LEFT HIM ON MY DOORSTEP. IF SHE WAS RIGHT SHE KNEW A LOT ABOUT HIM I DON'T KNOW.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU TAKE THE UPPER AND LOWER ONES.

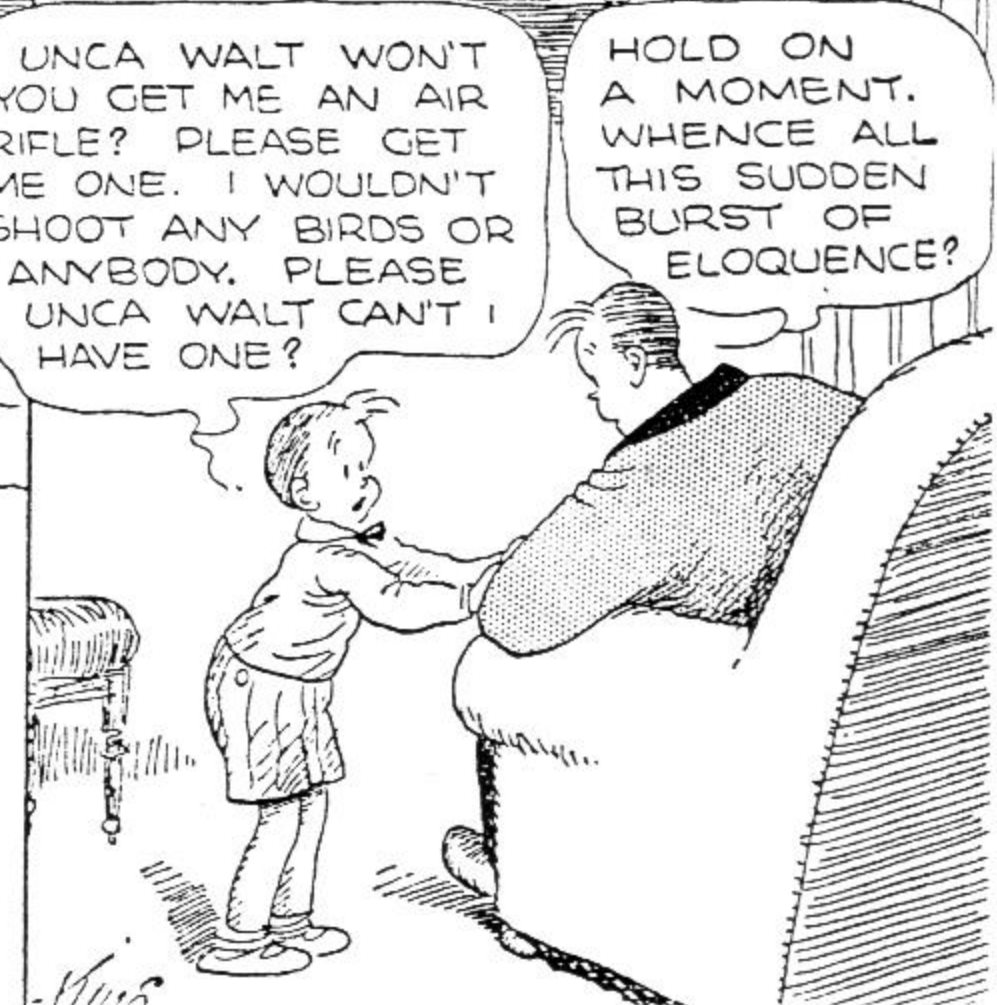
NOW I'D LIKE TO FIND HER. YOU ARE THE HEAD OF A DETECTIVE SERVICE AND OUGHT TO KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO TO FIND HER, THOUGH I HAVEN'T MUCH INFORMATION.

NOW YOU'VE GOT THE IDEA.

I WISH YOU'D THINK IT OVER AND IF YOU CAN SEE ANY WAY —

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING WALT? I WAS BUSY RIGHT THEN.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — ANOTHER DRIVE STARTED



# GASOLINE ALLEY—BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

UNCA WALT,  
CAN YOU  
FIX MY  
AEROPLANE?

ASK AUNTIE  
BLOSSOM. I'M  
BUSY NOW.  
NORMAL TAX  
3% OF ITEM  
40 LESS CREDIT  
OF 25%  
ITEM 30.

THE LARGEST AMOUNT  
WHICH IS LESS THAN THE  
INCOME — THE SURTAX UPON  
THE EXCESS OVER THAT  
AMOUNT—

SCUSE ME, WALT.  
I'LL COME IN  
WEDNESDAY.

ANYWAY I GET ONE  
LAUGH OUT OF IT! I WAS  
A BACHELOR LAST YEAR  
AND MY EXEMPTION WAS  
\$1500. I'M MARRIED NOW  
AND IT HOPS TO \$3500.

AREN'T YOU  
COMING TO  
BED, WALT?  
WHAT ON  
EARTH ARE  
YOU DOING  
SO LATE?

I'M PLAYING A  
LITTLE GAME WITH  
UNCLE SAM. I KNOW  
HE'S GOING TO WIN  
BUT I'M TRYING TO  
KEEP HIM DOWN TO  
A REASONABLE  
SCORE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—COMPANY EXPECTED

HENRI SAILS TODAY! HE WILL BE HERE THE 23D. AS MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO AVOID THE MEETING JUST NOW IT WILL HAVE ITS ADVANTAGES. IN A WAY HIS WELCOME WILL BE GENUINE.



I OWE MANY BILLS AND HIS COMING WILL SIMPLIFY A LOT OF THINGS. HENRI WAS NEVER BACKWARD ABOUT SETTLING THINGS UP FOR ME IF I PUT THEM TO HIM PROPERLY.



HE MAKES A LOT OF FUSS BUT HE ENDS BY PAYING UP. HE THINKS IT WELL WORTH THE PRICE TO BE RELIEVED OF ME PERSONALLY. PROBABLY IT IS. ANYWAY HE MUST NOT FIND OUT THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS.



HE MUST SEE SKEEZIX AND ME HAPPILY TOGETHER. I SUPPOSE IT WILL TAKE ALL MY INGENUITY TO EXPLAIN WHO "UNCLE WALT" AND "AUNTIE BOSSOM" ARE.



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# GASOLINE ALLEY — THE HELP REMAINS

**HENRI CODA**  
MME. OCTAVE'S HUSBAND, FROM WHOM SHE HAS BEEN SEPARATED FOR YEARS, IS EXPECTED SOON FROM ABROAD. HIS COMING IS A PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT BUT SHE HOPES IT TO BE A FINANCIAL LIFE SAVER.

I'M THROUGH, MME. OCTAVE. OUT OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED YOU PROMISED ME I'VE HAD THREE FIFTY. I PLAYED MILKMAN AND ELECTRICIAN SIX WEEKS FOR YOU AROUND WALT'S HOUSE. YOU'D BETTER COME ACROSS WITH WHAT'S DUE ME OR I'LL SPILL THE WHOLE STORY.

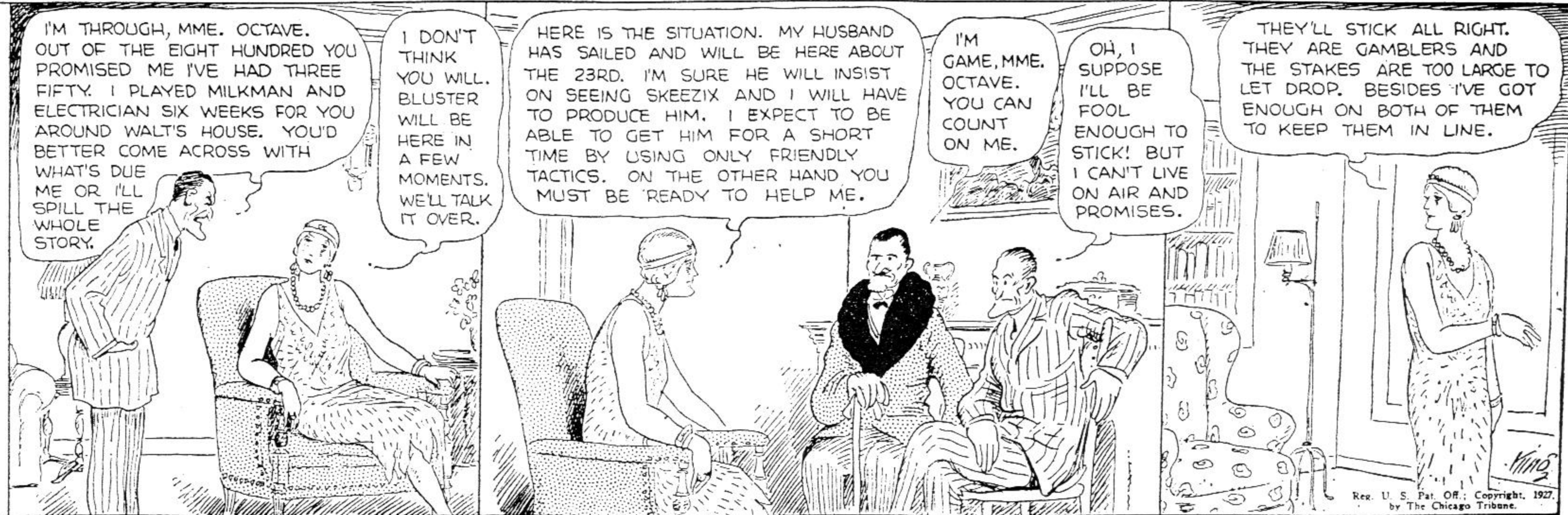
I DON'T THINK YOU WILL. BLUSTER WILL BE HERE IN A FEW MOMENTS. WE'LL TALK IT OVER.

HERE IS THE SITUATION. MY HUSBAND HAS SAILED AND WILL BE HERE ABOUT THE 23RD. I'M SURE HE WILL INSIST ON SEEING SKEEZIX AND I WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE HIM. I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO GET HIM FOR A SHORT TIME BY USING ONLY FRIENDLY TACTICS. ON THE OTHER HAND YOU MUST BE READY TO HELP ME.

I'M GAME, MME. OCTAVE. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

OH, I SUPPOSE I'LL BE FOOL ENOUGH TO STICK! BUT I CAN'T LIVE ON AIR AND PROMISES.

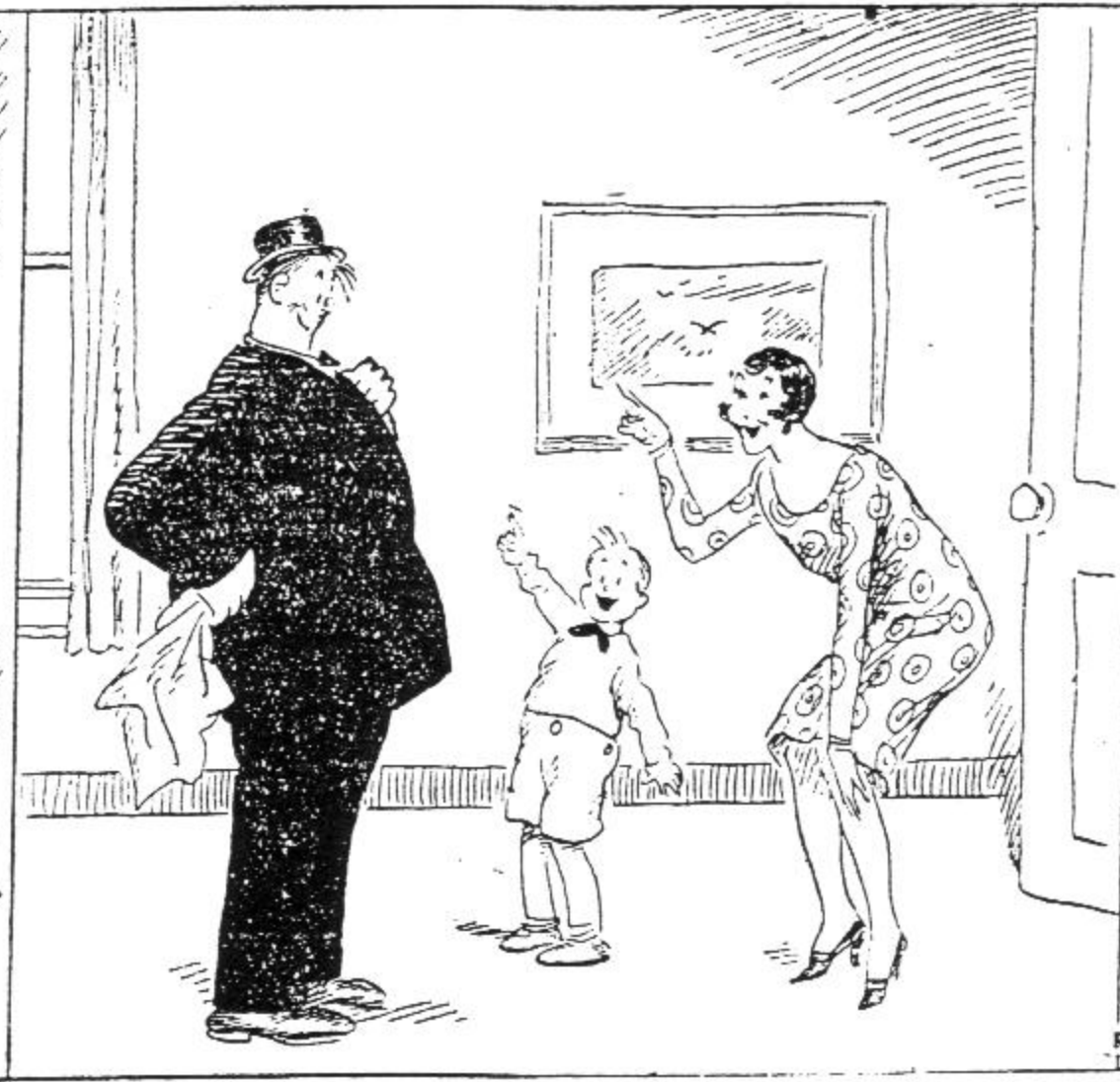
THEY'LL STICK ALL RIGHT. THEY ARE GAMBLERS AND THE STAKES ARE TOO LARGE TO LET DROP. BESIDES I'VE GOT ENOUGH ON BOTH OF THEM TO KEEP THEM IN LINE.





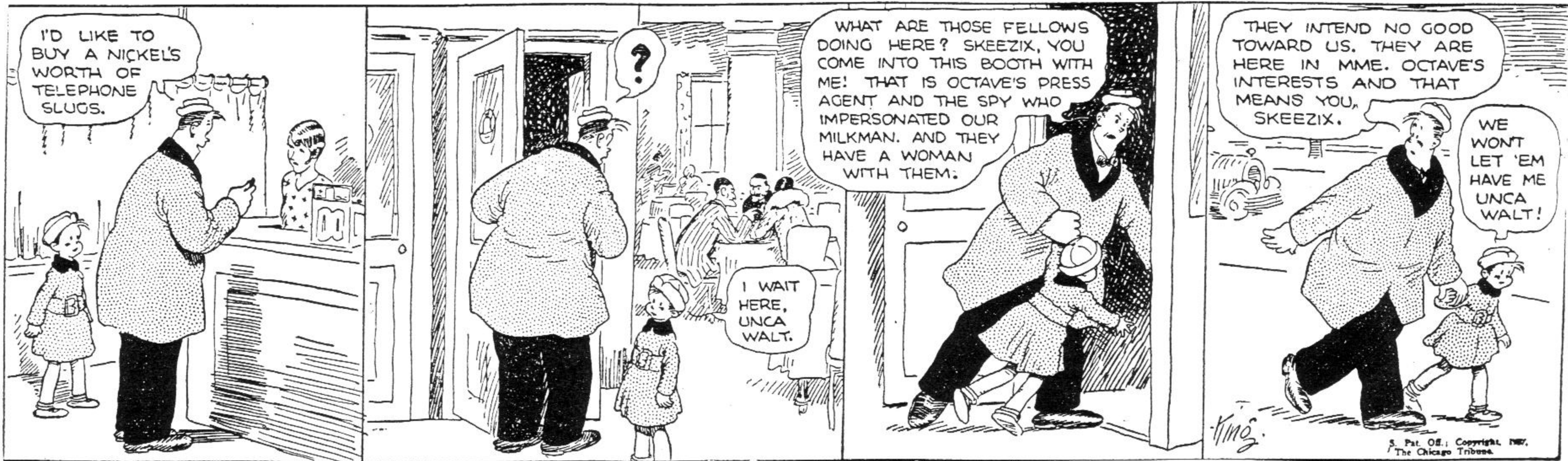
# GASOLINE ALLEY — DON'T LET THEM JOLLY YOU — YOU'RE RIGHT

WALT IS UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT MME. OCTAVE IS GETTING CLOSER TO THE CARRYING OUT OF A PLAN WHICH SHE HAS HAD IN THE BACK OF HER HEAD FOR A LONG TIME. WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS THERE IS OFTEN A RUDE AWAKENING.

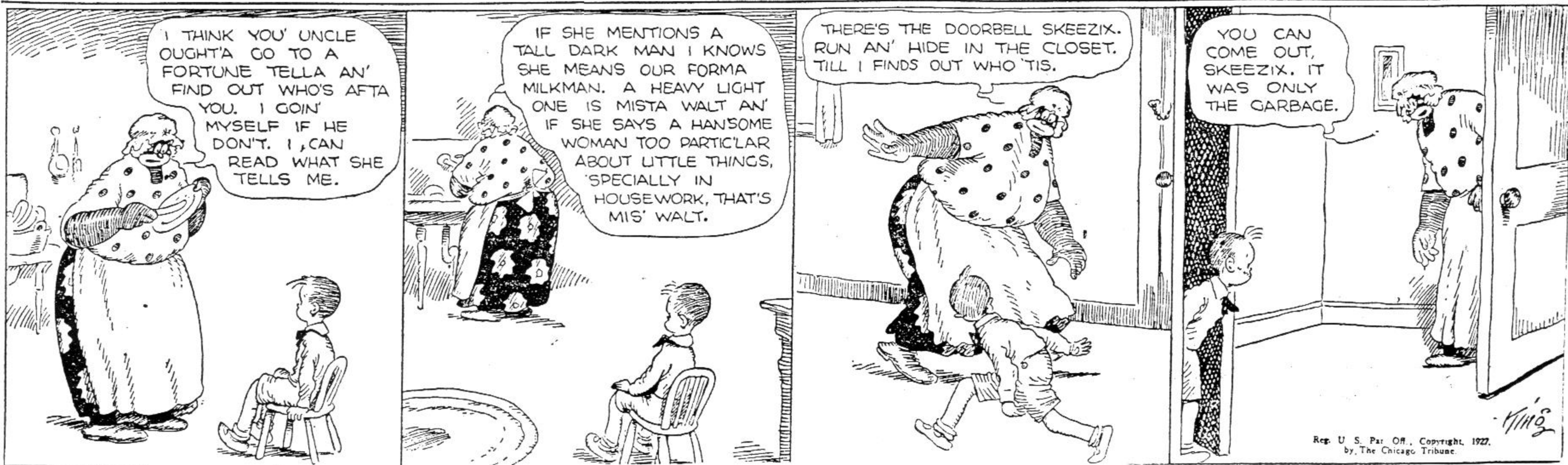


I DON'T SEE THAT IT LOOKS ANY FUNNIER ON ME THAN THEY DO ON ANYBODY ELSE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—LOOKS LIKE A CONSPIRACY



# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT'S A TENSE LIFE



I THINK YOU' UNCLE OUGHT'A GO TO A FORTUNE TELLA AN' FIND OUT WHO'S AFTA YOU. I GOIN' MYSELF IF HE DON'T. I CAN READ WHAT SHE TELLS ME.

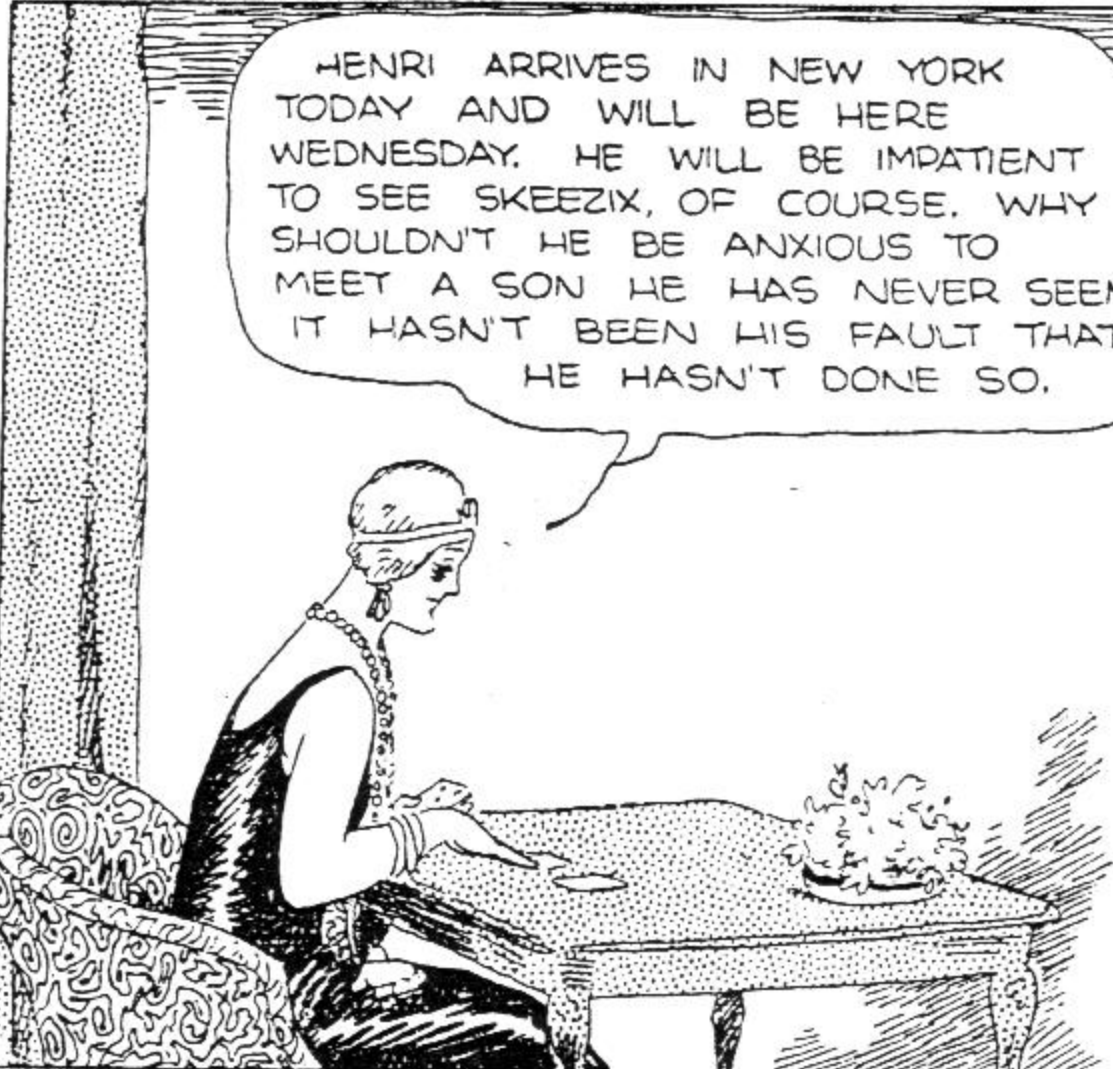
IF SHE MENTIONS A TALL DARK MAN I KNOWS SHE MEANS OUR FORMA MILKMAN. A HEAVY LIGHT ONE IS MISTA WALT AN' IF SHE SAYS A HANSOME WOMAN TOO PARTIC'LAR ABOUT LITTLE THINGS, 'SPECIALLY IN HOUSEWORK, THAT'S MIS' WALT.

THERE'S THE DOORBELL SKEEZIX. RUN AN' HIDE IN THE CLOSET. TILL I FINDS OUT WHO 'TIS.

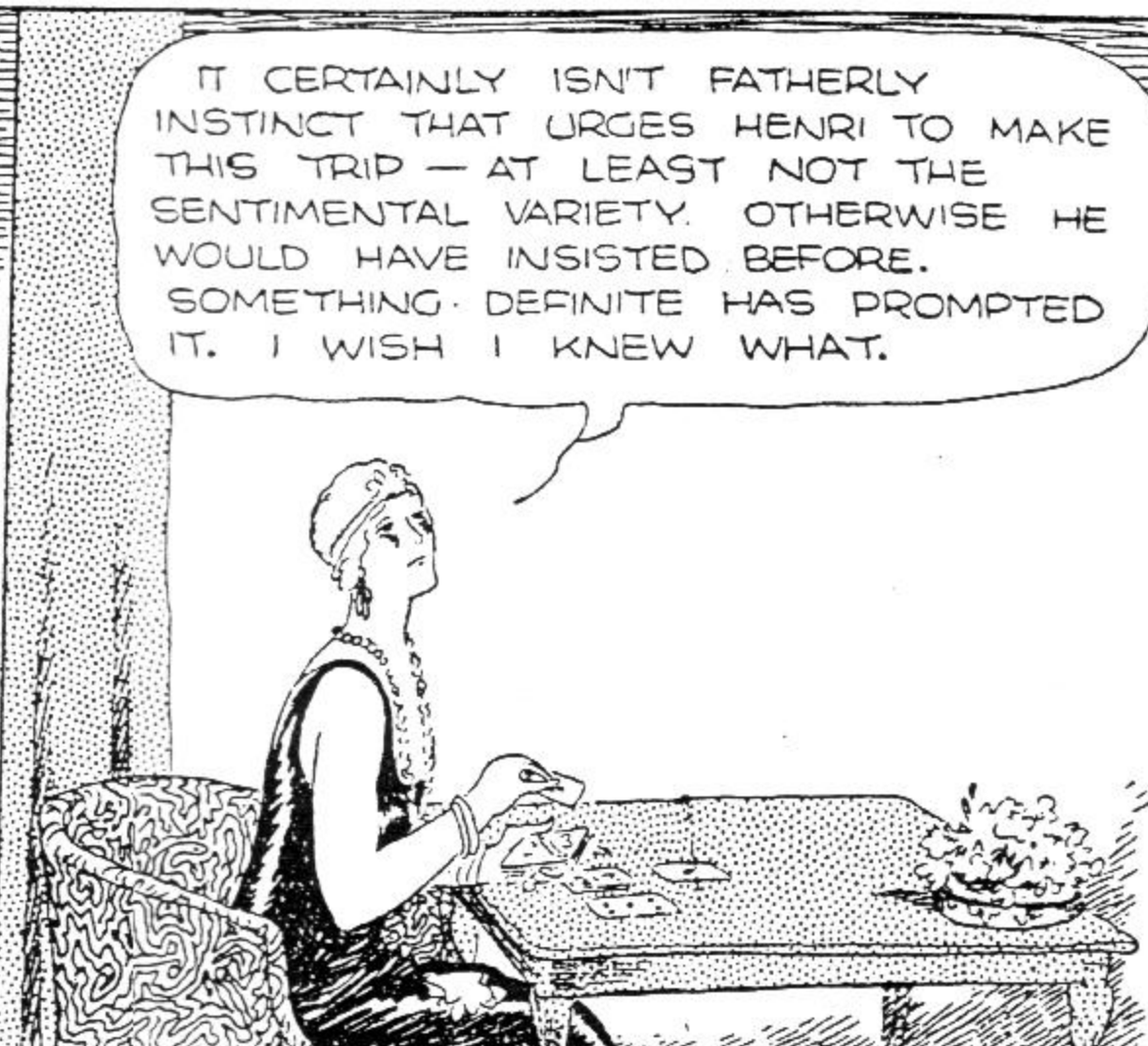
YOU CAN COME OUT, SKEEZIX. IT WAS ONLY THE GARBAGE.

King

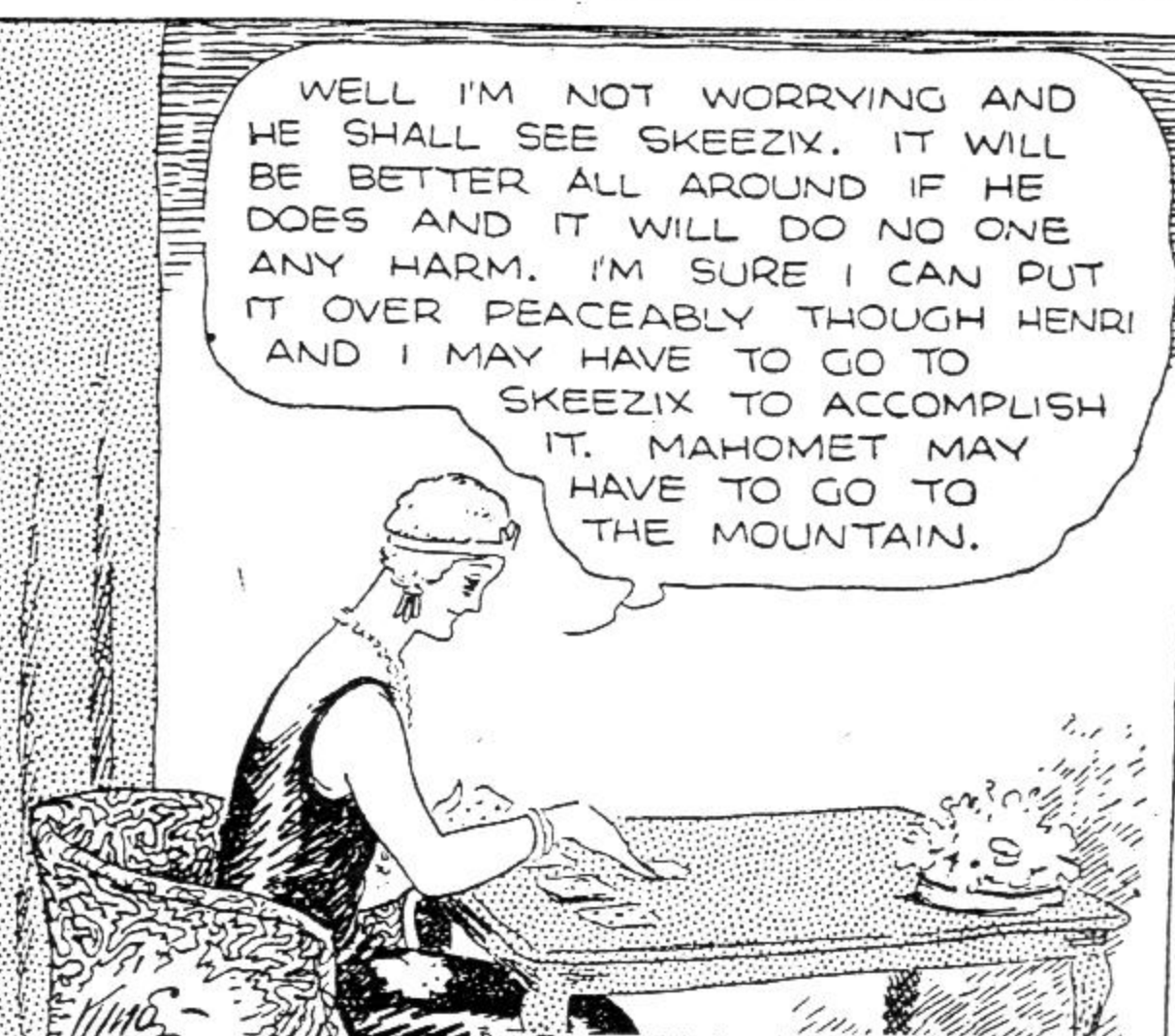
# GASOLINE ALLEY—CONCERNING HENRI



HENRI ARRIVES IN NEW YORK TODAY AND WILL BE HERE WEDNESDAY. HE WILL BE IMPATIENT TO SEE SKEEZIX, OF COURSE. WHY SHOULDN'T HE BE ANXIOUS TO MEET A SON HE HAS NEVER SEEN? IT HASN'T BEEN HIS FAULT THAT HE HASN'T DONE SO.



IT CERTAINLY ISN'T FATHERLY INSTINCT THAT URGES HENRI TO MAKE THIS TRIP — AT LEAST NOT THE SENTIMENTAL VARIETY. OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE INSISTED BEFORE. SOMETHING DEFINITE HAS PROMPTED IT. I WISH I KNEW WHAT.



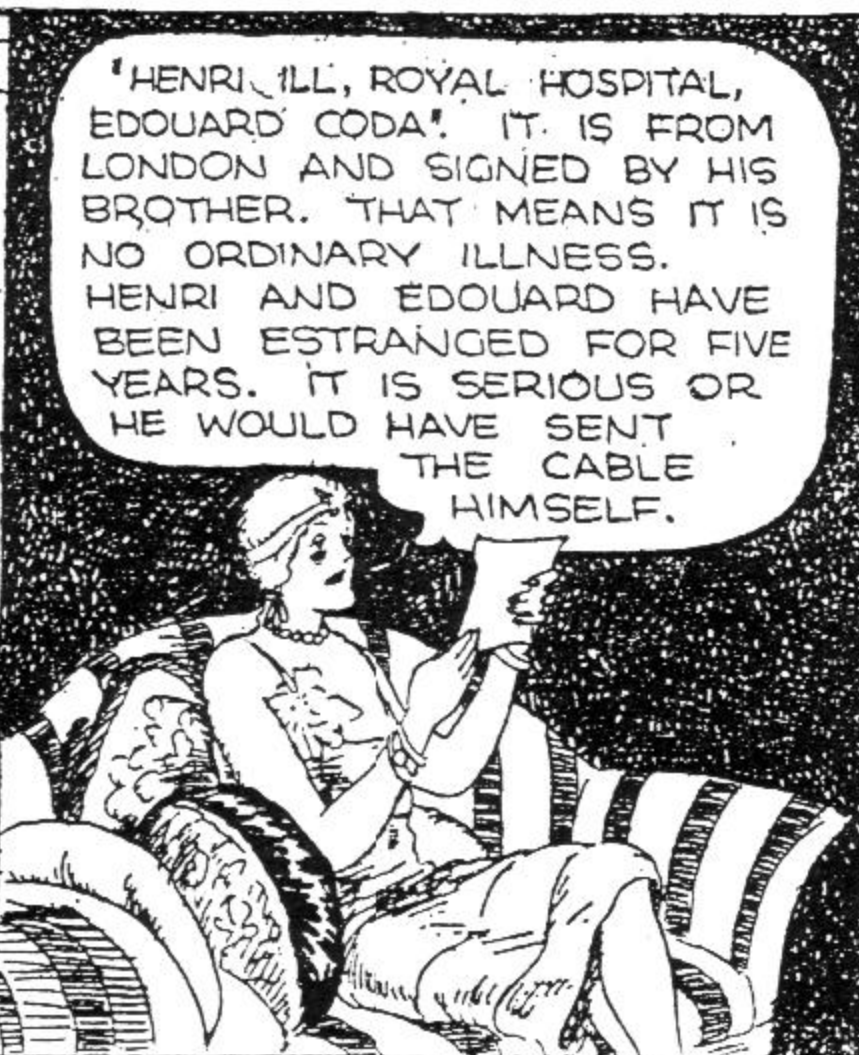
WELL I'M NOT WORRYING AND HE SHALL SEE SKEEZIX. IT WILL BE BETTER ALL AROUND IF HE DOES AND IT WILL DO NO ONE ANY HARM. I'M SURE I CAN PUT IT OVER PEACEABLY THOUGH HENRI AND I MAY HAVE TO GO TO SKEEZIX TO ACCOMPLISH IT. MAHOMET MAY HAVE TO GO TO THE MOUNTAIN.

GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI DISAPPOINTS OCTAVE.

(Copyright, 1927.)



A CABLEGRAM. IT CAN'T BE FROM HENRI. HE IS DUE HERE TOMORROW.



'HENRI ILL, ROYAL HOSPITAL, EDOUARD CODA'. IT IS FROM LONDON AND SIGNED BY HIS BROTHER. THAT MEANS IT IS NO ORDINARY ILLNESS. HENRI AND EDOUARD HAVE BEEN ESTRANGED FOR FIVE YEARS. IT IS SERIOUS OR HE WOULD HAVE SENT THE CABLE HIMSELF.



WELL, THAT NECESSITATES AN ENTIRE CHANGE OF PLAN. IF HENRI IS LIABLE TO MAKE A WILL WHICH MAY BECOME OPERATIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE I WANT TO BE ON HAND WHEN HE DOES IT. IT MAY BE WISE FOR ME TO GO TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY.



LONG DISTANCE, PLEASE. I MUST CALL BLUSTER AND POSTPONE ALL ACTIVITY BY HIM UP WHERE WALT AND SKEEZIX ARE. I HOPE HE HASN'T STARTED ANYTHING—YET.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE CALL BOY BREEZES IN

OCTAVE HAS CALLED US OFF BY LONG DISTANCE. "LEAVE SKEEZIX BE" OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT.

SHUCKS. I HAD A CUTE LITTLE PLAN ALL WORKED OUT.

THAT OLD GAL CHANGES HER MIND LIKE A TRAFFIC SIGNAL. SHE SURE RUNS ON AN ALTERNATING CURRENT.

AND ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY WALT, SKEEZIX AND PHYLLIS GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY TASKS LITTLE REALIZING WHAT THEY HAVE JUST ESCAPED.

OO  
OO

WHAT YA DOIN' UNCA WALT? BLOWIN' UP A TIRE?

WHEN YA GET EMPTY COME IN THE HOUSE. AUNTIE BOSSOM WANTS YA.

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THEY SHOULD BE MORE CONSIDERATE

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI SHOULD BE MORE CONSIDERATE

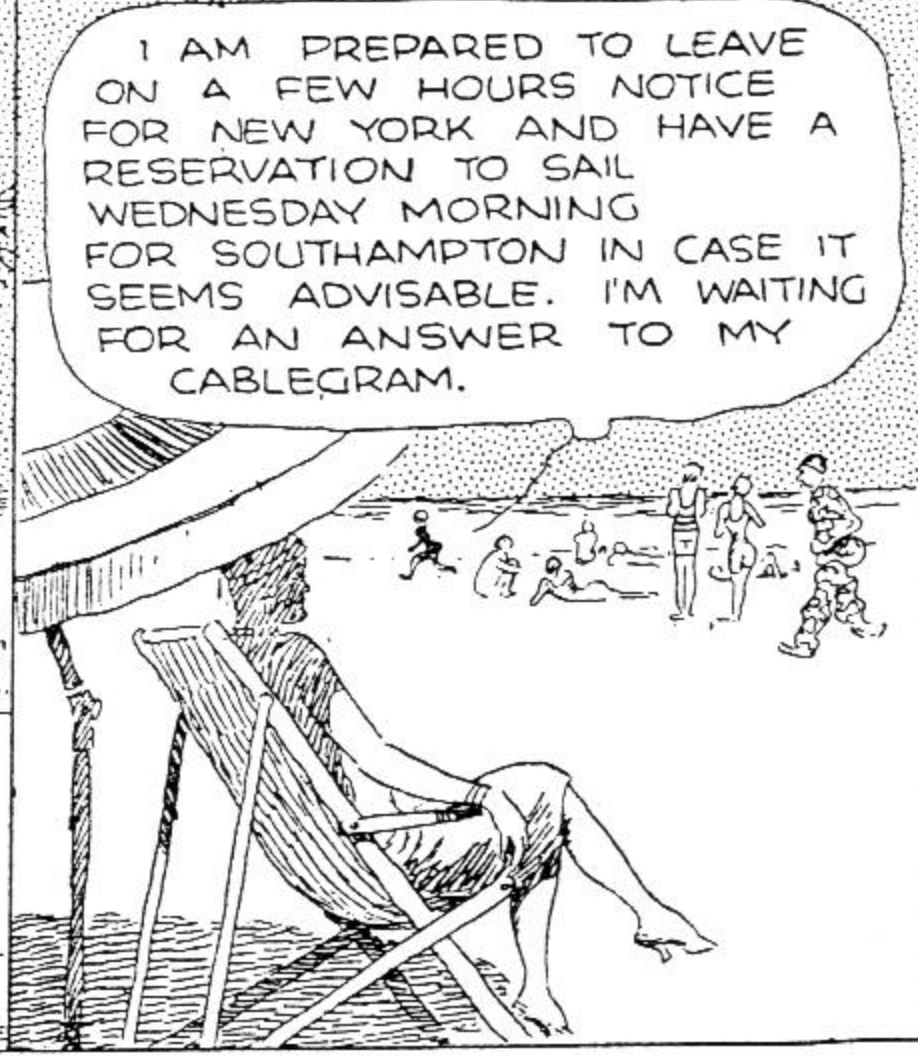


I AM GIVING YOU A CHECK FOR EVERYTHING I OWE THE HOTEL TO DATE.

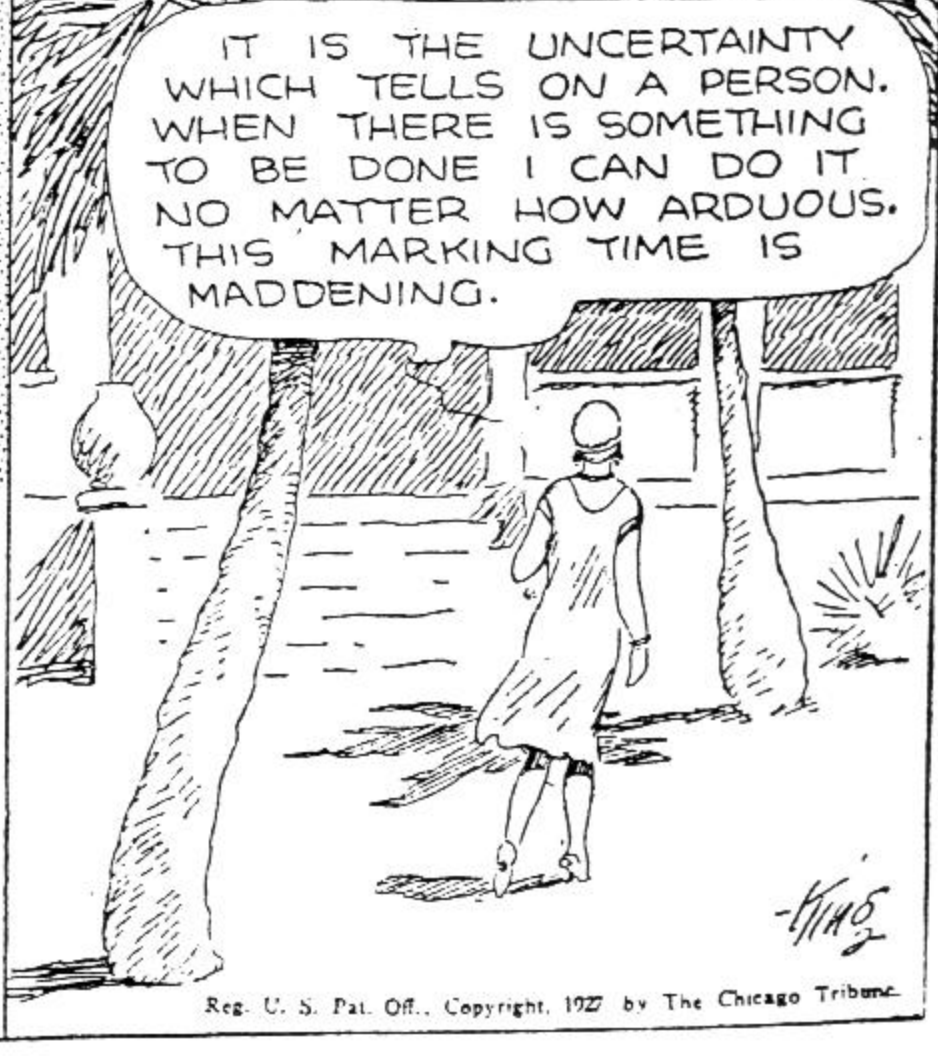
I ASSURE YOU, MME. OCTAVE, WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO EXTEND YOU ALL THE CREDIT YOU WISH.



AT LEAST HENRI SENT ME A SUBSTANTIAL CHECK BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN SICK. A LONDON HOSPITAL IS THE LAST PLACE HE WOULD CONSENT TO BE TAKEN TO, SO HE IS SERIOUSLY ILL.



I AM PREPARED TO LEAVE ON A FEW HOURS NOTICE FOR NEW YORK AND HAVE A RESERVATION TO SAIL WEDNESDAY MORNING FOR SOUTHAMPTON IN CASE IT SEEMS ADVISABLE. I'M WAITING FOR AN ANSWER TO MY CABLEGRAM.



IT IS THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH TELLS ON A PERSON. WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE DONE I CAN DO IT NO MATTER HOW ARDUOUS. THIS MARKING TIME IS MADDENING.

-KHO-

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WICKER IS ON THE JOB

MR. WICKER, HAVE YOU MADE ANY HEADWAY WITH LOCATING THE WOMAN WHO LEFT SKEEZIX ON MY DOORSTEP WHEN HE WAS FIVE DAYS OLD? I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE KNOWS ABOUT ALL THIS.

WE ARE WORKING ON IT WALT AND WE HAVE DISCOVERED OTHER THINGS QUITE AS INTERESTING.

WHAT ARE THEY MR. WICKER? ABOUT THIS PRESS AGENT OF HERS AND THE GUM SHOE MILKMAN?

YES. THEY WERE HERE UNDER OCTAVE'S ORDERS AND THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECT WAS TO GAIN CONTROL OF SKEEZIX, BUT FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY, AND THEY HAD AN ELABORATE SCHEME WORKED OUT TO GAIN YOUR PERMISSION WITHOUT YOUR KNOWING THEY WERE BACK OF IT.

GOLLY, MR. WICKER, I SUSPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN I SAW THEM! WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO TRY IT?

THEY HAVE SUDDENLY BEEN CALLED OFF, WHY I DON'T AS YET KNOW. BUT THEY HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR PLANS AND HAVE GONE. UNTIL I WARN YOU, THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. JUST DON'T BE CARELESS, THAT'S ALL.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOMETHING WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN



# GASOLINE ALLEY—AN UNEXPECTED CALLER

YES IT IS A BIT OF A SURPRISE, PHYLLIS, BUT I AM ON MY WAY TO LONDON. I SAIL DAY AFTER TOMORROW AND I JUST DROPPED IN ON YOU IN PASSING.

HELENE! IT IS A SURPRISE! AND IT IS A SUDDEN DECISION ON YOUR PART ISN'T IT?

I SAW YOU COMING UP THE WALK AND COULD HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES, MME, OCTAVE.

YOU KNOW HENRI IS ILL IN A LONDON HOSPITAL AND EVEN IF HE AND I HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS I FEEL IT MY DUTY TO BE AT HIS BEDSIDE.

YOU MUST FEEL THAT IT IS SERIOUS TO MAKE A TRIP LIKE THAT.

YES IT MEANS A VERY SERIOUS ILLNESS WHEN HIS BROTHER VISITS HIM. THEY HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER IN AGES HE IS THERE NOW AND IS THE ONE WHO CABLED ME. I WILL BE THERE IN A LITTLE OVER A WEEK.

I HOPE YOU WILL FIND EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, HELENE.

YES A WEEK IS A LONG TIME WHEN YOU'RE SICK. HE MAY BE WELL BY THEN.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—BUT SHE'LL BE BACK

YOU SAY OCTAVE'S HUSBAND IS WEALTHY, PHYLLIS?

YES. HE MADE OODLES OF MONEY IN THE MAHOGANY TRADE AND HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN RUBBER IN THE CONGO FOR YEARS. HE IS VERY RICH.

WELL FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DOUBT HER TENDER SENTIMENTS BUT MY HUNCH IS THAT SHE WANTS TO BE ON THE JOB IF HE IS DANGEROUSLY ILL AND LIABLE TO MAKE A NEW WILL.

YOU ARE NOT VERY GENEROUS, WALT, BUT I HAVE AN IDEA YOU ARE RIGHT.

EITHER SHE IS TAKEN CARE OF IN A WILL HE HAS MADE AND SHE DOESN'T WANT THAT BROTHER OF HIS MIXING IN, OR SHE EXPECTS HIM TO MAKE ONE AND WANTS TO SEE THAT IT SUITS HER.

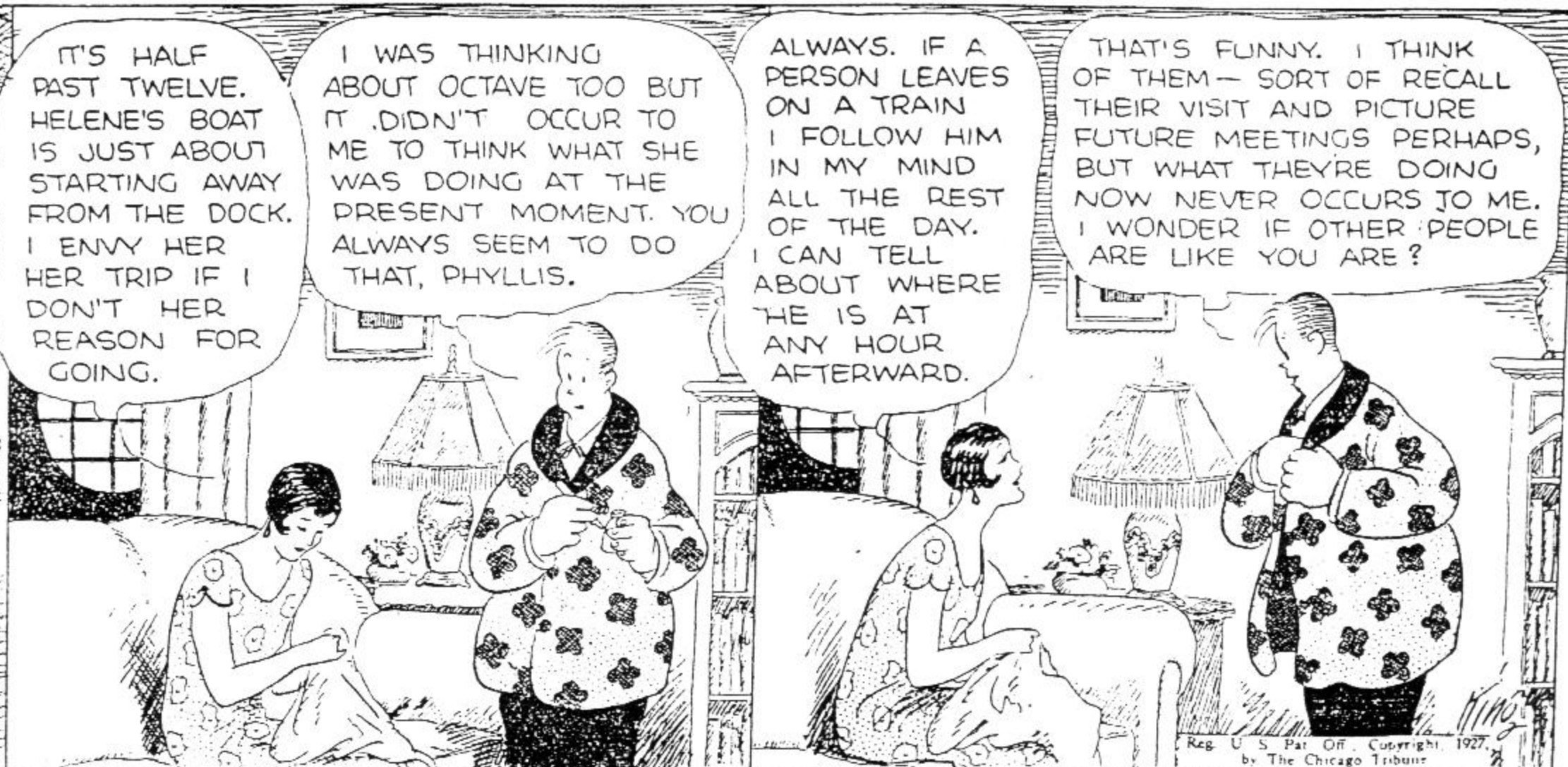
WALT I THINK YOU HAVE HER NUMBER.

WELL ANYWAY SHE'LL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A WHILE AND WE WON'T HAVE ANY OF HER SLEIGHT OF HAND STUFF TO WORRY ABOUT.

NO, SHE WON'T BE THINKING ABOUT SKEEZIX FOR A TIME.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—OFF FOR THE OTHER SIDE

**M**ME. OCTAVE'S STEAMER WARPS AWAY FROM THE DOCK AND PLOWS ITS STATELY WAY OUT INTO THE TRAFFIC OF NEW YORK HARBOR, AN OCEAN VOYAGE, SOUTHAMPTON, A TRAIN TO LONDON. MME. OCTAVE WILL BE AT HENRI'S BEDSIDE IN A WEEK. SHE IS HOPING AND PRAYING THAT SHE WILL NOT BE TOO LATE.



IT'S HALF PAST TWELVE. HELENE'S BOAT IS JUST ABOUT STARTING AWAY FROM THE DOCK. I ENVY HER HER TRIP IF I DON'T HER REASON FOR GOING.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT OCTAVE TOO BUT IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME TO THINK WHAT SHE WAS DOING AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO DO THAT, PHYLLIS.

ALWAYS. IF A PERSON LEAVES ON A TRAIN I FOLLOW HIM IN MY MIND ALL THE REST OF THE DAY. I CAN TELL ABOUT WHERE HE IS AT ANY HOUR AFTERWARD.

THAT'S FUNNY. I THINK OF THEM— SORT OF RECALL THEIR VISIT AND PICTURE FUTURE MEETINGS PERHAPS, BUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW NEVER OCCURS TO ME. I WONDER IF OTHER PEOPLE ARE LIKE YOU ARE?

# GASOLINE ALLEY—LET'S DO IT AGAIN



GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT'S LAUGH ISN'T THE LAST ONE

NO I WAS MISTAKEN. SOME LITTLE FELLOW HAS PUT A HAT HERE TO BE KICKED AND I THOUGHT HE HAD LEFT A BRICK UNDER IT.



WELL I'LL NOT DISAPPOINT HIM.



WHERE'S THE HAT, UNCA WALT? I GOT A BRICK.



HA HA, I APRIL FOOLED YOU! I'VE KICKED IT ALREADY. YOU'D BETTER FIND ANOTHER HAT.



I CAN'T. IT'S YOUR GOOD HAT AND THERE ISN'T ANY MORE.



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-Kimo-

# GASOLINE ALLEY—CINDER HAS COMPETITION

H'LO MANDY.  
COME RIGHT UP.  
IS YOU STILL  
'ENGAGED?

I IS, RACHEL  
ONLY I'GOT  
ANOHA  
GENT'MAN  
PROSPECTIN'  
AROUND. HE  
WANTS ME TO  
GIVE CINDA  
THE GO-BY.

YOU  
IS A  
REGULA  
DON  
JUAN  
ISN'T  
YOU!

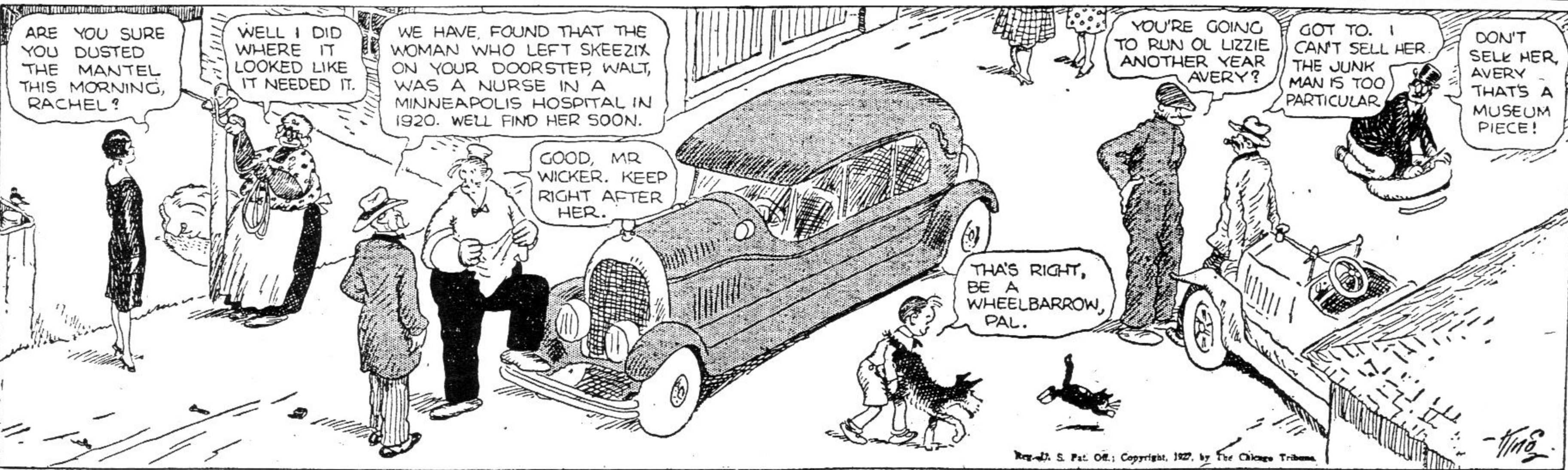
NO BUT THIS OTHA  
FELLA IS A  
CHIROPRAXIONA AN HE  
WEARS A BIG DIAMOND. HE  
PROMISES ME A ORIENTAL  
RUG AN A CAR IF I BE  
HIS BRIDE.

HERE COME MIS'  
WALT. YOU SET  
STILL AN' GO RIGHT  
ON TALKIN' JES'  
THE SAME.

I HEARD TOO MANY  
PROMISES IN MY  
TIME AN' I AIN'T  
GOIN' LET CINDA  
SLIP BEFORE I GETS THE  
DOCTA DEMONSTRATED.

THIS NEW FELLA COMIN'  
TONIGHT AN' I GOIN' INFER JES'  
CASUAL I NEEDS A  
NEW SPRING COAT IF HE DON'T  
REGISTA GENEROSITY RIGHT  
QUICK I CAN'T USE HIM.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—CAME SPRING



ARE YOU SURE YOU DUSTED THE MANTEL THIS MORNING, RACHEL?

WELL I DID WHERE IT LOOKED LIKE IT NEEDED IT.

WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE WOMAN WHO LEFT SKEEZIX ON YOUR DOORSTEP, WALT, WAS A NURSE IN A MINNEAPOLIS HOSPITAL IN 1920. WE'LL FIND HER SOON.

GOOD, MR WICKER. KEEP RIGHT AFTER HER.

YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OL LIZZIE ANOTHER YEAR AVERY?

GOT TO. I CAN'T SELL HER. THE JUNK MAN IS TOO PARTICULAR.

DON'T SELK HER, AVERY THAT'S A MUSEUM PIECE!

THA'S RIGHT, BE A WHEELBARROW, PAL.

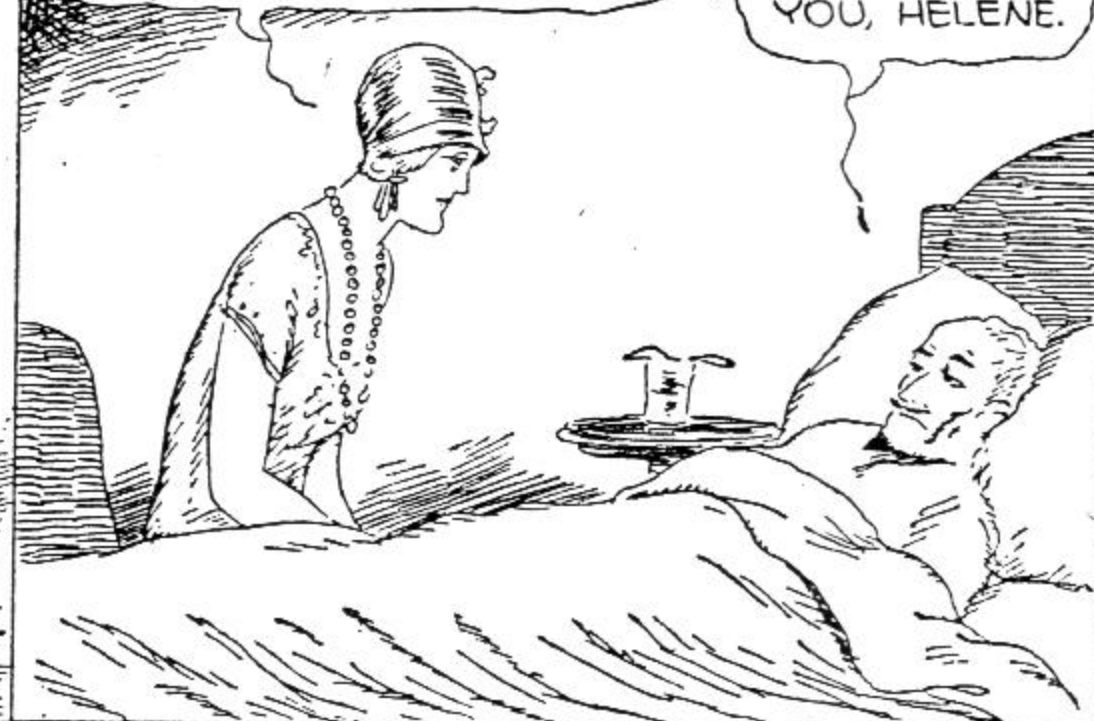
*King*



# GASOLINE ALLEY—JOURNEY'S END

ME. OCTAVE, AFTER AN ANXIOUS OCEAN TRIP, ARRIVED AT SOUTHAMPTON AND HURRIED TO LONDON. HER HUSBAND, HENRI CODA, HAS LAIN ILL IN A LONDON HOSPITAL FOR MORE THAN A WEEK. SHE HURRIED TO HIS BEDSIDE FEARING THAT HE MIGHT NOT RECOVER.

WHEN I GOT THE CABLE SAYING YOU WERE ILL, HENRI, I HURRIED TO YOUR SIDE. THE FACT WE HAVE NOT BEEN VERY FRIENDLY FOR SOME SIX YEARS DID NOT DETER ME.



WELL, I'M BETTER AND I AM NOT GOING TO DIE. I HOPE I DO NOT DISAPPOINT YOU, HELENE.

YOU ARE IMPROVING! YOU ARE GETTING TO BE YOUR OLD SELF AGAIN! OF COURSE YOU MEAN THAT I MIGHT CONSIDER IT TO MY INTEREST IF YOU SHOULDN'T RECOVER. NO HENRI, YOU ARE WORTH MORE TO ME ALIVE AND WELL.



YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FRANK WITH ME, HELENE. EQUIVOCATION IS NOT ONE OF YOUR FAULTS.

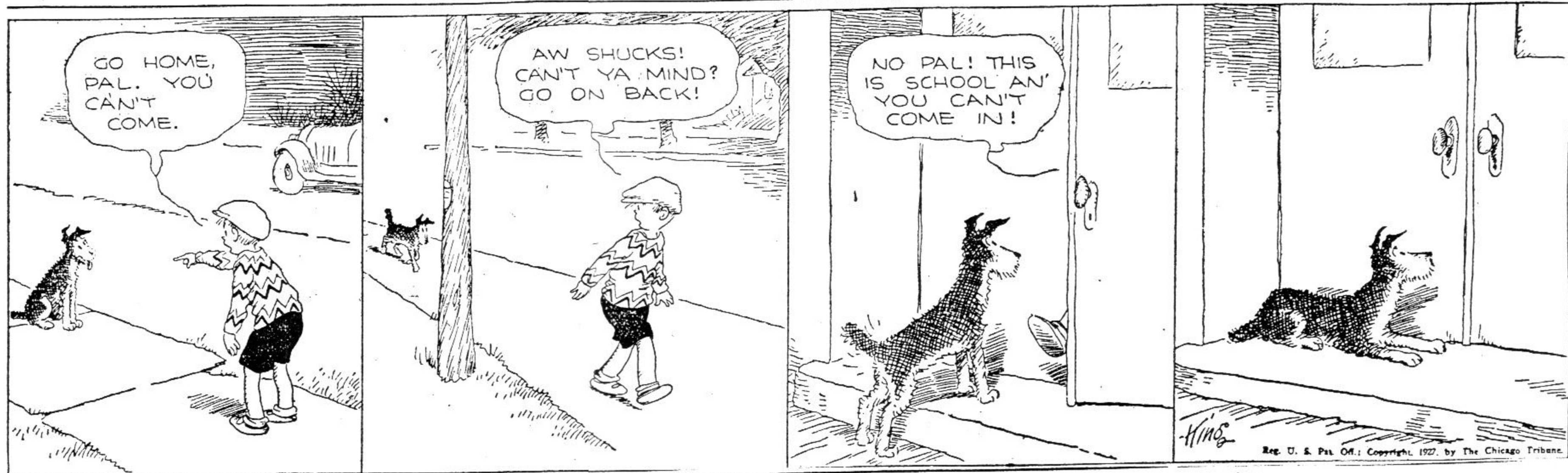


OF COURSE YOU GIVE ME NO CREDIT FOR ANY SENTIMENT WHATSOEVER. IN THAT YOU ARE WRONG. WE MERELY FAIL TO AGREE WHEN WE SEE TOO MUCH OF EACH OTHER.

YES, WE GET ON VERY WELL WITH AN OCEAN BETWEEN US. WELL, I AM GOING TO GET WELL AND MAKE A TRIP TO THE STATES AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. AFTER THAT I WON'T BOTHER YOU

H.M.S.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—CLASS DISTINCTION



Hino

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE PANNING SEASON IS ON

LET'S GO IN AND LOOK OVER THE BINSON'S NEW HOUSE BEFORE THEY MOVE IN.

IT'S ETHICAL, IS IT?

IT IS AT LEAST CUSTOMARY. ISN'T THIS A LITTLE DINKY DINING ROOM? AND JUST IMAGINE THE KITCHEN ON A HOT DAY! THEY COULDN'T HAND ME THIS PLACE AS A GIFT.

THEY'VE GOT A NICE HALL.

AND THOSE WINDOWS LOOK SWELL FROM OUTSIDE.

I KNOW, BUT WHO WOULD EVER THINK OF MAKING THEM SO SMALL AND THOSE LITTLE PANES OF GLASS! IT'S AN ENDLESS JOB TO WASH THEM.

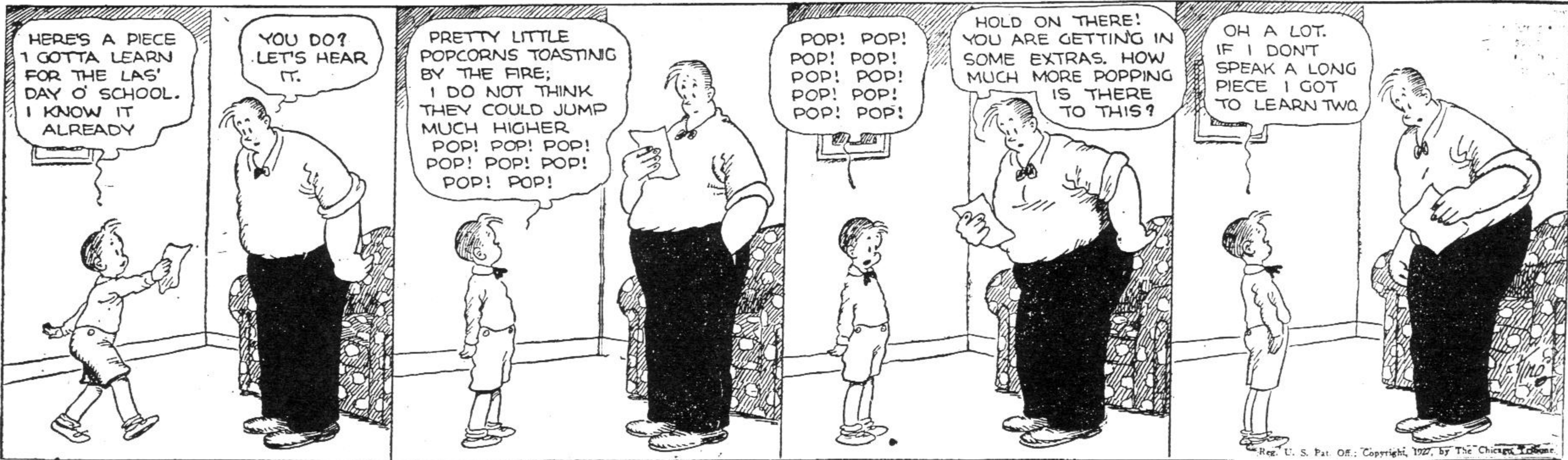
GOOD LOOKING FIREPLACE.

YES BUT I'D NEVER IN THE WIDE WORLD HAVE IT SO NEAR THE CORNER OF A ROOM. IT'S A GOOD THING THIS HOUSE IS BEING BUILT FOR THE BINSONS AND NOT FOR ME.

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King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ADJUSTABLE



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GASOLINE ALLEY—ADJUSTABLE

# GASOLINE ALLEY—THERE'S A PROPOSITION FOR YOU, WALT

HELLO!

MR. WALLET, THIS IS MR. LUCIFER. YOU WILL PERHAPS REMEMBER ME BETTER AS YOUR MILKMAN A SHORT TIME AGO.

I CERTAINLY DO. TO WHAT AM I INDEBTED FOR THIS CALL?

WELL, I HAVE CERTAIN INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT INTEREST YOU. I WAS ACQUAINTED WITH MME. OCTAVE, AND SOME OF HER ACTIVITIES CONCERN YOU.

YES I WAS VERY WELL AWARE THAT YOU WERE IN HER PAY AS A SPY.

YOU ARE RATHER UNFAIR IN YOUR CHOICE OF NICKNAMES, MR. WALLET. BUT I CAN OVERLOOK THAT. JUST THINK THIS OVER—I KNOW MANY FACTS WHICH MAY BE WORTH CONSIDERABLE TO YOU. I'LL CALL AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? THIS BIRD WON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF ME FOR HIS INFORMATION! YOU COULDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT ANYWAY! THE DOUBLE-CROSSER!

GASOLINE ALLEY—WILL BE DOWN LATER.

RACHEL,  
WHERE'S  
A PIECE  
O' STRING?

YOU'LL FIND SOME  
IN THAT TOP DRAWER  
OVER THERE.

THAT LITTLE TYKE!  
HE DONE TAKE THAT  
WHOLE BALL O'  
STRING.

SKEEZIX, WHAT  
YOU DO WITH THAT  
BALL O' TWINE  
YOU TOOK?

IT'S  
WAY UP  
IN THE  
AIR AN'  
I CAN'T  
GET IT  
NOW.

ELMER'S GOT  
IT ALL UP  
NEXT TO  
HIS KITE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI MAKES A PROMISE OR TWO

**H**ELENE OCTAVE'S HUSBAND, HENRI CODA, IS INFINITELY BETTER AND HIS RECOVERY IS AS CERTAIN AS THOSE AFFAIRS EVER ARE. SHE HAS SPENT MUCH TIME WITH HIM AT THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

00  
00

SKEEZIX! WHAT A NAME FOR THE SCION OF A HOUSE SUCH AS MINE! WHEN I HAVE HIM FOR MY OWN— WHICH I WILL SOMETIME—I SHALL NAME HIM FOR HIS GRANDFATHERS.

ALEXANDRE FRANCOIS I SUPPOSE.

YES. WHY DID YOU NOT BRING HIM? IN SPITE OF YOU I WILL SEE HIM YET! SIX YEARS OLD AND I HAVE NOT SEEN MY SON.

I HAVE PEOPLE TAKING CARE OF HIM WHO CAN GIVE HIM THE BEST OF ATTENTION. HE IS IN SCHOOL YOU KNOW AND I WOULDN'T TAKE HIM OUT FOR A TRIP LIKE THIS.

NOT EVEN TO SEE ME? I TELL YOU, HELENE, I AM COMING TO AMERICA AND YOU WILL BRING HIM TO ME. PROCRASTINATION—POSTPONEMENT—YOU CAN'T PUT ME OFF MUCH LONGER! I WILL BE WELL ENOUGH IN A WEEK.

DON'T EXCITE YOURSELF, HENRI. I PROMISE YOU YOU SHALL SEE SKEEZIX.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—NEWS FROM ABROAD

HELENE MUST HAVE WRITTEN VERY SOON AFTER GETTING TO LONDON TO GET A LETTER BACK HERE SO PROMPTLY.

HELENE SAYS SHE FOUND HENRI ON THE MEND AND THAT HE IS GOING TO RECOVER.

WELL SHE OUGHT TO BE PLEASED WITH THAT PROSPECT WHETHER SHE IS OR NOT. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HER MEAL TICKET.

I THINK SHE IS PLEASED. THERE IS A BROTHER OF HIS WHO MIGHT BE WILLED MOST OF HIS FORTUNE AND I THINK SHE WANTS AT LEAST A PARTIAL RECONCILIATION.

IT LOOKS LIKE A COLD BLOODED PROPOSITION TO ME—CHASING OVER THERE TO GET HIS MONEY IF HE DIES.

I BELIEVE SHE REALLY HAS SOME AFFECTION FOR HENRI—THEY JUST CANT GET ALONG TOGETHER THAT'S ALL.

WELL, THEY HAD BETTER DIVIDE THE HEMISPHERES BETWEEN THEM, ONE APIECE, THAT'S MY ADVICE. AND SHE IS WELCOME TO THE OTHER ONE.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—NO SALE

NO I'M NOT INTERESTED. WHAT I DON'T KNOW DOESN'T HURT ME.

THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE WRONG. IT IS THE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH ARE WORKING AGAINST YOU RIGHT NOW.



I'M NOT GOING TO TALK TO THAT BIRD. HE'S TRYING TO WORK A HOLD-UP ON ME.



IT WAS THE MILKMAN, PHYLLIS-OCTAVE'S TURN-COAT SPY. HE WANTS TO SELL ME SOME FRESH INFORMATION ABOUT OCTAVE'S ACTIVITIES. I HUNG UP ON HIM.



YOU DID EXACTLY RIGHT, WALT. WE DON'T NEED HIS WARES.



HE GAVE ME A FREE SAMPLE OR TWO. HE SAID MME. OCTAVE'S INTEREST IN SKEEZIX WAS IN KEEPING HENRI CODA INTERESTED IN HIM. AND THAT HENRI THINKS SHE IS BRINGING SKEEZIX UP.



I THINK HE IS GUESSING TOO - JUST AS WE ARE.



GASOLINE ALLEY — A WET AND DRY ISSUE

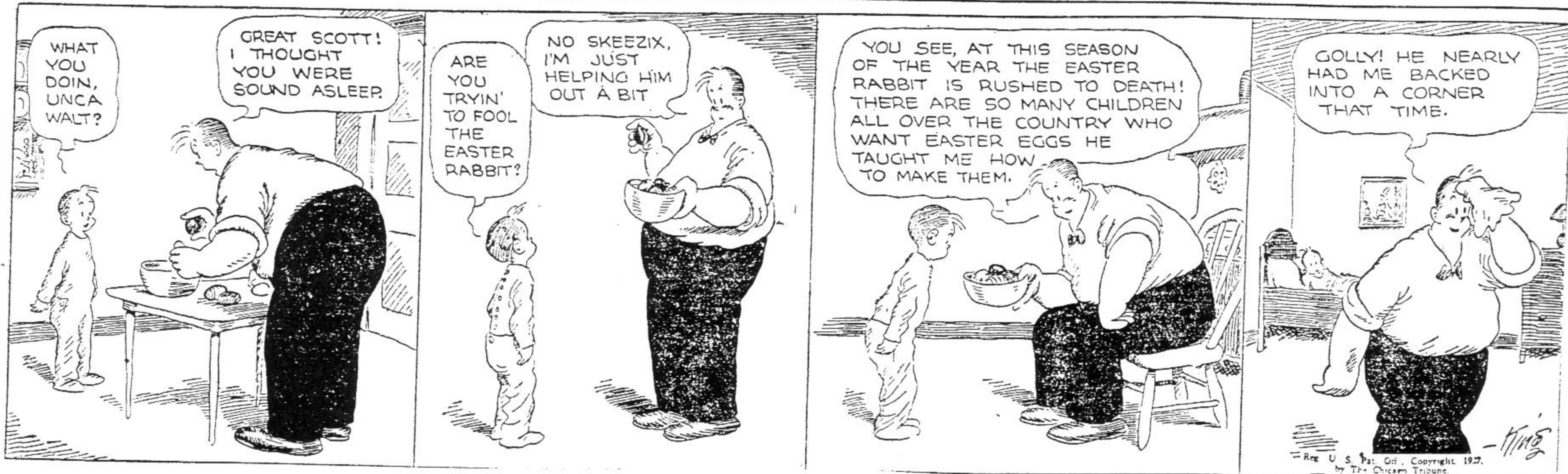
GOODNESS ME!  
LOOKA THAT RAIN  
STARTIN' JES' LIKE  
I SAID IT WOULD  
IF I HUNG MY  
CLO'ES OUT!

MY  
GRACIOUS  
SAKES!

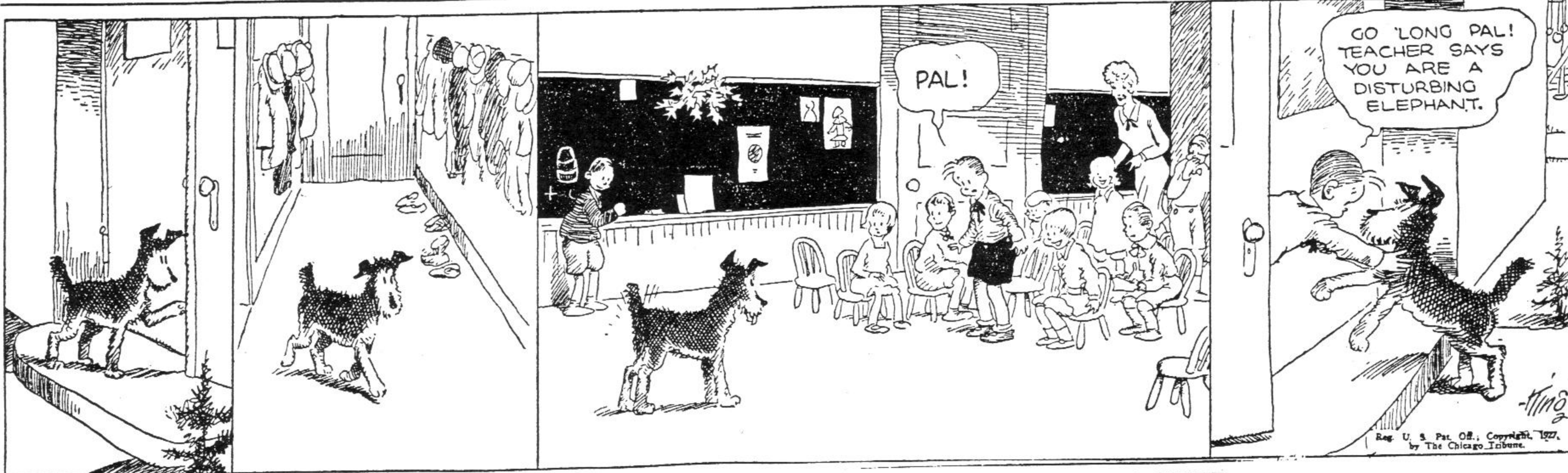
GLORY  
BE!

HUH!  
AIN'T  
THAT A  
NERVE!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE RABBIT'S FIRST ASSISTANT



# GASOLINE ALLEY—PANTING FOR EDUCATION



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—AVERY HAS A RIGHT TO CHANGE HIS MIND



GOLLY WALT, MY OLD BUS HAS A GAS LEAK, SPRING BUSTED, STEERS LIKE A LUMBER WAGON, THERE'S A GRIND IN THE DIFFERENTIAL, SHE MISSES AND THE CLUTCH SLIPS.

DID YOU SAY CLUTCH OR CRUTCH, AVERY?

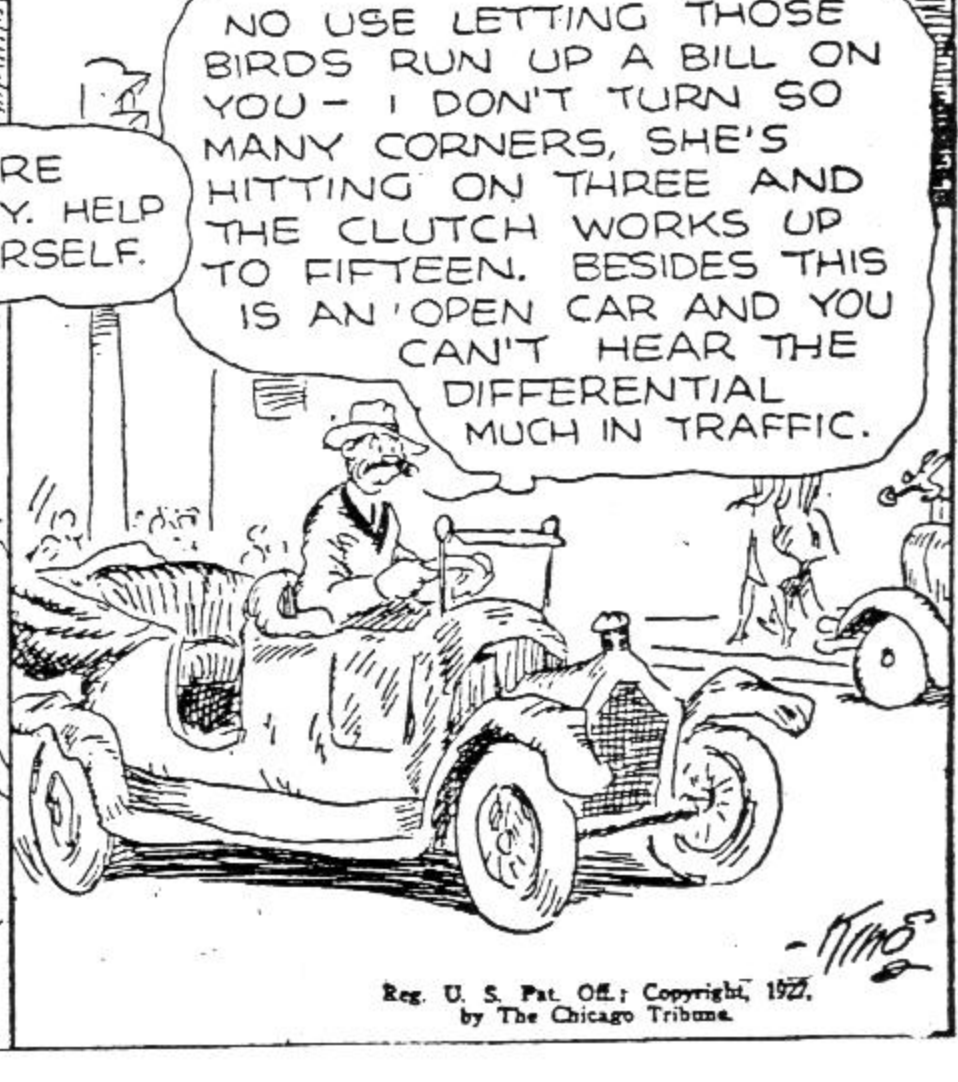


I'LL TAKE HER IN AND HAVE HER GONE OVER. OF COURSE I CAN FIX THE GAS LEAK WITH CHEWING GUM AND THE SPRING IS LIABLE TO HOLD UP FOR A MONTH.



COULD YOU SPARE ME A CUP FULL OF DISTILLED WATER FOR MY BATTERY, TESCH? OTHERWISE THE OLD WAGON IS GOING PRETTY GOOD.

SURE AVERY. HELP YOURSELF.



NO USE LETTING THOSE BIRDS RUN UP A BILL ON YOU - I DON'T TURN SO MANY CORNERS, SHE'S HITTING ON THREE AND THE CLUTCH WORKS UP TO FIFTEEN. BESIDES THIS IS AN 'OPEN CAR AND YOU CAN'T HEAR THE DIFFERENTIAL MUCH IN TRAFFIC.

-THOS

# GASOLINE ALLEY—MME. OCTAVE RETURNS

HENRI IS RAPIDLY RECUPERATING. THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED OF MY BEING WITH HIM. HAD HIS CONDITION TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPERATIVE FOR ME TO BE THERE.

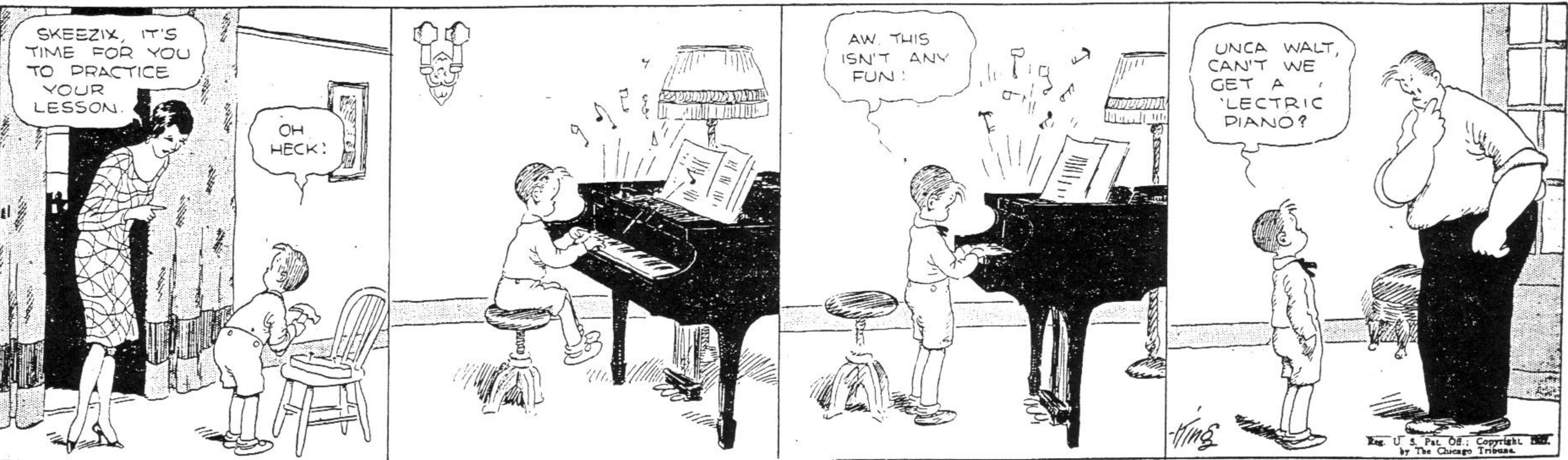
AS IT WAS NOT MUCH WAS ACCOMPLISHED. HENRI PROPOSES TO COME TO THE STATES AS SOON AS HE IS ABLE TO TRAVEL. THERE IS NO PUTTING HIM OFF.

AND HE IS MORE INTENT ON SEEING SKEEZIX THAN EVER. WELL, HE WILL BE HUMORED. I AM SURE I CAN ARRANGE THE WHOLE SITUATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL. THIS LITTLE DELAY HAS PLAYED INTO MY HANDS.

I'M AFRAID THE BUNGLING OF MY PRESS AGENT, BLUSTER, AND OF THAT FALSE ALARM WHO PLAYED MILKMAN FOR ME HASN'T HELPED MATTERS. I'LL CHANGE MY TACTICS WHEN I GET BACK.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE SPIRIT OF PROGRESS



SKEEZIX, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PRACTICE YOUR LESSON.

OH HECK!

AW, THIS ISN'T ANY FUN!

UNCA WALT, CAN'T WE GET A 'LECTRIC PIANO?

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—RACHEL GETS PROFESSIONAL AID

MA'M GODIVA, I WANTIN' TO GET A SEE-ANCE WITH YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE O' WHAT GOIN' TO HAPPEN.

DOES YOU SEE ANYTHING ABOUT A LIL' WHITE BOY 'BOUT SIX YEARS OLD?

AH YES! I SEE A LARGE, LIGHT MAN AND A DARK LADY WITH HIM. BUT THEY GOTTA BEWARE. THEY IS A LARGE, LIGHT LADY AN' A DARK MAN SHUTTIN' OFF THE VIEW. THEY AFTA THE BOY, AN' I SEE MONEY.

DOES MY HAND SHOW THAT?

INDEED IT DO. YOU IS COMPLICATED UP IN THE WHOLE MESS. BUT I CANT' SEE NO MORE 'LESS MY PALM IS CROSSED WITH FOUR BITS.

GOLLY TO GOODNESS! I GOT TO WARN MISTA WALT 'BOUT MA'M OCTAVE - SHE WAS THE BIG LIGHT ONE. AN' THE DARK MAN IS HER HUSBAND MAYBE. THE DARK LADY SHE MENTIONS IS EITHA MIS WALT OR ME.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE SEASON OPENS



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A PROPHETESS WITHOUT HONOR

I HAD MY FORTUNE TOLD BY MAM GODIVA, MIS WALT, AN' SHE GAVE ME WARNIN' SOMEBODY TRYIN' TO GET SKEEZIX, AN' RIGHT QUICK.

I APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST, RACHEL, BUT MME. GODIVA IS ONLY GUESSING.

NO MIS WALT! SHE SAY A DARK MAN AN' A LIGHT WOMAN—THAT'S M'AM OCTAVE SURE— IS AFTA HIM HOT AN' HEAVY. IS HER HUSBAND A DARK MAN?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW, BUT DON'T YOU WORRY. WE ARE TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION.

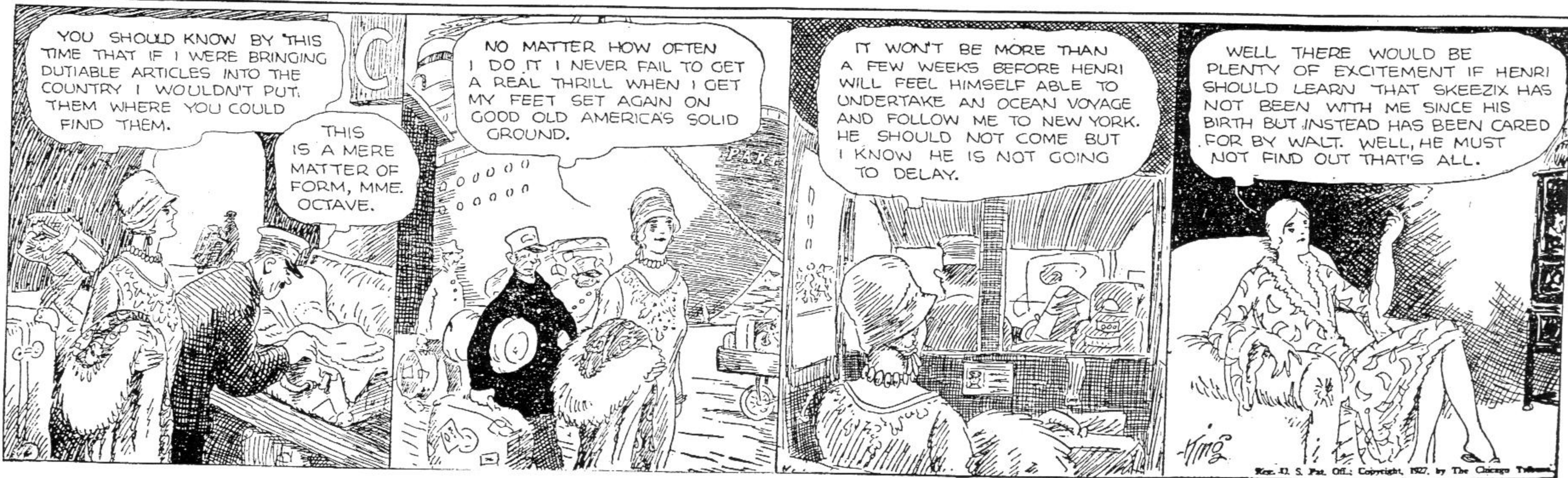
MIS WALT AIN'T WORRIED ENOUGH! M'AM GODIVA FORETOLD THE WAR AN' THE JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE AN' PROHIBITION. SHE TOLD ME SO HERSELF.

AUNTIE BOSSOM! I HEARD WHAT RACHEL SAID! I'M AFRAID!

DON'T YOU BE AFRAID ONE BIT! UNCLE WALT AND I WOULD NEVER IN THE WORLD LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE U. S. A. AGAIN



YOU SHOULD KNOW BY THIS TIME THAT IF I WERE BRINGING DUTIABLE ARTICLES INTO THE COUNTRY I WOULDN'T PUT THEM WHERE YOU COULD FIND THEM.

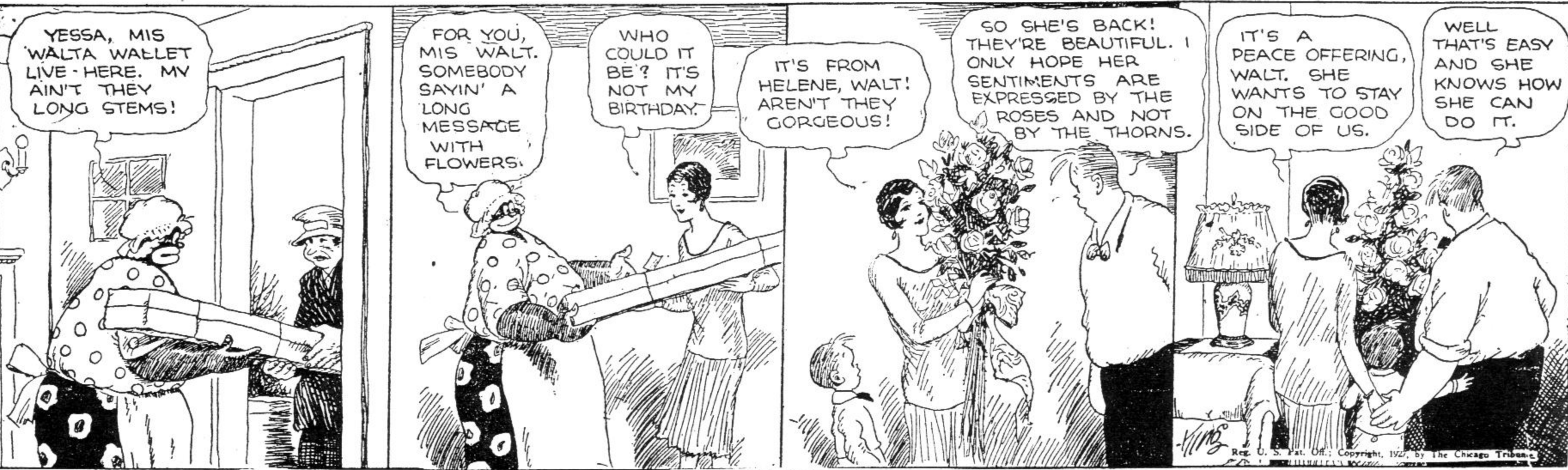
THIS IS A MERE MATTER OF FORM, MME. OCTAVE.

NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I DO IT I NEVER FAIL TO GET A REAL THRILL WHEN I GET MY FEET SET AGAIN ON GOOD OLD AMERICA'S SOLID GROUND.

IT WON'T BE MORE THAN A FEW WEEKS BEFORE HENRI WILL FEEL HIMSELF ABLE TO UNDERTAKE AN OCEAN VOYAGE AND FOLLOW ME TO NEW YORK. HE SHOULD NOT COME BUT I KNOW HE IS NOT GOING TO DELAY.

WELL THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT IF HENRI SHOULD LEARN THAT SKEEZIX HAS NOT BEEN WITH ME SINCE HIS BIRTH BUT INSTEAD HAS BEEN CARED FOR BY WALT. WELL, HE MUST NOT FIND OUT THAT'S ALL.

GASOLINE ALLEY—SAY IT WITH LONG STEMS



YESSA, MIS WALTA WALLET LIVE-HERE. MY AIN'T THEY LONG STEMS!

FOR YOU, MIS WALT. SOMEBODY SAYIN' A LONG MESSAGE WITH FLOWERS!

WHO COULD IT BE? IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.

IT'S FROM HELENE, WALT! AREN'T THEY GORGEOUS!

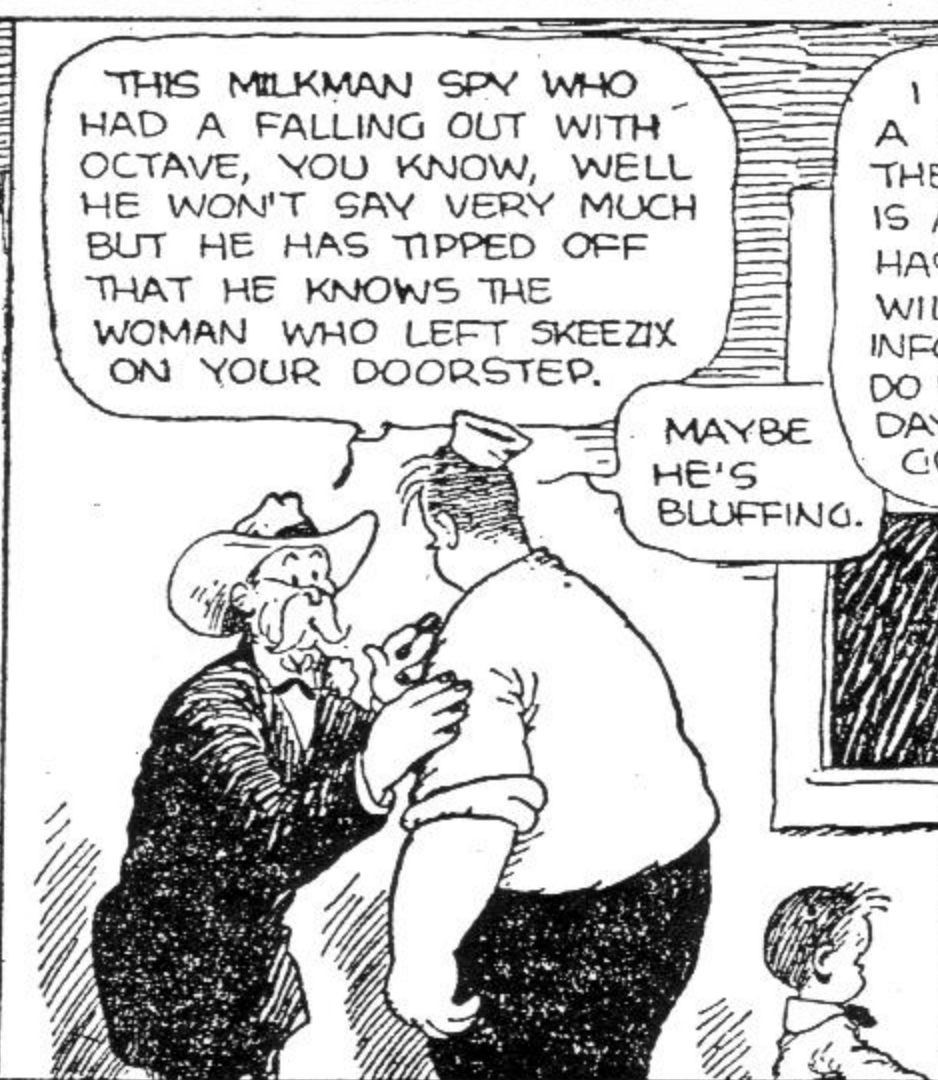
SO SHE'S BACK! THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL. I ONLY HOPE HER SENTIMENTS ARE EXPRESSED BY THE ROSES AND NOT BY THE THORNS.

IT'S A PEACE OFFERING, WALT. SHE WANTS TO STAY ON THE GOOD SIDE OF US.

WELL THAT'S EASY AND SHE KNOWS HOW SHE CAN DO IT.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—A FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY



## GASOLINE ALLEY—TODAY'S ARRIVAL

**C**OL HENRI CODA ON BOARD THE MAURETANIA IS THIS MORNING ENTERING NEW YORK HARBOR. HIS RECOVERY IN LONDON WAS RAPID AND HE BOARDED THE FIRST STEAMER FOR AMERICA AFTER HE WAS WELL ENOUGH TO TRAVEL THOUGH ESTRANGED FROM MME OCTAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS SHE VISITED HIM IN THE LONDON HOSPITAL. HE IS COMING TO SEE SKEEZIX AND STILL SUPPOSES THAT SKEEZIX HAS BEEN SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR BY OCTAVE. HE HAS A SURPRISE IN STORE SHOULD HE LEARN THE TRUTH.

TO HAVE A SON AND HEIR SIX YEARS OLD WHOM I HAVE NEVER SEEN! IT IS A STRANGE SITUATION. I WONDER WHAT HE WILL BE LIKE. HE IS HEALTHY AND HANDSOME, HELENE SAYS. WELL, I TOLD HER I WOULD COME TO THE STATES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO SEE HIM.

I HAVE FURNISHED HER THE MONEY FOR HIS UPBRINGING EVER SINCE HE WAS BORN. AND I WONDER WHAT SORT OF A MOTHER SHE HAS MADE. WELL I CAN SOON TELL WHEN I SEE THEM TOGETHER.

I AM CONSUMED WITH A DESIRE TO SEE HIM. WE WILL BE STRANGE TO EACH OTHER BUT THAT WILL SOON BE CHANGED. SHE HAS HAD HIM FOR SIX YEARS. NOW IT IS MY TURN TO POSSESS HIM. AND I SHALL DO IT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IMPATIENCE IS NO VIRTUE

WHERE IS HE - SKEEZIX?  
I UNDERSTOOD HE WAS  
WITH YOU HERE. I HAVE  
TRAVELED A LONG WAY TO  
SEE HIM. DON'T PUT ME  
OFF ANY LONGER,  
HELENE.

I HAVE NEVER  
TOLD YOU HE  
WAS HERE WITH  
ME, HENRI. HE IS  
IN SCHOOL SOME  
DISTANCE AWAY.  
I HAD NO IDEA  
YOU WERE COMING  
SO SOON. YOU  
SHOULD HAVE LET  
ME KNOW.

AH, THESE DELAYS!  
CAN'T YOU SEE I AM  
YEARNING TO BE WITH HIM.  
MY SON WHOM YOU HAVE  
HAD SINCE HIS BIRTH  
AND I HAVE NOT EVEN  
SEEN!

THE SAME  
IMPATIENT HENRI.  
YOU HAVE WAITED  
SIX YEARS. YOU  
CAN WAIT A  
MATTER OF A  
FEW MORE DAYS  
IF NECESSARY.

YES AND WHY HAVE I  
WAITED SIX YEARS? BECAUSE  
OF YOU. YOU HAVE PUT ME  
OFF AND OFF. NOW I HAVE  
COME ACROSS AN OCEAN  
AND MY WAITING IS AT  
AN END!

YOU SHALL SEE  
HIM, HENRI, VERY  
SOON. BUT THAT IS  
ALL I HAVE PROMISED,  
REMEMBER. I HAVE NOT  
AGREED THAT YOU  
SHALL HAVE HIM FOR  
LONG. MAKE UP YOUR  
MIND YOU MUST BE  
SATISFIED WITH A  
SHORT VISIT WITH  
HIM.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—COL. CODA NEARS HIS GOAL

COL. HENRI CODA AND MME. OCTAVE ARE AT LAST NEARING SKEEZIX. HENRI IS FIDGETY WITH THE ANTICIPATION OF SEEING A SON FOR THE FIRST TIME—A BOY PAST SIX YEARS OLD. THE COL. STILL HAS MANY THINGS TO LEARN.



BUT HELENE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE TO TRAVEL LIKE THIS TO SEE SKEEZIX

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE HE IS IN SCHOOL. YOU OF COURSE REMEMBER MY OLD FRIEND PHYLLIS BLOSSOM. HE IS WITH HER.

BUT WHY SHOULD HE BE? YOU CAN'T HAVE PROPER SUPERVISION OVER HIM IF HE IS NOT WITH YOU MOST OF THE TIME.

PHYLLIS IS MARRIED AND SHE AND HER HUSBAND ARE VERY FOND OF HIM. HE HAS BEEN WITH THEM A GREAT DEAL WHILE I HAVE BEEN AWAY ON CONCERT TOURS. I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN HIM WITH ME

A VERY UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION. I ASSURE YOU I WILL CHANGE IT ALL.

DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN OF IT, HENRI. YOU MUST NOT GET THE IDEA THAT YOUR COMING IS GOING TO OVERTURN ALL ARRANGEMENTS. YOU ARE TO SEE HIM THAT IS EVERY BIT THAT I HAVE PROMISED.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—NOT TODAY

M<sup>R</sup>ME. OCTAVE HAS GONE TO PAY HER RESPECTS TO PHYLLIS AND WALT AND INCIDENTALLY TO TRY TO BORROW SKEEZIX FOR A SHORT TIME. HENRI IMPATIENTLY PACES THE FLOOR BACK AT HIS HOTEL WAITING FOR THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF HIS ONLY SON WHOM HE HAS TRAVELED ACROSS AN OCEAN TO SEE.

YES, PHYLLIS, BACK FROM LONDON. IT WAS A RUSH TRIP. I FOUND HENRI MUCH IMPROVED AND THERE WAS NO NEED OF MY STAYING.

I'M GLAD YOU ARE HERE, HELENE AND THE ROSES YOU SENT WERE WONDERFUL!

WHERE IS SKEEZIX? I'M JUST DYING TO SEE HIM. COULDN'T I TAKE HIM OUT FOR A DRIVE? I HAVE MY CAR OUTSIDE. I'D PROMISE TO BRING HIM BACK IN TWO HOURS.

I'LL CALL HIM. YOU MUST SEE HIM—HE'S DEVELOPING SO FAST. BUT I COULDN'T LET HIM GO FOR A RIDE—NOT THIS AFTERNOON.

THEN TOMORROW, PHYLLIS. DO LET ME TAKE HIM. ISN'T HE A GRAND BIG BOY! I MUST HAVE HIM FOR TOMORROW AFTERNOON. YOU'D LIKE TO GO DRIVING WITH ME WOULDN'T YOU SKEEZIX?

NO.

I'M SURE HE WOULD BE GLAD TO GO BUT HE MUST HAVE HIS UNCLE WALT'S PERMISSION AND WALT ISN'T HERE. SKEEZIX MAY FEEL DIFFERENTLY TOMORROW.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—GONE!

MME. OCTAVE PREVAILED UPON WALT AND PHYLLIS TO LET HER TAKE SKEEZIX FOR A DRIVE. SHE PERSUADED THEM OF HER SINCERE INTENTION TO BRING HIM BACK IN TWO HOURS. WALT, CONVINCED BUT CAUTIOUS DECIDED TO FOLLOW IN HIS CAR. WHEN THEY STOPPED AND ENTERED THE WALLINGHAM HOTEL WHERE COL. HENRI CODA IS STAYING WALT PARKED CONVENIENTLY NEAR OCTAVE'S CAR READY TO BE ON HAND IF ANYTHING UNEXPECTED OCCURRED.



SHE WOULDN'T TRY A GETAWAY WITHOUT HER CAR, AND SHE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE ONE WITH IT.



JUST STAND THERE AND LET ME LOOK AT YOU, SKEEZIX. YOU FULFIL ALL ANTICIPATIONS—A FINE, HEARTY, HEALTHY BOY. WE'RE GOING TO BE GREAT FRIENDS.

SURE.



COME INTO THE OTHER ROOM OF MY SUITE A MOMENT. I HAVE SOMETHING PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO SHOW YOU.



THERE! NOW IS OUR CHANCE. THERE IS A SPRING LOCK ON THAT DOOR. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO PLAY A LITTLE GAME ON MME. OCTAVE BEFORE SHE MISSES US



WHEREUPON, A CAR, NOT MME. OCTAVE'S, BOUNDED DOWN THE ALLEY AND OUT OF SIGHT.

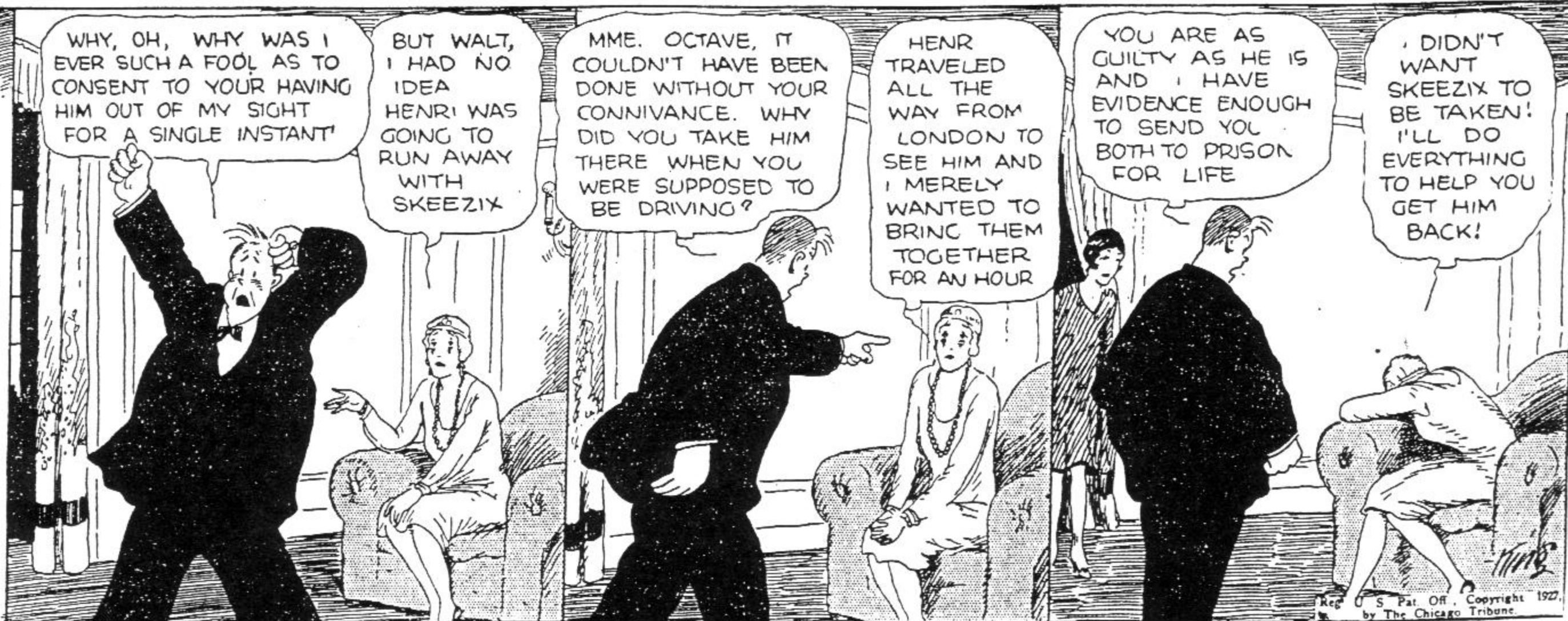
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**EXTRA!!**

# SKEEZIX ABDUCTED FROM HOTEL SUITE!

DISAPPEARS ALMOST FROM UNDER WALT'S NOSE.

WHILE WALT WAITED IN HIS CAR IN FRONT OF THE WALLINGHAM HOTEL TO SEE THAT MME. OCTAVE DID NOT TRY TO ESCAPE WITH SKEEZIX IN HER CAR, WHICH HE WAS WATCHING, THE BOY WAS SPIRITED AWAY FROM A SUITE OCCUPIED BY COL. HENRI CODA. MME. OCTAVE CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD NO PART IN THE ABDUCTION.



WHY, OH, WHY WAS I EVER SUCH A FOOL AS TO CONSENT TO YOUR HAVING HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR A SINGLE INSTANT!

BUT WALT, I HAD NO IDEA HENRI WAS GOING TO RUN AWAY WITH SKEEZIX

MME. OCTAVE, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOUR CONNIVANCE. WHY DID YOU TAKE HIM THERE WHEN YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DRIVING?

HENRI TRAVELED ALL THE WAY FROM LONDON TO SEE HIM AND I MERELY WANTED TO BRING THEM TOGETHER FOR AN HOUR

YOU ARE AS GUILTY AS HE IS AND I HAVE EVIDENCE ENOUGH TO SEND YOU BOTH TO PRISON FOR LIFE

I DIDN'T WANT SKEEZIX TO BE TAKEN! I'LL DO EVERYTHING TO HELP YOU GET HIM BACK!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IF SEEN, NOTIFY WALT

## SKEEZIX STILL MISSING!

COL. HENRI CODA DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SITUATION WHEN HE TOOK SKEEZIX FROM MME. OCTAVE AND FLED WITH HIM IN A MOTOR CAR. HE THOUGHT HE HAD MERELY TAKEN HIS SON FROM OCTAVE, HIS WIFE. SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CAST ANY LIGHT ON HIS WHEREABOUTS SINCE THE DISAPPEARANCE



GOLLY MR. WICKER, I'M GLAD I HAVE YOU TO FALL BACK ON IN AN EMERGENCY LIKE THIS! I'D GO DISTRACTED IF I HADN'T.

MY DETECTIVE AGENCY IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL, WALT. I HAVE A MAN WATCHING MME. OCTAVE CONTINUOUSLY. ALL BRANCH AGENCIES ARE LOOKING AFTER TRAINS AND HOTEL ARRIVALS FOR COL. HENRI CODA AND SKEEZIX.

YES BUT THEY ARE IN A CAR. IT'S LUCKY WE HAVE A DESCRIPTION OF THAT. THE CHEF AT THE HOTEL WAS JUST COMING TO WORK AND GOT A GOOD LOOK AT IT THERE IN THE ALLEY.

CODA KNEW THE CAR WOULD BE CONSPICUOUS AND WE FOUND THAT IN A RIVERSIDE GARAGE WHERE HE LEFT IT. THEY TOOK A WESTBOUND TRAIN THERE THAT'S AS FAR AS WE HAVE TRACED THEM AS YET.

IT SEEMS TERRIBLE, PHYLLIS, TO HAVE TO SIT STILL AND DO NOTHING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

I KNOW WALT. BUT WE ARE BOUND TO FIND THEM EVENTUALLY. COL. CODA IS TOO MUCH OF A FIGURE NOT TO BE RECOGNIZED, ESPECIALLY WITH A SIX YEAR OLD BOY WE'LL HAVE HIM BACK.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL WRITHES IN REMORSE

LAWDY ME! I TOL 'EM SOMEBODY WAS TRYIN' TO GET SKEEZIX AN' THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME. I HAD THEIR FORTUNE TOLD AN' THEY SHOULD OF BEWARED THE BLOND LADY AN' THE DARK MAN.

NOW THAT NO-'COUNT HUSBAN'O MAM OCTAVE DONE STOLE SKEEZIX. HE MUS' BE A DARK MAN WITH A BLACK MUSTACHE - ALL VILLAINS IS I SEEN DOZENS OF 'EM.

AIN'T YOU GOT NO NEW NEWS O' SKEEZIX, MISTA WALT? I JES' ALMOST RAVISHED WITH ANXIETY.

NOTHING DEFINITE, RACHEL BUT WE ARE WORKING ON IT EVERY MINUTE.

MY LAND, I WISH MAM GODIVA HAD TOL' ME HOW SOON IT WAS ALL COMIN' AN' JES! HOW! I WISH I'D SPENT FOUR BITS MORE AN' GOT ALL THE DETAILS.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—A BIT OF DIALOGUE.

(Copyright, 1927.)

ASIDE FROM SEVERAL RUMORS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, NO NEWS HAS BEEN HAD OF SKEEZIX SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE LAST WEEK. COL. CODA HAS SUCCESSFULLY ELUDED PURSUIT ALTHOUGH MR. WICKER'S DETECTIVE AGENCY IS RUNNING DOWN ALL CLUES.



NO WALT, MY HUSBAND, COL. CODA HAS NEVER KNOWN THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE BEEN BRINGING UP SKEEZIX AND NOT MYSELF. HE THINKS HE HAS TAKEN SKEEZIX FROM ME.

WHY DOESN'T HE KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH HE HAS A RIGHT TO IT.

DURING THE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN SEPARATED HE WOULD NOT HAVE CONTRIBUTED A CENT TO MY SUPPORT FOR MYSELF ALONE. HE DID IT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I WAS CARING FOR SKEEZIX.

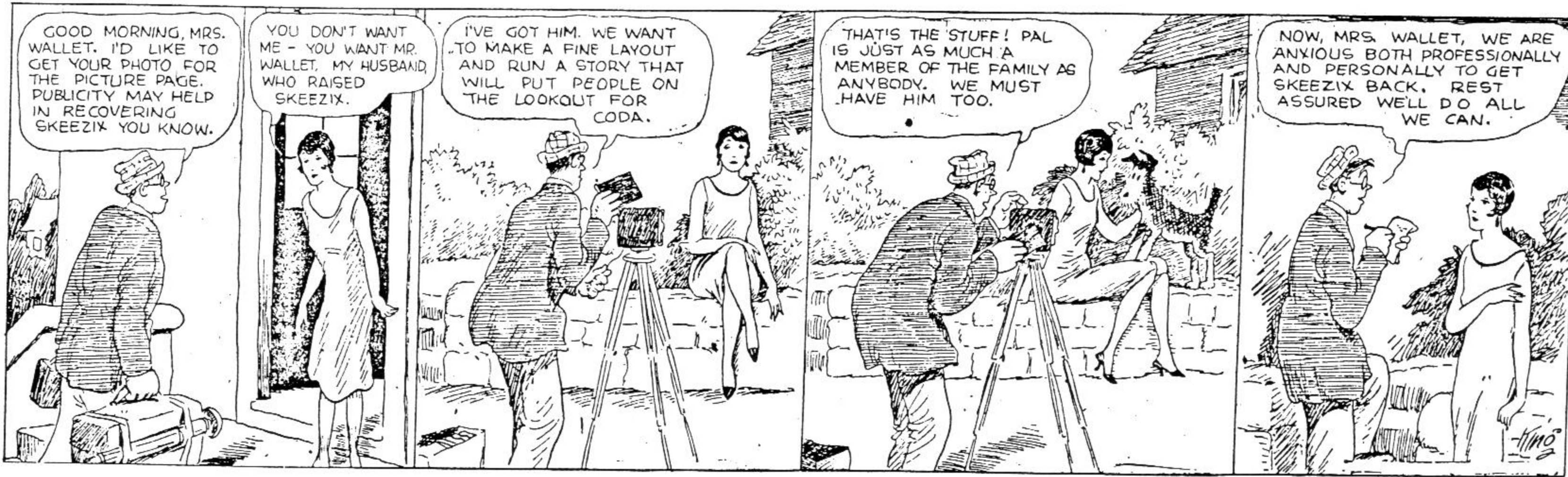
AND YOU WOULD ACCEPT IT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

CERTAINLY. I HAD IT COMING. WITH HIS WEALTH IT MEANT VERY LITTLE TO HIM AND VERY MUCH TO ME. MY TIME WILL COME. I WILL RETALIATE LIBERALLY FOR HIS TAKING SKEEZIX FROM ME.

YOU HAVE BEEN MORE INTENT ON VENGEANCE, MME. OCTAVE, THAN UPON THE RECOVERY OF SKEEZIX. YOU ARE A DECIDEDLY DISINTERESTED MOTHER.

GASOLINE ALLEY—HOLD IT, PLEASE.

(Copyright, 1927.)



GOOD MORNING, MRS. WALLET. I'D LIKE TO GET YOUR PHOTO FOR THE PICTURE PAGE. PUBLICITY MAY HELP IN RECOVERING SKEEZIX YOU KNOW.

YOU DON'T WANT ME - YOU WANT MR. WALLET, MY HUSBAND, WHO RAISED SKEEZIX.

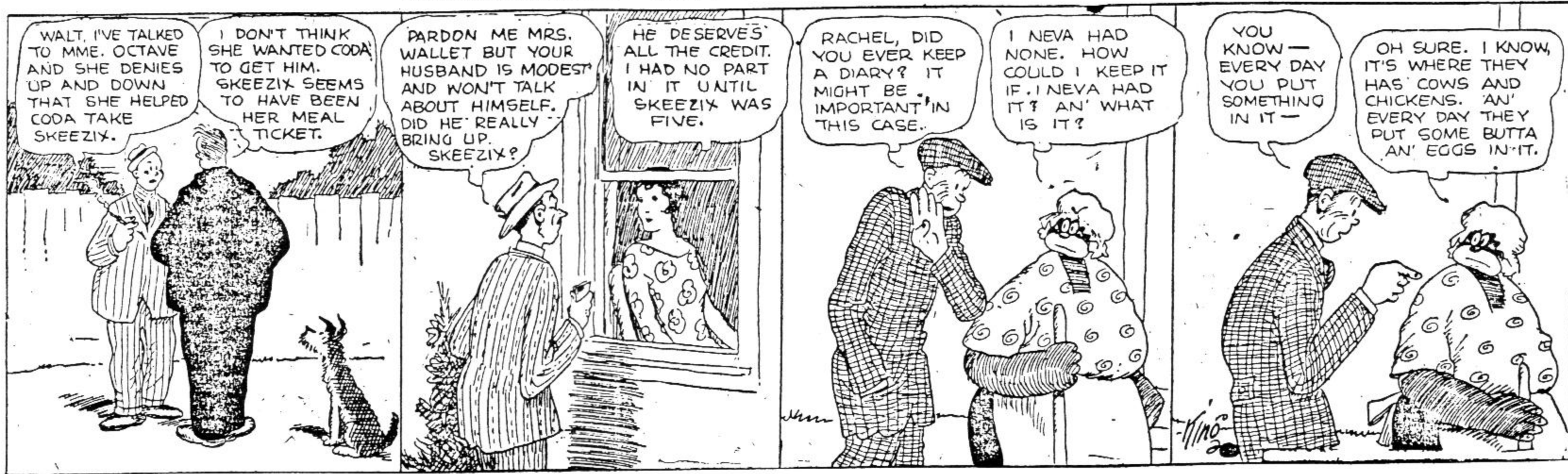
I'VE GOT HIM. WE WANT TO MAKE A FINE LAYOUT AND RUN A STORY THAT WILL PUT PEOPLE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CODA.

THAT'S THE STUFF! PAL IS JUST AS MUCH A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY AS ANYBODY. WE MUST HAVE HIM TOO.

NOW, MRS. WALLET, WE ARE ANXIOUS BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY TO GET SKEEZIX BACK. REST ASSURED WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THE NEWSPAPER MEN ARE ON THE JOB.

(Copyright, 1927.)



WALT, I'VE TALKED TO MME. OCTAVE AND SHE DENIES UP AND DOWN THAT SHE HELPED CODA TAKE SKEEZIX.

I DON'T THINK SHE WANTED CODA TO GET HIM. SKEEZIX SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HER MEAL TICKET.

PARDON ME MRS. WALLET BUT YOUR HUSBAND IS MODEST AND WON'T TALK ABOUT HIMSELF. DID HE REALLY BRING UP SKEEZIX?

HE DESERVES ALL THE CREDIT. I HAD NO PART IN IT UNTIL SKEEZIX WAS FIVE.

RACHEL, DID YOU EVER KEEP A DIARY? IT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT IN THIS CASE.

I NEVA HAD NONE. HOW COULD I KEEP IT IF I NEVA HAD IT? AN' WHAT IS IT?

YOU KNOW — EVERY DAY YOU PUT SOMETHING IN IT —

OH SURE. I KNOW, IT'S WHERE THEY HAS COWS AND CHICKENS. AN' EVERY DAY THEY PUT SOME BUTTA AN' EGGS IN IT.



GASOLINE ALLEY—NO NEWS IS NOT GOOD NEWS.

(Copyright, 1927.)



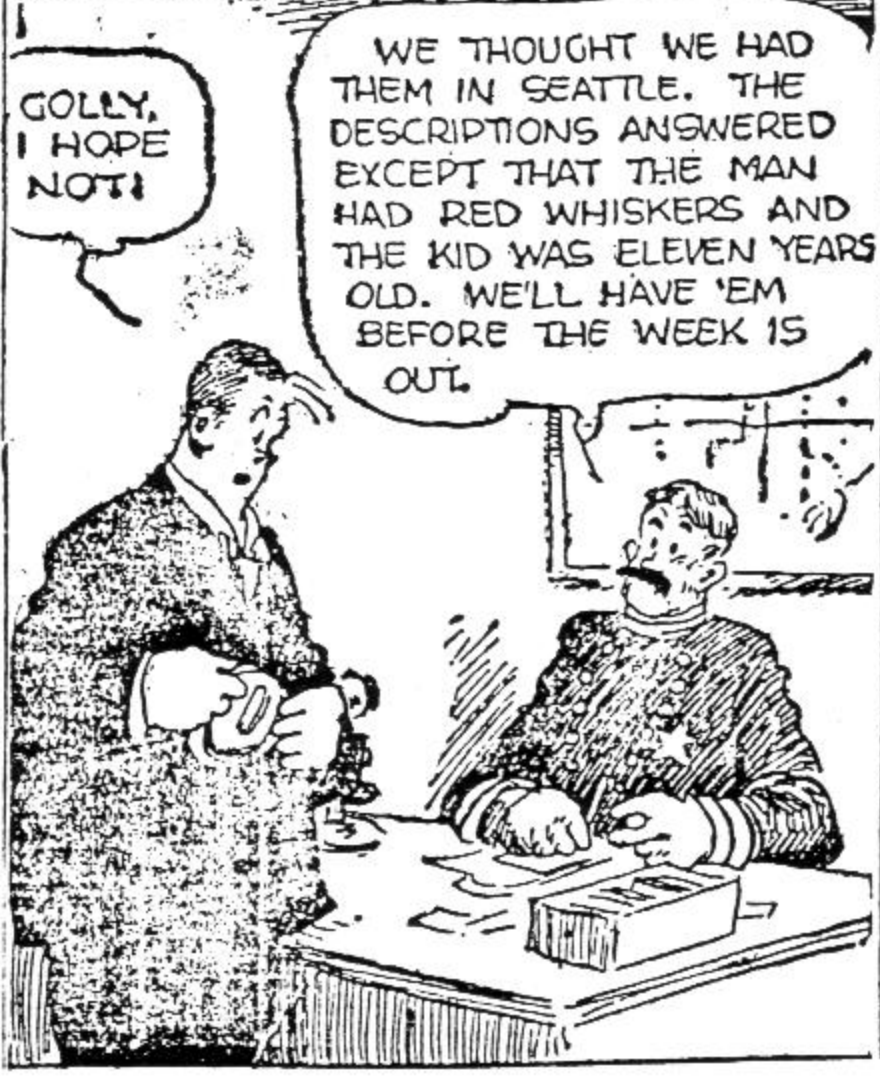
IF THERE'S NOTHING NEW AT MR. WICKER'S, WALT, I THINK YOU'D BETTER CALL AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

ALL RIGHT, HONEY. I CAN'T JUST SIT STILL AND WAIT EITHER



ANY NEWS OF SKEEZIX AND CODA CAP?

WE HAVE WIRED DESCRIPTIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND THEY CAN'T ELUDE US MUCH LONGER



GOLLY, I HOPE NOT!

WE THOUGHT WE HAD THEM IN SEATTLE. THE DESCRIPTIONS ANSWERED EXCEPT THAT THE MAN HAD RED WHISKERS AND THE KID WAS ELEVEN YEARS OLD. WE'LL HAVE 'EM BEFORE THE WEEK IS OUT.



NOW WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WAS RUNNING AWAY? I'D HIT OUT FOR A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY TOWN OR THE BIGGEST CITY I COULD FIND. I'D GO TO A ROOMING HOUSE, INSTEAD OF A HOTEL. THERE, THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO TOWARD A SOLUTION.

-King

GASOLINE ALLEY—OCTAVE, YOU'RE NEXT.

(Copyright, 1927.)

THE STATES ATTORNEY HAS BEGUN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE SKEEZIX DISAPPEARANCE CASE. HE HAS CALLED WALT OVER TO GET THE FACTS AS HE KNOWS THEM. WALT HAS OUTLINED THE WHOLE HISTORY SINCE THE MORNING SKEEZIX WAS FOUND ON HIS DOORSTEP SIX YEARS AGO.



YOU SAY, MR. WALLET, THAT SKEEZIX WAS LEGALLY ADOPTED BY YOU SOME FOUR YEARS AGO. THAT SINCE THAT TIME, BUT NOT BEFORE, MME. OCTAVE HAS CLAIMED TO BE HIS MOTHER. AND SHE WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK HIM FROM YOU LAST WEDNESDAY.

YES. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO GO FOR A DRIVE BUT SHE TOOK HIM IMMEDIATELY TO COL. CODA'S SUITE.



WELL, BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM IT IS A CLEAR CASE OF ABDUCTION AND WILL BE SO HANDLED BY THIS OFFICE.

SHE SWEARS SHE HAD NO IDEA THAT CODA WOULD TAKE SKEEZIX. THAT SHE MERELY PROMISED HE COULD SEE THE BOY.



I SHALL QUESTION HER MYSELF. I THINK SHE KNOWS A LOT MORE THAN SHE HAS TOLD. WE MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT ALL I WILL HAVE HER IN HERE TOMORROW.

NOBODY WANTS THE TRUTH OF IT MORE THAN I DO. SHE HAS HELD OUT ON US A LONG TIME. YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES.

THE STATES ATTORNEY HAS CALLED IN MME. OCTAVE FOR QUESTIONING. WALT HAS TOLD THE STORY OF SKEEZIX AND WHAT HE KNOWS OF 'MME. OCTAVE'S ACTIVITIES. THERE IS YET MUCH TO BE EXPLAINED REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF CODA AND SKEEZIX.

WHAT MR. WALLET HAS TOLD YOU IS CORRECT. I TOOK SKEEZIX TO COL. CODA BUT WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING HIM TO WALT VERY SHORTLY.



NEVERTHELESS HE WAS IN YOUR CARE AND THE APPEARANCE'S WERE VERY MUCH AGAINST YOU. REGARDLESS OF PARENTAGE HE WAS LEGALLY ADOPTED BY WALT.



A MOTHER OUGHT TO HAVE SOME RIGHTS. BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER.



NOT ALWAYS, IT SEEMS. AND LEGALLY A MOTHER HAS NO RIGHTS WHEN SHE ABANDONS HER BABY FOR A CAREER AND HE IS ADOPTED BY ANOTHER. WHAT PROOFS HAVE YOU THAT SKEEZIX IS YOUR CHILD? WHERE WAS HE BORN?

IN A TOWN IN OHIO - I DON'T EVEN KNOW ITS NAME. EVERYTHING WAS ATTENDED TO BY MY NURSE AND COMPANION ROMA RIGGS. AND FOR TWO YEARS I HAVEN'T KNOWN WHERE SHE IS.



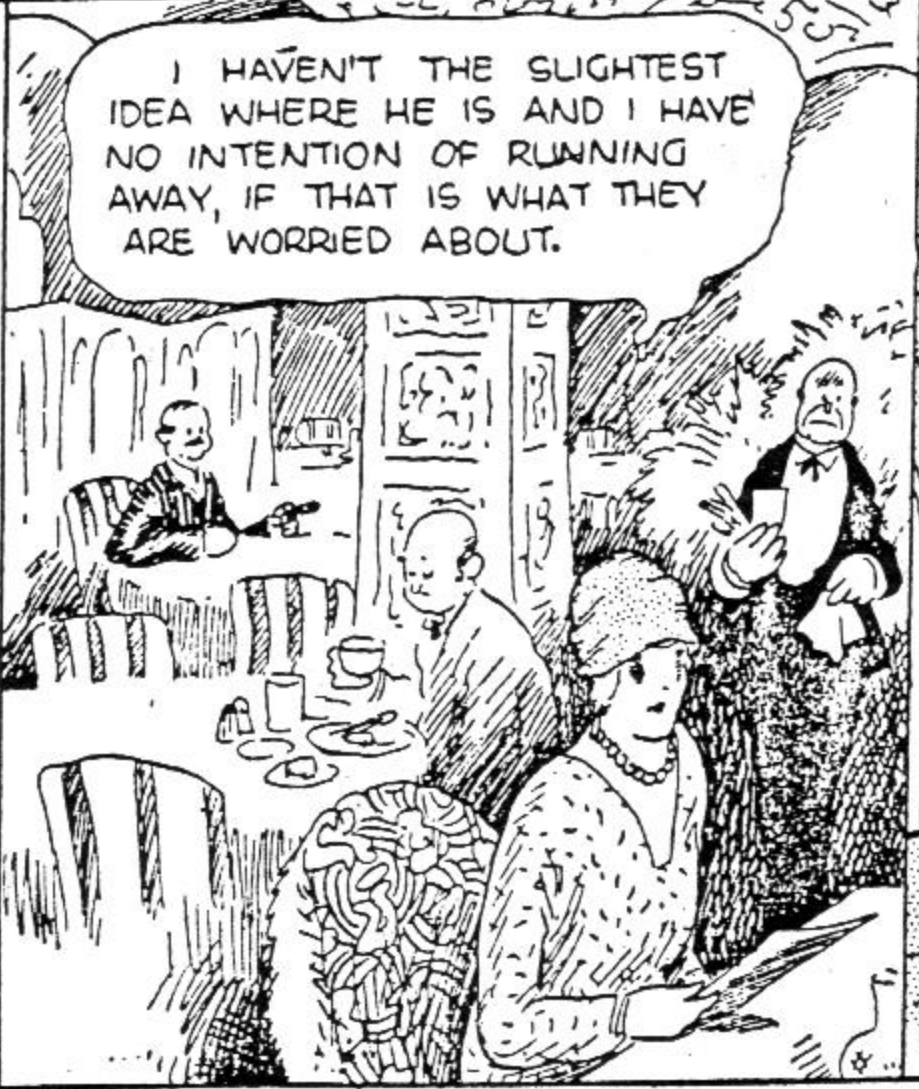
IN OTHER WORDS THE DIRECT EVIDENCE IS ENTIRELY MISSING PERHAPS I CAN FIND OUT A FEW FACTS TO JOG YOUR MEMORY WITH. THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO KNOW.



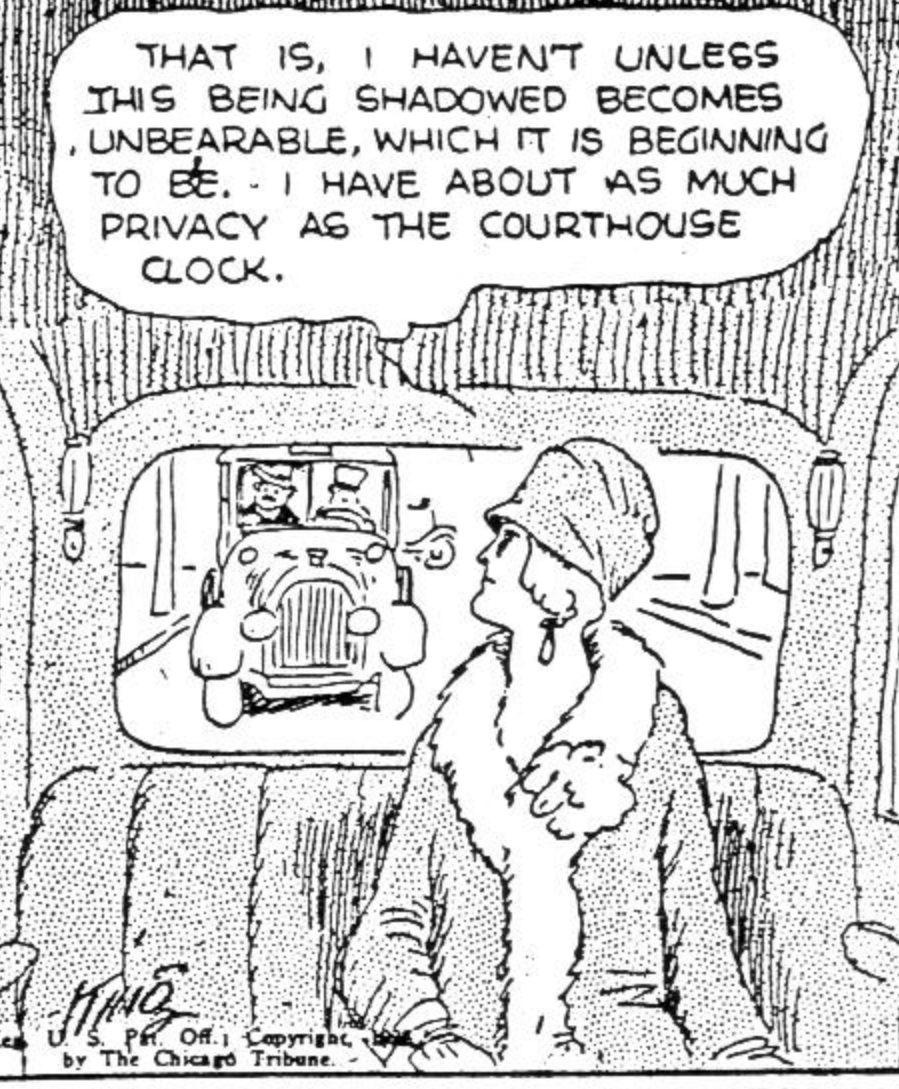
THERE HE IS JUST AS EXPECTED. I CAN'T LEAVE MY HOTEL ROOM WITHOUT HIM KNOWING ALL ABOUT IT.



THEY'RE HAVING ME FOLLOWED JUST LIKE A COMMON CRIMINAL. I WONDER WHAT THEY EXPECT TO FIND OUT. I SUPPOSE THEY THINK I AM IN COMMUNICATION WITH HENRI.



I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE HE IS AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RUNNING AWAY, IF THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT.



THAT IS, I HAVEN'T UNLESS THIS BEING SHADOWED BECOMES UNBEARABLE, WHICH IT IS BEGINNING TO BE. I HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH PRIVACY AS THE COURTHOUSE CLOCK.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—PROGRAM COMING IN STRONG

LISTEN QUIN, WOULD YOU BROADCAST THE FACT OF SKEEZIX BEING KIDNAPED, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF HIM AND COL. CODA?

I CERTAINLY WILL, WALT, TONIGHT

AS MANY OF YOU DOUBTLESS KNOW, SKEEZIX HAS BEEN STOLEN AWAY FROM HIS UNCLE WALT AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM, WHO ARE ALMOST PROSTRATED WITH ANXIETY.

— MANY MILES AWAY AT THAT SAME INSTANT, IN AN OUT OF THE WAY SMALL TOWN HOTEL—

HE WAS ABDUCTED BY COL. HENRI CODA, TALL, WITH FLOWING WHITE HAIR, BLACK MUSTACHE AND POINTED BEARD. IF YOU SEE THEM COMMUNICATE WITH THIS STATION AT ONCE.

THE RADIO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT US AN' UNCA WALT.

YES, TOO MUCH.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—CODA GLEANS A LITTLE INFORMATION

AFTER HEARING OVER THE RADIO YESTERDAY THAT HE WAS WANTED FOR THE ABDUCTION OF SKEEZIX, WHOM HE CLAIMS AS HIS SON, COL. CODA LEFT HIS HOTEL SUDDENLY AND MOVED TO MORE OBSCURE QUARTERS. HE FEELS THAT THE CHANCE OF HIS BEING RECOGNIZED IS SMALL BUT HE WANTS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY HAZARDS

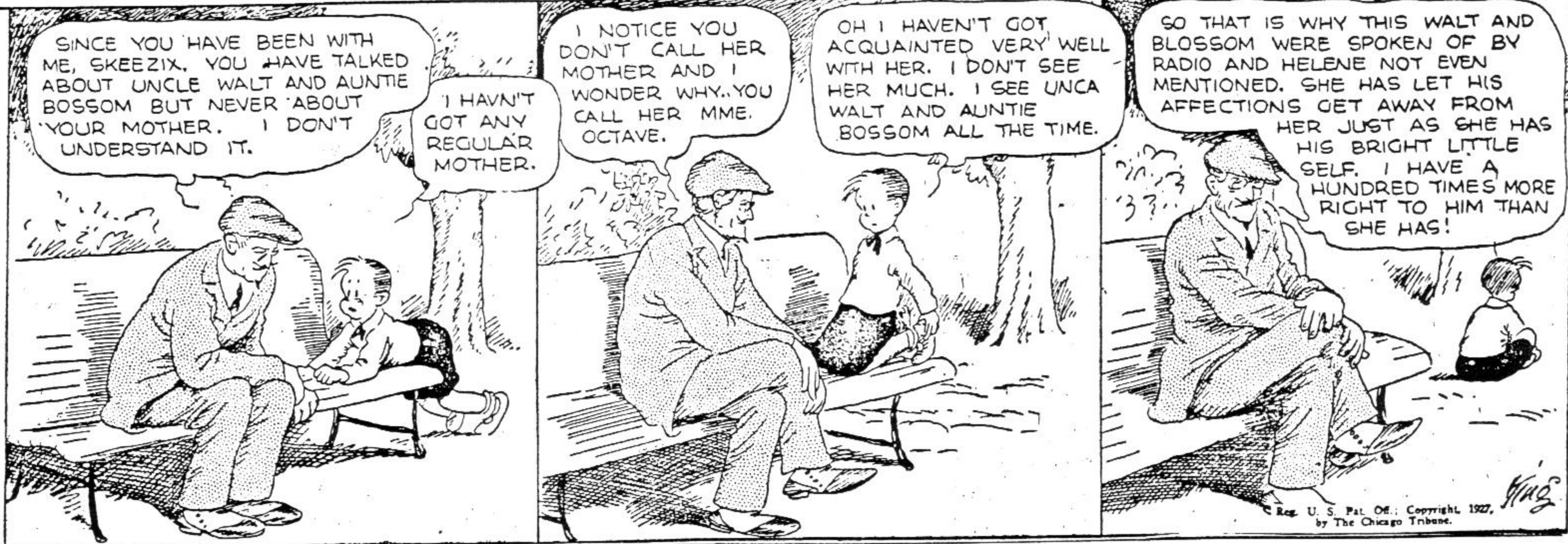
SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN WITH ME, SKEEZIX, YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT UNCLE WALT AND AUNTIE BOSSOM BUT NEVER ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I HAVN'T GOT ANY REGULAR MOTHER.

I NOTICE YOU DON'T CALL HER MOTHER AND I WONDER WHY. YOU CALL HER MME. OCTAVE.

OH I HAVEN'T GOT ACQUAINTED VERY WELL WITH HER. I DON'T SEE HER MUCH. I SEE UNCA WALT AND AUNTIE BOSSOM ALL THE TIME.

SO THAT IS WHY THIS WALT AND BLOSSOM WERE SPOKEN OF BY RADIO AND HELENE NOT EVEN MENTIONED. SHE HAS LET HIS AFFECTIONS GET AWAY FROM HER JUST AS SHE HAS HIS BRIGHT LITTLE SELF. I HAVE A HUNDRED TIMES MORE RIGHT TO HIM THAN SHE HAS!



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE WHOLE TRUTH, WITH RESERVATIONS

**W**ALT HAS BEEN WALKING HIS BEAT BETWEEN POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MR. WICKER'S OFFICE AND THE STATE'S ATTORNEY. NO NEWS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GATHER HAS HELPED HIM LOCATE SKEEZIX AND HENRI CODA WHO DISAPPEARED TWO WEEKS AGO.

ANY NEWS IN THE SKEEZIX CASE, MR. CORPUS?

I'VE BEEN FINDING OUT SOME THINGS AND BELIEVE THE ABDUCTION WAS PREMEDITATED BY BOTH. I HAVEN'T TAKEN MME. OCTAVE INTO CUSTODY BUT I WAS ABOUT TO DO IT.

I DON'T THINK IT IS NECESSARY. MR. WICKER IS HAVING HER WATCHED AND YOU CAN GET HER WHEN YOU NEED HER.

WELL WICKER KNOWS HIS BUSINESS. IT LOOKS TO ME AS THOUGH THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OCTAVE AND CODA ABOUT THIS ABDUCTION. OCTAVE IS NOT STRAIGHTFORWARD. I MAY HAVE TO TAKE HER BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

GOLLY, PHYLLIS, I WANT SKEEZIX BACK BUT I DON'T WANT A LOT OF TROUBLE ABOUT IT.

OH! I DO HOPE THERE IS NO GRAND JURY ACTION! I DO THINK HELENE IS TELLING THE TRUTH—BUT NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH.

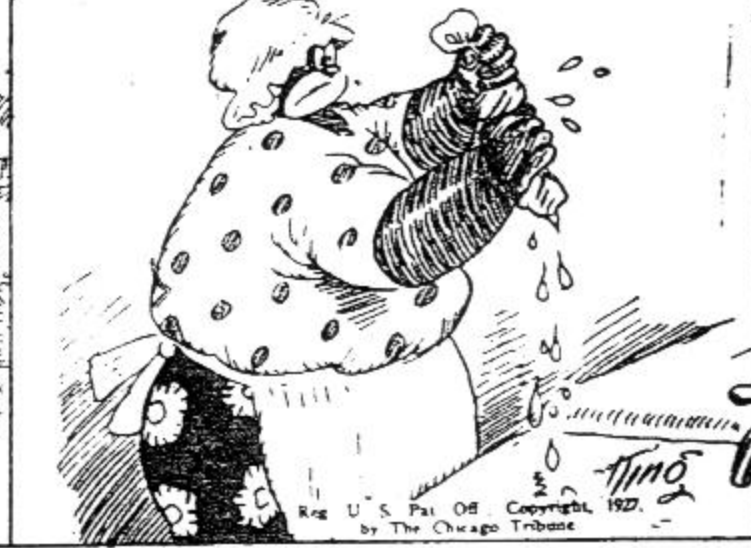
## GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL RENDERS A SOLILOQUY

I NEVA DID HAVE NO USE FOR THAT OCTAVE WOMAN NOHOW. IF SHED OF ASKED ME FOR SKEEZIX I'D OF TOLD HER WHERE TO GIT OFF. YOU CAN'T TELL ME SHE DIDN'T HAVE HER FINGAS IN THAT KIDNAPIN' CLEAR UP TO HER ELBOWS.

AN' IF SHE IS SKEEZIX'S MOTH' AS SHE SAYS, THAT HUSBAN' O' HERS MUST A BEEN A ANGEL TO AVERAGE ANYTHING SO NICE AS SKEEZIX.

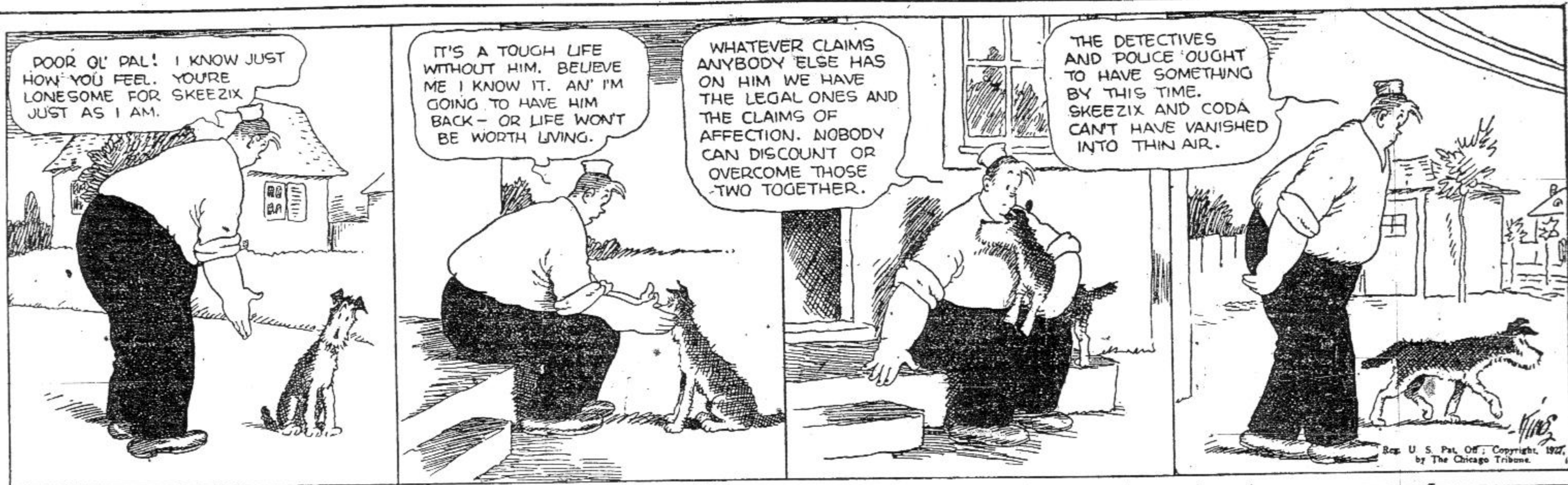
ANYWAY SHE DONE FORTIFIED ALL THE CLAIMS SHE HAD TO HIM BY ABANDERIN' HIM ON MISTA WALT'S DOORSTEP AN' GALLAVANTIN' ALL OVA THE WORLD

WHAT I WOULD DO TO HER IF I HAD HOLD OF HER RIGHT NOW! — I'D WRING HER NECK!





## GASOLINE ALLEY—HIS PALS MISS HIM



GASOLINE ALLEY—WANTED.

(Copyright, 1927.)

IT DOESN'T SEEM AS IF WE ARE GETTING ENOUGH ACTION, MR. WICKER. ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO TO GET A LINE ON SKEEZIX AND CODA?

WE MIGHT OFFER A REWARD. THAT WOULD BE AN INDUCEMENT TO SOME OF THOSE FELLOWS TO WORK HARDER.

CERTAINLY! ONE THOUSAND-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS—ANYTHING YOU SAY.

LET'S TRY ONE THOUSAND FIRST. THAT OUGHT TO INDUCE SOME ACTIVITY. THAT SHOULD INTEREST SOME AMATEUR SLEUTHS TOO.

I HOPE IT GETS SOME RESULTS.

WE'LL GO OVER AND TALK TO THE CHIEF ABOUT IT. HE'LL SEE THAT THE WORD GETS AROUND.

IN A FEW HOURS THIS POSTER WAS ON ITS WAY TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

**\$1,000<sup>00</sup>**  
**REWARD**

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION OF THIS PAIR



COL. HENRI CODA, AGE 52, HT. 5 FT. 9 IN. HAIR WHITE, EYES DARK, BLACK MUSTACHE AND GOATEE.

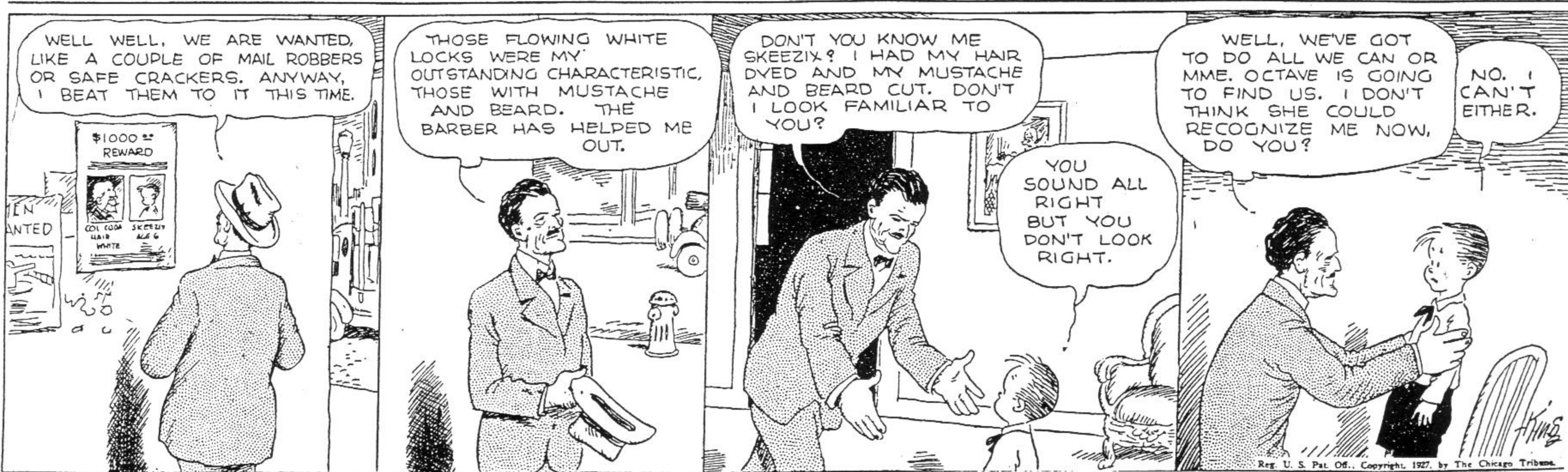
SKEEZIX WALLET, AGE 6, LIGHT EYES AND HAIR, A LOCK OF WHICH PROTRUDES NOTICEABLY.

THE BOY WAS ABDUCTED BY CODA ON MAY 4TH. ADDRESS GASOLINE ALLEY POLICE STATION.

22  
06

-HIND-

GASOLINE ALLEY—COL. CODA MADE OVER



WELL WELL, WE ARE WANTED, LIKE A COUPLE OF MAIL ROBBERS OR SAFE CRACKERS. ANYWAY, I BEAT THEM TO IT THIS TIME.

\$1000 REWARD  
COL CODA  
SKEEZIX  
HAIR WHITE

THOSE FLOWING WHITE LOCKS WERE MY OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTIC, THOSE WITH MUSTACHE AND BEARD. THE BARBER HAS HELPED ME OUT.

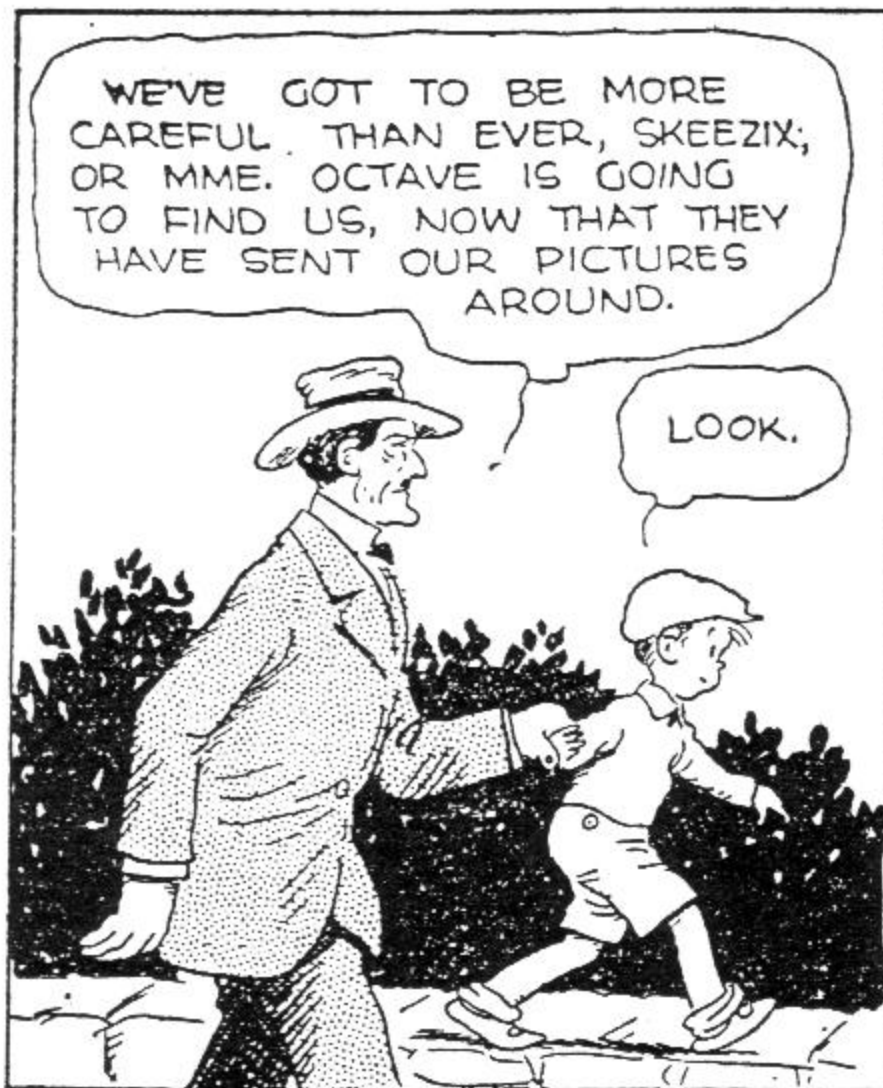
DON'T YOU KNOW ME SKEEZIX? I HAD MY HAIR DYED AND MY MUSTACHE AND BEARD CUT. DON'T I LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

YOU SOUND ALL RIGHT BUT YOU DON'T LOOK RIGHT.

WELL, WE'VE GOT TO DO ALL WE CAN OR MME. OCTAVE IS GOING TO FIND US. I DON'T THINK SHE COULD RECOGNIZE ME NOW, DO YOU?

NO. I CAN'T EITHER.

GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX LOSES HIS CROWNING GLORY



# GASOLINE ALLEY—HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED!



WHY DON'T THEY HURRY? THIS TRAIN DRAGS ALONG ON LEADEN WHEELS!

THE \$1000 REWARD WALT HAS OFFERED FOR THE ARREST OF COL. CODA AND THE RETURN OF SKEEZIX, WHOM CODA KIDNAPED, HAS BROUGHT FORTH RESULTS. WALT IS HASTENING TO INVESTIGATE A REPORTED CAPTURE.



YOU'RE MR. WALLET? WELL, I'VE GOT 'EM FOR YOU. DO I GET THE 1000 BERRIES REWARD?

YOU DO IF THEY ARE THE PROPER PARTIES—AND WELCOME! TAKE ME TO THEM—QUICK!



THERE THEY ARE—WHITE HAIR, BLACK MUSTACHE AND BEARD. AND THE KID WITH LIGHT HAIR AND A TOPKNOT.

NO. I'M SORRY BUT THERE'S NO RESEMBLANCE. LET THEM GO.

I TOLD HIM. HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.



JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE. I ALMOST KNEW IT WOULD BE THIS WAY BUT I MUST LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

King



ONE OF THE THINGS COL. CODA WOULD BE SURE TO TRY TO DO WITH SKEEZIX, WALT, WOULD BE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND OVER TO ENGLAND.

I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT. I GUESS I'D BETTER SPEAK TO MR. WICKER ABOUT IT.



YOU KNOW WHAT CODA WOULD LIKE TO DO BETTER THAN ANYTHING WOULD BE TO GET SKEEZIX TO ENGLAND OR FRANCE.

WE ARE WATCHING ALL THE PORTS INCLUDING MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

HE MAY TRY IT— I HOPE HE DOES. IF HE DOES WELL NAB HIM.

MEANWHILE HENRI CODA IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS IDENTITY IS WELL PROTECTED. HIS RAVEN LOCKS, WHICH FORMERLY WERE WHITE, HIS CHANGE IN FACIAL FEATURES AND SKEEZIX'S LACK OF HAIR ARE ALL IN FAVOR OF THEIR REMAINING UNDISCOVERED.



NOW THE THING THEY WILL THINK I WOULD DO FIRST IS TO GET OUT OF THE STATES AND SAIL FOR LONDON THAT'S WHERE WE'LL DISAPPOINT THEM. THEY WILL BE WATCHING ALL STEAMSHIPS. THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO DO THAT LATER.

I DON'T WANT MME. OCTAVE TO FIND US BUT I'D LIKE UNCA WALT TO.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IF YOU SEE THEM, LET WALT KNOW

THE POSTER SHOWING PICTURES OF HENRI CODA AND SKEEZIX AND OFFERING \$1000 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THEIR APPREHENSION HAS BEEN POSTED IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. ALSO MANY PAPERS HAVE PRINTED THE OFFER. IT SEEMS ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS UNTIL KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS MUST BE HAD.

LOOK PHYLLIS! THESE ARE SOME OF THE RESULTS OF THAT \$1000 REWARD OFFER. POSTAL CARDS, LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS GALORE.

AT LEAST PEOPLE ARE WAKING UP.

THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM MAY BE AN INDICATION THAT NONE OF THEM ARE ANY GOOD. HERE'S ONE FROM MINNEAPOLIS SAYING THEY WERE SEEN IN LORING PARK THREE DAYS AGO. ANOTHER WOMAN AT SAN FRANCISCO IS SURE SHE SAW THEM COMING OUT OF THE PALACE HOTEL AT THE SAME HOUR.

THIS MAN SAYS THEY RODE IN THE SEAT AHEAD OF HIM IN A TAMPA STREET CAR FROM LAFAYETTE ST. TO YBOR CITY.

AND THIS FELLOW KNOWS THEY ARE LIVING IN A LITTLE COURT OFF BONNEVILLE IN THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS. WHILE THIS WOMAN WANTS THE THOUSAND BECAUSE THEY EAT IN A RESTAURANT ON TROOST AVE., KANSAS CITY.

ACCORDING TO THIS MAN THEY ARE IN TORONTO. AND HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SEND ANYBODY THAT WILL CLAIM HALF THE REWARD.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—HARE AND HOUNDS.

(Copyright, 1927.)

NOW DO, AS I HAVE INSTRUCTED AND PAID YOU FOR—STAY RIGHT HERE FOR TWENTY MINUTES AS IF WAITING FOR ME. UNDERSTAND?

YES MA'AM.

WELL MR. GUM SHOE MAN OUT IN THAT OTHER TAXI, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A MERRY CHASE. THIS BUILDING HAS FOUR ENTRANCES AND YOU CAN'T COVER THEM ALL.

NOW FOR THE ELEVATED PLATFORM WITH A CROWD AND A HALF A DOZEN EXITS, AND I'LL BET THAT SLEUTH IS STILL WATCHING MY TAXI, HE CAN KEEP ON WATCHING IT.

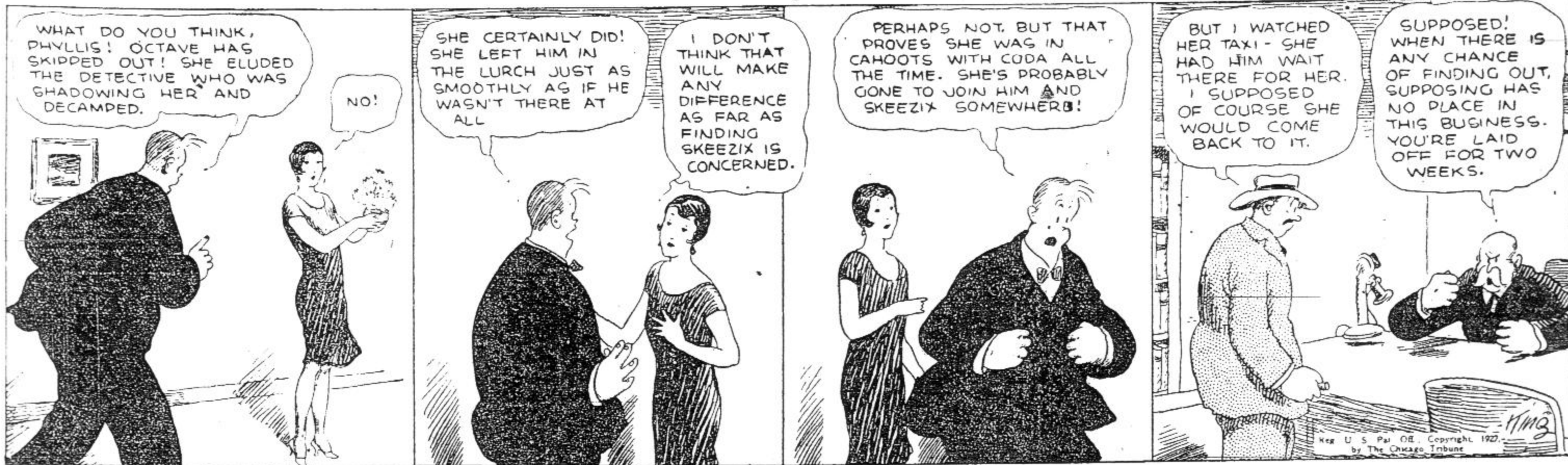
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING SHADOWED AND TRAILED EVERYWHERE I GO. AND OLD HAWKSHAW IS DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK I DON'T EVEN KNOW HE'S WATCHING ME.

A ZIG ZAG TAXI RIDE FOR A COUPLE OF MILES AND I'M WILLING TO BET HE'S KICKING HIMSELF AROUND THE BLOCK FOR LOSING ME.





## GASOLINE ALLEY—WICKER LOSES HIS IMPERTURBABILITY



# GASOLINE ALLEY—COL. CODA CAN'T MAKE IT OUT

SO HELENE HAS DECAMPED TOO! AND NOW THEY GIVE HER CREDIT FOR BEING IMPLICATED IN THE ABDUCTION. NOW THAT WE'RE BOTH GONE WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE WORRY?



I TAKE SKEEZIX FROM HER. SHE OF COURSE WOULD ACCUSE ME OF ABDUCTION AND TRY TO FIND ME. BUT HOW THESE OTHERS, WALT AND PHYLLIS, CAN CHARGE BOTH OF US, THE PARENTS, WITH KIDNAPING IS BEYOND ME.



THE PAPER SPEAKS OF THEM AS FOSTER PARENTS. THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT HELENE HAD RESIGNED SKEEZIX TO THEIR CARE. WELL, I WAS NOT CONSULTED AND I HAVE A FEW RIGHTS MYSELF.



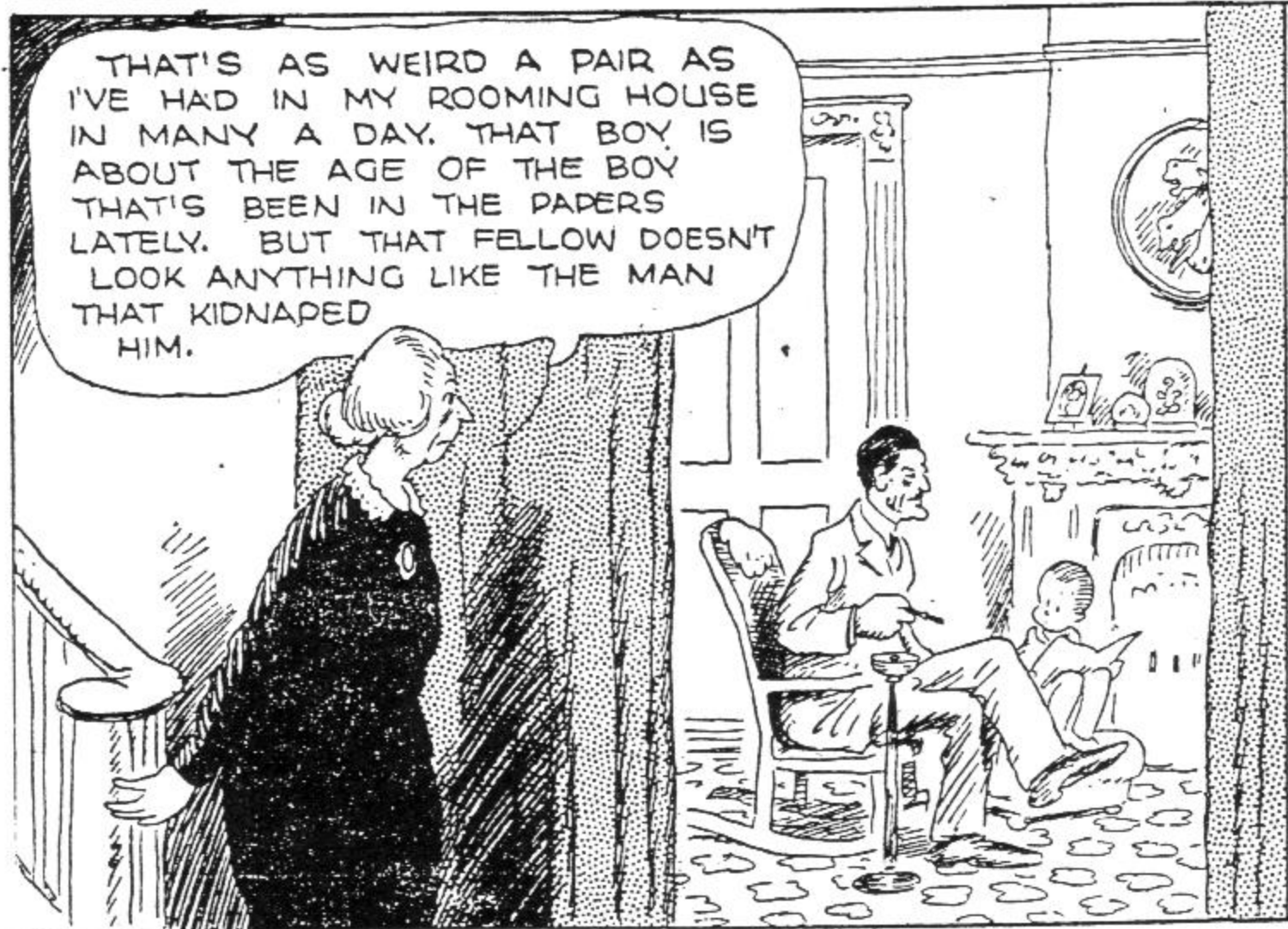
SKEEZIX, YOU AND I CAN WORRY ALONG WITHOUT ANY FOSTER PARENTS CAN'T WE? AREN'T WE GETTING ON JUST FINE?

YES, ONLY I WANT TO SEE UNCA WALT AN' AUNTIE BOSSOM AN' PAL.



-King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS



THAT'S AS WEIRD A PAIR AS I'VE HAD IN MY ROOMING HOUSE IN MANY A DAY. THAT BOY IS ABOUT THE AGE OF THE BOY THAT'S BEEN IN THE PAPERS LATELY. BUT THAT FELLOW DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE MAN THAT KIDNAPED HIM.



STILL, HE'S GOT A NOSE LIKE HIM - AND A CHIN - ONLY HIS HAIR IS BLACK INSTEAD OF WHITE. AND MY GOODNESS! THERE'S A REWARD OF \$1000 FOR HIM!



HE COULD HAVE DYED HIS HAIR.



I BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME PAIR! \$1000 REWARD! I'M GOING TO COMMUNICATE WITH WALT WALLET AND FIND OUT.

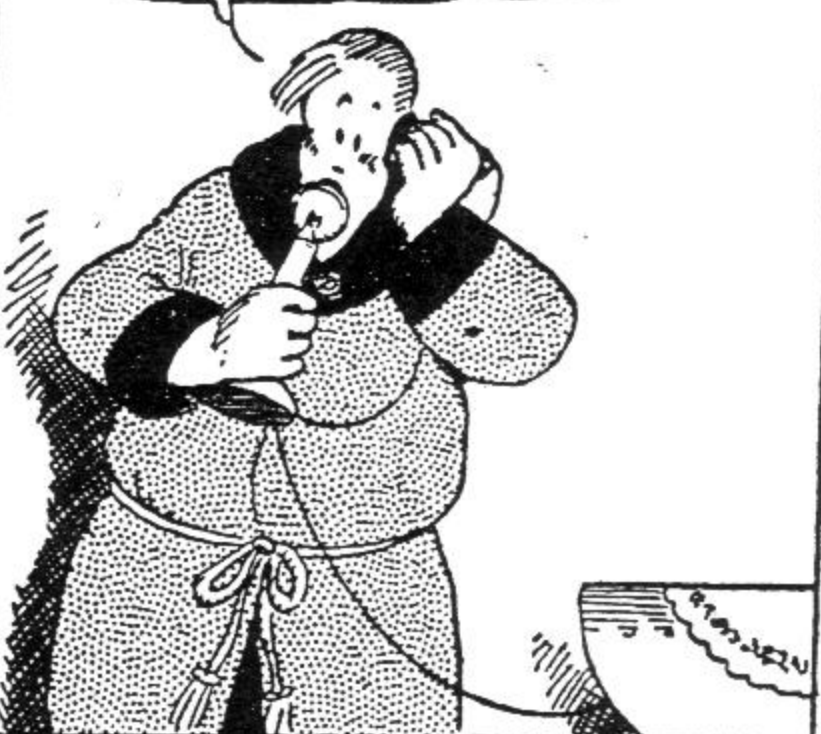
- King

GASOLINE ALLEY—HOPE

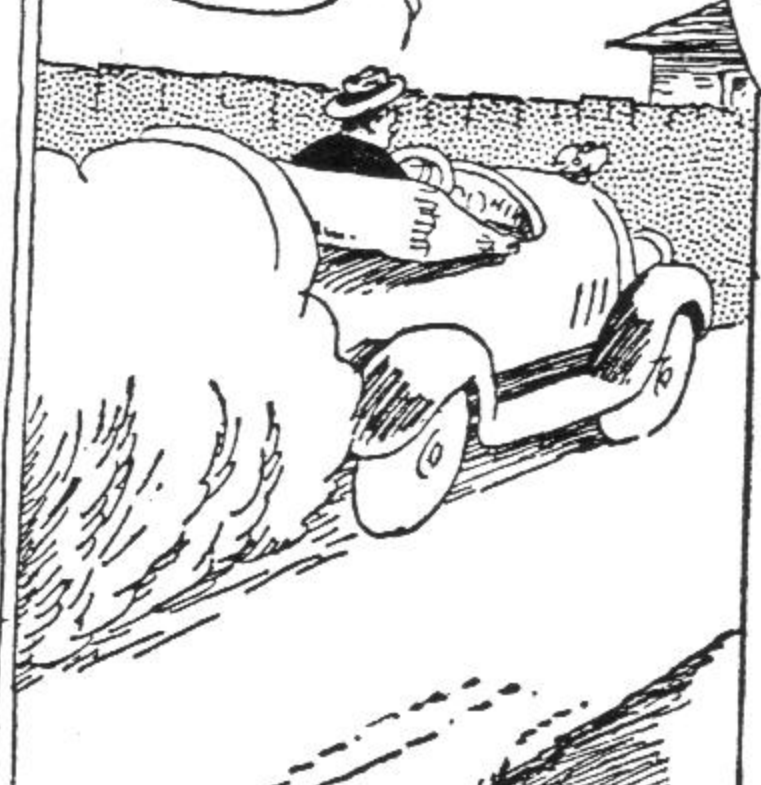
WHAT'S THAT? YOU HAVE CODA AND SKEEZIX AT YOUR ROOMING HOUSE? HOW DO YOU KNOW?— YES THAT'S THE DESCRIPTION OF SKEEZIX ALL RIGHT, EXCEPT THE HAIR.



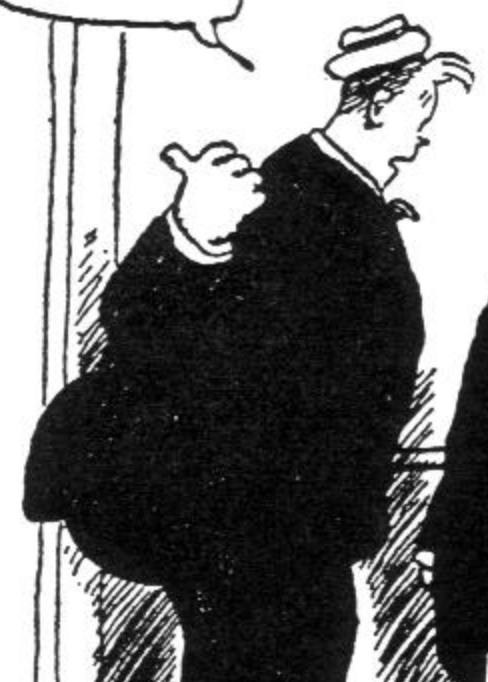
THE MAN HAS CUT HIS BEARD AND DYED HIS HAIR? WAIT, I WANT TO WRITE DOWN YOUR ADDRESS. WE'LL SEND SOMEBODY OUT THERE IMMEDIATELY.



GOLLY, I HOPE SHE IS RIGHT! IF SHE IS WE'LL HAVE THEM BACK HERE IN NO TIME.



I JUST GOT A LONG DISTANCE CALL, MR. WICKER, FROM A LITTLE TOWN UPSTATE—LEBANON. A WOMAN SAYS SHE HAS CODA AND SKEEZIX IN HER ROOMING HOUSE.



WE'LL SEND A MAN UP THERE RIGHT AWAY. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK ANY CHANCES.



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE WANDERERS STILL AT LARGE

I AM DETECTIVE SCHWARTZ AND HAVE COME TO SEE THE FOLKS YOU PHONED YESTERDAY MIGHT BE COL. CODA AND SKEEZIX.

OH MY GOODNESS! THEY LEFT THIS MORNING BEFORE ANYBODY WAS UP! AND JUST THINK! THERE WAS \$1000 REWARD.

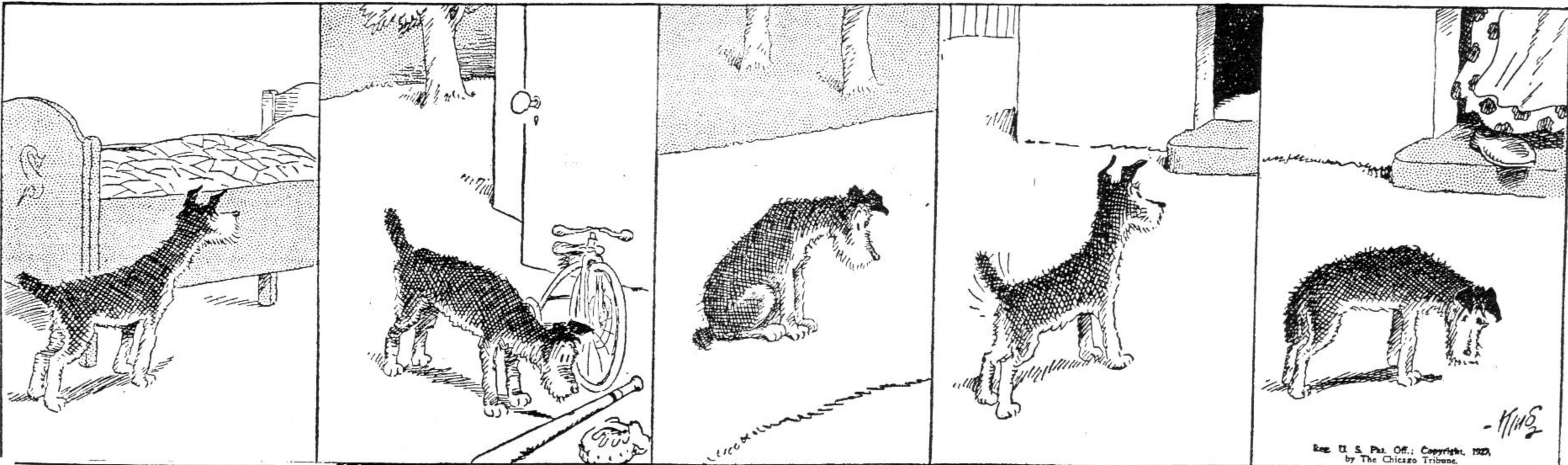
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY WERE THE MISSING PARTIES? THE MAN HAD BLACK HAIR AND SHORT MUSTACHE YOU SAY. DID THE BOY HAVE SORT OF A TUFT OF HAIR THAT STUCK OUT FORWARD?

NO, HIS HAIR WAS RATHER SHORT BUT HE WAS ABOUT SIX. AND HE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THE PICTURE.

NO, I THINK IT IS ANOTHER FALSE ALARM. CODA COULD HAVE DYED HIS HAIR BUT I THINK THAT RATHER UNLIKELY.

NOW THAT THEY'RE GONE I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO.

DAY LETTER TO WICKER DETECTIVE AGENCY. HAVE INVESTIGATED REPORT OF CODA AND SKEEZIX. IDENTIFICATION DOUBTFUL. ANYWAY PAIR GONE. WOMAN'S OBSERVATION EVIDENTLY INFLUENCED BY REWARD OFFER. SIGNED, SCHWARTZ.



CASOLINE ALLEY ALMOST ON HIS UDDERS

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-MHO<sub>2</sub>

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALMOST ON HIS UPPERS



SKEEZIX, OUR FUNDS ARE GETTING MIGHTY LOW. IT COSTS MONEY TO DODGE THE HOUNDS. I HAVE A LETTER OF CREDIT IN MY POCKET BUT I DON'T DARE TO TRY TO RAISE MONEY ON IT. THEY MIGHT RECOGNIZE MY NAME.

I'VE GOT TWO PENNIES.

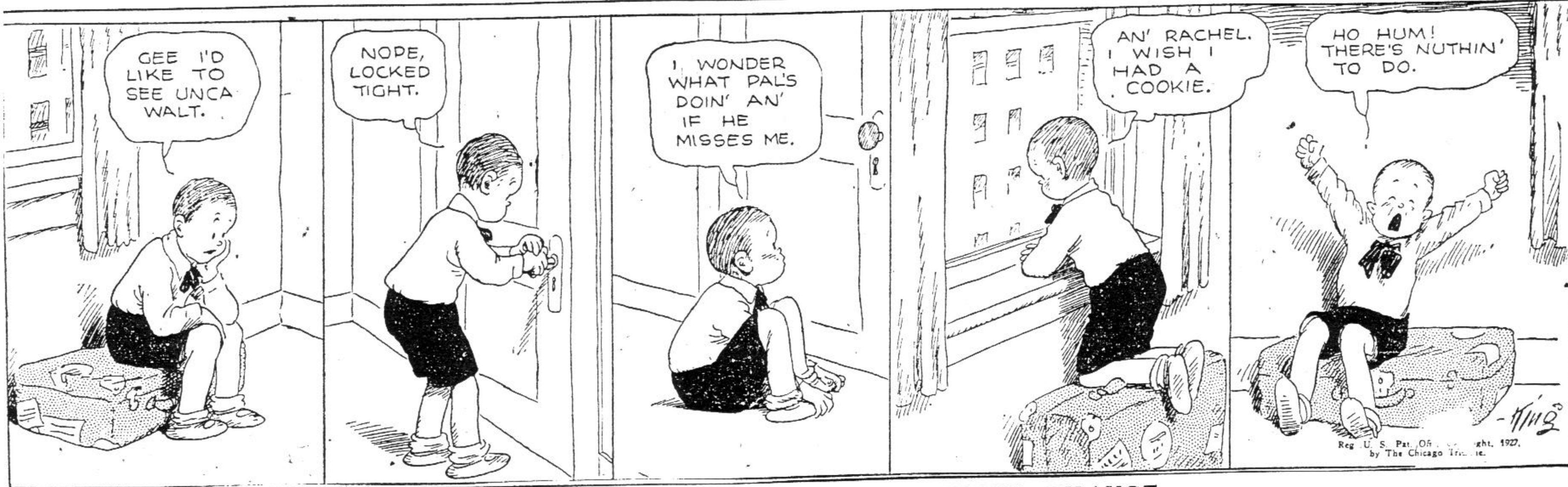
I'D LIKE TO RAISE SOME MONEY ON THESE DIAMOND CUFF LINKS. WHAT IS THE MOST YOU CAN GIVE ME?

HM! I SHOULDN'T GIVE YOU MORE THAN \$20 BUT I'LL BE GENEROUS WITH YOU AND MAKE IT \$25.

\$25 — BUT THEY COST 20 POUNDS IN LONDON. YOU SURELY CAN DO BETTER.

NO, I'M LUCKY IF I GET \$15 OUT OF THEM. IT'S THE MOST I CAN OFFER.

THE IRONY OF IT ALL! HENRI CODA THE WEALTHY TRADER AND SHIPOWNER REDUCED TO BORROWING MONEY ON HIS CUFF LINKS AT A PAWNBROKER'S! IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING BIT OF NEWS AT MY LONDON CLUB.



GEE I'D LIKE TO SEE UNCA WALT.

NOPE, LOCKED TIGHT.

I WONDER WHAT PAL'S DOIN' AN' IF HE MISSES ME.

AN' RACHEL. I WISH I HAD A COOKIE.

HO HUM! THERE'S NUTHIN' TO DO.

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- King



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT WANTS ANOTHER CHANCE

GOLLY, PHYLLIS, THESE EVENINGS AREN'T THE SAME WITHOUT SKEEZIX. THIS OLD PLACE SEEMS DEAD WITHOUT HIM.

YES WALT I'M JUST AS LONESOME FOR HIM AS I CAN BE.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW I USED TO TAKE HIM UP TO BED AND PLAY WITH HIM A FEW MINUTES BEFORE I TUCKED HIM IN. THEN HE'D HUG ME AND KISS ME GOODNIGHT. BOY! HOW I MISS IT! I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO DO IT TONIGHT.

THEN SOMETIMES WHEN HE DID SOME LITTLE BOYISH TRICK I'D SCOLD HIM AND BE CROSS WITH HIM. I WISH I HADN'T DONE IT NOW. I GET OUT OF PATIENCE TOO EASILY. THOSE THINGS ARE AS NATURAL TO A BOY AS EATING.

YOU NEVER DID ANYONE ANY HARM, WALT.

HE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CARE AT TIMES BUT HE'S PAID HIS WAY OVER AND OVER AGAIN. BEFORE I GOT YOU, PHYLLIS, HE WAS MY WHOLE LIFE. AND NOW IT'S NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT HIM. I'LL CERTAINLY APPRECIATE HIM IF WE GET HIM BACK!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WANTED—A FRIEND

HENRI FINDS HIS FUNDS DEPLETED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS HE IS UNABLE TO REPLENISH HIS PURSE. KEEPING HIMSELF IN SECLUSION HAS USED UP HIS AVAILABLE CASH AND MEANS MUST BE FOUND TO RENEW HIS SUPPLY. HE APPROACHES A BANK.

I HAVE CREDITS IN MY POCKET EQUAL TO ALL NEEDS FOR A LONG TIME BUT TO CASH THEM IS A REAL DIFFICULTY.



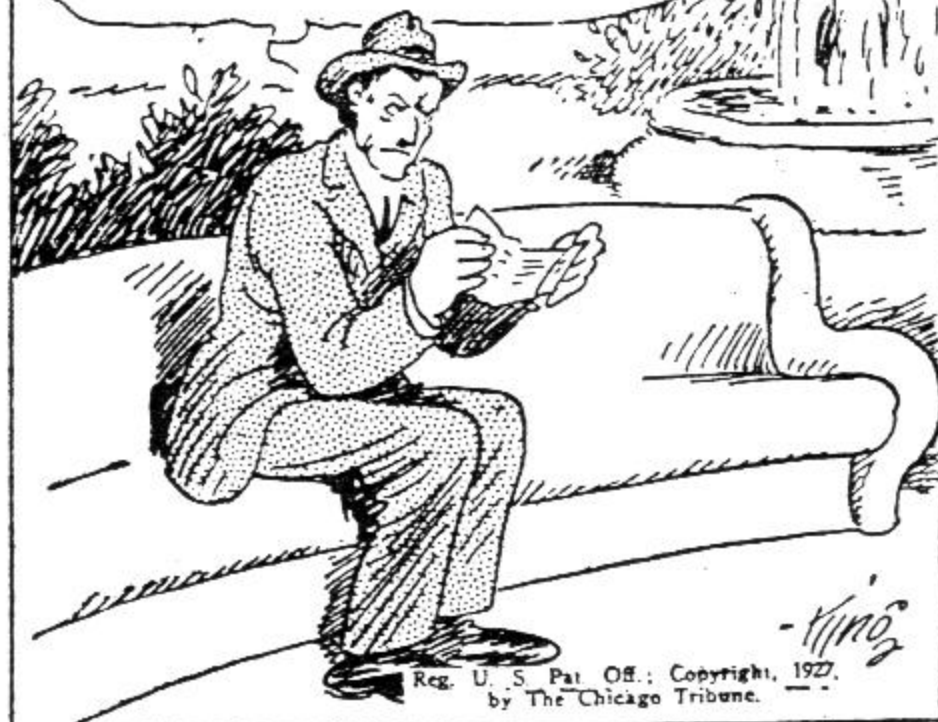
HOWEVER SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF MY NAME NOT BEING RECOGNIZED AND WITHOUT MONEY I CAN NEVER GET TO QUEBEC AND SAIL FOR ENGLAND. ANYWAY I MUST TAKE THE CHANCE.



I KNOW OF NO OTHER WAY OUT OF MY DIFFICULTIES AND MUST TAKE THE RISK OF GETTING INTO GREATER ONES. STILL I HAVE A PRESENTIMENT OF DANGER—OR AS THE AMERICANS SAY—A HUNCH.



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLHARDY. THIS CERTIFICATE OF CREDIT HAS MY DESCRIPTION ON IT—FLOWING WHITE HAIR, POINTED MOUSTACHE, VANDYKE BEARD. I HAVE NONE OF THEM NOW. I WOULD HAVE BEEN NABBED AS AN IMPOSTOR IF NOT AS A KIDNAPER.



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GASOLINE ALLEY—INSIDE INFORMATION

MISTA WALT DON'T TAKE MUCH STOCK IN CARDS BUT I DOES. IF I'D READ 'EM AN' TELL HIM WHERE SKEEZIX IS HE WOULD, I BETCHA.

LE'S SEE, RED ON BLACK AN' BLACK ON RED—AN' HERE'S THAT DARK MAN POKIN' HIS HEAD UP AGAIN.

GOLLY, I FERGET! IT'S ALL HERE IF I COULD ONLY READ 'EM. BUT I GIT 'EM ALL CONFISCATED EVERY WHICH WAY EVERY TIME I TRIES IT.

I AIN'T GOT 'NUFF PATIENCE WITH CARDS. I KNOW THESE BETTA. IF "COME SEB'M" SKEEZIX IS GOIN' BE BACK HERE IN A WEEK!

-KING-

GASOLINE ALLEY—LUCK AND MONEY RUNNING LOW

WELL SKEEZIX, YOU AND I ARE BROKE! WE HAVE NO MONEY AND WE CAN'T STAY HERE OR THEY WILL FIND US. AND WE HAVE NO PLACE TO GO.

I HA HA! ISN'T IT A LAUGH! FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS - 2500 DOLLARS - IN LETTERS OF CREDIT 'IN MY POCKET - AND FLAT!

WELL, WE MAY BE GIVEN A RIDE BUT REMEMBER, YOU MUST NOT TELL WHO YOU ARE OR SPEAK MY NAME. THE PEOPLE MIGHT TELL MME. OCTAVE YOU KNOW

I DON'T WANT TO GO. I WANT TO STAY AN' PLAY.

FRIENDS ARE EVERYTHING. IF I HAD ONE NOW HE COULD LEAD US OUT OF OUR DIFFICULTIES. I HAVE FRIENDS AT EVERY TURN ABROAD BUT NO ONE HERE I CAN APPROACH.

I WISH I HAD UNCA WALT.

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GASOLINE ALLEY NOW FOR SOME COMPETITION

# GASOLINE ALLEY—NOW FOR SOME COMPETITION

MR. WICKER, IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE THAT CODA AND SKEEZIX HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND. CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING? I'M DESPERATE!

IT SEEMS TO ME THE POLICE SHOULD BE MORE THOROUGHLY ON THE JOB. I'M GOING TO CALL ON THE CAP.

CAP, WITH THE FORCES AND FACILITIES AT YOUR DISPOSAL YOU OUGHT TO HAVE BROUGHT IN CODA AND SKEEZIX BEFORE THIS. I SHOULDN'T THINK YOU WOULD WANT TO ADMIT DEFEAT.

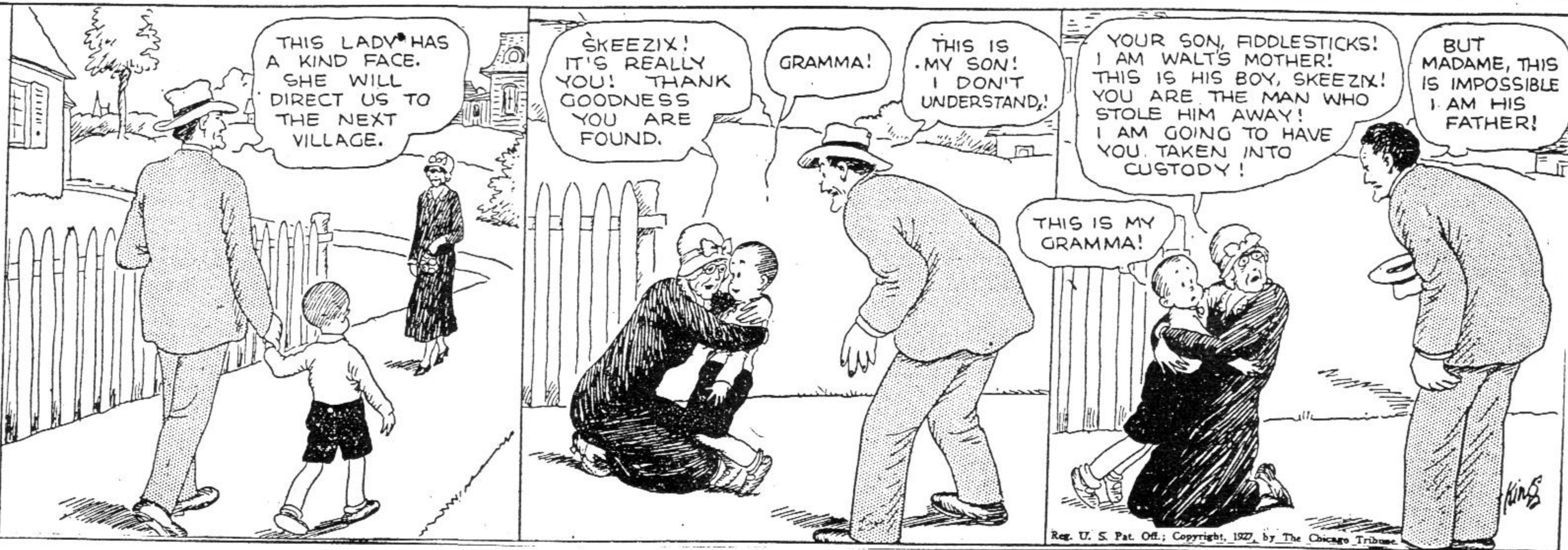
WELL, IF IT IS SO EASY, WHY HAVEN'T YOU AND YOUR HIGH CLASS SNOOPERS BROUGHT THEM AROUND BEFORE THIS? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PERFORMIN' ANY MIRACLES.

MEN OUR REPUTATION IS AT STAKE. THE CAPTAIN SAYS YOU OPERATORS HAVE RUBBER HEELS AT BOTH ENDS, THAT YOU COULDN'T FIND A CROOK IN A TELEPHONE BOOTH AND YOU WOULDN'T KNOW CODA FROM THE KING OF SIAM. NOW LETS GET OUT AND SHOW THESE POLICE HAYFOOTERS UP.

-King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—AT LAST!

WALT AND PHYLLIS HAVE BEEN GREATLY DISCOURAGED AT THE FAILURE OF THE AUTHORITIES WORKING ON THE CASE TO FIND ANY DEFINITE TRACE OF CODA. WALT'S CONFIDENCE THAT SKEEZIX WOULD SOON BE RECOVERED HAS DWINDLED AND ANXIETY HAS TAKEN ITS PLACE. MEANWHILE COL. CODA, OUT OF FUNDS AND WANDERING ABOUT THE SMALLER TOWNS HAS DONE SOME WORRYING HIMSELF.



## SKEEZIX RECOVERED!

THE SEARCH IS ENDED. WHEN WALT'S MOTHER FOUND CODA AND SKEEZIX WALKING THE STREET OF HER OWN TOWN, SHE ACTED PROMPTLY, TAKING CHARGE OF THE BOY AND HAVING CODA TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. WALT TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN IN RESPONSE TO A TELEGRAM AND THE REUNION NOW TAKING PLACE IS A JOY WHICH HE HAS BEEN ANTICIPATING DURING THE TEDIOUS JOURNEY.

MY BOY!  
MY BOY! I  
CAN'T BELIEVE  
I'M NOT  
DREAMING!

UNCA  
WALT!

I'M SO  
GLAD  
YOU'VE  
COME!



OH IT'S SUCH A JOY,  
TO KNOW YOU ARE  
SAFE AND SOUND,  
AND TO HOLD YOU  
TIGHT AGAINST ME.

I DIDN'T  
RUN AWAY  
UNCA WALT.



MOTHER, JUST TO THINK THAT  
OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY  
LOOKING FOR HIM YOU WERE THE  
ONE TO FIND HIM! IT IS ONE OF  
THOSE COINCIDENCES WHICH, IF IT  
HAPPENED IN FICTION INSTEAD OF  
REAL LIFE, NO ONE WOULD EVER  
BELIEVE.



GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT DENIES CODA'S CLAIMS

WALT AGREED TO THE RELEASE OF COL CODA WHO HAS FURNISHED A LARGE BOND GUARANTEEING THAT HE WILL NOT REPEAT HIS ATTEMPT TO GET POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX, AND WALT FEELS THAT THE GREATER PORTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT EVENTS SHOULD BE LAID UPON MME. OCTAVE'S SHOULDERS.

WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHY DID YOU TAKE SKEEZIX AND CAUSE US ALL SO MUCH ANGUISH?



HE IS MY SON. WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE HIM? HIS MOTHER WHOM YOU KNOW AS MME. OCTAVE HAD NOT DISTINGUISHED HERSELF SO FAR AS CARING FOR HIM WAS CONCERNED.



MME. OCTAVE HAD FORFEITED ALL CLAIMS TO HIM. I ADOPTED HIM BEFORE HE WAS TWO YEARS OLD. I HAVE WATCHED OVER HIM AND CARED FOR HIM THROUGH ALL THE YEARS OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. LEGALLY AND BY ALL THE CLAIMS OF MUTUAL AFFECTION HE IS MINE!



YOU SAY YOU LEGALLY ADOPTED HIM? HOW COULD YOU DO THAT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION? BESIDES THE TIES OF BLOOD ARE STRONGER THAN ALL OTHERS.

THAT IS WHERE I DISAGREE WITH YOU. THE TIME FOR YOU TO HAVE BEEN INTERESTED WAS YEARS AGO, BEFORE THE TIES BETWEEN US HAD BECOME SO STRONG. YOU ARE TOO LATE, COL. CODA.



YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE BUT AFTER HAVING HIM FOR SIX WEEKS HE MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. I HAVE NOT GIVEN UP.



King

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—FAMILY REUNION

**H**OME AGAIN! AFTER WEEKS OF WANDERING SKEEZIX IS BACK WITH AUNTIE BLOSSOM, BEING KIDNAPED BY COL. CODA IS NOW HISTORY SO FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED. AND HE IS READY TO TAKE UP LIFE WHERE HE LEFT OFF.

SKEEZIX, WE'VE JUST MISSED YOU TERRIBLY! YOU MUSTN'T GO AWAY AGAIN!

I LIKE IT BETTER HERE.

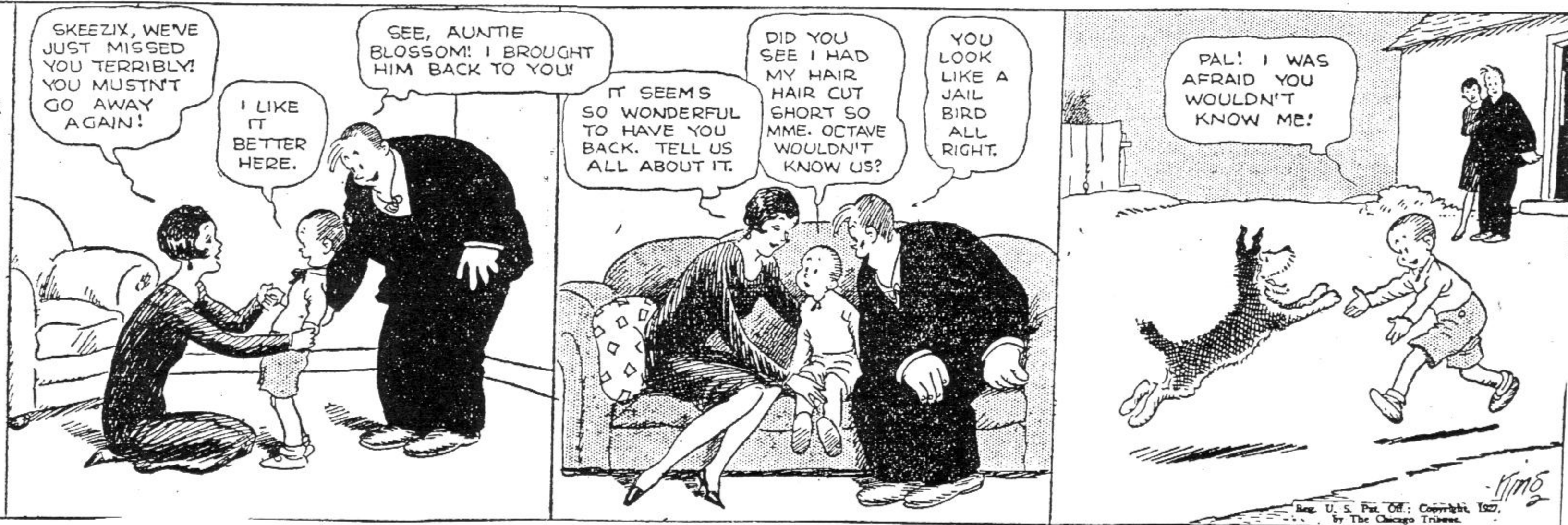
SEE, AUNTIE BLOSSOM! I BROUGHT HIM BACK TO YOU!

IT SEEMS SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU BACK. TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.

DID YOU SEE I HAD MY HAIR HAIR CUT SHORT SO MME. OCTAVE WOULDN'T KNOW US?

YOU LOOK LIKE A JAIL BIRD ALL RIGHT.

PAL! I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ME!



Now that SKEEZIX IS BACK AND LIFE HAS TAKEN UP ITS OLD ROUTINE, MORE OR LESS, WALT FEELS DIFFERENTLY ABOUT PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENDERS THAN HE DID WHILE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE OUTCOME. HE IS HAPPY OVER THE HAPPY ENDING AND WANTS TO TURN TO A NEW CHAPTER THOUGH THE STATES ATTORNEY IS STILL INTERESTED.

~ ~ ~



NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, PROSECUTE CODA FOR ABDUCTING SKEEZIX— NOW THAT WE HAVE HIM?

NO I BELIEVE CODA IS SINCERE IN THINKING HE IS SKEEZIX'S FATHER. IN THAT CASE HE ONLY DID WHAT ANY FATHER WOULD DO UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.

WELL BEFORE YOU ANNOUNCE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO PROSECUTE YOU HAD BETTER COME TO SOME AGREEMENT WITH HIM. HE IS A WEALTHY MAN AND SACRIFICING THE BONDS HE HAS GIVEN MAY NOT MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO HIM. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO REPEAT.

I'M GOING TO HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART TALK WITH HIM TOMORROW. I FEEL THAT MME. OCTAVE IS THE REAL CAUSE OF ALL OUR TROUBLES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT HER? I THINK WE HAVE A STRONG CASE AGAINST HER IF WE WANT TO PUSH IT.

I'M REALLY SO GLAD TO GET SKEEZIX BACK I DON'T FEEL LIKE PROSECUTING ANYBODY. MME OCTAVE IS GONE NOW AND I DON'T THINK SHE IS GOING TO SHOW UP RIGHT AWAY. LET'S LET IT DROP UNTIL SHE DOES.

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Hing

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI KEEPS ON LEARNING

I CAN'T HELP THINKING COL. CODA WAS ON THE SQUARE WHEN HE TOOK SKEEZIX. I BELIEVE HE THOUGHT IT WAS A MATTER THAT CONCERNED HIMSELF AND OCTAVE AND NO ONE ELSE - EXCEPT SKEEZIX.

COL. CODA, I WONDER IF YOU KNOW THAT ASIDE FROM THE TIME THAT MME. OCTAVE KIDNAPED SKEEZIX HERSELF, SHE HADN'T SEEN HIM HALF A DOZEN TIMES IN HIS LIFE.

AND YOU AND MRS. WALLET HAVE BEEN CARING FOR HIM ALL THIS TIME?

SINCE WE HAVE BEEN MARRIED, YES. BEFORE THAT, UNTIL HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, I CARED FOR HIM MYSELF, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, FROM A BABE IN ARMS TO A BOY IN SCHOOL. AND NOT AS A DUTY BUT AS A LABOR OF LOVE. AND IF YOU THINK THE TIES OF BLOOD ARE STRONGER THAN THE BONDS OF LOVE YOU ARE MISTAKEN IN THIS CASE.

AND HELENE LED ME TO BELIEVE SHE WAS SUPPORTING AND BRINGING HIM UP HERSELF!

YES AND SHE GAVE AS THE REASON FOR THIS THE FACT THAT YOU WOULDN'T FURNISH MONEY FOR HIS SUPPORT IF YOU KNEW HE HAD BEEN LEFT ON MY DOORSTEP AND LATER ADOPTED BY ME AS MY SON.

IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN! I WOULD HAVE HAD HIM MYSELF ALL THESE YEARS!

GASOLINE ALLEY—FAREWELL, FOR THE PRESENT

WE RESPECT YOUR DESIRES, COL CODA. BUT NOTHING COULD INDUCE US TO GIVE SKEEZIX UP.

I REALIZE YOU HAVE A FONDNESS FOR HIM BUT YOU MUST KNOW MY FEELINGS ARE MUCH MORE DEEP SEATED AND THAT MY CLAIMS TO HIM ARE JUST.

JUST FROM YOUR STANDPOINT BUT NOT VALID FROM OURS.

ENVIRONMENT HAS MADE HIM OURS. HE COULDN'T BE ANY MORE OURS IF HE'D BEEN BORN TO US.

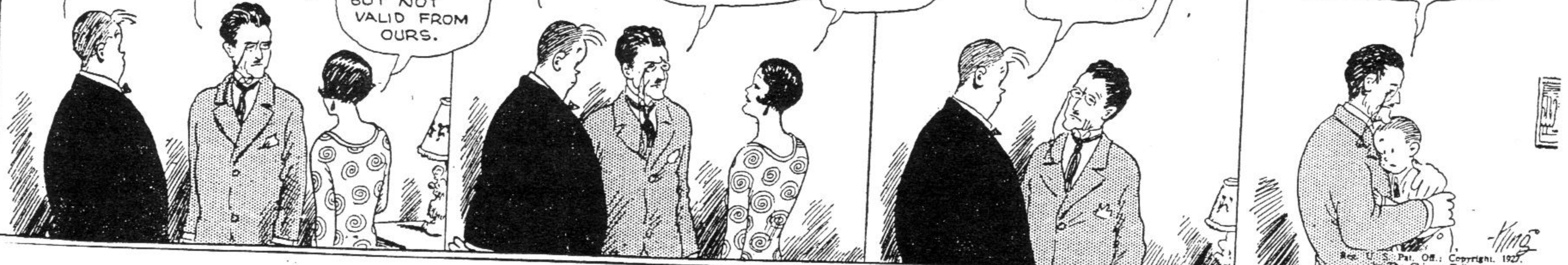
BUT BLOOD WILL TELL. HE WILL TURN MORE AND MORE TOWARD ME. TIME IS MY ALLY NOT MY ADVERSARY.

TIME HAS ALREADY DEFEATED YOU, COL. CODA.

I'D LIKE TO ASK ONE FAVOR BEFORE I GO THIS TIME. I'D LIKE TO SEE SKEEZIX. WOULD YOU PERMIT THAT.

CERTAINLY.

SKEEZIX, I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ME KINDLY. I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU WITH ME, BUT I CAN'T NOW—PERHAPS SOON. I'LL BE REMEMBERING AND THINKING OF YOU ALWAYS. BYE BYE, LITTLE MAN.



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GASOLINE ALLEY—LET JOY BE UNCONFINED

GASOLINE ALLEY—LET JOY BE UNCONFINED

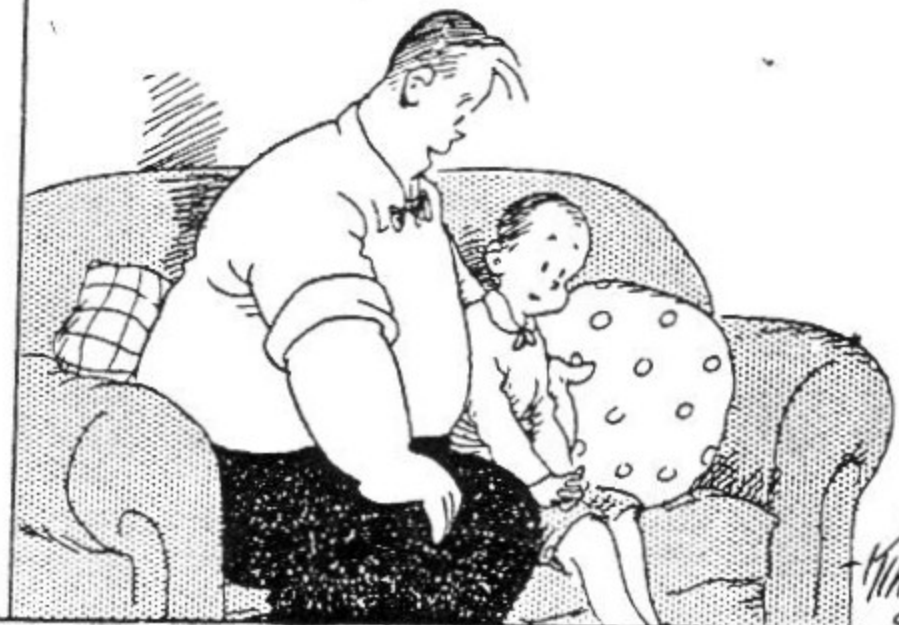
GOLLY! IT IS SO FINE TO HAVE YOU BACK I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.



BUT YOU'RE A FUNNY LOOKING SKEEZIX WITHOUT THAT FORELOCK OF YOURS. ANYWAY GRANDMA RECOGNIZED YOU - WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

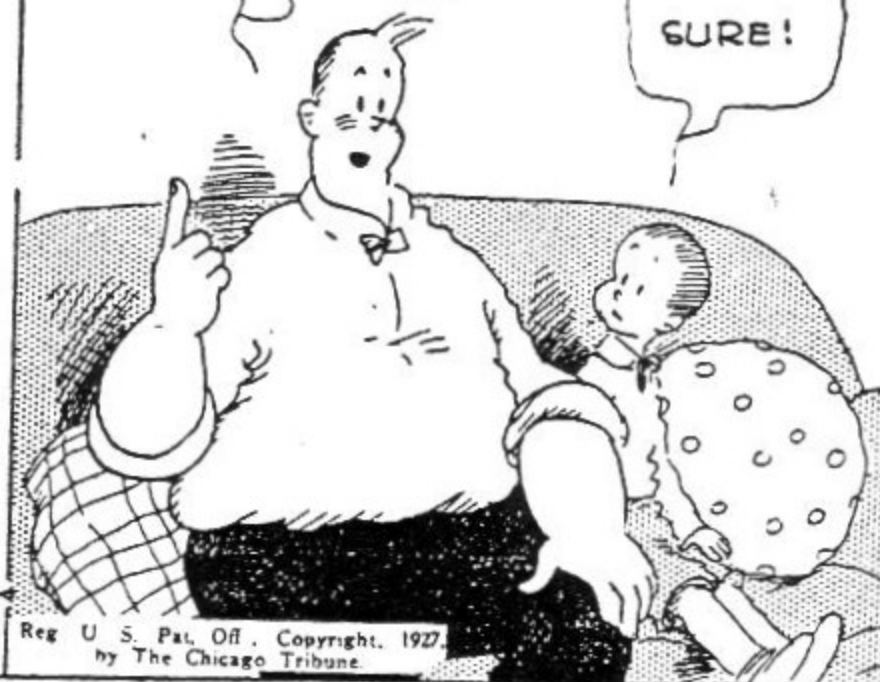


ISN'T IT JUST WONDERFUL THAT AFTER SO MANY PEEPEE TRIED SHE WAS THE ONE TO SEE YOU ON THE STREET AND GET YOU BACK TO ME?

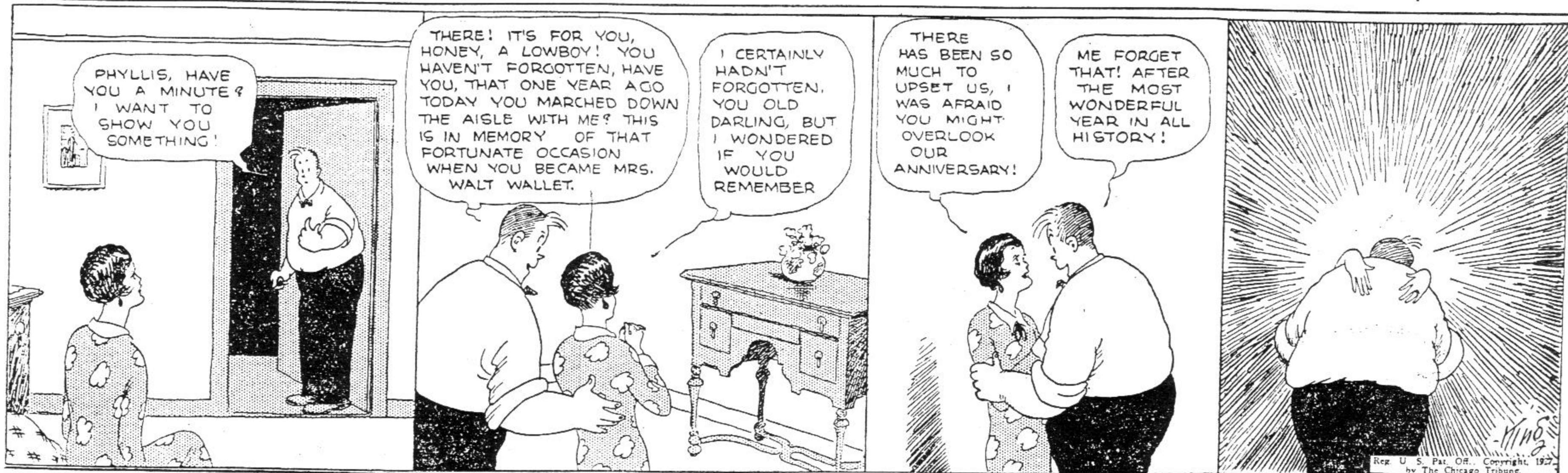


WHY! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT! GRANDMA GETS THE THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD FOR CATCHING CODA AND RETURNING SKEEZIX!

SURE!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THEN, FADEOUT



GASOLINE ALLEY—Q. E. D., WHICH MEANS YOU TELL 'EM



GOODNESS ME,  
ANOTHA DISH GONE  
KAFLOOEY! I WONDA  
WHAT'S GOT INTO  
ME!



I WAS HAVIN'  
SECH GOOD LUCK  
THIS WEEK - THEN  
THIS MORNIN' I  
BUSTS A WINDOW  
AN' TWO CUPS.



I BETCHA I KNOW  
WHAT CHANGED MY  
LUCK - THAT BLACK CAT,  
LUCINDA JOHNSON  
WALKED FRONT O' ME  
LAS' NIGHT IN THE  
MOVIN' PITCHER SHOW.

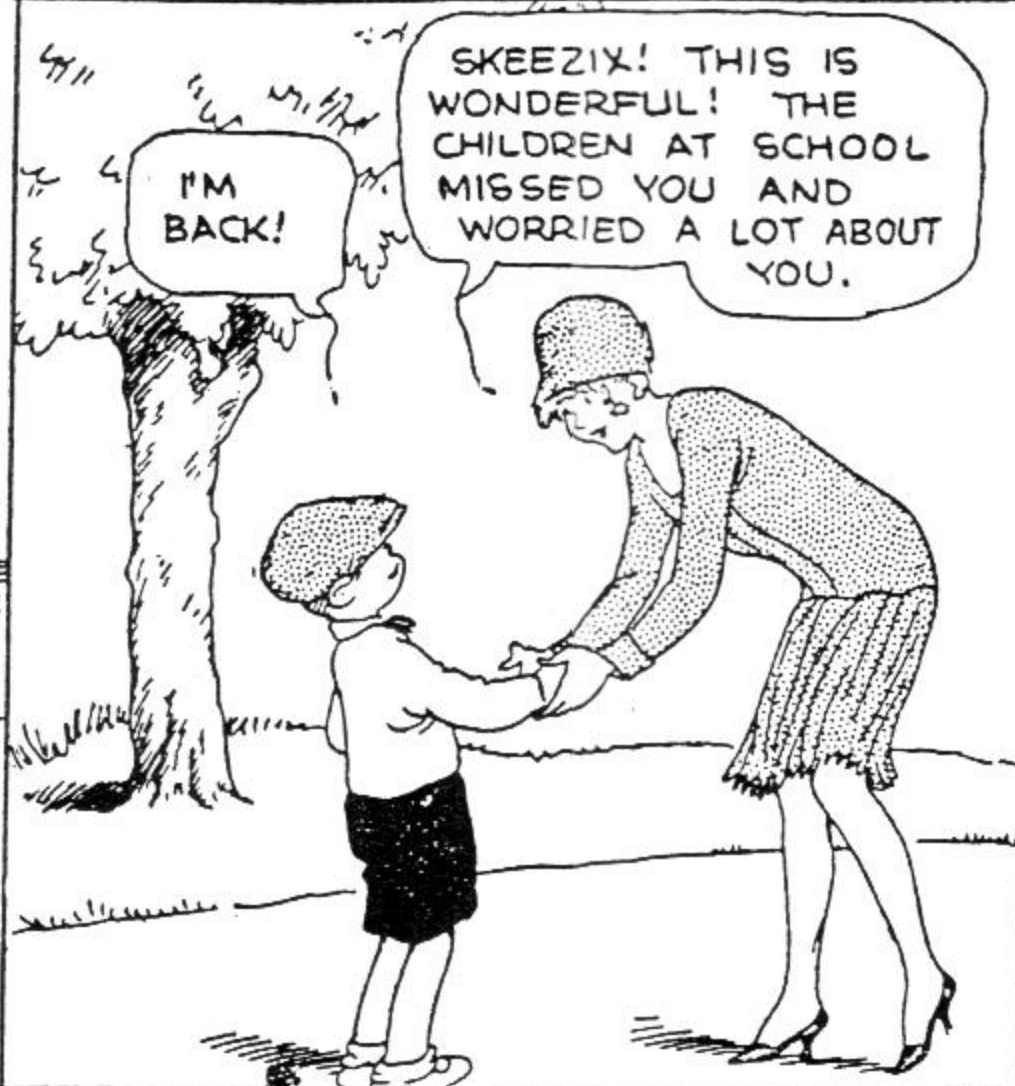


AN' MY  
LUCK BEIN'  
CHANGED  
PROVES SHE  
IS A BLACK  
CAT!

GASOLINE ALLEY — ANYWAY, SKEEZIX MISSED SOME SCHOOL



TEACHER!  
MISS  
BUDD!



I'M  
BACK!

SKEEZIX! THIS IS  
WONDERFUL! THE  
CHILDREN AT SCHOOL  
MISSED YOU AND  
WORRIED A LOT ABOUT  
YOU.



I'M VERY  
GLAD UNCLE  
WALT  
FOUND YOU.

YEP THEY  
'DUCTED ME  
BUT THEY  
COULDN'T  
KEEP ME.



SEE! I GOT  
MY HAIR CUT  
SO THE PLICE  
COULDN'T  
FIND ME.

DIDNT  
YA  
WANT  
'EM TO  
FIND  
YA?

WERE  
THEY  
GOIN'  
TO PUT  
YA IN  
JAIL?

- KING



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALLEY GOLF

WELL, HONEY, I GUESS BOTH MME. OCTAVE AND HENRI HAVE HAD ENOUGH FOR A WHILE. I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BOTHER US RIGHT AWAY. WE CERTAINLY WON OUT.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN. LET'S PITCH HORSESHOES!

ATTABOY! IT'S GOIN' TO BE A RINGER, SURE!

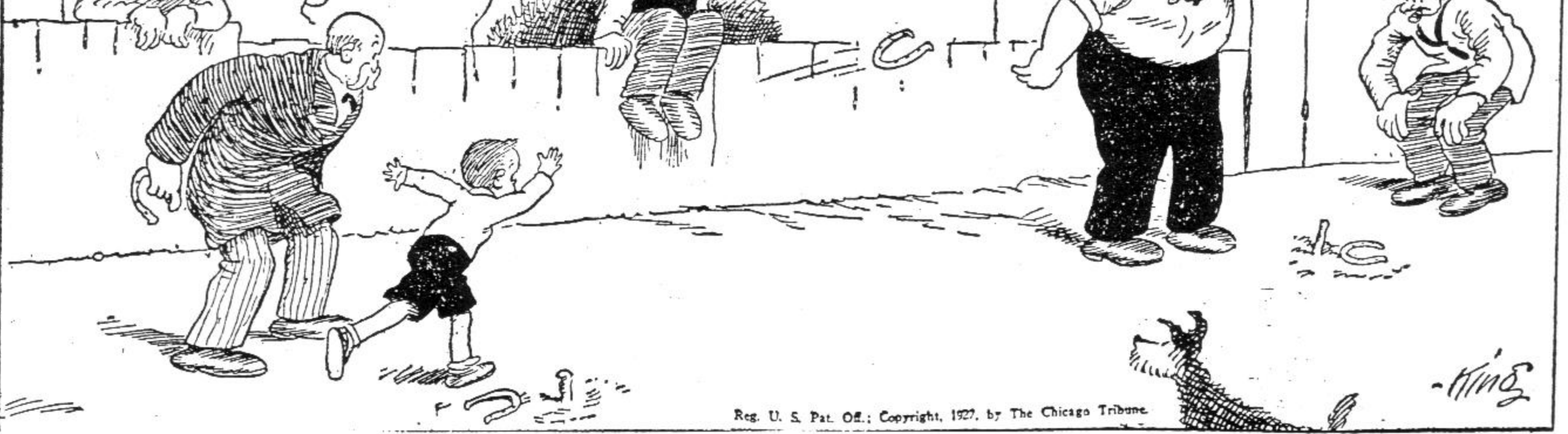
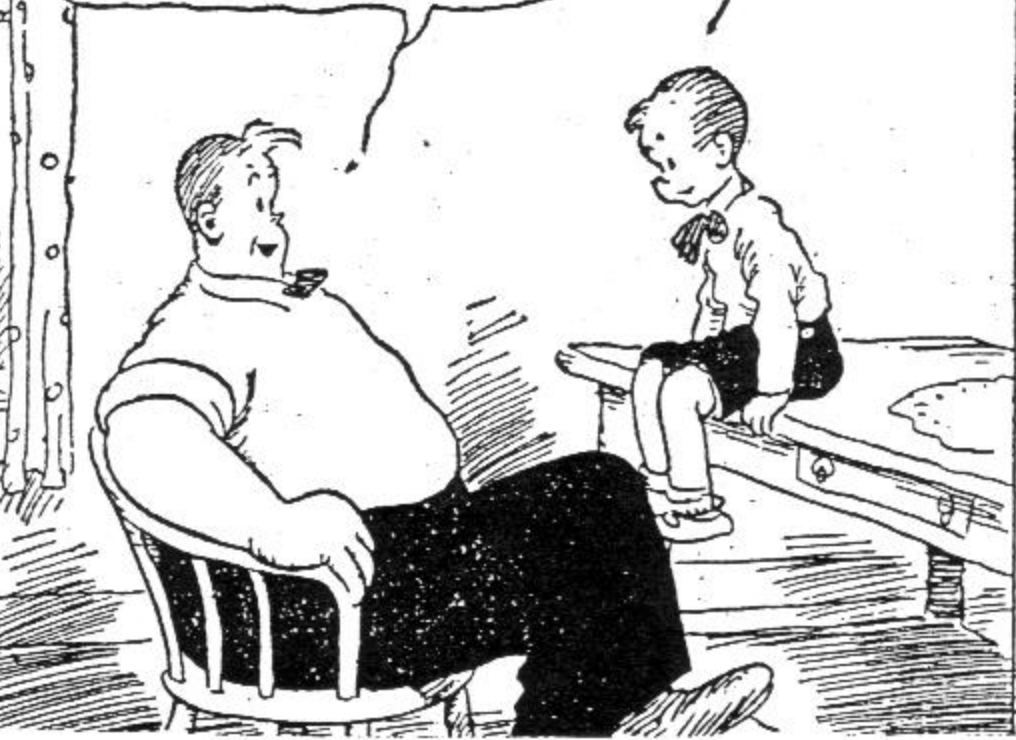
THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, SKEEZIX, THINKING THEY CAN TRIM US.

HERE SHE GOES!

THAT'S FORM, SKEEZIX! WALT TOSSES 'EM LIKE HE WAS REACHIN' FOR FLAPJACKS AN' AVERY HATES TO LET GO OF 'EM.

GOLLY, SKEEZIX! YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING!

I HAD A FEELING IN MY BONES I BETTER NOT BET ON THIS GAME.



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-King

GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI IS STILL BUSY

**H**ENRI HAS BEEN LEARNING MORE OF THE FACTS REGARDING WALT AND PHYLLIS AND THE ADOPTION OF SKEEZIX. HE IS BACK WHERE HE HAS UNLIMITED CREDIT AGAIN AND IS ABLE TO START CARRYING OUT SOME OF THE PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMING IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD. ONE OF THE FIRST MOVES IS TO CONSULT THE MOST EXPERT COUNSEL HE CAN FIND.

YES, JUDGE MOLDER, SKEEZIX WAS ADOPTED BY WALT IN 1922 AND A DECREE WAS ISSUED. I AM HIS FATHER AND HAVE NEVER GIVEN MY CONSENT.

I WILL GET A COPY OF THE DECREE AND THE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. I AM SURE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO GET POSSESSION OF THE CHILD BUT YOU UNDERSTAND IT MAY BE AN EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING

EXPENSE IS NO OBJECT. I AM HIS FATHER AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT I SECURE HIM. I AM WILLING TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING TO HAVE HIM FOR MY OWN.

OF COURSE. YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM. YOU HAVE NEVER GIVEN YOUR CONSENT TO HIS ADOPTION BY ANYONE. FRAUD MAY HAVE ENTERED INTO THE TRANSACTION.

I WAS IN THE INTERIOR OF AFRICA WHEN HE WAS BORN I HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIS MOTHER FOR SEVEN MONTHS WHEN HE WAS BORN. AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW OF HIS EXISTENCE UNTIL AFTER THE ADOPTION TOOK PLACE.

I CAN DO NOTHING UNTIL I HAVE EXAMINED THE PAPERS IN THE CASE. YOU SEE ME IN A FEW DAYS. MEANWHILE I WILL EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT YOUR WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT.



GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX MUST HAVE SERVICE, TOO



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN FOR CODA

I HAVE GONE OVER THE ADOPTION DECREE WHICH AWARDED SKEEZIX TO WALT WALLET, ALSO THE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE, COL. CODA. THERE MAY BE A POINT OR TWO ON WHICH WE MIGHT BASE A PLEA BUT IN GENERAL IT IS ABOUT AIRTIGHT AND LEGALLY SOUND.

BUT JUDGE MOLDER, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY. I MUST HAVE HIM. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE. NOW I ADVISE GOING BEFORE THE COURT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT WITH A PETITION TO HAVE THE DECREE SET ASIDE NOT ON THE GROUNDS OF A FAULTY DECREE BUT ON THE COMMON LAW RIGHT OF A FATHER TO HIS SON. WE MUST CONVINCe THE JUDGE THAT JUSTICE HAS NOT BEEN DONE.

THAT SOUNDS BETTER JUDGE.

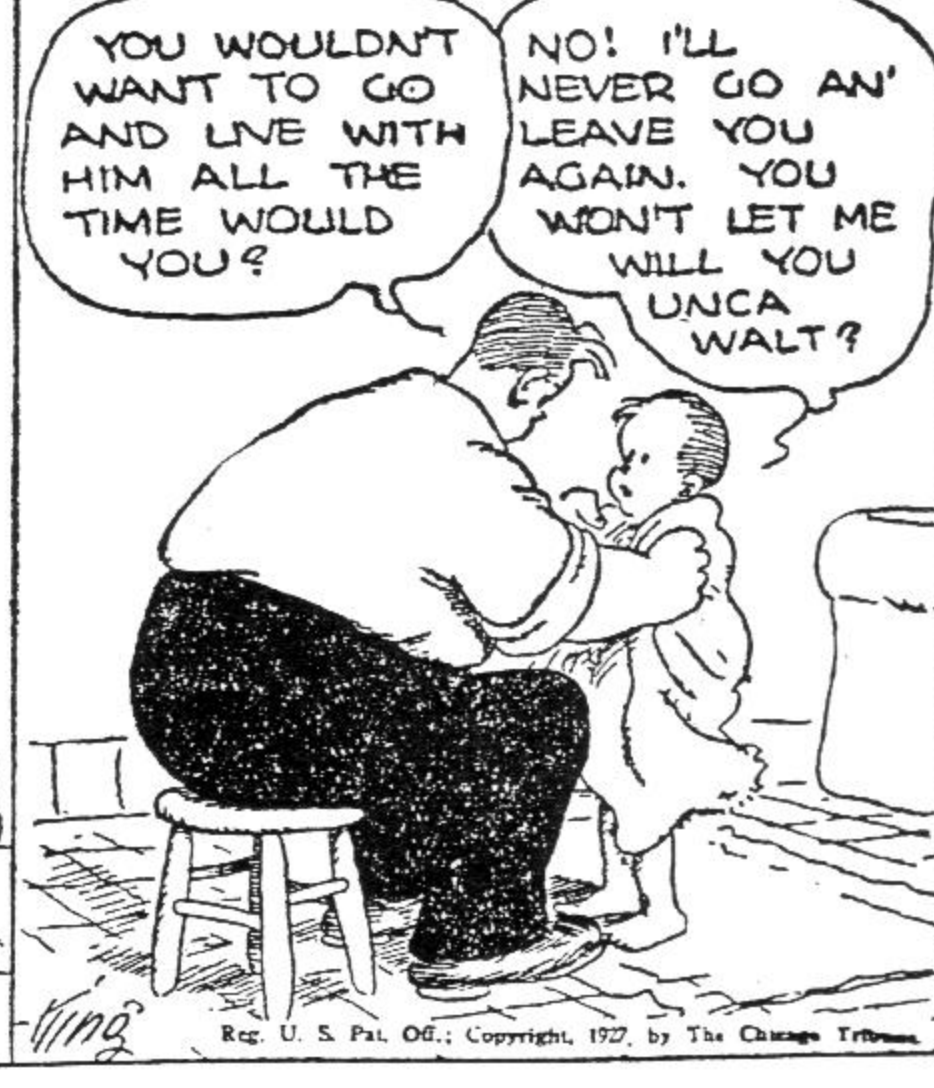
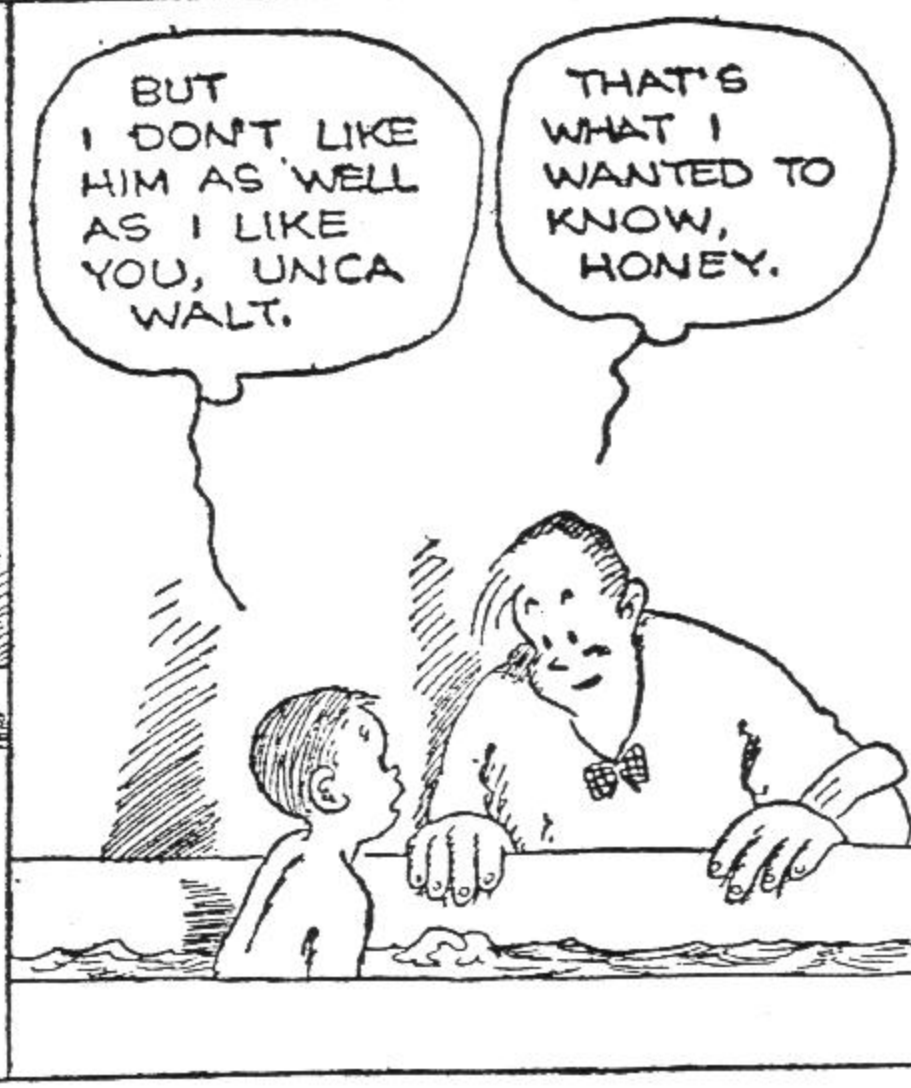
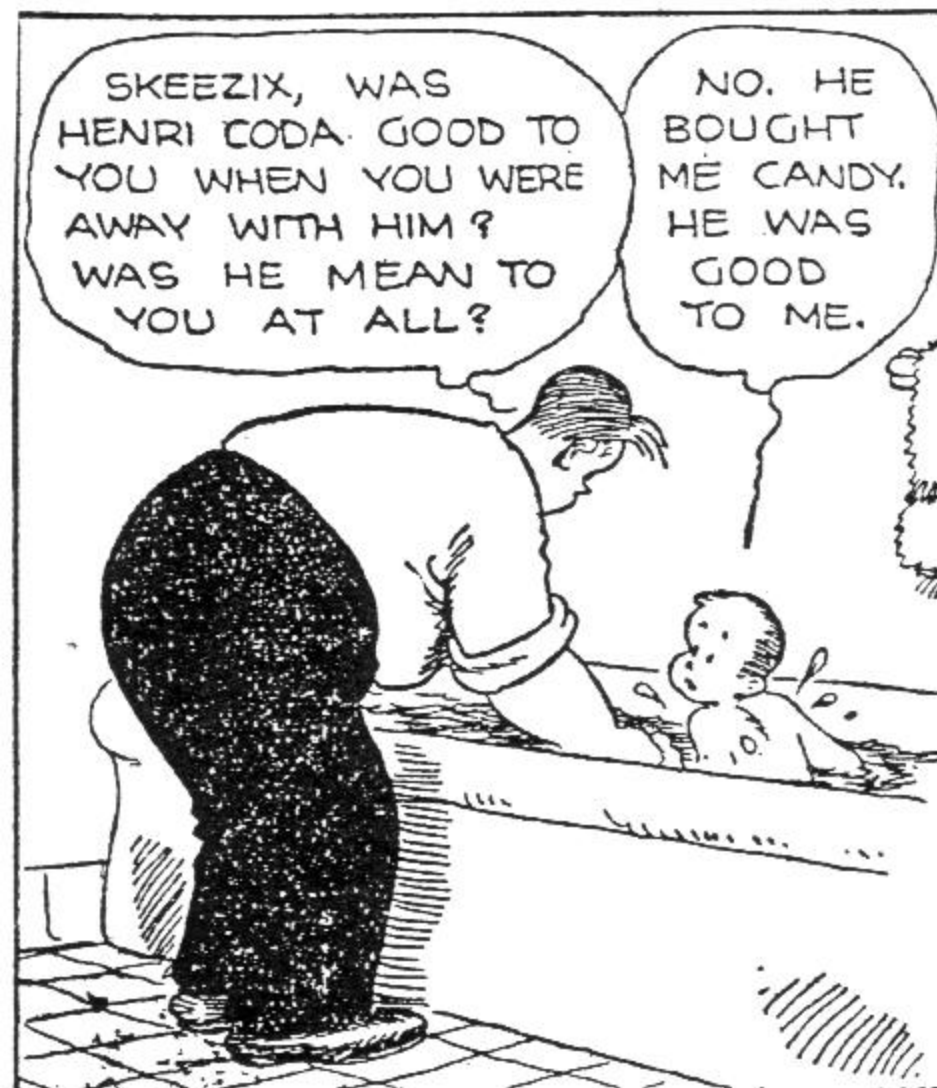
YOU AS A FATHER HAD A RIGHT TO KNOW YOUR SON WAS BEING TAKEN FROM YOU. WHAT EFFORT WAS MADE TO FIND YOU? NONE. YOU HAD NOT KNOWINGLY NEGLECTED HIM AND IT WAS THROUGH NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT HIS MOTHER ABANDONED HIM.

THAT IS BOTH LOGICAL AND TRUE. I SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULDN'T WIN. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE DO.

-KING-

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—BATHING SCENES



# GASOLINE ALLEY—TAG, YOU'RE IT!

WALT SERENE IN THE CONVICTION THAT THE INCIDENT OF HENRI CODA'S ABDUCTION OF SKEEZIX IS CLOSED. LITTLE REALIZES THAT COL CODA IS AT THIS MOMENT MAKING PLANS TO RECOVER THAT SAME YOUNG PERSON



# GASOLINE ALLEY—TELLING IT TO THE JUDGE

THE FACTS ARE THESE, JUDGE BLY. COL. CODA HAD BEEN IN AFRICA SOME MONTHS WHEN THE CHILD SKEEZIX WAS BORN. WITHIN FIVE DAYS, MRS. HELENE CODA, BETTER KNOWN AS MME. OCTAVE CAUSED THE BABY TO BE LEFT ON THE DOORSTEP OF THIS WALT WALLET AT THAT TIME A BACHELOR.

I HAD NOT BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH MY WIFE FOR SOME MONTHS AND HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE CHILD.

THIS WALT WALLET LATER ADOPTED THE CHILD BUT THE FATHER HAD NO WORD IN THE DISPOSAL OF HIS OWN SON. I HOLD THAT THE CONCEALING OF THE FACTS AT THE TIME OF THE BABY'S ABANDONMENT AND ALSO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ADOPTION CONSTITUTES A FRAUD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL QUESTION INVOLVED, YOUR HONOR, BUT I AM SURE SOME CONSIDERATION IS DUE MY CLAIMS TO MY OWN SON WHEN I NEVER KNEW OF HIS ABANDONMENT NOR WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO OPPOSE HIS ADOPTION.

I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION, JUDGE BLY. I WANTED TO LAY THEM BEFORE YOU PERSONALLY BEFORE MAKING ANY FORMAL MOVES IN THE CASE.

I WILL THINK THE MATTER OVER, MOLDER. SUPPOSE YOU CALL ME IN THE MORNING. IT IS AN UNUSUAL SITUATION.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A VOICE FROM ABROAD

YOUR EXCELLENCY, HAVE COME TO CONFER WITH YOU UPON A SUBJECT VITAL TO OUR NATIVE COUNTRY—YOURS AND MINE

COME IN GEN. GLAUREK. BUT I AM PLAIN HENRI CODA HERE

I AM HAPPY TO ADVISE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE PENDULUM IS SWINGING IN OUR DIRECTION THE HIGH-HANDED ACTS OF THE RADICALS IN POWER ARE LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GIOVANIA. THE OLD REGIME IS GAINING STRENGTH EVERY DAY

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY IT. YOU ARE NOT INCLINED TO BE AN OPTIMIST GENERAL.

WE ARE PREPARED AT A WORD FROM YOU TO TAKE YOUR SON FROM THE COUPLE WHO NOW KEEP HIM, SPIRIT HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND—

NO GENERAL, I AM GOING ABOUT THIS IN ANOTHER WAY. IT WILL BE LEGALLY DONE. THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR DIRECT ACTION.

I BOW TO YOUR JUDGMENT, COL. CODA. BUT IF YOUR PLANS SHOULD FAIL MINE ARE READY TO BE CARRIED OUT. THE BOY IS NECESSARY TO OUR FINAL SUCCESS

I APPRECIATE YOUR ALERTNESS AND YOUR LOYALTY, GEN. GLAUREK. I HOPE IT MAY BE REWARDED SOON.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—BAD NEWS

DHYLLIS!  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?

LOOK AT THIS! HENRI  
CODA IS AFTER SKEEZIX  
AGAIN! HE'S GOING INTO  
COURT TO TRY TO PROVE  
MY ADOPTION OF HIM  
WAS NOT LEGAL!

HE  
CAN'T  
PROVE  
THAT!

AND WE'VE GOT TO  
APPEAR IN COURT TO  
SEE THAT HE DOESN'T  
GET AWAY WITH IT  
THIS IS A COPY OF A  
PETITION OR SOMETHING  
TO THE JUDGE TO  
REOPEN THE CASE  
BECAUSE OF FRAUD.

THERE  
WASN'T ANY  
FRAUD AND  
HE CAN  
NEVER SHOW  
THERE WAS.

JUST THE  
SAME HE IS  
GOING TO  
TRY IT AND  
WE MUST DO  
SOMETHING.

YOU MUST GO TO  
A GOOD ATTORNEY.  
TALK TO MR. WICKER.  
HE WILL TELL YOU  
WHOM TO SEE. WE  
WILL HEAD OFF  
HENRI CODA IN A  
HURRY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT SEEKS LEGAL ASSISTANCE

MR. WICKER SENT ME TO YOU MR. REDBERRY. YOU SEE HENRI CODA WANTS TO TAKE SKEEZIX AWAY FROM ME AND ADOPTED HIM OVER FOUR YEARS AGO.

YOU ARE WALT WALLET THE FOSTER FATHER? AND THE CHILD'S REAL FATHER NOW CLAIMS FRAUD?

COME INTO MY OFFICE. YOU HAVE THE ADOPTION DECREE WITH YOU? I WANT THE WHOLE STORY.

YES I'VE BROUGHT ALL THE PAPERS ALONG, MR. REDBERRY. CODA HASN'T ANY RIGHT TO SKEEZIX AT ALL, HAS HE?

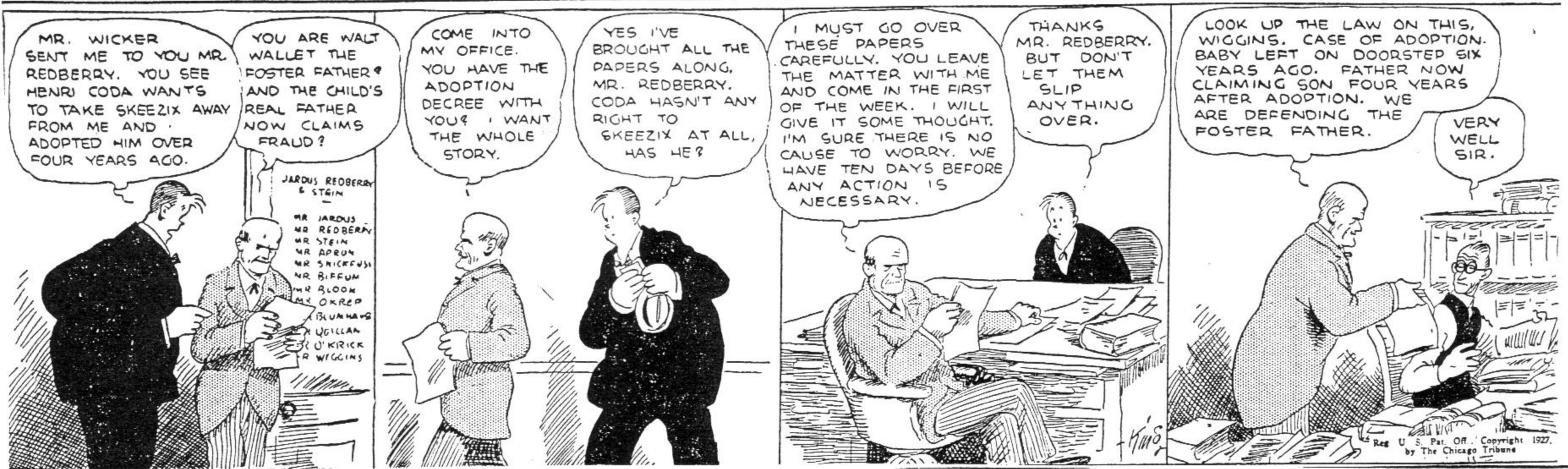
I MUST GO OVER THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY. YOU LEAVE THE MATTER WITH ME AND COME IN THE FIRST OF THE WEEK. I WILL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. I'M SURE THERE IS NO CAUSE TO WORRY. WE HAVE TEN DAYS BEFORE ANY ACTION IS NECESSARY.

THANKS MR. REDBERRY. BUT DON'T LET THEM SLIP ANYTHING OVER.

LOOK UP THE LAW ON THIS, WIGGINS. CASE OF ADOPTION. BABY LEFT ON DOORSTEP SIX YEARS AGO. FATHER NOW CLAIMING SON FOUR YEARS AFTER ADOPTION. WE ARE DEFENDING THE FOSTER FATHER.

VERY WELL SIR.

- JARDUS REDBERRY & STEIN
- MR JARDUS
  - MR REDBERRY
  - MR STEIN
  - MR APRON
  - MR SHICKLES
  - MR BIFFUM
  - MR BLOOM
  - MR OKREP
  - BLUMHAYS
  - WILLAN
  - O'KRICK
  - R WIGGINS



GASOLINE ALLEY — CAREFUL, SKEEZIX



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-King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HENRI HAS AN IDEA

IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNTRY WHERE A FATHER HAS NO RIGHTS TO HIS OWN CHILD WHEN IT HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY ANOTHER. IN GIOVANIA A FATHER IS ALWAYS MASTER OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.



HOW THE TIME CREEPS ALONG. NEXT TUESDAY WE GO BEFORE JUDGE BLY. MY ATTORNEY TELLS ME HE IS CONFIDENT HE CAN GET THE ADOPTION DECREE SET ASIDE. I HOPE HE IS RIGHT.



I CAN'T GIVE SKEEZIX UP NOW AND I MUST WIN HIM BY FAIR MEANS IF POSSIBLE. NO DOUBT HIS FOSTER PARENTS HAVE BECOME ATTACHED TO HIM BUT I CANNOT CONSIDER THAT NOW.



I WONDER IF THEY WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY A MONETARY CONSIDERATION. THIS WALT WALLET IS AN INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL AND AN OFFER WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT BEFORE HIM DIPLOMATICALLY.



IT WOULD BE WORTH TRYING AT LEAST. A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WOULD DO AWAY WITH THE UNPLEASANTNESS AND UNCERTAINTY OF A TRIAL IN COURT. I BELIEVE I WILL DISPATCH A LETTER TO HIM TODAY.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT REJECTS CODA'S OFFER



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT AND HIS ATTORNEY MAP THE CAMPAIGN

YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE THE WOMAN WHO LEFT SKEEZIX ON YOUR DOORSTEP DO YOU THINK CODA CAN? HE MIGHT SUBPOENA HER FOR THE TRIAL.

I DON'T THINK SO MR. REDBERRY. I HAVE TRIED WITH DETECTIVES FOR TWO MONTHS WITH NO RESULTS.

I WILL PUT YOU ON THE STAND OF COURSE TO TELL OUR SIDE OF THE STORY. THEN MRS. WALLET WILL TELL HER RELATIONS WITH MME. OCTAVE AND WHAT SHE KNOWS OF THE ABANDONMENT

THE ALLEY FOLKS CAN CORROBORATE MY STORY.

I HAVE THINGS PRETTY WELL IN HAND. YOU SAY THAT MME. OCTAVE NEVER ATTEMPTED TO SEE SKEEZIX UNTIL AFTER THE ADOPTION AND THAT YOU NEVER HEARD OF COL. CODA IN CONNECTION WITH SKEEZIX UNTIL THIS SPRING?

NO. AND NEITHER OF THEM EVER HAD POSSESSION OF HIM WITH MY PERMISSION.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYBODY! I'VE GOT THE RIGHT ON MY SIDE AND I'LL FIGHT THE WHOLE WORLD.

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...WANT HIM OUT OF HIS SIGHT

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT DOESN'T WANT HIM OUT OF HIS SIGHT

JUST SEE THAT PAIR PLAYING TOGETHER. I COULDN'T IMAGINE SKEEZIX BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM ME PERMANENTLY

IT ISN'T IN THE CARDS THAT ANYTHING LIKE THAT SHOULD HAPPEN. IT WOULD BE ALMOST AGAINST NATURE.

ALTHOUGH I CAN'T BLAME ANYBODY ELSE FOR WANTING HIM AND TRYING TO GET HIM - FOR THE SAME REASONS THAT I WANT TO KEEP HIM.

NOW I'VE CAUGHT YOU! WHAT ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING ABOUT?

WE WEREN'T FIGHTING UNCA WALT PAL JUST CALLED ME A SISSY AN' I WAS CHASIN' HIM FOR IT

# GASOLINE ALLEY—LOYAL ALLIES

**B**ILL AND DOC ARE INSPIRING WALT WITH CONFIDENCE AS TO A FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF THE SUIT COL. CODA IS INSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOVERING SKEEZIX. WALT'S SPIRITS DO NEED BOLSTERING UP A BIT AND THE ALLEY BUNCH ARE ABLE TO RENDER THAT SERVICE ON SHORT NOTICE. TUESDAY THE DAY SET FOR THE TRIAL, DRAWS NEARER

WALT, YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING WE WON'T DO TO HELP YOU OUT. I'LL GO ON THE STAND AND TELL 'EM ANYTHING YOU SAY.

WELL, YOU FELLOWS KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY HOW I HAVE DONE THE BEST I KNEW FOR SKEEZIX.

I WAS PRESENT A FEW MINUTES AFTER HE LIT ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND THERE'S NOTHING I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, WALT.

FATHER OR NO FATHER I DON'T SEE HOW THIS CODA GUY HAS GOT ANY CASE AT ALL TRYING TO TAKE SKEEZIX AWAY FROM YOU.

HE HASN'T BUT HE MAY TRY SOME LEGAL TRICK TO GET HOLD OF HIM.

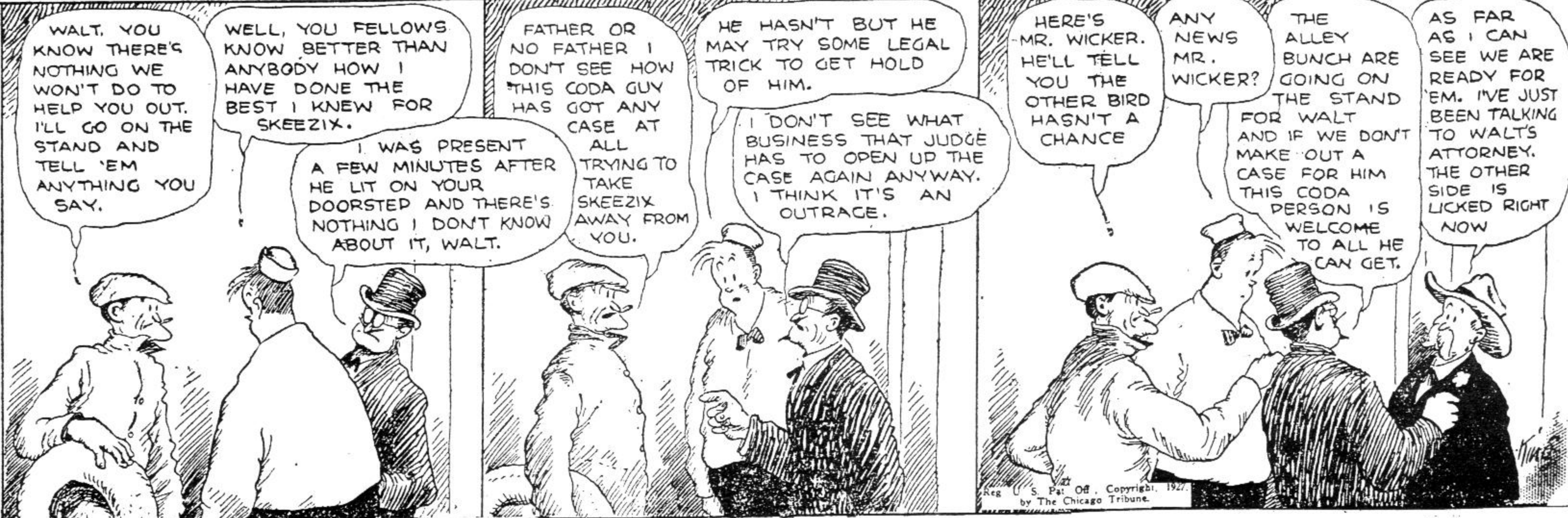
I DON'T SEE WHAT BUSINESS THAT JUDGE HAS TO OPEN UP THE CASE AGAIN ANYWAY. I THINK IT'S AN OUTRAGE.

HERE'S MR. WICKER. HE'LL TELL YOU THE OTHER BIRD HASN'T A CHANCE

ANY NEWS MR. WICKER?

THE ALLEY BUNCH ARE GOING ON THE STAND FOR WALT AND IF WE DON'T MAKE OUT A CASE FOR HIM THIS CODA PERSON IS WELCOME TO ALL HE CAN GET.

AS FAR AS I CAN SEE WE ARE READY FOR 'EM. I'VE JUST BEEN TALKING TO WALT'S ATTORNEY. THE OTHER SIDE IS LICKED RIGHT NOW



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE BIG EVENT DRAWS NEAR

WALT IS MORE OR LESS UNEASY ABOUT THE TRIAL BEFORE JUDGE BLY WITH REGARD TO THE CUSTODY OF GKEEZIX HE WILL NOT ADMIT THAT HE HAS ANY DOUBTS BUT THERE IS ALWAYS UNCERTAINTY AND A CERTAIN NERVOUS TENSION WHEN SUCH AN EVENT IMPENDS. TUESDAY IS THE DAY SET FOR THE OPENING.

THAT'S RIGHT, PULL 'EM OFF, OL' TOP, THEN CLIMB INTO YOUR NIGHTIE AND UNCA WALT WILL TUCK YOU INTO BED.



UNCA WALT WILL TELL ME A STORY MAYBE?

YOU HOP RIGHT OFF TO SLEEP. I HAVEN'T ANY STORY TONIGHT. YOU TOOK THE LAST ONE I HAD LAST NIGHT.



HAVEN'T YOU HATCHED ANOTHER?

YOU LET UNCLE WALT OFF TONIGHT. HE HASN'T HAD TIME TO THINK UP ANY STORIES TODAY

WE MUSTN'T LET THE LITTLE FELLOW SEE THAT WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

NO. AND WE MUSTN'T WORRY. EVERYTHING WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT, WALT DEAR. IT MUST!



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# GASOLINE ALLEY—CODA VS. WALT

**T**OMORROW COL. HENRI CODA BEGINS HIS BATTLE BEFORE JUDGE BLY FOR THE POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX. BOTH SIDES ARE READY FOR THE ENCOUNTER, BOTH PREDICT VICTORY, AND EACH PROMISES A SURPRISE. SKEEZIX WILL NOT HAVE MUCH TO SAY IN THE MATTER BUT DOUBTLESS THE ATTORNEYS WILL. WE SHOW HERE SOME OF THE PRINCIPALS.



**T**HIS IS COL. CODA WHO IS DETERMINED THAT SKEEZIX AS HIS SON SHALL BE LEGALLY HIS OWN.



**S**KEEZIX HIMSELF, THE INNOCENT CAUSE OF MUCH DISAGREEMENT AND STRIFE. HE IS COMPLETELY SATISFIED TO REMAIN WITH UNCLE WALT.



**W**ALT, WHO FOUND SKEEZIX ON HIS DOORSTEP AND HAS SPENT MORE THAN SIX YEARS BRINGING HIM UP IN THE WAYS HE SHOULD GO.



**A**TTORNEY MOLDER, FOR CODA, WHO HOLDS THAT BIRTH AND BLOOD ARE THE ALL-IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN LIFE.

**J**UDGE BLY BEFORE WHOM THE ARGUMENTS TAKE PLACE.



**A**TTORNEY REDBERRY REPRESENTING WALT, CLAIMS THAT ENVIRONMENT AND CARE ARE THE DETERMINING FACTORS OF EXISTENCE.



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# GASOLINE ALLEY — THE SKEEZIX CASE OPENS

ATTORNEY MOLDER, REPRESENTING HENRI CODA, AFTER AN OPENING ARGUMENT, IN WHICH HE SAID HE PROPOSED TO SHOW THAT A GREAT WRONG HAD BEEN DONE, HAS PUT COL. CODA ON THE STAND TO BRING OUT THE FACTS ON WHICH HE BASES HIS CLAIMS. THE CASE HAS OPENED BEFORE JUDGE BLY AND PROMISES SOME SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

COL. CODA, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL THE COURT THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO YOUR RELATIONS WITH YOUR WIFE, YOUR ABSENCE AT THE TIME OF SKEEZIX'S BIRTH AND YOUR IGNORANCE OF THAT EVENT?

FOR REASONS IMMATERIAL HERE I HAD BEEN ESTRANGED FROM MY WIFE FOR MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE SKEEZIX'S BIRTH. I HAD BEEN IN THE INTERIOR OF AFRICA MOST OF THAT TIME EXAMINING HARDWOOD FORESTS. I CAME OUT AND SPENT MUCH TIME ABOUT EUROPE.

OUR PATHS DID NOT CROSS AND I DID NOT KNOW OF THE BIRTH OR ABANDONMENT OF SKEEZIX. MY WIFE, KNOWN PROFESSIONALLY AS MME. OCTAVE, FOR HER OWN REASONS KEPT THE BABY'S BIRTH A SECRET AND I HAD NO WAY OF LEARNING OF IT EXCEPT FROM HER. SHE CHOSE NOT TO TELL ME UNTIL SOME TIME LATER.

THE BABY WAS BORN IN AMERICA AND SHE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME HERE. MY INTERESTS KEPT ME ON THE CONTINENT AND IN AFRICA AND I NEVER SAW SKEEZIX UNTIL I MADE A TRIP HERE FOR THAT EXPRESS PURPOSE THIS YEAR.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE FIGHT IS ON

MR. REDBERRY, REPRESENTING WALT NOW TAKES COL. CODA FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION IN COL CODA'S SUIT FOR THE POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX. WALT AND PHYLLIS AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE ALLEY BUNCH ARE INTERESTED LISTENERS.

YOU STATED YESTERDAY, COL. CODA, THAT IT WAS SOME TIME AFTER SKEEZIX'S BIRTH THAT YOU WERE INFORMED OF IT. WAS IT BEFORE OR AFTER SKEEZIX HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY MR. WALLET.

IT WAS AFTER THAT TIME. HAD I KNOWN IT I WOULD NEVER HAVE PERMITTED IT TO HAPPEN.

JUST ANSWER MY QUESTIONS. THEN YOU WERE UNAWARE OF SKEEZIX' EXISTENCE UNTIL HE HAD BEEN REARED BY WALT FROM A TINY INFANT TO A CHILD WHO COULD WALK AND TALK?

PERHAPS. BUT IF SO IT WAS NO FAULT OF MINE. I WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD OF THAT OPPORTUNITY.

I DIDN'T ASK YOU THAT. WHAT WAS THE REASON GIVEN LATER BY MME. OCTAVE FOR NOT INFORMING YOU OF SKEEZIX'S BIRTH.

I OBJECT, YOUR HONOR, TO THIS QUESTION AS IRRELEVANT AND IMMATERIAL.

WHEREUPON THERE ENSUED A LONG ARGUMENT REGARDING THE RELEVANCY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE ANSWER. THE JUDGE RULED THAT CODA NEED NOT ANSWER AT PRESENT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—MOLDER PLAYS ANOTHER CARD

IT HAS BEEN HINTED THAT MR. MOLDER, ATTORNEY FOR COL. CODA, HAD A SURPRISE WITNESS TO SPRING AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME. A WOMAN HAS BEEN SEATED NEAR HIM AND SHE IS NOW CALLED TO THE STAND TO TAKE THE OATH AND TELL WHAT SHE KNOWS

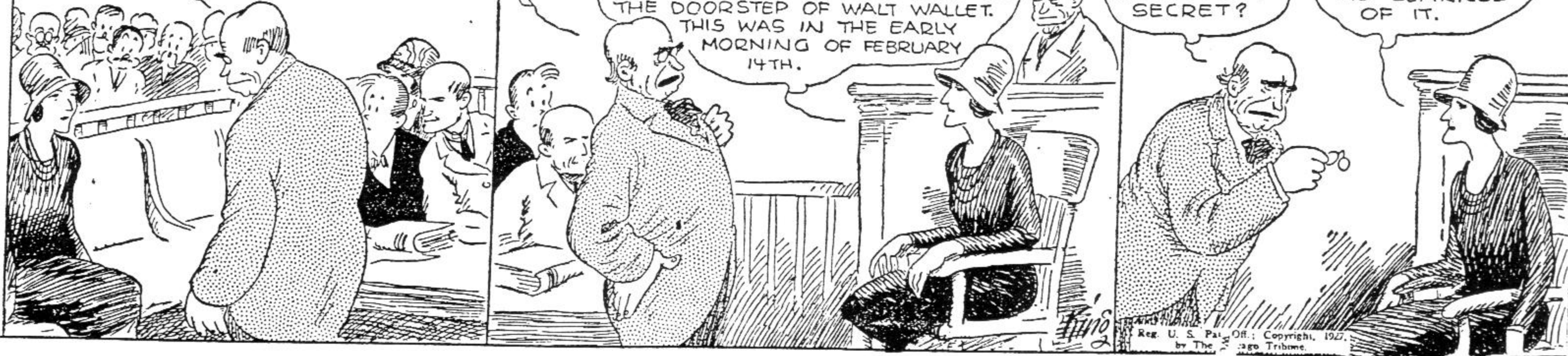
MISS RIGGS, WILL YOU TAKE THE WITNESS CHAIR?

MISS RIGGS, YOU SAY YOU WERE A NURSE AND COMPANION OF MME. OCTAVE IN FEBRUARY 1921. WILL YOU PLEASE TELL OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO FEBRUARY 14TH?

ON FEBRUARY 9TH A BABY WAS BORN TO MME. OCTAVE. FOR REASONS KNOWN BEST TO HERSELF SHE WAS ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE BIRTH A SECRET. SHE GAVE ME DEFINITE INSTRUCTIONS WHAT TO DO AND WHEN THE BABY WAS FIVE DAYS OLD I PLACED IT IN A BASKET ON THE DOORSTEP OF WALT WALLET. THIS WAS IN THE EARLY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14TH.

NOW, MISS RIGGS, DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT KNOW WHY MME. OCTAVE WANTED THE BIRTH KEPT SECRET?

I ONLY KNEW THAT SHE WAS AFRAID HER HUSBAND WOULD TRY TO GET POSSESSION OF THE CHILD IF HE LEARNED OF IT.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—TIME IS CALLED FOR A DAY OR TWO

MISS ROMA RIGGS, THE WOMAN WHO ATTENDED MME. OCTAVE AND WHO PLACED SKEEZIX ON WALT'S FRONT DOORSTEP SIX YEARS AGO, WAS PUT ON THE STAND BY HENRI CODA'S ATTORNEY YESTERDAY. SHE TESTIFIED AS TO THE FACTS OF THE BIRTH AND ABANDONMENT. TODAY SHE IS CROSS EXAMINED BY MR. REDBERRY FOR WALT.

MISS RIGGS, WHEN YOU PLACED SKEEZIX IN A BASKET ON MR. WALLET'S DOORSTEP IT WAS DONE, TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, WITH THE IDEA THAT MR. WALLET WAS TO HAVE FULL POSSESSION AND CHARGE OF HIM FROM THEN ON, WAS IT NOT?

AS FAR AS I KNEW—YES.

THAT IS ALL, MISS RIGGS.

HOW IS IT ALL COMING, MR. REDBERRY? THEY AREN'T GETTING ANYWHERE ARE THEY?

DOES IT LOOK ALL RIGHT TO YOU?

YES THEY DIDN'T PUT ANYTHING OVER WITH THEIR SURPRISE WITNESS. WE HAVE A SURRRRISE OR SO OURSELVES TO SPRING ON THEM.

COURT IS ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY — WALT IS CONFIDENT

THEY'RE NOT ANY NEARER GETTING YOU AWAY FROM ME THAN THEY WERE. IT JUST CAN'T BE DONE THAT'S ALL.

THEY HAVE DONE IT FOR A SHORT TIME BEFORE BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN JUST LIKE THIS SWING — YOU ALWAYS COME BACK TO ME.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO FOOL THEM THIS TIME AND THEY AREN'T GOING TO GET YOU AT ALL.

PUSH ME HARD UNCA WALT!

THERE — NOW YOU'RE AWAY FROM ME!

YES, BUT I CAN'T STAY AWAY.

- KING



COL. CODA'S SUIT FOR THE CUSTODY OF SKEEZIX IS RESUMED THIS MORNING. MR. REDBERRY, FOR THE DEFENCE, OPENS HIS SIDE OF THE CASE AND PLACES WALT ON THE STAND TO TELL HIS STORY. WALT IS RELIED UPON TO MAKE A STRONG DEFENSE BUT MR. REDBERRY IS RESERVING A SURPRISE WITNESS FOR AN OPPORTUNE OCCASION

NOW, MR. WALLET, PLEASE TELL US WHAT HAPPENED ON FEBRUARY 14TH, 1921.

YES SIR I WAS AWAKENED IN THE MORNING BY THE RINGING OF MY DOORBELL. I DONNED BATHROBE AND SLIPPERS AND UPON OPENING THE DOOR FOUND ON MY DOORSTEP A BASKET. INSIDE IT WAS A FINE BRIGHT EYED BOY BABY A FEW DAYS OLD. I TOOK HIM IN. THERE WAS AN UNSIGNED NOTE ASKING ME TO CARE FOR HIM - THAT WAS ALL. THERE WAS NO WAY OF LEARNING WHERE HE CAME FROM. I WAS AN UNEXPERIENCED BACHELOR BUT HE SOON CAPTURED MY HEART.

I LEARNED HOW TO PREPARE HIS MILK AND FEED HIM FROM A BOTTLE, HOW TO DRESS AND UNDRRESS HIM, TO BATHE HIM AND DO THE DOZENS OF THINGS NECESSARY TO EVERY BABY. I NURSED HIM THROUGH CHICKEN-POX AND MEASLES AND SPENT MANY AN UNEASY NIGHT BY HIS BEDSIDE. THEN I ADOPTED HIM - IN A PERFECTLY LEGAL PERMANENT WAY.

I'VE BROUGHT HIM UP FROM INFANCY. HE IS STRONG HEALTHY AND HAPPY. I HAVE DONE MORE FOR HIM THAN ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE DONE. I LOVE HIM AND HE HE LOVES ME. HE'S MINE! AND THERE IS NO JUST POWER IN HEAVEN OR EARTH THAT CAN SAY HE ISN'T!



King

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# GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL TELLS THE WORLD

NO THIS IS NOT THE SURPRISE WITNESS THE DEFENSE HAS PROMISED TO BRING. RACHEL HAS JUST CORROBORATED WALT'S STORY AND ADDED SOME INFORMATION OF HER OWN. MR. MOLDER, FOR CODA NOW HAS HER FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION.



MISS RACHEL, YOU SAY THAT MR. WALLET GAVE SKEEZIX A MOTHER'S CARE. HOW CAN YOU SAY WHAT CARE WOULD HAVE BEEN BESTOWED BY A REAL MOTHER?

I'VE SEEN 'EM AN' I'VE BEEN 'EM AN' I KNOW. I'VE BRUNG UP MORE CHILLEN, BLACK AN' WHITE, THAN YOU EVA SEEN.

NEVER MIND THAT. YOU ANSWER MY QUESTIONS. I AM NOT ASKING FOR IRRELEVANT COMMENT.

SAY IF YOU GOIN' GIT SASSY WITH ME I AIN'T GOIN' TELL YOU NOTHIN' YOU WANT TO KNOW.

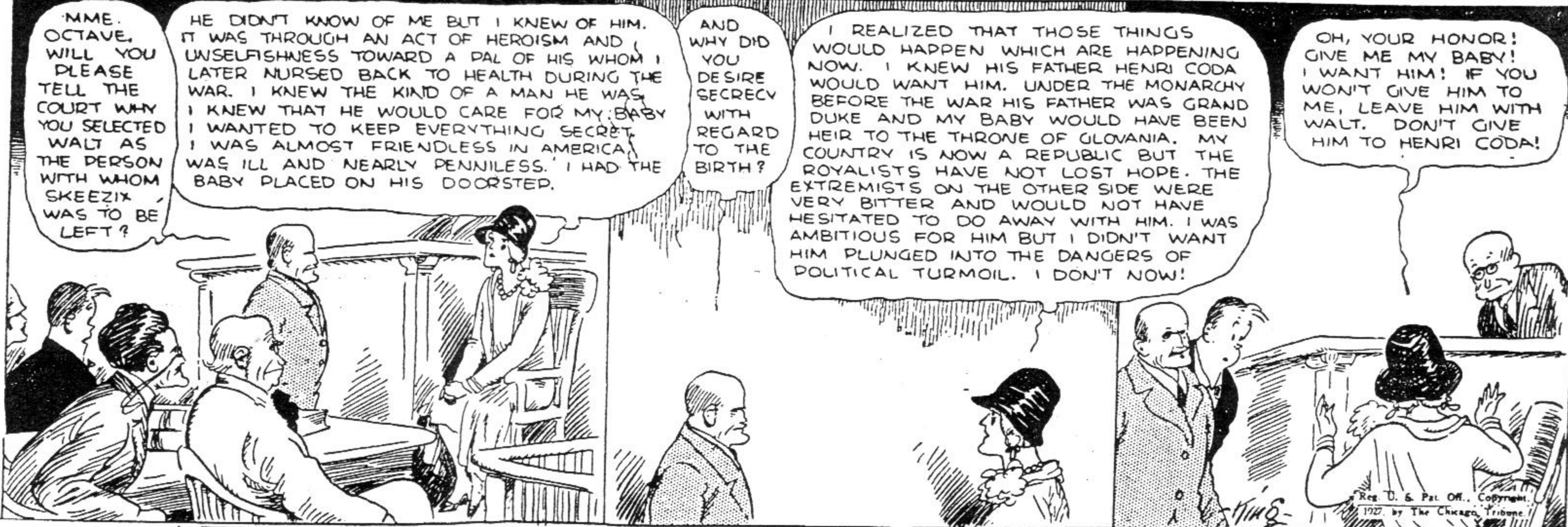
YOU SAY THAT MR. WALLET GAVE SKEEZIX THE BEST ATTENTION AT ALL TIMES THAT ANYBODY COULD. YET YOU SAY THAT HE LEFT THE BABY ENTIRELY WITH YOU ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS.

YAS'M. HE DID EVERYTHIN' THAT ANYBODY COULD DO. AN WHAT HE DIDN'T DO I DID WHEN HE WAS GONE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WHICH HAS A BEARING ON FORMER EVENTS



THE SURPRISE WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE IS HERE! AND SHE WAS A SURPRISE FOR HENRI CODA AND ATTORNEY MOLDER. SHE WAS FOUND BY MR. WICKER AND SHE VOLUNTEERED TO COME INTO COURT AND TELL HER STORY.



MME. OCTAVE, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL THE COURT WHY YOU SELECTED WALT AS THE PERSON WITH WHOM SKEEZIX WAS TO BE LEFT?

HE DIDN'T KNOW OF ME BUT I KNEW OF HIM. IT WAS THROUGH AN ACT OF HEROISM AND UNSELFISHNESS TOWARD A PAL OF HIS WHOM I LATER NURSED BACK TO HEALTH DURING THE WAR. I KNEW THE KIND OF A MAN HE WAS. I KNEW THAT HE WOULD CARE FOR MY BABY. I WANTED TO KEEP EVERYTHING SECRET. I WAS ALMOST FRIENDLESS IN AMERICA. WAS ILL AND NEARLY PENNILESS. I HAD THE BABY PLACED ON HIS DOORSTEP.

AND WHY DID YOU DESIRE SECRECY WITH REGARD TO THE BIRTH?

I REALIZED THAT THOSE THINGS WOULD HAPPEN WHICH ARE HAPPENING NOW. I KNEW HIS FATHER HENRI CODA WOULD WANT HIM. UNDER THE MONARCHY BEFORE THE WAR HIS FATHER WAS GRAND DUKE AND MY BABY WOULD HAVE BEEN HEIR TO THE THRONE OF GIOVANIA. MY COUNTRY IS NOW A REPUBLIC BUT THE ROYALISTS HAVE NOT LOST HOPE. THE EXTREMISTS ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE VERY BITTER AND WOULD NOT HAVE HESITATED TO DO AWAY WITH HIM. I WAS AMBITIOUS FOR HIM BUT I DIDN'T WANT HIM PLUNGED INTO THE DANGERS OF POLITICAL TURMOIL. I DON'T NOW!

OH, YOUR HONOR! GIVE ME MY BABY! I WANT HIM! IF YOU WON'T GIVE HIM TO ME, LEAVE HIM WITH WALT. DON'T GIVE HIM TO HENRI CODA!

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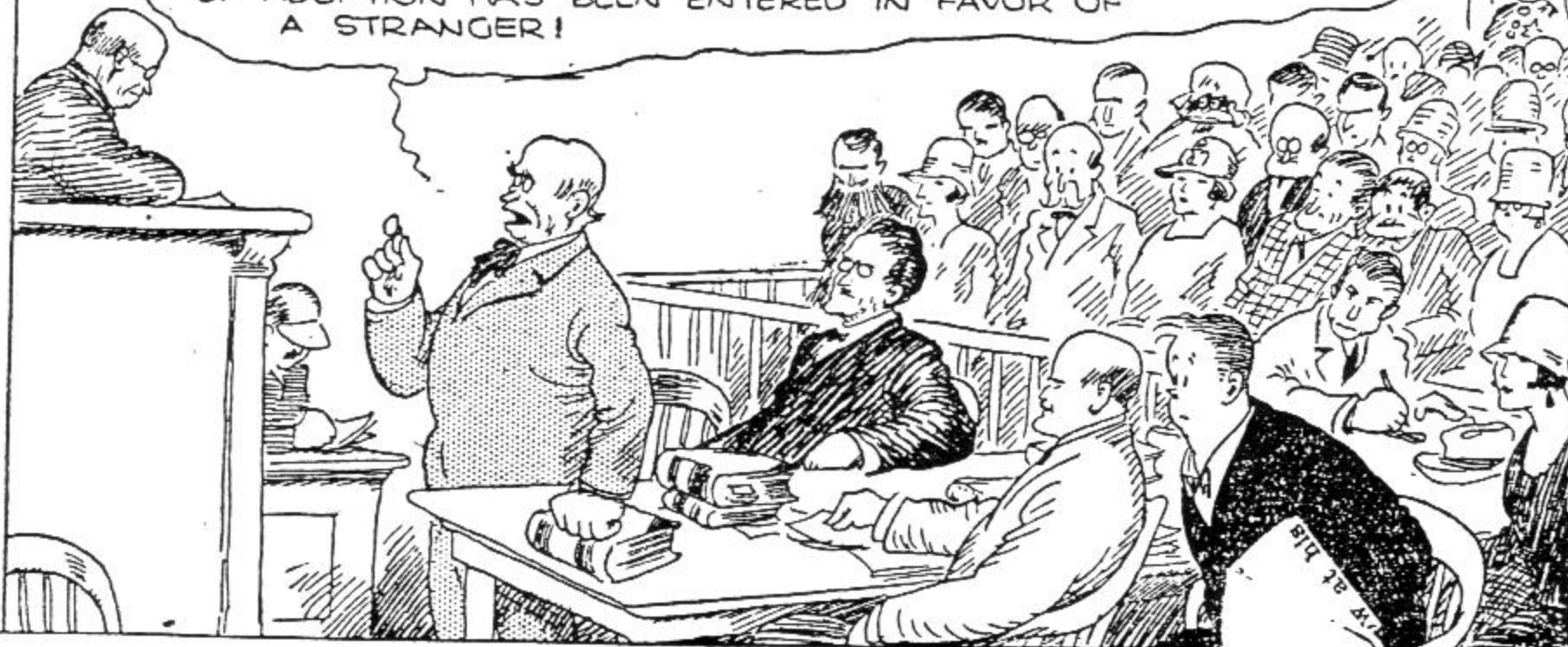
# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE TRIAL DRAWS NEAR A CLOSE



THE EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY MME. OCTAVE'S TESTIMONY YESTERDAY HAS SUBSIDED AND THE ARGUMENT OF MR. MOLDER FOR COL CODA BEFORE JUDGE BLY IS ON. MR. REDBERRY WILL SUM UP WALT'S SIDE OF THE CASE TOMORROW



YOU HAVE HEARD, YOUR HONOR, FROM THE LIPS OF COL. HENRI CODA THAT AT THE TIME OF THE ABANDONMENT OF SKEEZIX HE WAS UNAWARE OF HIS OWN CHILD'S EXISTENCE. IMAGINE IF YOU CAN THE FEELINGS OF A FATHER WHO LEARNS MANY MONTHS LATER OF THE FACT THAT HIS SON, IN WHOM HIS LIFE'S BLOOD IS WRAPPED UP, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ANOTHER. TO ONE, EVEN, OF NO CONNECTION OR ASSOCIATION WHATEVER. IMAGINE HIS IMPOTENT GRIEF WHEN HE LEARNS THAT A DECREE OF ADOPTION HAS BEEN ENTERED IN FAVOR OF A STRANGER!



THIS MAN, WALT WALLET, HAS NO DOUBT FORMED AN ATTACHMENT FOR SKEEZIX, AND SKEEZIX FOR HIM. IT IS NATURAL. BUT THE TIES OF BLOOD ARE ONE WITH THE ETERNAL LAWS OF NATURE. THEY ARE NOT THE EPHEMERAL BONDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCE. THEY ARE IMMUTABLE!



NOT ONLY WORLDLY GOODS BUT THE WEALTH OF THE MIND HAS PASSED FROM FATHER TO SON DOWN THROUGH THE AGES. DOES IT MEAN NOTHING THAT A FATHER'S RIGHTS ARE AS OLD AS THE HUMAN RACE ITSELF? YOUR HONOR, JUSTICE HAS BEEN TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT. IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE TO RIGHT A GREAT WRONG.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A FINAL PLEA

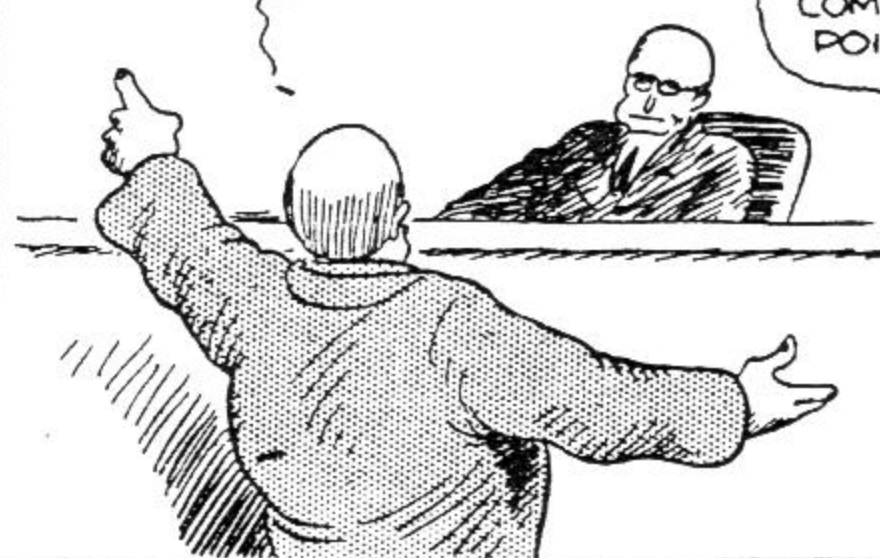
WALT HAS HIS INNINGS TODAY. ATTORNEY REDBERRY MAKES HIS ARGUMENT BEFORE JUDGE BLY IN FAVOR OF WALT'S CLAIMS TO SKEEZIX. BEFORE COL. CODA KNEW HE HAD A SON, SAID THE ATTORNEY, WALT WAS SPENDING SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, AND HOURS OF TOIL, AND PATIENCE IN HIS UPBRINGING.

WE HAVE SHOWN BY AN ABUNDANCE OF TESTIMONY, YOUR HONOR, THAT WALT AND PHYLLIS WALLET ARE NOT ONLY PROPER PERSONS FOR THE CUSTODY AND CARE OF THE CHILD, BUT THAT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF RIGHT, JUSTICE, AND LAW THEY ARE THE ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO SHOULD HAVE HIS CARE AND GUIDANCE.

WALT TOOK THIS BIT OF HUMANITY FROM HIS DOORSTEP AND THROUGH DAYS OF CARE AND NIGHTS OF ANXIETY, THROUGH YEARS OF UNSELFISHNESS AND SACRIFICE HE HAS MOULDED IT INTO A BOY OF SURPASSING HEALTH, CHARM, AND UPRIGHTNESS.

A MINER GOUGES FROM THE ROCK A HEAP OF ORE, HE SMELTS IT DOWN TO AN INGOT OF IRON. THEN COMES THE MASTER WORKMAN WHO THROUGH FIRE AND COLD, POWER AND GENIUS REFINES IT TO STEEL AND THAT STEEL TO A DELICATE BIT OF MACHINERY, A DELIGHT TO THE BEHOLDER AND AN EVERLASTING BENEFIT TO MANKIND.

THE BASKET ON THAT FEBRUARY MORNING CONTAINED THE NEW MATERIAL. WALT HAS FASHIONED A MASTERPIECE, NOT ALONE PHYSICAL, MARK ME. THAT IS PARTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE POWERS ABOVE. BUT THROUGH AFFECTION, LOYALTY AND DEVOTION HAS BUILT UP A MUTUAL LOVE AND INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH IT IS NOT MAN'S RIGHT TO CAST ASUNDER. WHAT IS HEREDITY COMPARED TO THAT? A TALKING POINT—A TECHNICALITY!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—CHEER UP!

AND NOW THE FATE OF SKEEZIX - AND OF WALT AND PHYLLIS - RESTS IN THE HANDS OF JUDGE BLY. HE HAS PROMISED TO HAND DOWN A DECISION INSIDE OF TEN DAYS. ALTHOUGH THE ORDEAL OF THE TRIAL IS OVER THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE FINAL OUTCOME IS DISHEARTENING.



CODA HASN'T GOT A SHOW, WALT. HE'S SUNK

WELL HE MADE OUT QUITE A CASE BUT YOU WERE GREAT ON THE STAND. IT CAN'T BE DONE

DO YOU THINK SO?

DON'T YOU WORRY, WALT. IT'S GOING TO COME OUT RIGHT AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

YOU'RE PAYIN' ENOUGH FOR THAT ATTORNEY, WALT. YOU BETTER WIN.



GOLLY, THE BOYS MAKE ME FEEL BETTER ANYWAY.

COME ON UNCA WALT. I AREN'T WORRYIN'



DON'T YOU GO 'ROUND WITH NO SUCH LONG FACE, MISTA WALT. I KNEW I DONE HAD THAT LAWSUIT WON FOR US SOON AS I GOT UP FRONT OF THAT THERE PROSITUTIN' ATTORNEY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—AN ALLEY CONCLAVE

THE TRIAL IS OVER AND THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE UNTIL JUDGE BLY DECREES THE FATE OF SKEEZIX. ON HIS SHOULDERS RESTS THE BURDEN OF DECISION — THE RIGHTS OF THE BLOOD-FATHER AGAINST THOSE OF THE FOSTER-FATHER. THE ALLEY IS LEFT IN A STATE OF UNREST.

IT WAS SO EXCITING WHEN MME. OCTAVE GAVE HER TESTIMONY. I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED IT FOR ANYTHING.

SHE ISN'T ENTITLED TO SKEEZIX ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT.

SHE HELPED ON OUR CASE WHATEVER HER INTENTIONS WERE.

MME. OCTAVE CLEARED UP SOME DETAILS I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT. JUST THINK - OUR SKEEZIX MIXED UP IN EUROPEAN POLITICS.

WELL THAT JUDGE BETTER DECIDE RIGHT OR THE LITTLE NATION OF GLOVANIA, WHEREVER IT IS, IS GOING TO BE MINGLED UP WITH SOME ALLEY POLITICS.

YOU KNOW CODA'S ATTORNEY MADE OUT A PRETTY GOOD CASE. I'D SAY WALT HAS JUST ABOUT A 50-50 CHANCE.

IT ISN'T A MATTER OF MONEY AT ALL WITH ME, AVERY. I'LL SPEND EVERY CENT I CAN SCRAPE UP IF IT WILL HELP ME TO HANG ONTO SKEEZIX.

I THOUGHT SO, WALT. AND DON'T TELL THE OTHER BOYS BUT I'VE GOT A LITTLE NEST EGG LAID AWAY THAT YOU CAN BORROW IF YOU NEED IT.

COME ON SKEEZIX. IT'S TIME FOR YOUR LUNCH.

I CAN'T RACHEL. I'M THE STATUE ON UNCA WALT'S CAR.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

GOLLY, OCTAVE CAME ACROSS BEAUTIFULLY DURING THE TRIAL. SHE TOOK OUR SIDE RATHER THAN CODA'S RIGHT FROM THE START. I DIDN'T EXPECT IT. SHE'S NOT SUCH A BAD SORT AFTER ALL.

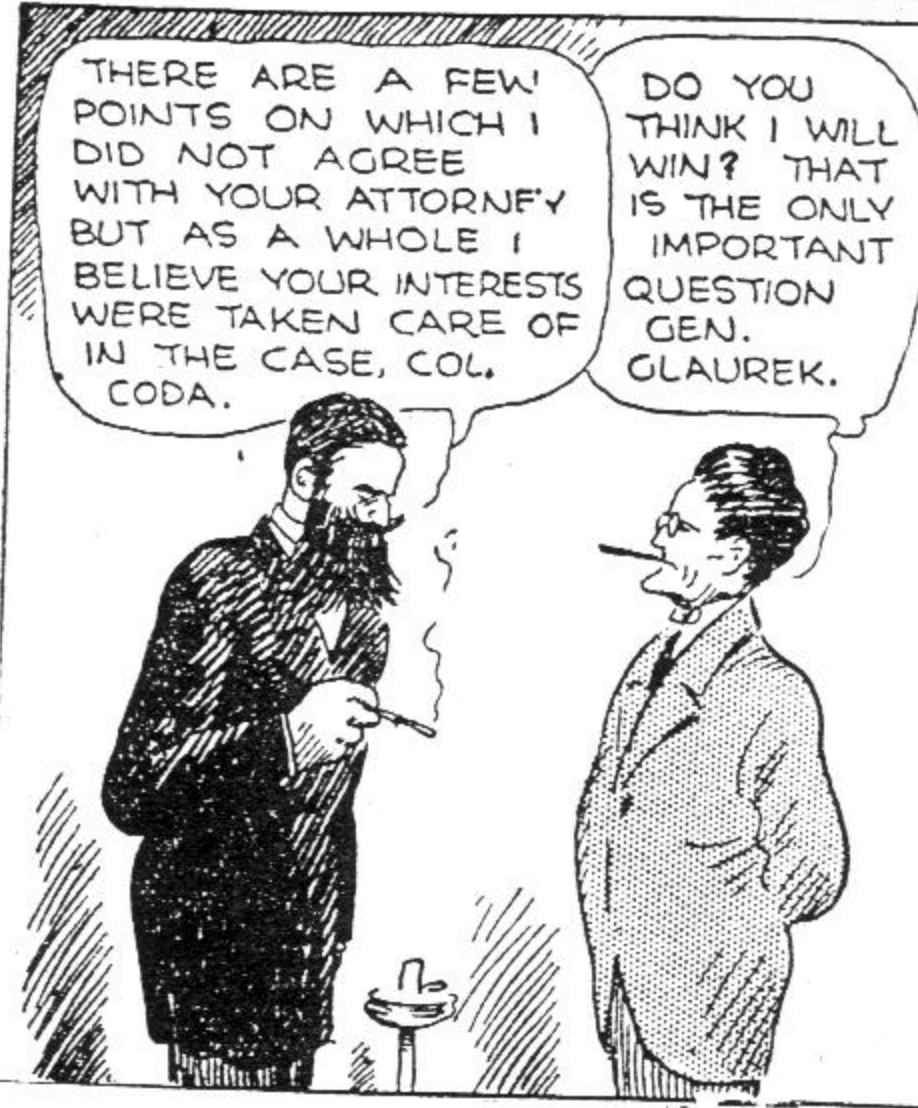
PHYLLIS, OCTAVE DID SO WELL BY US I WONDER IF I HADN'T BETTER DROP IN AND TELL HER HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE IT.

DON'T YOU DO IT, WALT! DON'T YOU SEE THAT THAT WOULD GIVE HER AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM SKEEZIX FOR HERSELF AND MAKE A SCENE? SHE IS JUST ABOUT IN THE FRAME OF MIND TO DO IT NOW.

GOLLY, I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT. I GUESS YOU ARE RIGHT. YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING DON'T YOU!

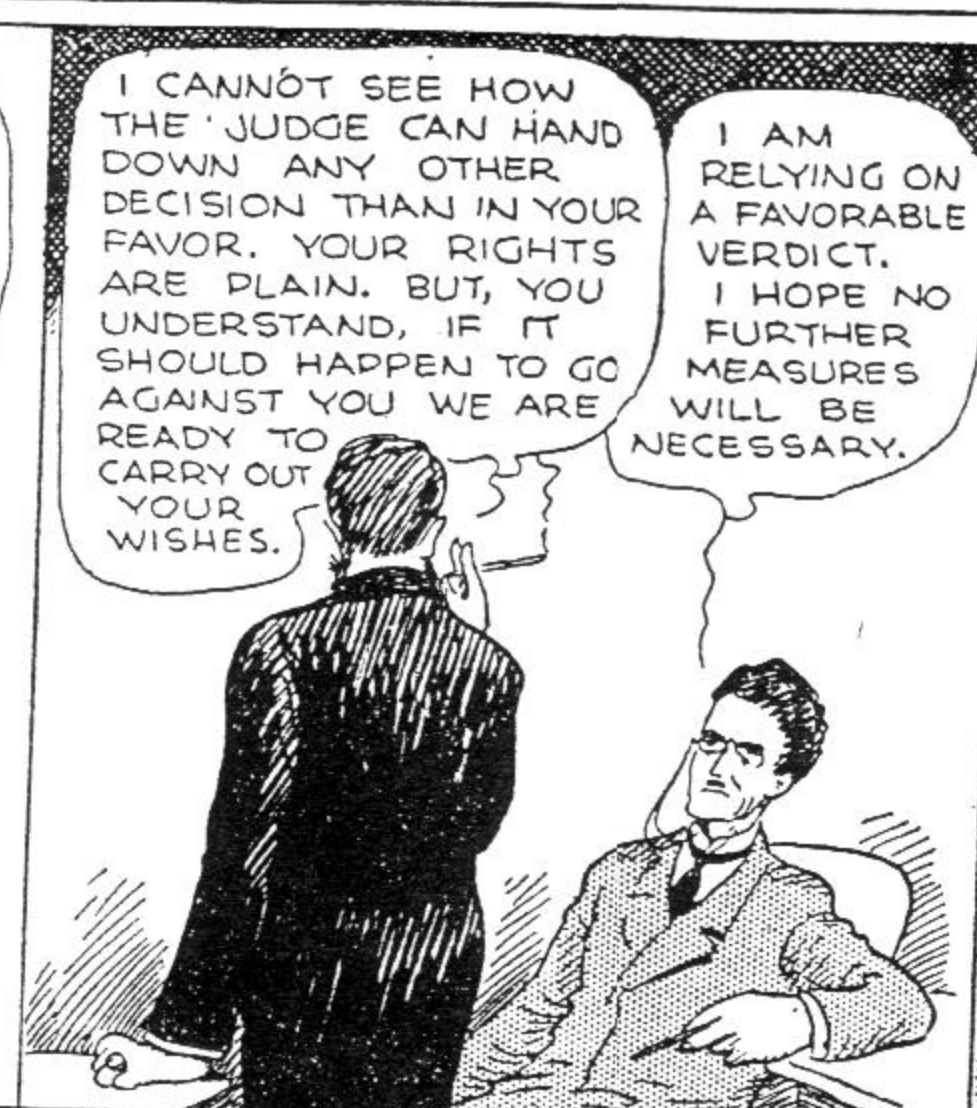
NO WALT, BUT THAT WOULD BE HER CHANCE. THE BEST THING FOR YOU TO DO IS STAY AWAY FROM HER. SHE WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER, NOW THAT SHE HAS TOLD HER STORY, THAN TO POUR HER TROUBLES INTO YOUR EAR AND PLAY FOR SYMPATHY.

IT DO BEAT ALL HOW THEM TWO KEEP SPOONIN' 'ROUND AFTA' ALL THIS TIME MARRIED. THEY DON'T SHOW NO ADVANCEMENT WHATEVA. THEY AIN'T EVEN OUT-GROWN THEIR HONEYMOON.



THERE ARE A FEW POINTS ON WHICH I DID NOT AGREE WITH YOUR ATTORNEY BUT AS A WHOLE I BELIEVE YOUR INTERESTS WERE TAKEN CARE OF IN THE CASE, COL. CODA.

DO YOU THINK I WILL WIN? THAT IS THE ONLY IMPORTANT QUESTION GEN. CLAUREK.



I CANNOT SEE HOW THE JUDGE CAN HAND DOWN ANY OTHER DECISION THAN IN YOUR FAVOR. YOUR RIGHTS ARE PLAIN. BUT, YOU UNDERSTAND, IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN TO GO AGAINST YOU WE ARE READY TO CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES.

I AM RELYING ON A FAVORABLE VERDICT. I HOPE NO FURTHER MEASURES WILL BE NECESSARY.



HOWEVER, WHATEVER HAPPENS WE MUST NOT LOSE. AND IF WORST COMES TO WORST I WILL PLACE MATTERS IN YOUR HANDS. YOU WILL KNOW THEN WHAT IS BEST TO BE DONE.

YOUR WISHES WILL BE CARRIED OUT, COL. CODA. YOU CAN RELY ON ME IN THE FUTURE AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST.



BUT REMEMBER, NO ACTION WHATEVER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM ME.

I UNDERSTAND. THE GENERAL AWAITS THE COLONEL'S ORDERS.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—GETTING THE LOW DOWN

RACHEL HAS NO DOUBT AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL.

SHE THREW HER WEIGHT INTO THE BALANCE AND SHE KNOWS THAT MUST BRING RESULTS.

THE JUDGE WHO IS TO SAY NEXT WEEK WHO IS TO HAVE POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX IS DOUBTLESS DELIBERATING OVER HER TESTIMONY.

WALT IS STILL WORRIED AND UNCERTAIN BUT RACHEL IS CONVINCED.

YASSA, MANDY, THAT TRIAL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. WHEN THAT LAWYA CROSS-QUESTIONED ME 'BOUT SKEEZIX, I GIVE HIM AS GOOD AS HE SENT. HE DIDN'T MAKE NO LIAR OUT O' ME.

I'D LIKE TO HEAR 'BOUT IT BUT I DOESN'T WANT TO KEEP YOU FROM YO' WORK, RACHEL.

YOU AIN'T. MIS WALT GONE DOWN TOWN AN' WON'T BE BACK FOR AN' HOUR. YOU SEE ONE LAWYA AXES QUESTIONS AN' TRIES TO KEEP YOU FROM TELLIN' WHAT YOU KNOW AN' THE OTHA' AXES 'EM AN' GETS YOU TO TELL MORE'N YOU KNOW. BUT I FOOLED 'EM BOTH.

DID THEY GET YOU ALL TWISTED UP?

ME? I SHOULD SAY NOT. THAT FELLA ON THE OTHA' SIDE TRIED IT BUT I GIVE HIM SOME HOT SHOTS AN' HE QUIT. I RETAILED SOME OF THE FACTS O' SKEEZIX'S PAST WHICH OUR LAWYA SAID WAS IMPORTANT. FACT IS HE TOLD MISTA WALT MY TESTIMONY COULDN'T BE UNDA-ESTIMATED.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THAT BIG LITTLE WORD "IF" AGAIN

THE LAW'S DELAY—THE SAME NOW AND FOREVER. WALT IS TASTING ITS BITTER DELIBERATENESS. THE TRIAL ITSELF WAS NERVEWRACKING ENOUGH BUT INACTION AND UNCERTAINTY GNAW AT HIS SOUL. JUDGE BLY PROMISED A DECISION IN TEN DAYS AS TO WHETHER SHEEZIX SHOULD STAY OR GO TO COL. CODA. THE TIME IS UP THE FIRST OF THE WEEK.

UNCA WALT, CAN'T WE GO ON A NICE LONG AUTO RIDE OUT TO SEE GRAMMA OR SQUINT OR SOMEWHERE?

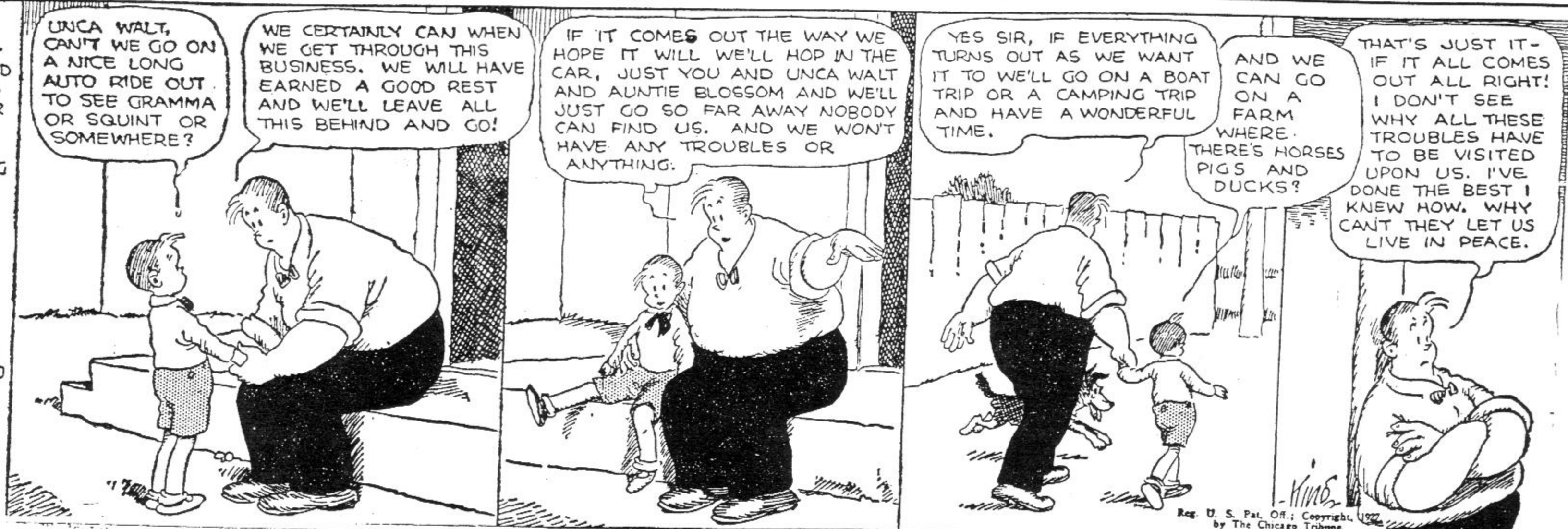
WE CERTAINLY CAN WHEN WE GET THROUGH THIS BUSINESS. WE WILL HAVE EARNED A GOOD REST AND WE'LL LEAVE ALL THIS BEHIND AND GO!

IF IT COMES OUT THE WAY WE HOPE IT WILL WE'LL HOP IN THE CAR, JUST YOU AND UNCA WALT AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM AND WE'LL JUST GO SO FAR AWAY NOBODY CAN FIND US. AND WE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLES OR ANYTHING.

YES SIR, IF EVERYTHING TURNS OUT AS WE WANT IT TO WE'LL GO ON A BOAT TRIP OR A CAMPING TRIP AND HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME.

AND WE CAN GO ON A FARM WHERE THERE'S HORSES PIGS AND DUCKS?

THAT'S JUST IT—IF IT ALL COMES OUT ALL RIGHT! I DON'T SEE WHY ALL THESE TROUBLES HAVE TO BE VISITED UPON US. I'VE DONE THE BEST I KNEW HOW. WHY CAN'T THEY LET US LIVE IN PEACE.



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GASOLINE ALLEY BE OF GOOD

# GASOLINE ALLEY—BE OF GOOD CHEER

EVERYTHING IS COMING ALONG ALL RIGHT ISN'T IT, MR. REDBERRY? I JUST HAD TO COME UP AND SEE IF THERE WAS ANY NEWS.

IT IS ALL IN THE JUDGE'S HANDS. HE HAS PROMISED TO HAND DOWN A DECISION MONDAY MORNING AT TEN O'CLOCK. WE MUST BE IN COURT THEN.

THERE'S NOTHING NEW, PHYLLIS. WE WILL KNOW THE WORST MONDAY MORNING.

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY WORST, WALT DEAR. THE JUDGE COULDN'T DECIDE AGAINST US AND BE HUMAN.

SKEEZIX WILL BE GIVEN TO US FOREVER AND WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM ANY MORE. JUST BE PATIENT FOR TWO DAYS MORE.

THE TIME DRAGS SO. WHY CAN'T THEY HURRY THINGS ALONG I'D RATHER KNOW ONE WAY OR THE OTHER THAN TO BE KEPT IN THIS UNEARTHLY SUSPENSE!

POOR OLD WALT! HE IS GOING TO TAKE IT TERRIBLY HARD IF THINGS DON'T COME OUT RIGHT. I WISH I WAS AS CONFIDENT AS I PRETEND TO HIM THAT I AM.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE DIE IS CAST

**T**HE DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED WHEN WALT IS TO HEAR THE JUDGE'S DECISION AS TO THE FATE OF SKEEZIX. WALT HARDLY SLEPT LAST NIGHT. HE WANTS TO HAVE IT ALL OVER AND KNOW DEFINITELY WHETHER THE RESULT IS IN HIS FAVOR OR AGAINST HIM. HE HAD ENOUGH OF UNCERTAINTY AND SUSPENSE.

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THE CASE HAS EXCEPTIONALLY UNUSUAL FEATURES—IN FACT IT IS UNIQUE. IN THE DECISION WHICH I AM HANDING DOWN TODAY, I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE LAW, BOTH IT'S LETTER AND IT'S SPIRIT, AND HAVE WEIGHED WITH IT THE HUMAN ISSUES INVOLVED. WALT WALLET AND HIS WIFE, PHYLLIS WALLET HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BUILT UP BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND SKEEZIX AN AFFECTION AND INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH IS IMPORTANT.

ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS DOUBTLESS TRUE THAT THE FATHER, COL. HENRI CODA, IF HE HAD KNOWN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD NEVER HAVE PERMITTED THE SITUATION TO ARISE. AND IT DID ARISE THROUGH NO NEGLIGENCE ON HIS PART. TIME HAS NOT FORFEITED HIS RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS A FATHER. I THEREFORE ORDER THE CHILD SKEEZIX TO BE GIVEN INTO THE CUSTODY OF COL. HENRI CODA.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—FATE HAS A CRUEL HAND

WALT HAS BEEN BESIDE HIMSELF WITH ANGUISH SINCE JUDGE BLY RENDERED THE DECISION YESTERDAY MORNING GIVING SKEEZIX TO THE FATHER, HENRI CODA. THE ORDER TAKES EFFECT THIS MORNING AND TWO MEN HAVE JUST COME ON BUSINESS PERTAINING TO IT.

WE ARE OFFICERS OF THE COURT AND HAVE ORDERS TO TAKE THE BOY KNOWN AS SKEEZIX WALLETT INTO OUR CARE AND CUSTODY.

YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM! I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP! IF YOU HAVE A HEART AT ALL THINK WHAT IT MEANS TO ME!

COME, SONNY. WE ARE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU—THAT'S A GOOD BOY!

I WON'T GO AWAY FROM UNCA WALT!

I'M SORRY. WE DON'T LIKE TO DO IT BUT WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.

NO! YOU SHALL NOT HAVE HIM!

YOU CAN'T STOP THEM WALT RESISTANCE IS USELESS.

IT'S TERRIBLE WALT DEAR! BUT WE MUST BRACE OURSELVES AGAINST IT. WE MUSTN'T WEAKEN NOW!

OH, IT CAN'T BE, IT CAN'T BE!



YESTERDAY, NOT LONG AFTER SKEEZIX WAS TAKEN FROM WALT BY COURT ORDER, HE WAS DELIVERED INTO THE CUSTODY OF COL. HENRI CODA. WALT HAS SPENT A DAY AND NIGHT OF ANGUISH BORN OF HIS OWN HELPLESSNESS. AND SKEEZIX HAS BEEN DISCONSOLATE OVER THE LOSS OF UNCLE WALT, AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM.



COME SKEEZIX, WE MUST BE GOOD FRIENDS. I AM YOUR FATHER AND I AM GOING TO DO A LOT OF NICE THINGS FOR YOU.

I WANT MY UNCA WALT.



THERE, THERE, DON'T CRY! YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE A FINE TRIP ON THE OCEAN IN A NICE BIG BOAT. I'LL BE JUST AS GOOD TO YOU AS HE EVER WAS.

NO!



HE MISSES THE PEOPLE HE IS USED TO, BUT IT IS NATURAL THAT HE SHOULD. HE WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN A DAY OR TWO. HE IS YOUNG—HE WILL FORGET THEM QUICKLY.

I WANT UNCA WALT AN' AUNTIE BOSSOM.

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*King*

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALL IS SADNESS

IT IS A SAD HOUSEHOLD—THAT OF WALT AND PHYLLIS. THERE IS NO MORE THE PATTERN OF CHILDISH FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE HALL AND NO RATTLE OF TOYS. THE JUDGE'S DECISION AWARDED SKEEZIX TO HENRI CODA HAS HUNG A DARK CLOUD OVER THEIR HOME INTO WHICH NO SUNSHINE PENETRATES.

WALT DEAR, LISTEN! YOU MUSTN'T TAKE IT SO HARD. IT IS A CALAMITY BUT IT WAS BEYOND OUR POWER TO PREVENT. YOU MUSTN'T WEAR YOUR HEART OUT NOW, HONEY. WE MUST BE BRAVE.

I FEEL THE LOSS TERRIBLY. IT SEEMS AS IF EVERYTHING WE HAVE WORKED FOR IS WRAPPED UP IN SKEEZIX.

I NEVER DARED THINK WHAT IT WOULD BE IF THE TRIAL WENT AGAINST US. IT IS WORSE THAN I EVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED PHYLLIS.

I KNOW, BUT WE MUST ADJUST OURSELVES TO IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU, HONEY. I BELIEVE I'D GO MAD! IT IS THE MOST TERRIBLE THING I'VE EVER GONE THROUGH.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A SURPRISE PARTY

THE GIVING UP OF SKEEZIX AT THE COURT'S ORDER WAS SUCH A BLOW TO WALT THAT HE SEEMS TWENTY YEARS OLDER. HE HAS GRIEVED OVER THE LOSS UNTIL HE SEEMS A SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SELF. HENRI CODA, WHO GAINED EVERYTHING WALT LOST, PLANS TO TAKE SKEEZIX FAR AWAY.

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THERE SKEEZIX WE ARE ALL PACKED UP TO GO. TOMORROW WE WILL BE ON THE BOAT AND OFF FOR PLACES AND THINGS I KNOW YOU'LL LIKE.

I DON'T WANT TO GO.

SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR—THE PORTER FOR THE LUGGAGE. COME IN!

THERE IS NO HURRY TO DEPART, COL. CODA. GEN. GLAUREK WHO WAS TO ACCOMPANY YOU HAS BEEN APPREHENDED AND IS IN SAFE KEEPING ALSO.

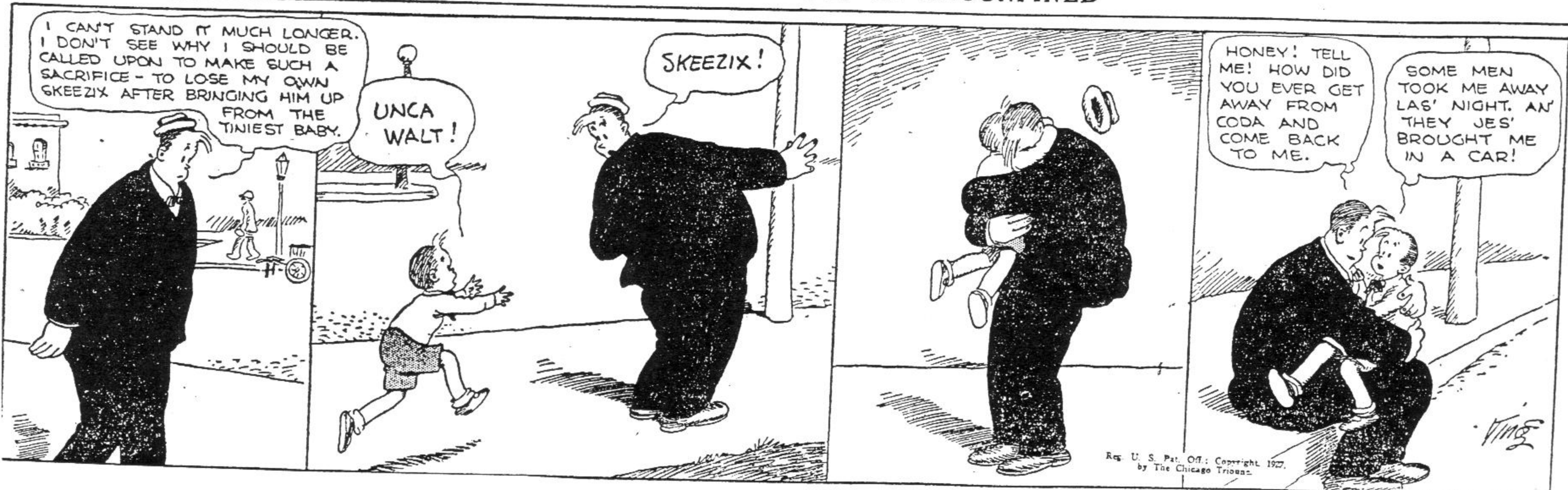
GEN. GLAUREK'S PLANS FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONARCHY IN GIOVANIA HAVE BEEN KNOWN FROM THE FIRST.

WE ARE A SECRET COMMITTEE TO SEE THAT THEY ARE NOT CARRIED OUT. DON'T TRY TO RESIST OR ESCAPE. WE ARE FULLY ARMED.

THIS IS OUTRAGEDUS BUT I AM AT YOUR ORDERS.



GASOLINE ALLEY — LET JOY BE UNCONFINED



I CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER. I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE - TO LOSE MY OWN SKEEZIX AFTER BRINGING HIM UP FROM THE TINIEST BABY.

UNCA WALT!

SKEEZIX!

HONEY! TELL ME! HOW DID YOU EVER GET AWAY FROM CODA AND COME BACK TO ME.

SOME MEN TOOK ME AWAY LAS' NIGHT. AN' THEY JES' BROUGHT ME IN A CAR!

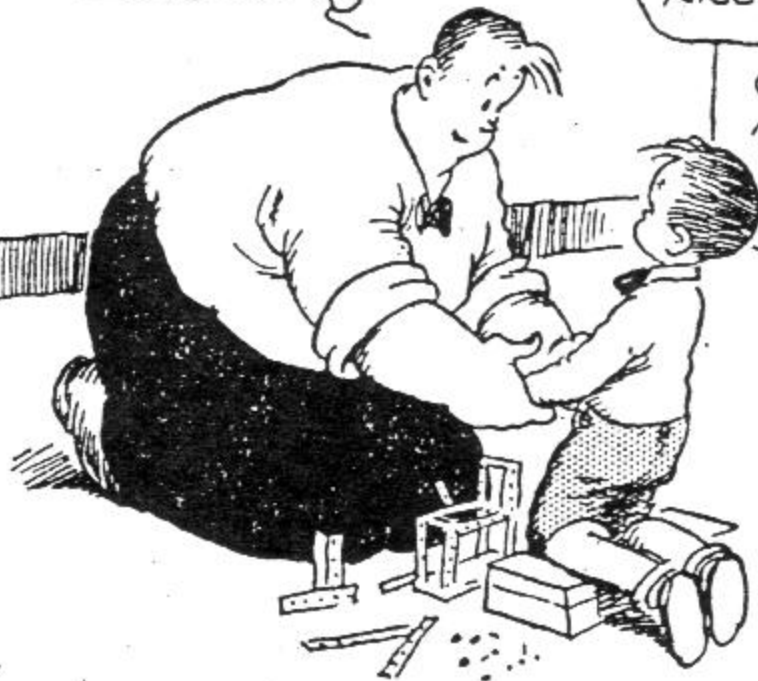
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VING

GASOLINE ALLEY—HOME, SWEET HOME, AGAIN

LAST WEEK WAS A BIG WEEK. JUDGE BLY HANDED DOWN A DECISION AWARDING SKEEZIX TO COL. HENRI CODA. OFFICERS OF THE COURT TOOK SKEEZIX FROM WALT AND PHYLLIS. AS COL. CODA PLANNED TO SAIL TO EUROPE, TAKING SKEEZIX WITH HIM, HE WAS FORCED BY POLITICAL ENEMIES TO ABANDON HIS PLANS AND WAS SPIRITED AWAY, A VIRTUAL PRISONER. SKEEZIX WAS RETURNED TO WALT EVIDENTLY BY CODA'S CAPTORS.

HONEY, I'M JUST SO TICKLED TO HAVE YOU BACK I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE. NOW TELL UNCA WALT AGAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO COL. CODA AND YOU.



MEN CAME AN'. THEY MADE HIM GO AWAY. AN' THEY WERE NICE TO ME.

DID YOU SEE HIM ANY MORE AFTER THAT?



THEY SAID THEY WERE GOIN' TO TAKE HIM AWAY AN' HE WOULDN'T BOTHER ME ANY MORE. AN' THEY SAID I COULD GO BACK TO UNCA WALT.

DID THE SAME MEN BRING YOU BACK HERE THAT TOOK COL. CODA AWAY?

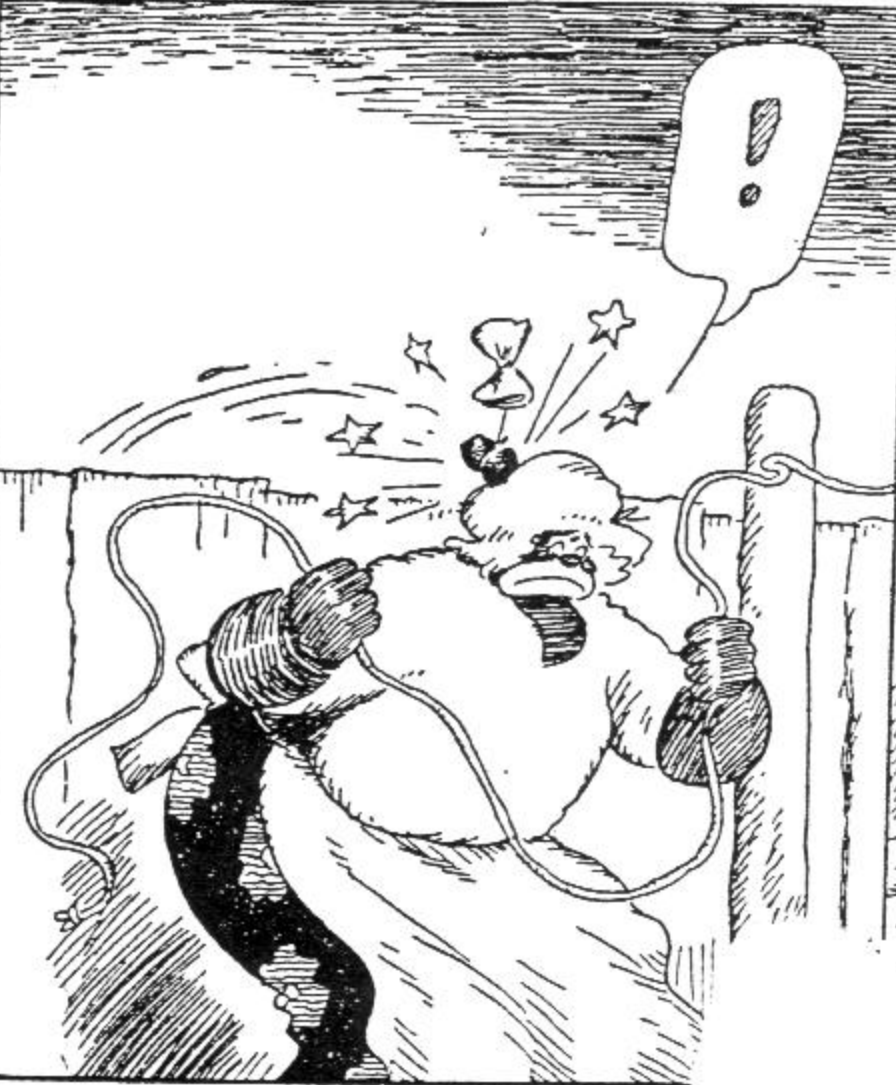


YES. THEY BROUGHT ME TO THE CORNER IN A CAR AN' TOLD ME TO GO HOME. AN' I DID. AN' I WON'T LET ANYBODY TAKE ME AWAY ANY MORE.

WMS

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SPECIAL DELIVERY

I HOPE THEY KEEPS THIS  
HERE COL. CODA LOCKED UP.  
TOO MUCH GOIN' ON LATELY.  
I GOTTA HAVE A VACATION.  
MY NERVES STICKS OUT ALL  
OVA ME LIKE BRISTLES.



IT'S A WONDA THEY  
WOULDN'T TIE IT TO A POTATA  
'STEAD OF A ROCK! THIS  
NOTE TO YOU JUST CAME  
OVA THE FENCE, MISTA  
WALT, AN' 'MOST GIVE ME  
CONCUSSION O' THE BEAN.

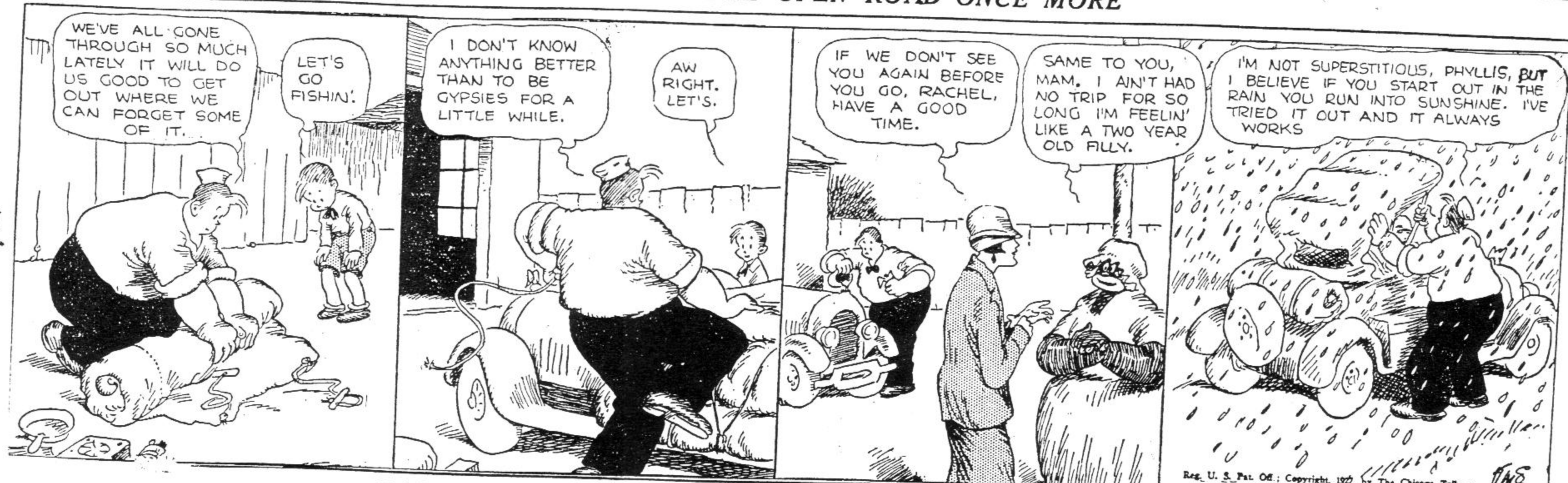


LISTEN TO THIS,  
PHYLLIS! "KEEP  
SKEEZIX. CODA WILL  
NOT INTERFERE"  
SIGNED COMMITTEE.  
THEY MEAN FOR  
US TO HAVE HIM!  
THEY'RE THE ONES  
WHO TOOK CODA  
AWAY.

AND THEY  
MEAN TO SEE  
THAT CODA  
DOESN'T HAVE  
HIM. IT'S GREAT.  
IT ALL WORKS  
OUT IN OUR  
FAVOR!



GASOLINE ALLEY — THE OPEN ROAD ONCE MORE



GASOLINE ALLEY — WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMING TO?

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMING TO?

HERE'S SOME PAPER, WALT. THAT WILL START IT IN A HURRY.

DON'T NEED PAPER, PHYLLIS. I WAS READING IN THE CAMPER'S COMPANION LAST NIGHT JUST HOW TO DO IT— LITTLE STICKS INSIDE— BIGGER ONES OUTSIDE.

GOLLY, IT DOESN'T WANT TO BURN. I'LL HAVE TO GET SOME MORE LITTLE DRY STICKS.

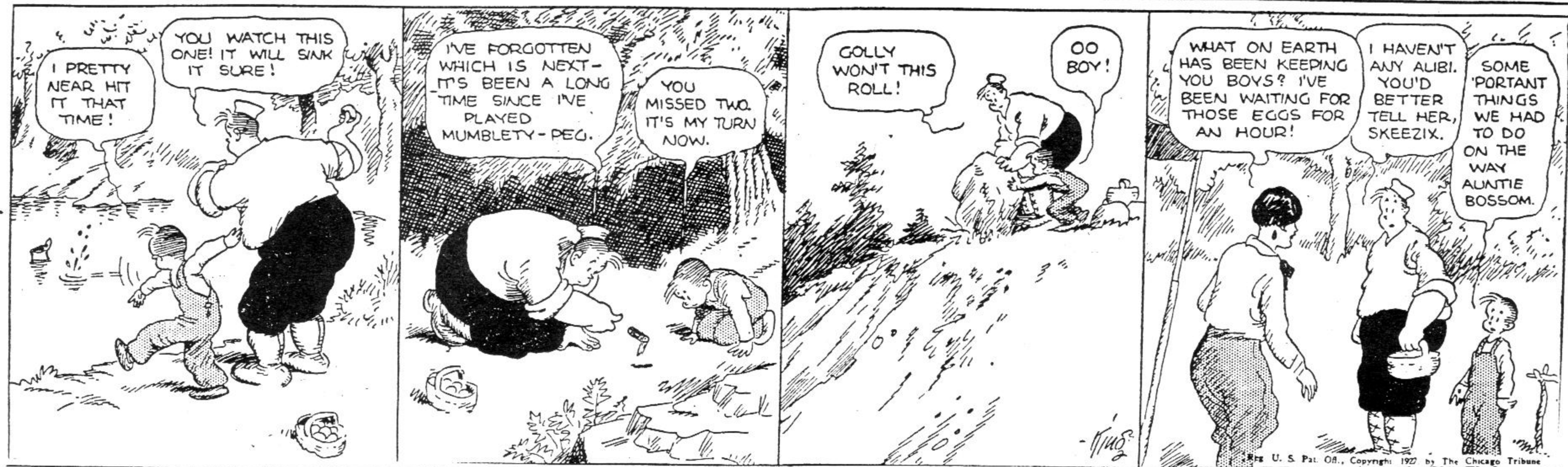
SORRY WALT. BUT I COULDN'T WAIT, SO I BUILT IT MY OWN WAY.

HOW A WOMAN CAN DO THINGS SO UNSCIENTIFICALLY AND GET AWAY WITH IT IS BEYOND ME. BUT THEY SEEM TO.



King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—VACATION DUTIES



I PRETTY NEAR HIT IT THAT TIME!

YOU WATCH THIS ONE! IT WILL SINK IT SURE!

I'VE FORGOTTEN WHICH IS NEXT—IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE PLAYED MUMBLETY-PEG.

YOU MISSED TWO. IT'S MY TURN NOW.

GOLLY WON'T THIS ROLL!

OO BOY!

WHAT ON EARTH HAS BEEN KEEPING YOU BOYS? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THOSE EGGS FOR AN HOUR!

I HAVEN'T ANY ALIBI. YOU'D BETTER TELL HER, SKEEZIX.

SOME 'PORTANT THINGS WE HAD TO DO ON THE WAY AUNTIE BOSSOM.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — WALT IS A LABOR SAVING DEVICE

LISTEN PHYLLIS - NEVER MIND THE DISHES TONIGHT. I'VE GOT A SCHEME TO CLEAN THEM UP WITHOUT ANY WORK AT ALL.

THAT'S FINE WALT. IT'S SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL MY LIFE.

JUST BECAUSE A THING ALWAYS HAS BEEN DONE A CERTAIN WAY IS NO REASON WHY IT ALWAYS SHOULD BE.

IF THERE IS A LOT OF WATER POWER GOING TO WASTE WHY NOT USE IT. - THAT'S MY THEORY. LET NATURE HELP YOU. SHE'S WILLING IF YOU'LL ONLY GIVE HER A CHANCE.

THOSE TWO I LOST, PHYLLIS, I CAN FIND TOMORROW WHEN I HAVE MY BATHING SUIT ON.

YOU DID WELL, WALT, BUT YOU DON'T MIND IF I PUT THEM IN HOT WATER NOW TO TAKE THE REST OF THE GREASE OFF DO YOU?

# GASOLINE ALLEY—VACATION FOR EVERYBODY



THERE'S AUNTIE BLOSSOM! WAVE YOUR HAND. SHE'S GOING TO FISH FROM SHORE!

WE'RE GOIN' TO BRING YOU SOME FISH FOR DINNER.



THE BEAUTY OF FISHING IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CATCH FISH. IT'S A JOY TO SIT STILL AND SOAK YOUR SOUL IN THE WONDERS OF ALL OUTDOORS AND WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. THE BLACK PLUMAGE OF CARE MOULTS OFF YOU LIKE —

WHAT'D YOU SAY UNCA WALT?



I SAY THE MISTS OF TROUBLE CONDENSE AND FALL AND RUN AWAY, AND LEAVE YOUR SPIRIT FRESH AND CLEAN AS A GARDEN AFTER A SUMMER SHOWER

OH!

MEANTIME RACHEL, IN STATE, SPEEDS TOWARDS THE OLD FOLKS BACK IN ALABAMA. SHE HAS BEEN GRANTED A VACATION TOO AND THE TRAIN JOURNEY IS NOT TEDIOUS.



AW GO-WAN! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! YOU IS TOO MARRIED!

HONEST I ISN'T. IT'S JES' BETWEEN TIMES WITH ME!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG



A STEAMER MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEN LAST NIGHT PLOUGHING ITS WAY OUT OF HAMPTON ROADS. IT IS TO TOUCH AT LISBON AND NAPLES AND THEN RAGPO, THE SEAPORT OF GIOVANIA, ON BOARD ARE THE THREE MEN, WHO HAD TAKEN SKEEZIX FROM CODA AND RETURNED HIM TO WALT. ALSO GEN. GLAUREK AND CODA WHO HAVE THE FREEDOM OF THE SHIP BUT ARE WATCHED AND DIRECTED BY THE THREE. HOWEVER, WALT IS NOT BOTHERED.



THERE'S A STORM COMING UP. WE'D BETTER GET SHIP-SHAPE FOR A BLOW.



BOY! LISTEN TO THAT WIND!



AND HEAR THAT THUNDER CRASH!



THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE BUT WE DON'T CARE!

NO, AS LONG AS THE TENT DON'T LEAK!

I KNOW WHAT LIGHTNIN' IS. IT'S A CRACK IN THE SKY THAT LET'S THE THUNDER THROUGH.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—RACHEL'S BACK HOME IN ALABAMA'



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOMEBODY'S BUTTING IN



# GASOLINE ALLEY—THOSE TERRIBLE NEIGHBORS

THERE'S SOMEBODY PULLING IN AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT TO CAMP NEAR US. WHY CAN'T THEY LET US HAVE A LITTLE SOLITUDE.

IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF THEY'D KEEP THEIR CUTOUT CLOSED! SUCH A RACKET!

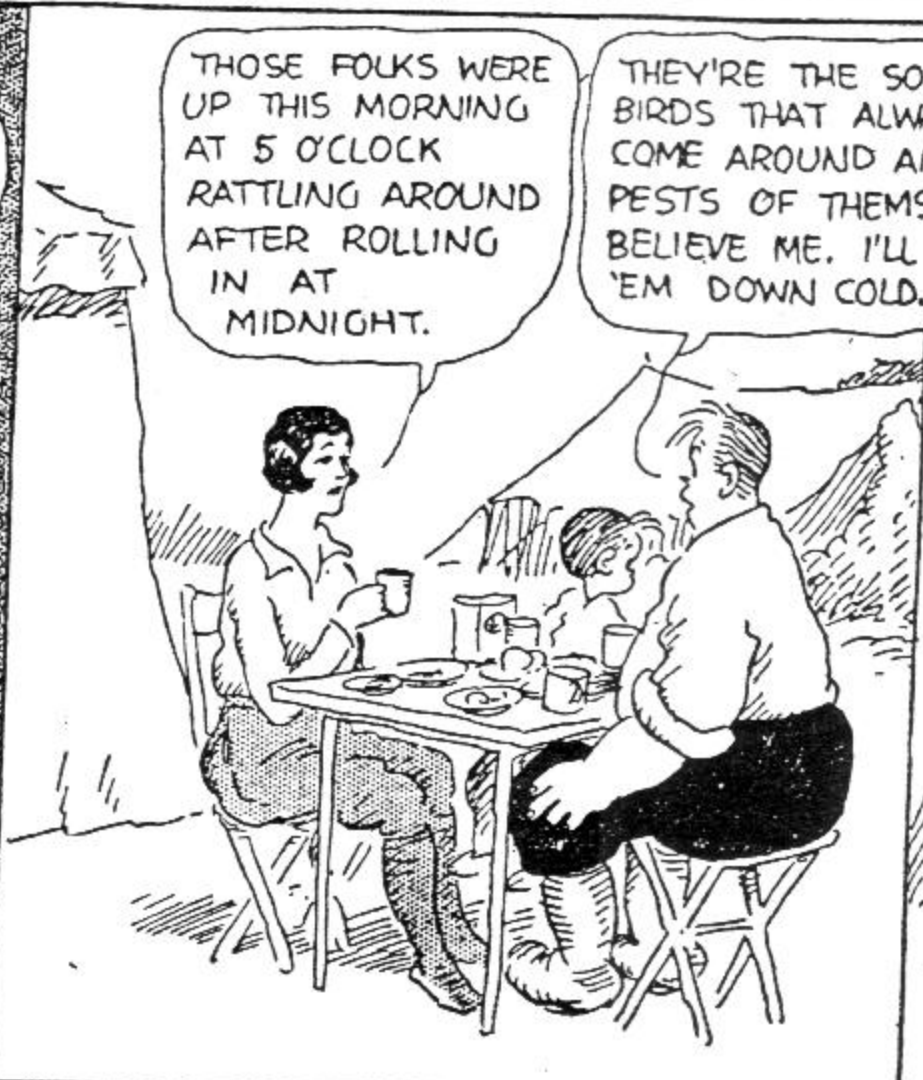
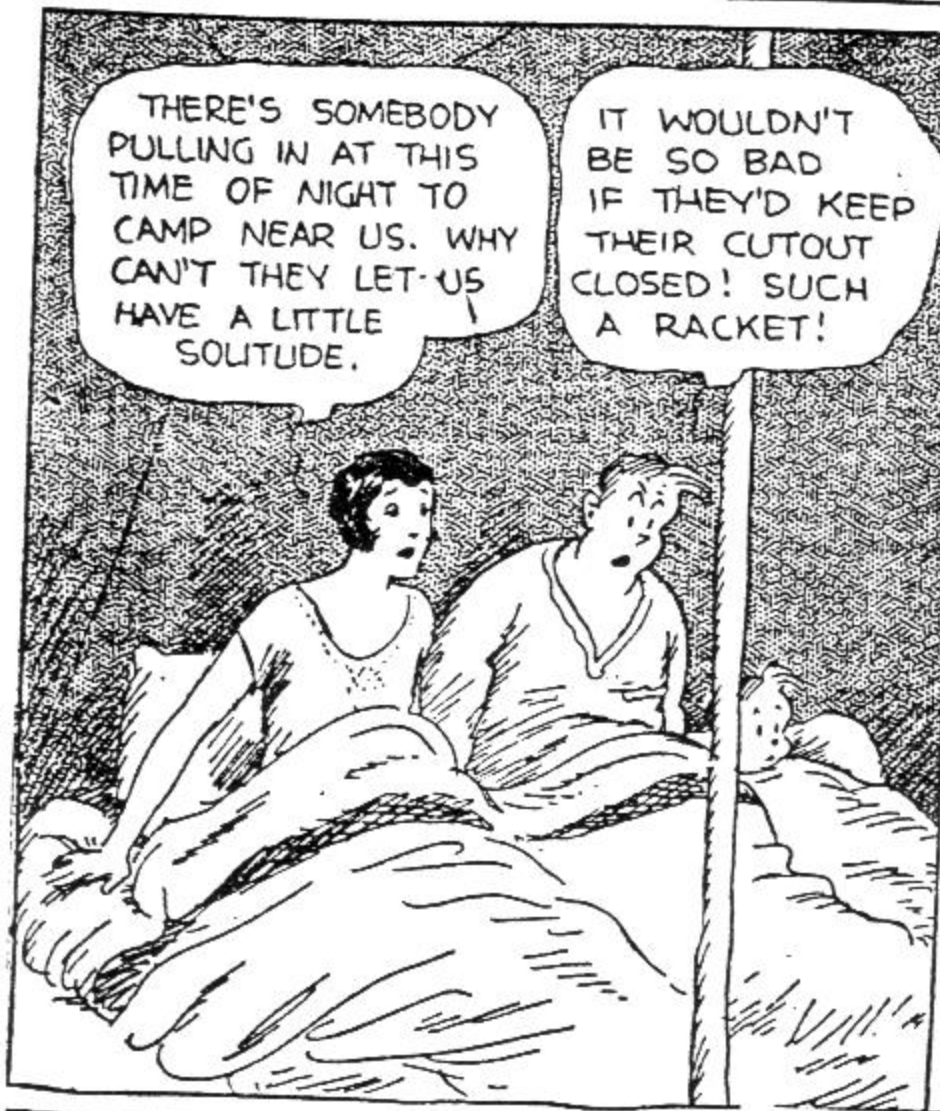
THOSE FOLKS WERE UP THIS MORNING AT 5 O'CLOCK RATTLING AROUND AFTER ROLLING IN AT MIDNIGHT.

THEY'RE THE SORT OF BIRDS THAT ALWAYS COME AROUND AND MAKE PESTS OF THEMSELVES. BELIEVE ME, I'LL TURN 'EM DOWN COLD.

MORNIN' STRANGERS. COULD I BORROW A JACK? A MOSQUITO BIT ONE O' MY TIRES LAST NIGHT AND LET ALL THE AIR OUT.

AVERY, YOU OLD SCOUNDREL! RESTRAIN ME, PHYLLIS, OR I'LL COMMIT ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KNOCK COOKOO!

I KNEW ABOUT WHERE YOU'D CAMP — YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM YOUR UNCLE DUDLEY-MUCH!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A SURPRISE PARTY

LOOK, AUNTIE BOSSOM!  
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
COMP'NY!

NO WALT I THINK  
MINE IS A  
FEATHERWEIGHT THE  
LIGHTER AND HAS  
A SHADE THE BEST  
OF IT ALL AROUND.

WHY DÔC! WHERE'S  
YOUR JUDGMENT?  
THAT ROD OF MINE  
IS BETTER  
BALANCED AND HAS  
A LOT MORE LIFE  
TO IT

GO EASY ON  
THE GOLDFISH  
FOR THOSE  
OTHER BIRDS.  
WE NEED 'EM  
FOR OUR OWN  
PROSPECTS.

I'M TAKIN' CARE  
OF US. THESE  
MINNOWS COST  
40 CENTS A  
BUCKET AN' JUST  
LIKE OYSTERS,  
THERE'S MORE  
WATER THAN  
MINNOWS.

AND WHAT  
DO YOU CALL  
THAT WILD  
ANIMAL.

HE'S A CRAWFISH,  
MR. WICKER. HE  
GOES IN REVERSE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—NECESSITIES HERE AND THERE

RACHEL HAS BEEN HAVING THE TIME OF HER LIFE RENEWING ACQUAINTANCES AND SEEING THE OLD FOLKS DOWN IN ALABAMA. IT IS GIVING HER A CHANCE TO BE IN THE OPEN—JUST WHAT SHE NEEDED. SHE WAS SORT OF WEARING AWAY IN THE CITY.

SURE MAMMY, I GOIN' TURN IN AN' HELP YOU DO THE WASH. ONLY IT'S GOIN' SEEM FUNNY TO ME. YOU KNOW WE HAS ALL SORTSA LETRIC TRAPTIONS TO DO OUR WASHIN'

LAWDY, THAT'D BE WORSEN WASHIN EM NATURAL.

WE JES STICKS EM IN A WASHIN MACHINE AN TURNS A SWITCH AN IT SWISHES AN SWUSHES AN THEY'S WASHED. THEN WE DRIES EM ON A LINE WITH CLOESPINS AN RUNS EM THRU A MANGLE AN MANGLES 'EM.

I FRAID THAT'D BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR A OLD WOMAN LIKE ME.

WELL WE GOTTA DO IT. WE GOT SO MANY FOLKS. WHAT'D ALL THE LECTRICIANS DO IF THEY COULDN'T FIX WASHIN MACHINES AN RUN THE DOMINOES IN THE BIG LECTRIC PLANTS? IN THE CITIES WE GOTTA HAVE LABOR-MAKIN MACHINERY.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WHEN RACHEL'S AWAY THERE'S NO TIME TO PLAY



WALT, I'M ENJOYING HAVING RACHEL AWAY ON HER VACATION. I DON'T MIND DOING MY OWN WORK AT ALL - FOR A TIME.

YES IT'S KIND OF COZY HAVING THINGS ALL TO OUR SELVES.



MY BUT I'M FINDING PLACES THAT HAVEN'T BEEN DISTURBED FOR MONTHS.

WHERE DID YOU SAY TO PUT THESE BLANKETS PHYLLIS?



YOU WOULDN'T MIND TAKING THE GLASS OUT SO I COULD WASH IT WOULD YOU WALT?

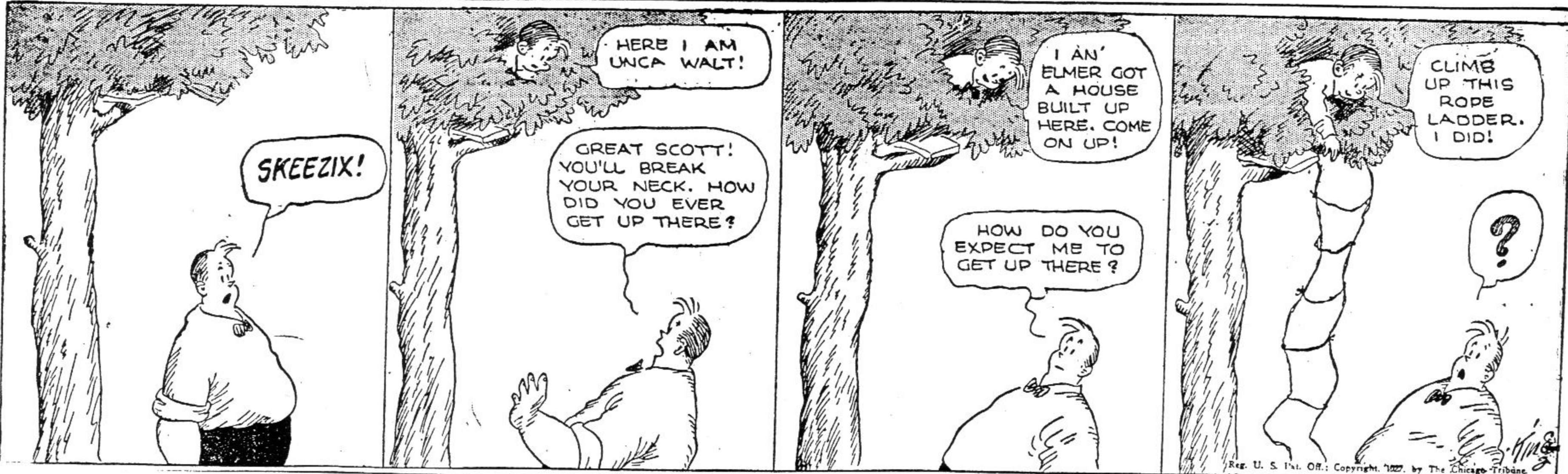
NOT IN THE LEAST.



OH WALT!

BELIEVE ME I'M NOT SO CRAZY ABOUT HAVING PHYLLIS DO HER OWN WORK.

GASOLINE ALLEY—IT'S PERFECTLY EASY



SKEEZIX!

HERE I AM UNCA WALT!

GREAT SCOTT! YOU'LL BREAK YOUR NECK. HOW DID YOU EVER GET UP THERE?

I AN' ELMER GOT A HOUSE BUILT UP HERE. COME ON UP!

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO GET UP THERE?

CLIMB UP THIS ROPE LADDER. I DID!

?



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

WHERE ARE WE GOIN AUNTIE RACHEL.

NEVA YOU MIND WHERE WE GOIN.

WE WANT TO GET A PITCHER TOOK ON POSTCARDS TO SEND BACK TO SKEEZIX AN THE FOLKS - AS A LIL MOMENTUM OF ALABAM.

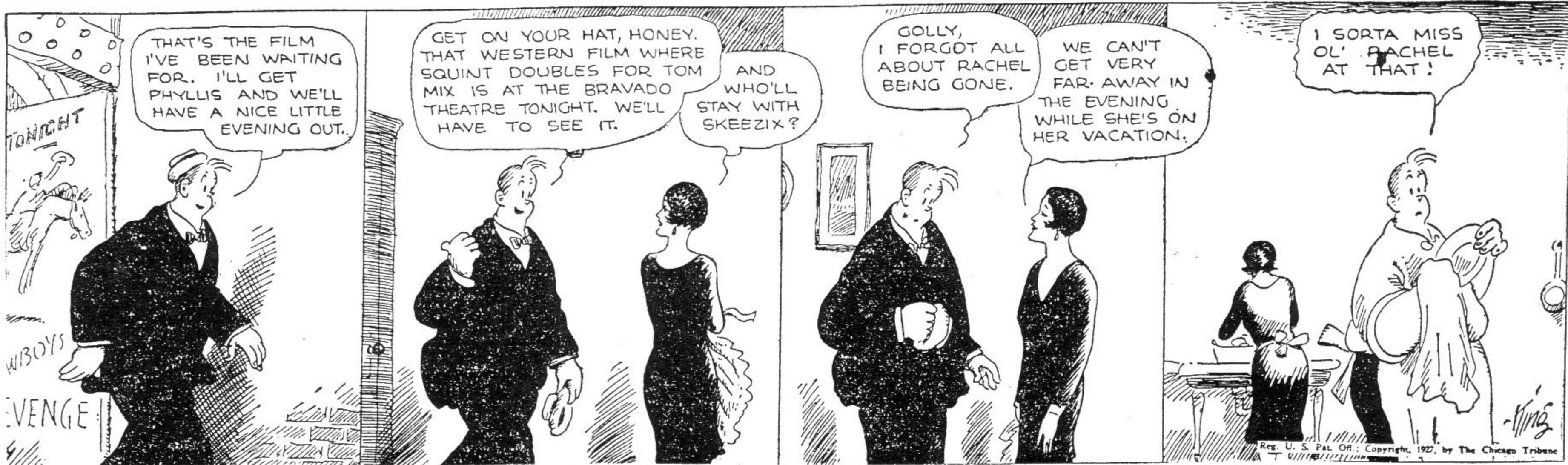
YOU JES PICK OUT THE BACK GROUND YOU WANT - PLANTATION SCENE OR CABIN OR MANSION HOUSE AN I DOES THE REST.

LOOK UNCA WALT! THE MAIL MAN BROUGHT A POSTAL CARD FOR ME!

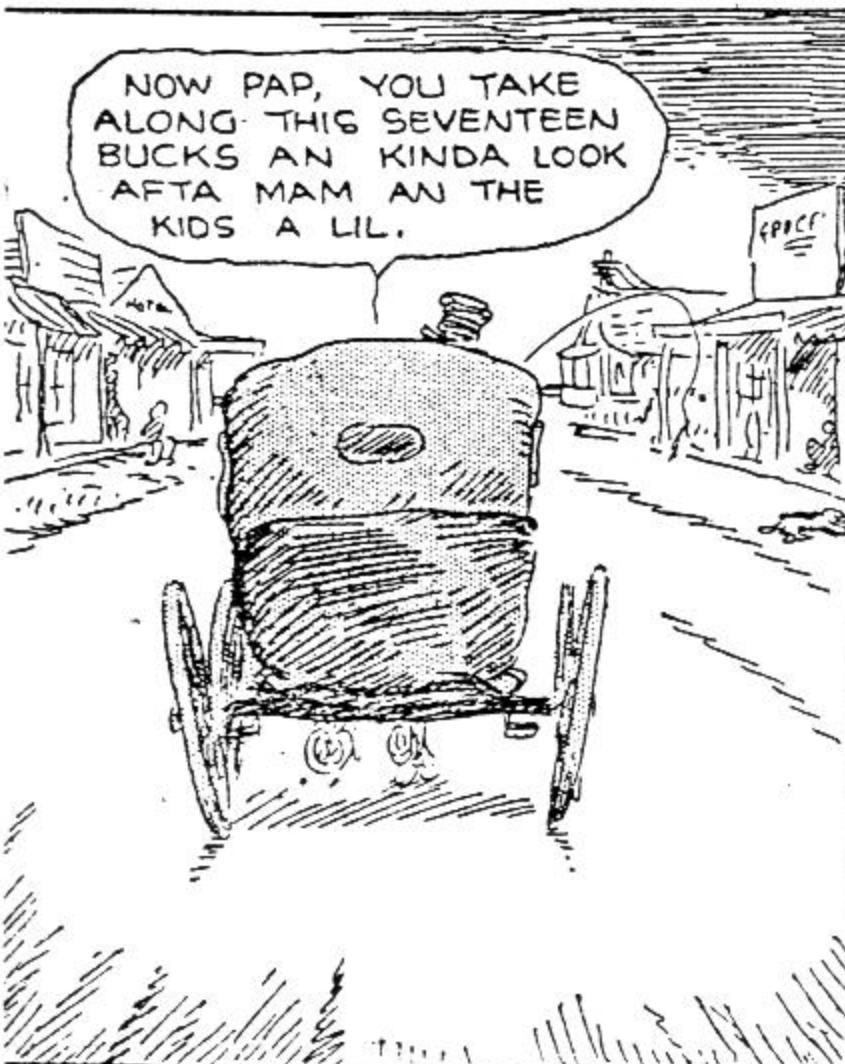
AND TO THE RIGHT YOU SEE THE PICTORIAL POST CARD REFERRED TO ABOVE.




# GASOLINE ALLEY—BACK TO EARTH



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ROLLING BACK HOME




NOW PAP, YOU TAKE  
ALONG THIS SEVENTEEN  
BUCKS AN KINDA LOOK  
AFTA MAM AN THE  
KIDS A LIL.




YOU SURE  
YOU GOT  
SOME LEFT,  
RACHEL?

I GONNA  
WHERE  
THEYS  
MORE.

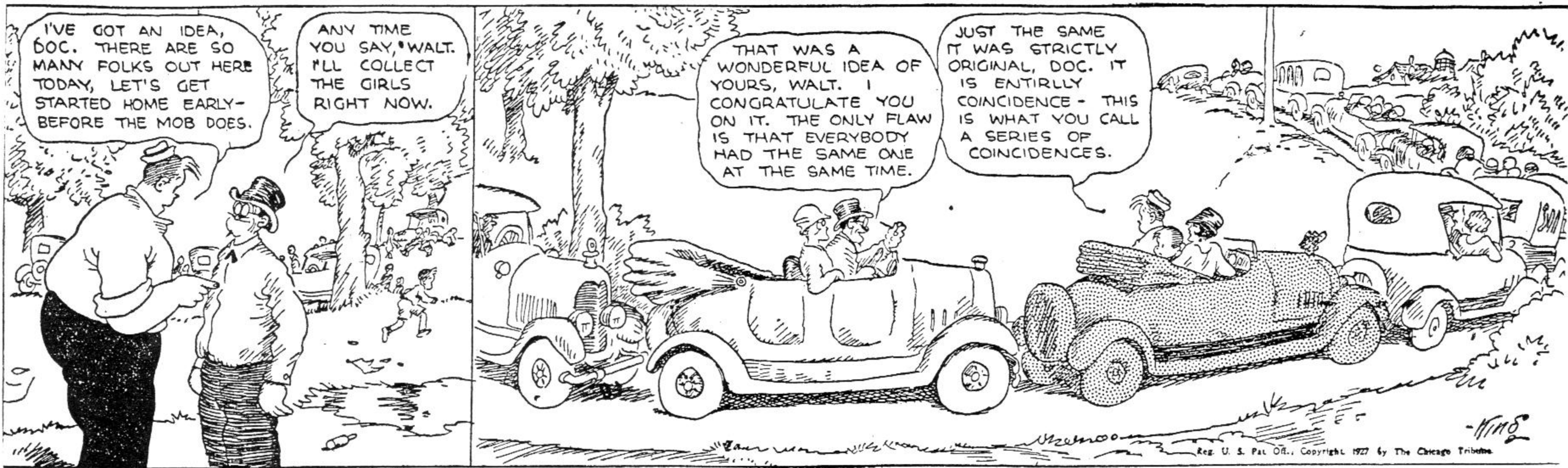


I SORRY TO GO BUT I  
GOT SPONSIBILITIES UP WITH  
MISTA WALT AN MIS WALLET.  
I GOTTA SEE HOW THEY  
GETTIN ON WITHOUT ME.



WELL, I READY TO GO BACK.  
I HAD A GOOD VACATION BUT  
AFTA A WHILE I KINDA GETS  
TALKED OUT. AN BEFO I GETS  
TO REPEATIN I BETTA GIT OUT.  
BETTA LEAVE BEHIND A  
LITTLE GRIEF THAN A  
LOTTA RELIEF.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—DO IT EARLY



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A NEW START

JUST LET ME LOOK AT YOU! ALL READY TO START FOR SCHOOL AGAIN. AND THIS IS REALLY SCHOOL—NOT KINDERGARTEN!

YES, I GO INTO FIRST GRADE WITH THE BIG BOYS.

YOU CERTAINLY DO.

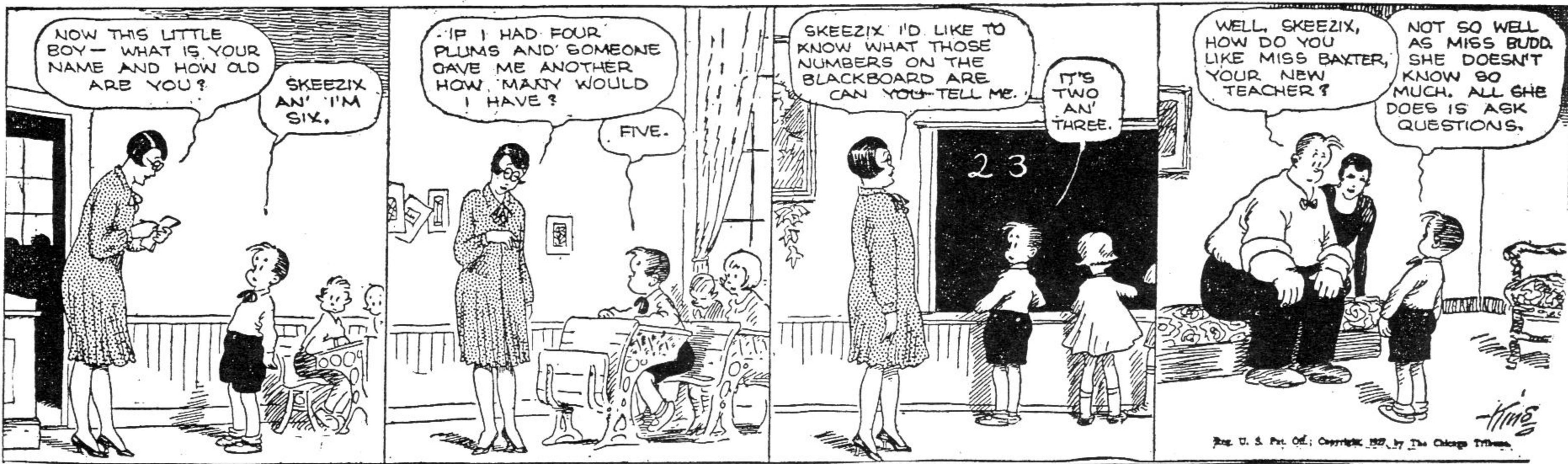
I'M TOO BIG FOR KINDERGARTEN. THAT'S FOR LITTLE BOYS.

OF COURSE YOU WON'T HAVE MISS BUDD THIS YEAR—YOU'LL HAVE A NEW TEACHER.

YES, SHE'LL MISS ME. BUT I'LL GO INTO THE LITTLE CHILDREN'S ROOM TO SEE HER SOMETIMES.

MY BUT THEY GROW UP! IT SEEMS ALMOST YESTERDAY THAT I PLUCKED THAT LITTLE FELLOW OFF MY DOORSTEP NO BIGGER THAN A RABBIT. I MUST BE GETTING OLD.

GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX CAN GIVE ANY NEEDED INFORMATION



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A NIGHT OUT, PLEASE

YASSA, MISTA WALT, I HAD A WONDAFUL TIME DOWN IN ALABAM. ONLY I WAS READY TO COME BACK.

YOU HAD A GOOD REST DIDN'T YOU RACHEL?

YES I GOT TOO MUCH REST. IT DON'T 'GREE WITH ME. I IS NACHELLY INDUSTERUS AN' THEY TAKES LIFE TOO EASY. I POSITIVE I GOT LONESOME FER WORK!

YASSA, DOWN THERE I DIDN'T HAVE 'NOUGH AN' UP HERE I GOT MORE'N I NEED. BUT I AIN'T KICKIN'. I LIKES IT THAT WAY. YOU ALL AIN'T GOIN OUT THIS EVENIN' IS YOU MISTA WALT?

I DON'T THINK SO WHY?

WELL A GENT'MAN FRIEND INVITED ME TO A CARNIVAL TONIGHT AN' IF THEY IS ANYTHING I JES LOVES IT IS CARNIVEROUS AMUSEMENTS.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS SORRY FOR CODA, BUT—

Nothing has been heard of the fate of Col. Coda and Gen. Glaurek until there appeared this morning in one of the eastern papers a short cable dispatch as follows:

GLOVANIA, SEPT 8., GEN. GLAUREK HELD IN PRISON HERE AWAITING TRIAL FOR CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT DENIES ALL CHARGES AND ACCUSES CERTAIN POLITICAL ENEMIES OF PLOTTING AGAINST HIM. COL. CODA, HELD WITH HIM, IS UNCOMMUNICATIVE.

WELL I DON'T WISH COL. CODA ANY HARM BUT HE CERTAINLY CAN'T BOTHER US MUCH WHILE HE'S IN JAIL.



NO WALT, BUT YOU KNOW BY LAW YOU ARE IN A VERY POOR POSITION. YOU HAVE SKEEZIX IN YOUR POSSESSION BUT HE LEGALLY BELONGS TO CODA.



MY ATTORNEY, MR. REDBERRY, SAYS HE HASN'T GIVEN UP YET. AND BESIDES POSSESSION IS NINE POINTS OF THE LAW.

THAT MAY BE A WISE SAYING BUT YOU REMEMBER IT DIDN'T WORK OUT WHEN YOU HAD SKEEZIX BEFORE.

WHERE YOU GOIN', UNCA WALT?



I'M GOING DOWN AND JOG UP THAT ATTORNEY OF OURS. IT'S TIME HE WAS GETTING OUT A HABEAS CORPUS OR ANNO DOMINI OR SOMETHING.





# GASOLINE ALLEY—TURN ABOUT ISN'T FAIR PLAY

THE ONLY TIME I'D LIKE TO BE A CONTORTIONIST IS WHEN I'M TRYING TO REACH THE MIDDLE OF MY BACK. SUCH INABILITY IS ONE OF NATURE'S OVERSIGHTS.

AHA! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU. WILL YOU HELP ME OUT?

SURE.

THERE, THAT'S THE BOY! I'VE DONE IT FOR YOU, NOW YOU CAN DO IT FOR ME.

YES BUT YOUR BACK IS A LOT BIGGER.

GASOLINE ALLEY—SOME FOLKS HAVE NO CONSIDERATION



# GASOLINE ALLEY—HISTORICAL DATA

WALT, HATE TO DO IT BUT I THINK I'LL WASH THE OLD BUS.

I WOULDN'T, AVERY. YOU'D RUIN A LONG GEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORD.

HOW IS THAT?

WELL FOR INSTANCE - THE LAST COAT IS THAT BLUE CLAY YOU GET OUT SOUTH OF TOWN - YOUR LAST TRIP. PRIOR TO THAT YOU PICKED SOME BLACK LOAM DOWN IN THE RIVER BOTTOMS.

THEN HERE YOU SEE UNDERNEATH THAT, SOME OIL SPOTS YOU GOT WHEN THEY OILED THAT STRETCH THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE, TWO YEARS AGO.

BEFORE THAT YOU WERE DOWN IN THE RED CLAY COUNTRY ABOUT 40 MILES EAST. UNDERNEATH THAT IS SOME SHELL ROAD YOU GOT DOWN SOUTH.

YOU'RE RIGHT, WALT. I'LL SAVE IT.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THEN WHAT ARE YOU KICKING ABOUT, AVERY?



ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN! YOU KNOW THAT OLD SPLINT BOTTOM CHAIR THAT'S BEEN KICKING ABOUT OUR PLACE?

YEAH.

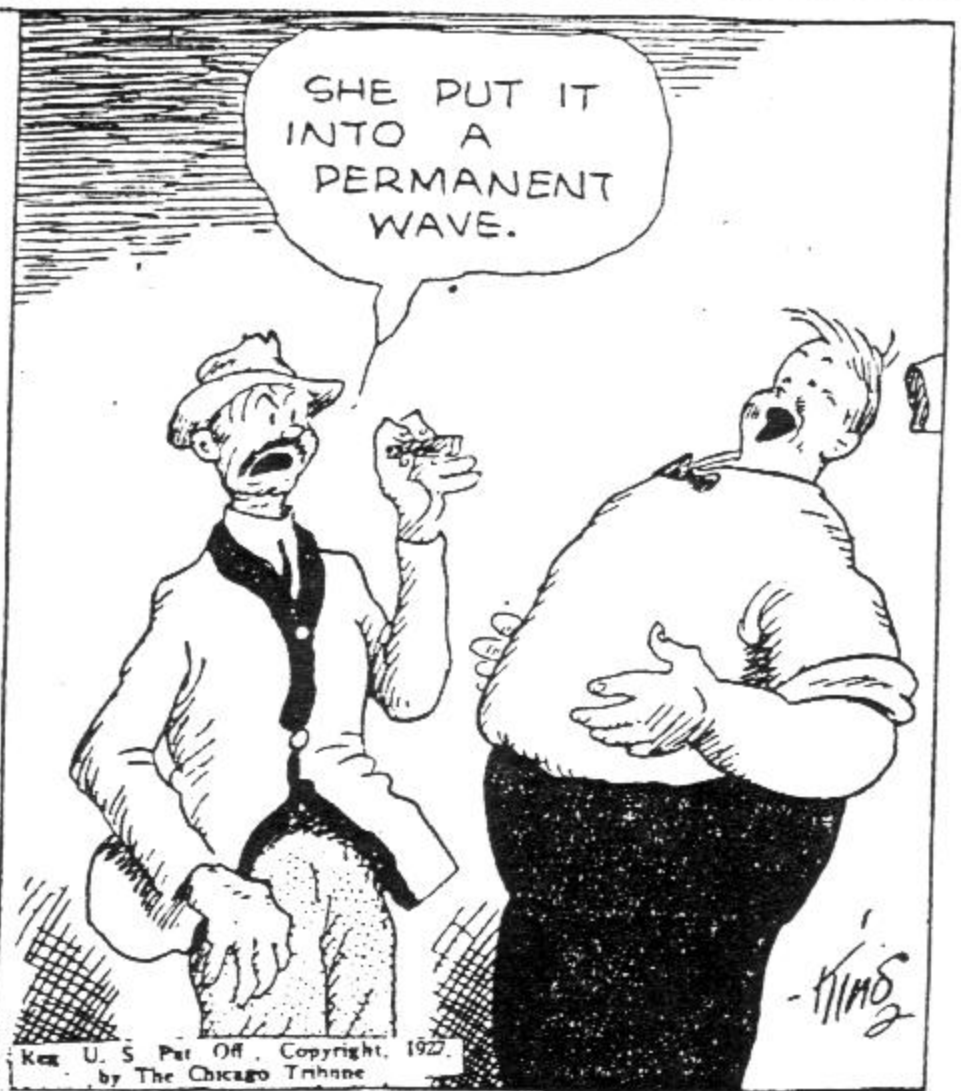


WELL EMILY SOLD IT TO AN ANTIQUER AND GOT \$18 FOR IT.

GOOD! I'M GLAD TO SEE HER SLIP ONE OVER ON YOU!



WAIT TILL YOU HEAR THE REST OF IT. I TOLD HER TO PUT IT INTO SOMETHING PERMANENT AND WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE DID?



SHE PUT IT INTO A PERMANENT WAVE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT HAS A PET PEEVE

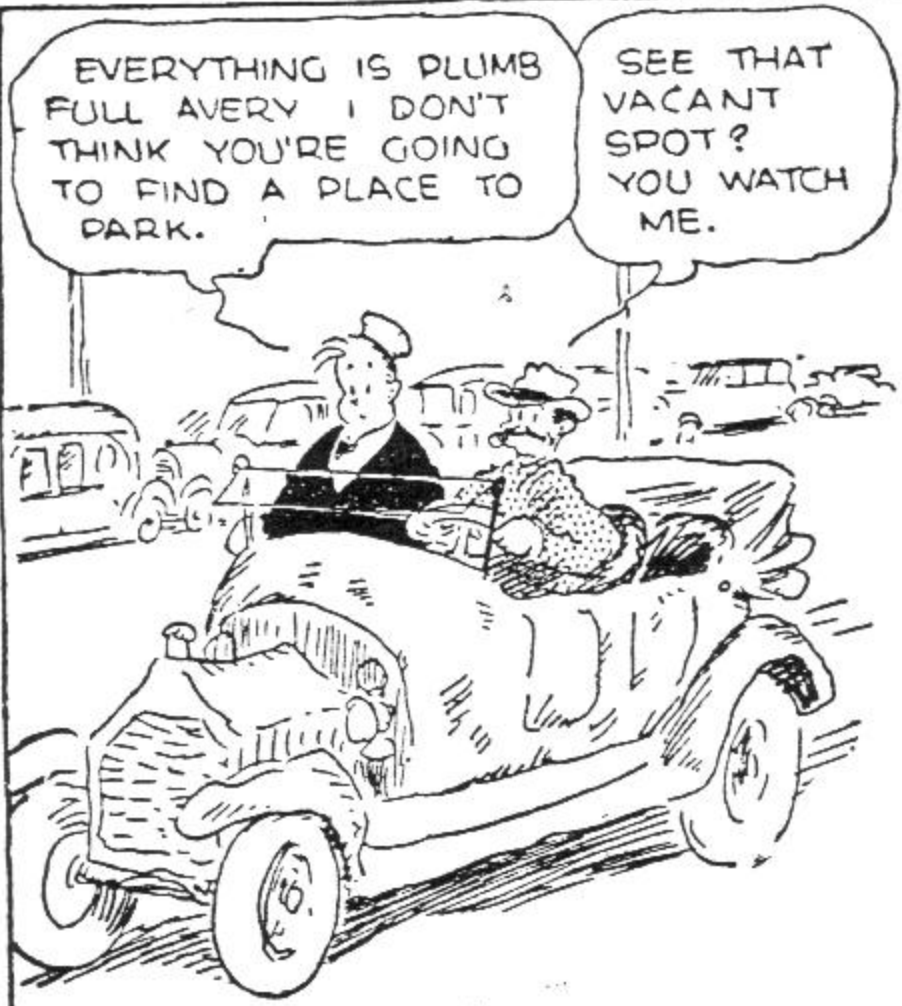
LOOK AT THAT! SOME SMART MORON HAS SHOT UP THAT DIRECTION SIGN SO THAT YOU CAN'T READ IT. WE'RE ABSOLUTELY OUT OF LUCK.

THE FELLOW WHO WOULD DO THAT WOULD SMASH HIS GRANDMOTHER'S GLASSES. HE'D GET A BIG THRILL OUT OF KICKING CRUTCHES AND HIS BEST LAUGH IS WHEN SOMEBODY BREAKS A LEG.

THERE'S ANOTHER - GONE BLOOEY! I'D LIKE TO WRING THE NECK OF THE MIGHTY HUNTER WHO HAS SO MUCH CONSIDERATION FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT DECLARE A CLOSED SEASON FOR SIGN POSTS AND REQUIRE GAME WARDENS TO CARRY A HORSEWHIP TO ENFORCE IT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT WORKS



GASOLINE ALLEY CAUSE AND EFFECT

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—CAUSE AND EFFECT

HERE'S A RECIPE FOR MOSQUITO LOTION I CAN USE SOMETIME I'LL CUT IT OUT AND SAVE IT.



GOODNESS ME! SOMEBODY CUT OUT A PIECE O' THE NEWSPAPA'- AND IT'S RIGHT IN SITUATIONS WANTED—DOMESTIC. I WONDA WHAT THEY WANTED O' THAT.



GOLLY, IF THEY IS THINKIN' O' GITTIN' ANOHTA MAID I BETTA BE GETTIN' A MOVE ON. MAYBE I HAS BEEN TAKIN' IT TOO EASY.



WALT HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW ACTIVE AND AGREEABLE RACHEL HAS BEEN LATELY?



YES I HAVE. I SUPPOSE SHE IS GOING TO ASK FOR A DAY OFF OR SOMETHING.



LET ME GO NOW! MY UNCA WALT SAID TO COME RIGHT HOME FROM SCHOOL.

AW I AIN'T AFRAID O' YOUR UNCLE WALT.

GIMME MY HAT. I'VE GOT TO GO HOME.

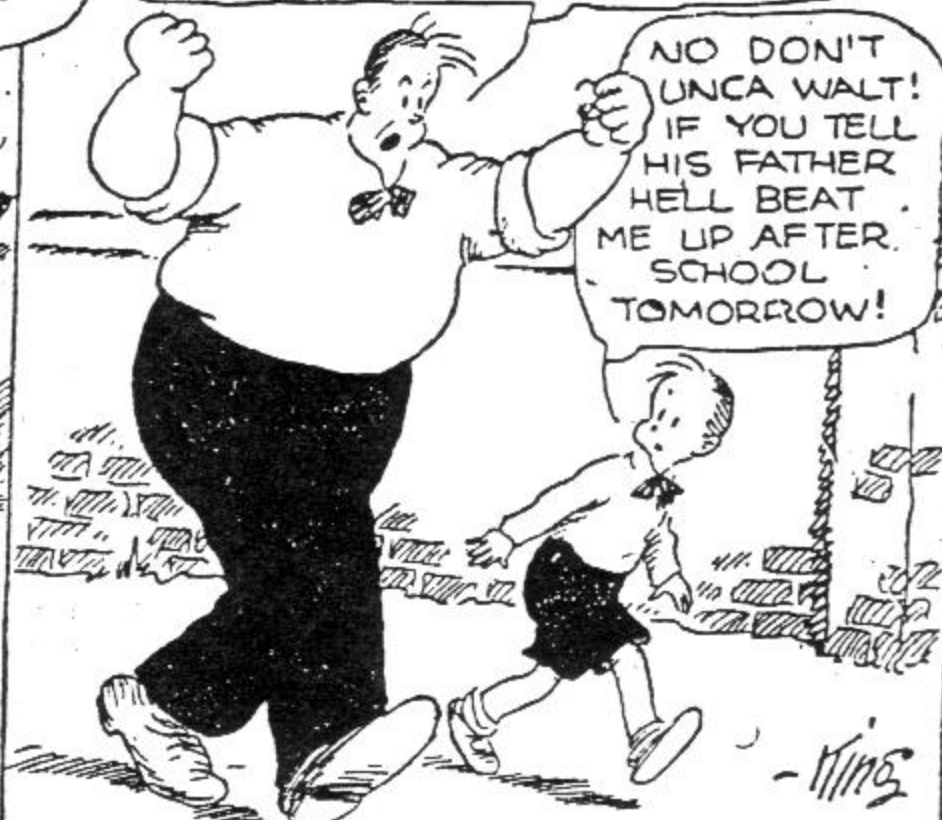
YOU AIN'T IN ANY HURRY. YOU GOT LOTS O' TIME.

WHAT HAS BEEN KEEPING YOU SKEEZIX? I TOLD YOU TO COME STRAIGHT HOME.

THAT BLINKSTRASSER BOY WOULDN'T LET ME. HE TOOK MY HAT

HE WOULDN'T WOULDN'T HE! WELL WE'LL FIX THAT. I'LL GO TO HIS FATHER AND SETTLE IT THE FIRST THING TOMORROW!

NO DON'T UNCA WALT! IF YOU TELL HIS FATHER HELL BEAT ME UP AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW!



- King



# GASOLINE ALLEY—LESSON NUMBER ONE

SKEEZIX, I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU HAD A LITTLE TRAINING IN THE ART OF SELF DEFENSE THESE SCHOOL BULLIES WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU

?

NOW YOU ARE TO TRY TO GET PAST MY GUARD AND HIT ME. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO WARD OFF BLOWS.

SURE.

LIKE THIS UNCA WALT?

TIME! YES, YOU CERTAINLY GOT THE IDEA.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU, UNCA WALT!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX APPLIES HIS NEW LESSON

A SCHOOL BULLY KEPT SKEEZIX FROM GETTING HOME ON TIME THE OTHER NIGHT. WALT GOT A SET OF BOXING GLOVES TO TEACH SKEEZIX A LITTLE CONFIDENCE. DURING THE FIRST LESSON A LEFT TO THE EYE RUINED THE SYMMETRY OF WALT'S OUTLOOK. DARK SPOT INDICATES WHERE BLOW LANDED.

THAT ISN'T WHAT I INTENDED AT ALL! THERE'S SKEEZIX CHASING A BOY ALL OVER THAT VACANT LOT!

I GAVE HIM A LESSON IN USING HIS FISTS JUST TO GIVE HIM CONFIDENCE BUT I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO BECOME A BULLY RIGHT AWAY.

SKEEZIX, WHEN I SHOWED YOU SOMETHING ABOUT SELF DEFENSE YESTERDAY I DIDN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD TRY IT OUT BY BECOMING A BULLY TO OTHER BOYS. I DON'T BELIEVE IN FIGHTING YOU KNOW UNLESS SOMEONE PICKS ON YOU FIRST.

WHO WAS THAT BOY YOU WERE CHASING ALL AROUND THE LOT AND THREATENING WITH YOUR FISTS?

THAT WAS THE BLINKSTRASSER BOY THAT WOULDN'T LET ME HOME FROM SCHOOL THE OTHER DAY.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THAT'S RIGHT, WALT—TELL THE TRUTH

WELL I DODGED THE BUNCH FOR TWO DAYS BUT I GUESS IT'S ALL UP NOW.

OH WALT! WHY SO EXCLUSIVE?

DON'T SAY A WORD! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. THE GROUND FLEW UP AND HIT YOU.

OH, SUCH A DARLING DARK LANTERN! PHYLLIS SURE MUST HAVE KNOCKED YOU FOR A GOAL!

NAW! WALT KICKED HIMSELF IN THE EYE DOIN' HIS DAILY DOZEN.

YOU'RE ALL WRONG! WE WERE BOXING AND SKEEZIX HIT ME—

HE DID! WHY THE BIG BRUTE. HE OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF!

YES, PICKING ON A LITTLE FELLOW LIKE WALT. WHY DOESN'T HE TAKE SOMEBODY HIS OWN SIZE?

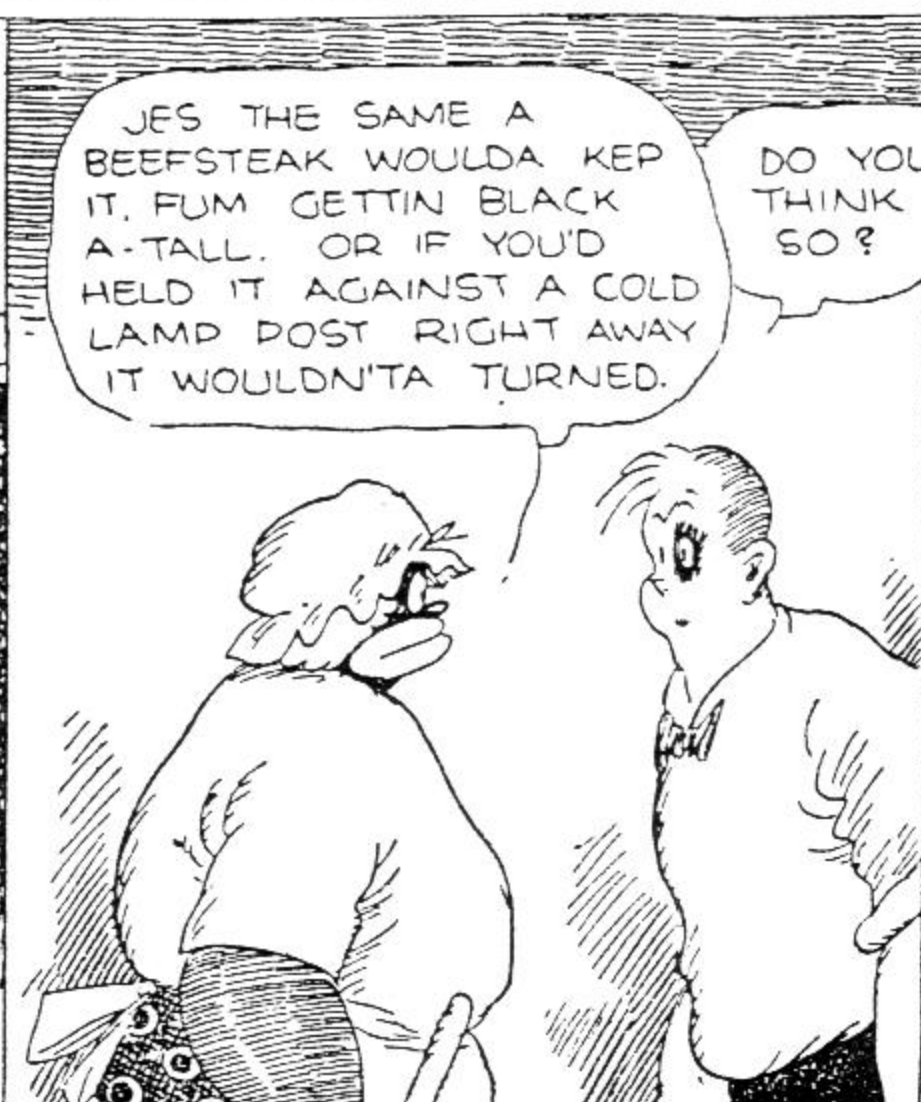
NEXT TIME HE BOTHERS YOU, WALT YOU YELL HELP AND WE'LL PULL HIM OFF!

GASOLINE ALLEY—ALMOST BLACK MAGIC



THAT EYE WHERE SKEEZIX SOCKED YOU IS STILL DISCOLORATED, MISTA WALT. YOU OUGHT TO LEFT ME PUT ON A RAW BEEFSTEAK LIKE I WANTED TO

OH, IT'S MUCH BETTER, RACHEL.



JES THE SAME A BEEFSTEAK WOULD'VE KEPT IT, FUM GETTIN BLACK A-TALL. OR IF YOU'D HELD IT AGAINST A COLD LAMP POST RIGHT AWAY IT WOULDN'TA TURNED.

DO YOU THINK SO?



SURE. EITHA ONE OF 'EM DRAWS THE BRUISE RIGHT OUT JES AS IF NOTHIN' HAD HAPPENED.

WELL, IT'S TOO LATE NOW



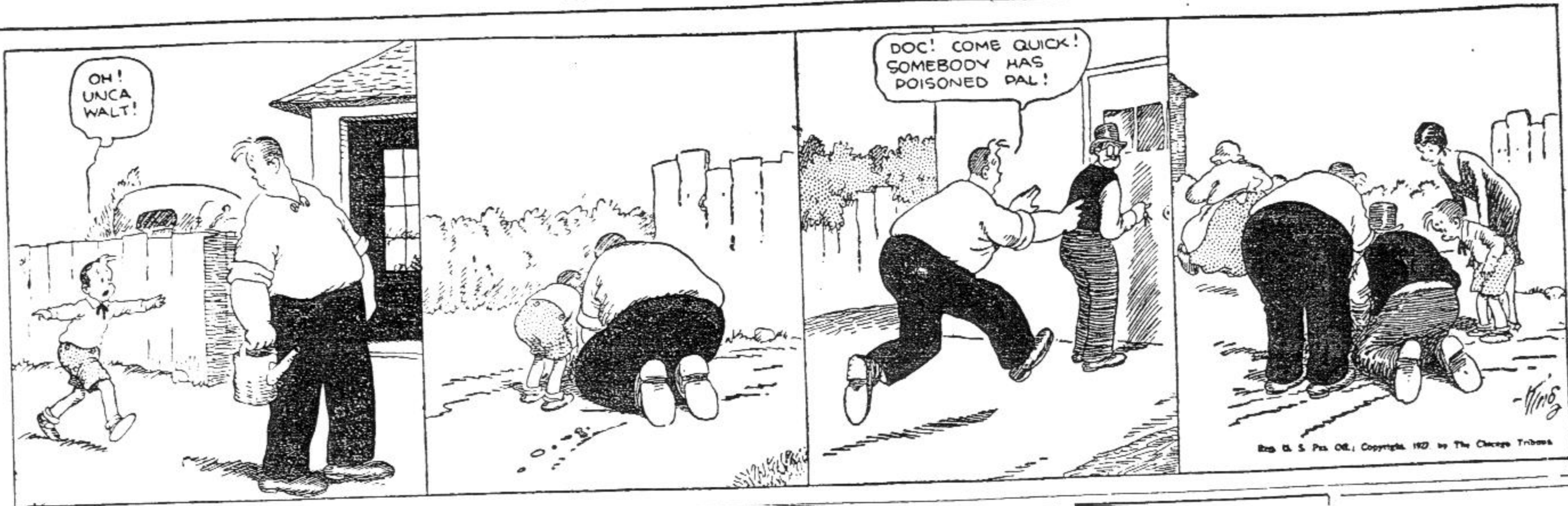
I'VE HAD SOME POWERFUL HARD RAPS IN MY TIME BUT I ALWAYS PUT ON RAW MEAT QUICK AN' I AIN'T HAD A BLACK EYE YET.

GASOLINE ALLEY — DARK AND CLOUDY. BRIGHTER TOMORROW



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1927.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—BAD NEWS



## GASOLINE ALLEY—A RAY OF HOPE



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ON THE MEND

I'D GIVE A HUNDRED DOLLARS TO KNOW WHO THAT BIRD WAS. IF I HAD HIM HERE I'D WRING HIS NECK!

I'D HELP YOU, WALT. ANYBODY THAT WOULD POISON A DOG IS THE LOWEST FORM OF LIFE.

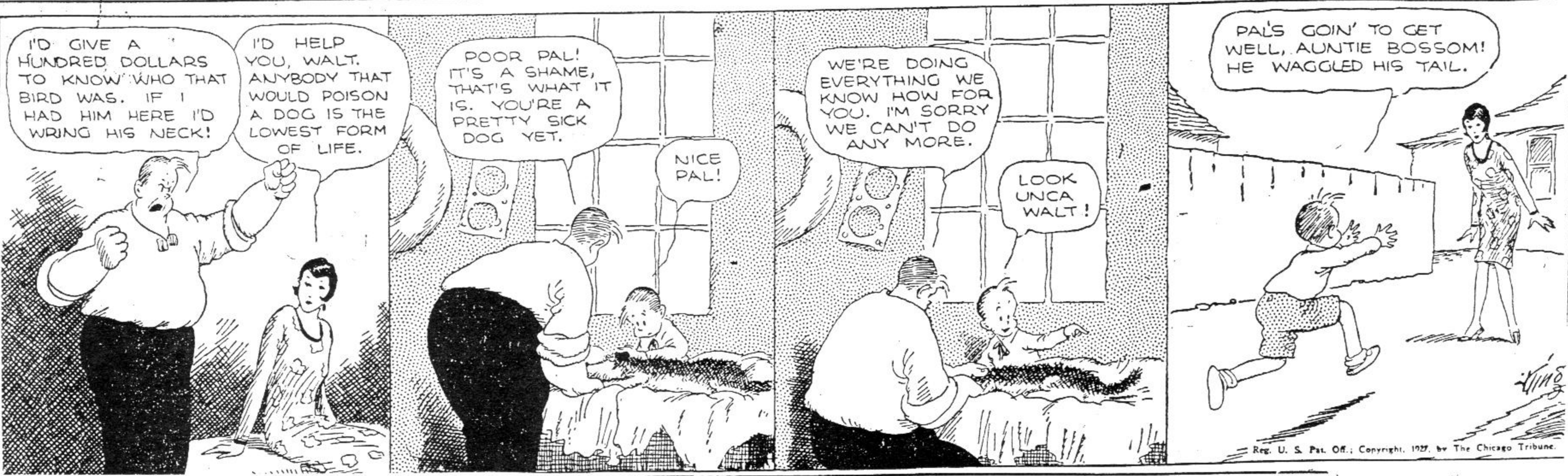
POOR PAL! IT'S A SHAME, THAT'S WHAT IT IS. YOU'RE A PRETTY SICK DOG YET.

NICE PAL!

WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE KNOW HOW FOR YOU. I'M SORRY WE CAN'T DO ANY MORE.

LOOK UNCA WALT!

PAL'S GOIN' TO GET WELL, AUNTIE BOSSOM! HE WAGGED HIS TAIL.

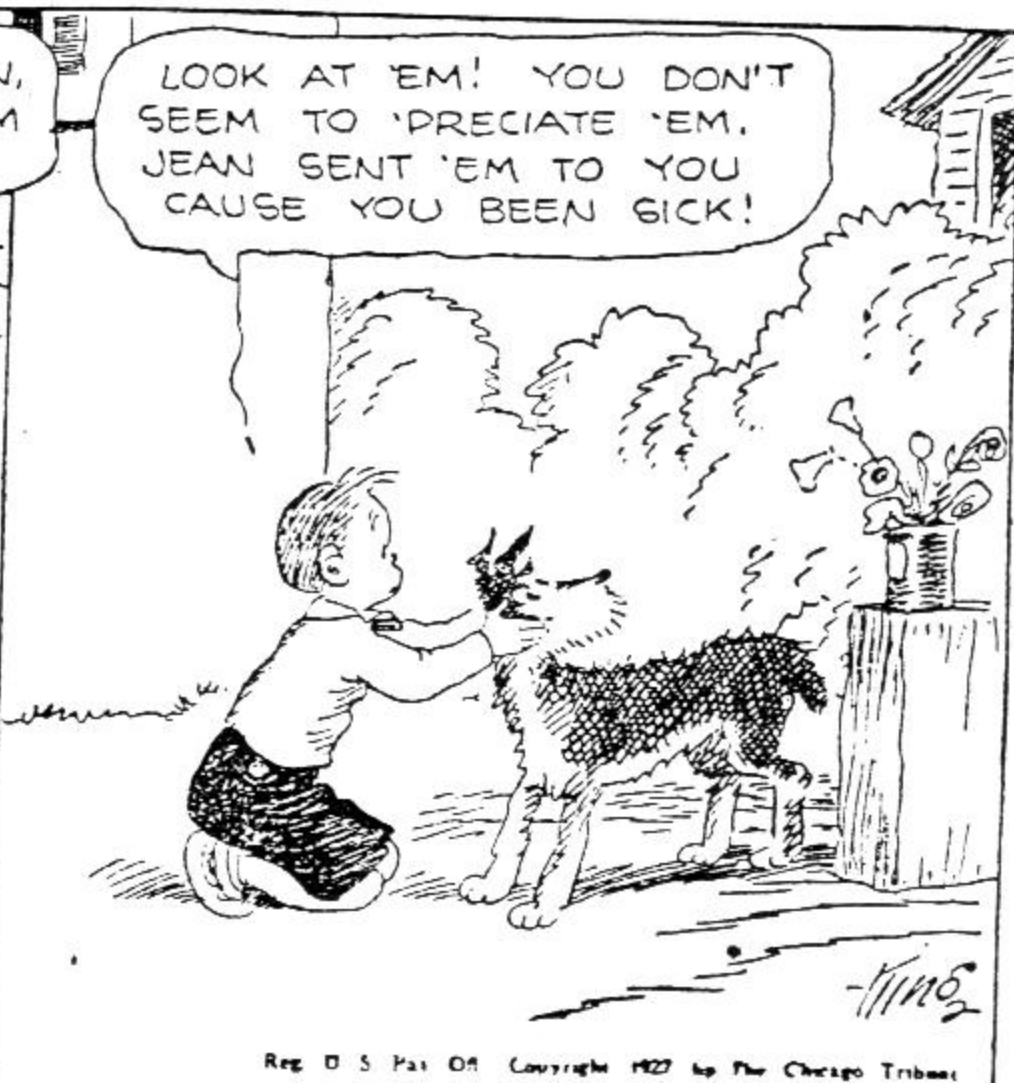
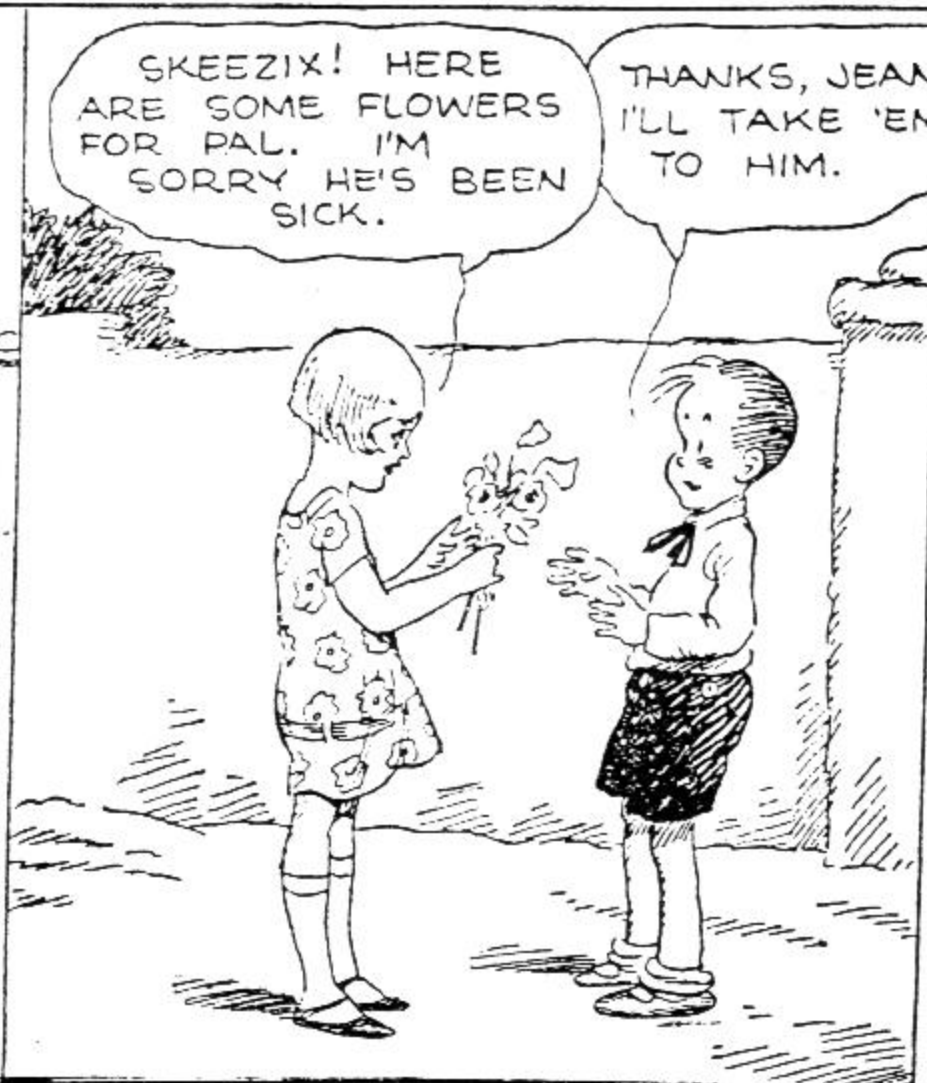
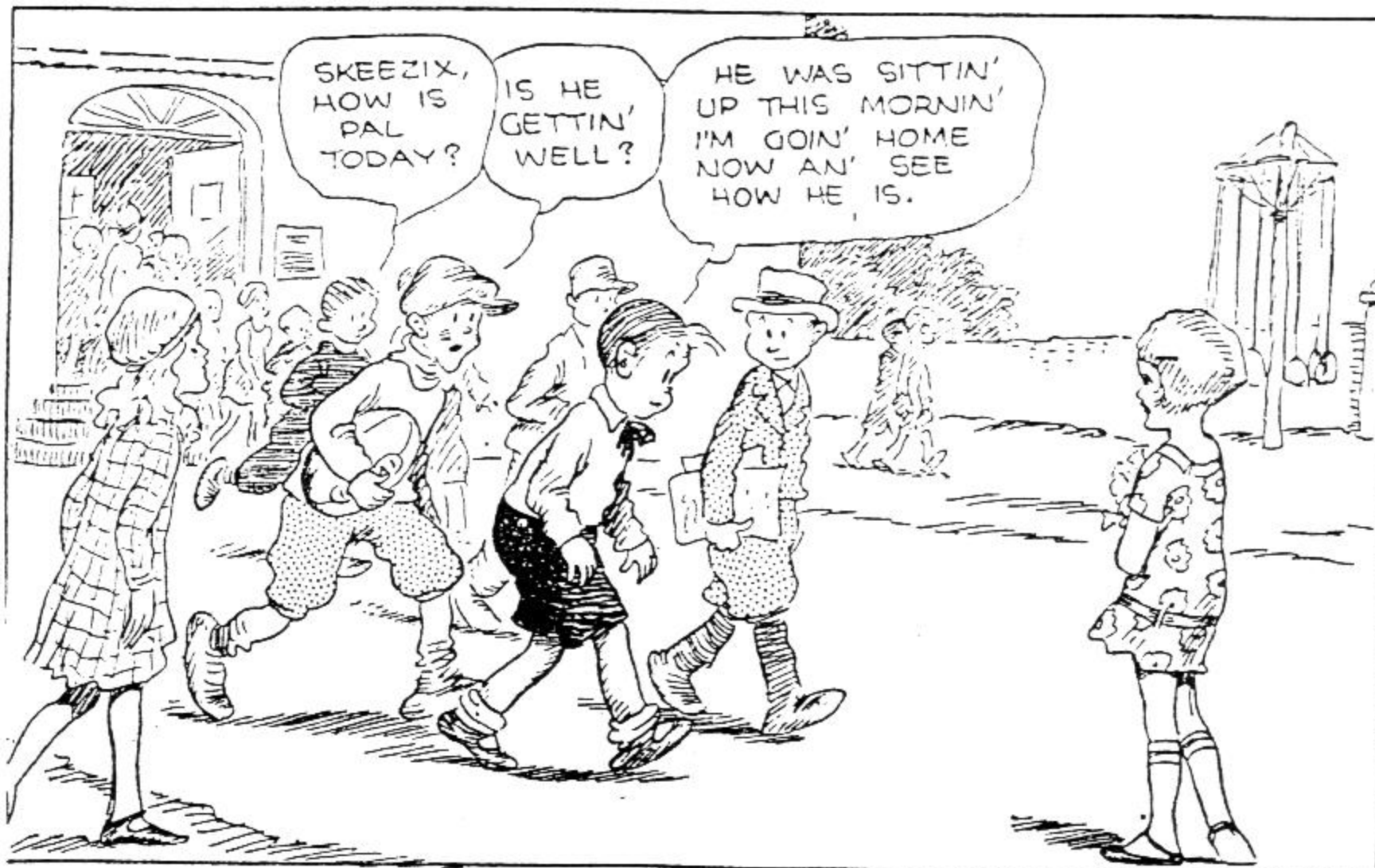




# GASOLINE ALLEY—IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ATTENTION FROM THE LADIES



# GASOLINE ALLEY—OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE

SAY, PARDNER, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET A REAL BARGAIN - PERFECT STONE SET IN SOLID PLATINUM. WORTH 75 BUCKS ANYWHERE. SMUGGLED IN THAT'S WHY I CAN SELL IT FOR 12 BUCKS.

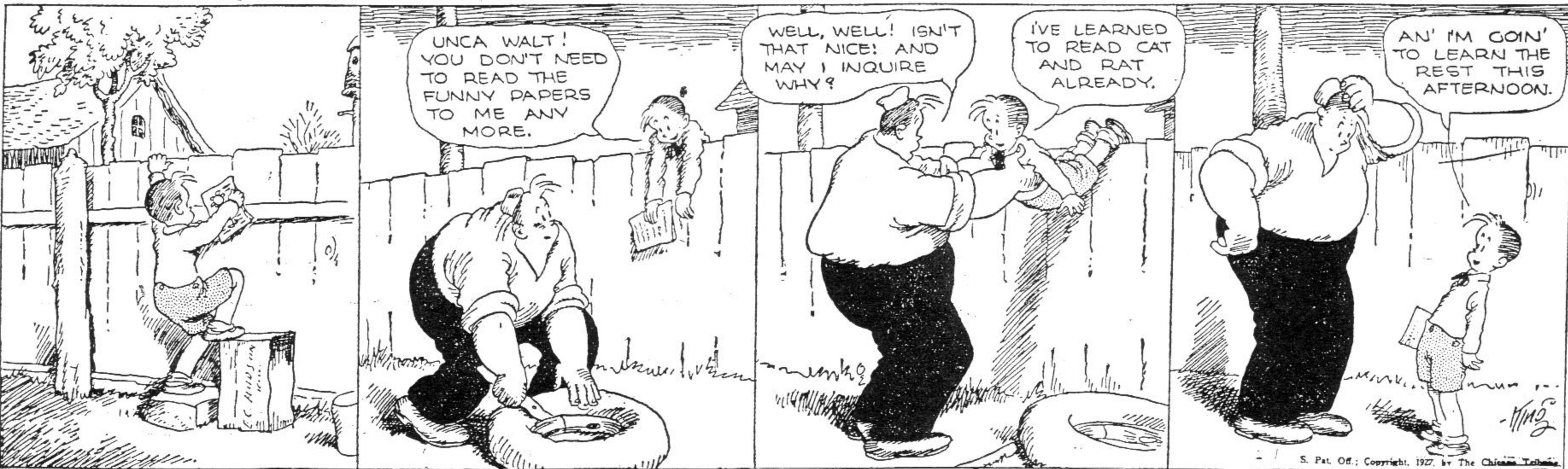
NO I KNOW THAT GAME. NOTHING DOING.

GOLLY, I WONDER IF THAT FELLOW COULD HAVE BEEN ON THE SQUARE! HE HAD AN HONEST FACE.

NO THEY'RE ALL CROOKS. IT'S AN OLD GAG. HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD THE REAL GOODS.

STILL - I WONDER WHERE THAT BIRD WENT. I'D HATE TO MISS A CHANCE OF PICKING UP A REAL STONE AT A PRICE LIKE THAT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT LOSES HIS JOB



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SELECTIVE ASTIGMATISM



THE LETTER A LOOKS THE BLACKEST, DOC.

ALL RIGHT, WHICH SET OF LINES IS DARKEST, AVERY?

THE ONES AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE CHART.

NOW HOW MANY LINES OF LETTERING CAN YOU READ?

I CAN READ THE FIRST FOUR AND THE LAST.

?

**ARTICLE**  
**BARBECUE**  
**CORNELIUS**  
**BABY CHICKS**  
**OVERNIGHT BAG**  
**TENTING TONIGHT**  
**DO NOT ENCOURAGE**  
**EVERYBODY'S SAY SO**  
**\$10.00 GIVEN AWAY FREE**

★  
**THIS BEING THE CHART**  
**AVERY WAS READING.**  
By The Chicago Tribune

# GASOLINE ALLEY—KEEP CODA IN JAIL

WALT, HOW IS THE SKEEZIX CASE COMING ALONG? YOU HAVE POSSESSION OF HIM OF COURSE BUT THE LEGAL SITUATION IS ALL AGAINST YOU.

WHY REDBERRY IS LOOKING AFTER THAT. I HAVEN'T TALKED WITH HIM FOR A WEEK OR SO.

I SAW A LITTLE STORY IN THE PAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT SENTIMENT IN GIOVANIA IS FAVORING CODA AND HIS PARTY AND THAT THERE IS A STRONG MOVEMENT AFOOT TO HAVE HIM AND GEN. GLAUREK RELEASED.

GOLLY, YOU MEAN THAT CODA MAY SOON BE FREE AGAIN? I THOUGHT WE HAD HIM WHERE HE WOULDN'T BOTHER US FOR A YEAR OR SO ANYWAY.

IF I WERE, YOU I'D SEE REDBERRY AND PEP HIM UP A BIT. WHATEVER HE'S DOING HE OUGHT TO HURRY IT ALONG.

I CERTAINLY WILL SEE HIM. I DON'T WANT CODA COMING BACK HERE TO UPSET THINGS ALL OVER AGAIN. I'M GOING RIGHT NOW.

GASOLINE ALLEY—IN OTHER WORDS, GET BUSY

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR SKEEZIX CASE, MR. REDBERRY. I'VE HAD WORD THAT CODA MAY BE RELEASED OVER IN GLOVANIA BEFORE LONG. WHEN HE IS HE'LL BE HOT ON SKEEZIX'S TRAIL AGAIN.

I HAVEN'T BEEN IDLE, WALT. AS I TOLD YOU, OUR APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRIAL WAS ARGUED BEFORE JUDGE BLY AND DENIED. I HAVE BEEN PERFECTING MY PLEA TO THE SUPREME COURT BEFORE WHOM OUR CASE COMES UP SHORTLY.

WELL I HOPE YOU'RE HURRYING THINGS ALONG AS FAST AS YOU CAN. YOU KNOW CODA WON'T LET ANY GRASS GROW UNDER HIS FEET.

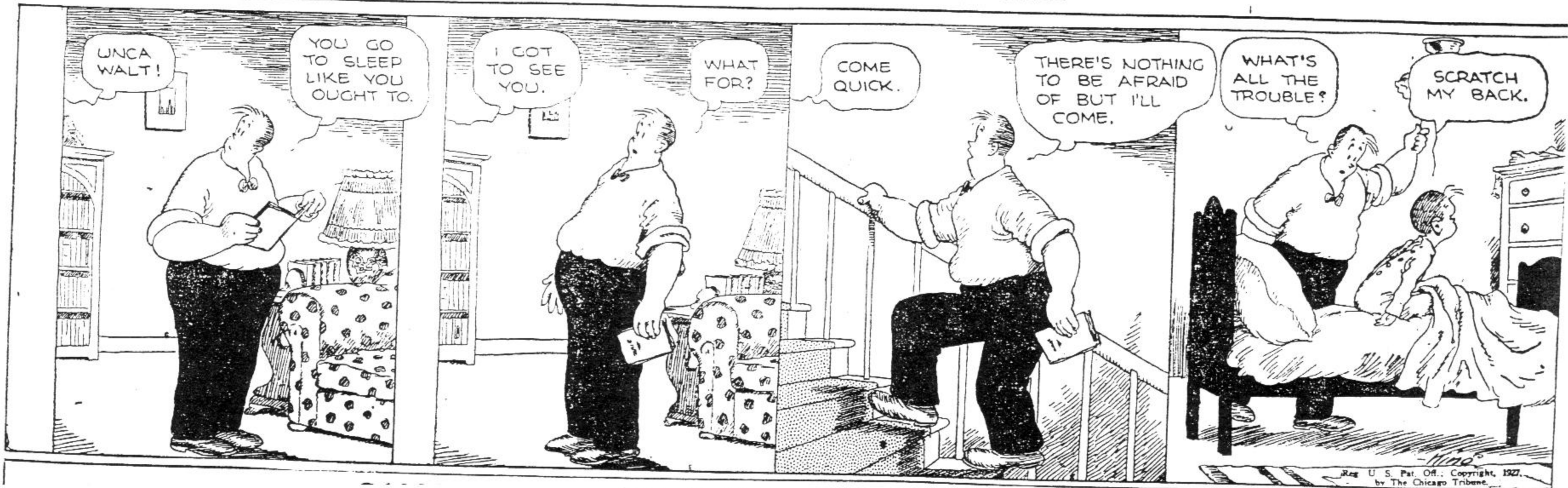
THESE THINGS CAN'T BE HURRIED. WE WILL HAVE OUR HEARING IN DUE TIME AND MEANWHILE I AM PREPARING FOR IT. I HAVE WRITTEN A BRIEF WHICH CLEARLY SHOWS THE ERROR AND INJUSTICE OF THE LOWER COURT. IN THE FACE OF IT I DON'T SEE HOW THE EARLY VERDICT CAN BE SUSTAINED.

WELL, I'VE GOT SKEEZIX NOW AND I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM. AND I'M RELYING ON YOU, MR. REDBERRY, TO DO THE UTMOST THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO HELP ME.

OF COURSE ONE NEVER KNOWS HOW THESE THINGS WILL COME OUT BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU I'M LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED. IT'S OUR LAST CHANCE AND I'M DOING ALL ANYBODY COULD DO.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A FIRST AID CALL





# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT WAS MERELY TALKING TO THE TIRE

SKEEZIX,  
THAT IS A  
VERY, VERY  
NAUGHTY  
THING TO  
SAY. WHO  
DID YOU  
EVER HEAR  
SAY IT?

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
TELL,  
AUNTIE  
BOSSOM..

OH, YOU MUST  
TELL ME WHO IT  
WAS AND HOW  
HE CAME TO  
USE SUCH A  
WORD!

I WON'T  
TELL WHO  
IT WAS  
BUT HE  
WAS FIXING  
A TIRE IN  
THE BACK  
YARD.

WALT YOU  
OUGHT TO BE  
ASHAMED OF  
YOURSELF —  
SAYING SUCH  
THINGS!

WHO? ME?  
GOLLY DID  
YOU HEAR  
ME WAY  
IN THE  
HOUSE?

# GASOLINE ALLEY—QUICK! THE IODINE!

I'M FIXING THIS ELECTRIC IRON FOR EMILY. SHE'S BEEN AFTER ME TO DO IT FOR WEEKS.



YOU'RE FIXING OR FINISHING IT, ONE OR THE OTHER—WITH THE ACCENT ON THE OTHER!



GREAT JEHOSEPHAT! MY TOE!



GOLLY, AVERY! DID IT GET YOU?



THOSE THINGS HURT TO BEAT THE BAND FOR A WHILE BUT THEY DON'T LAST LONG.



THEY DON'T DON'T THEY! I KNOW A FELLOW THAT WAS LAID UP FOR TWO WEEKS THE SAME WAY. YOU WAIT AND SEE.

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RESTORERS WILL NOT APPLY

GASOLINE ALLEY—OPTIMISTIC DOCTORS NEED NOT APPLY

THERE'S A LITTLE BLACK AND BLUE SPOT BUT I CAN'T FIND ANY REAL DAMAGE DONE BY THE HAMMER YOU DROPPED ON YOUR FOOT AVERY.



YOU'RE CRAZY DOC. IT INJURED THE TENDONS AND DISLOCATED A COUPLE O' BONES. I KNOW IT DID.

WE'LL TAKE AN X-RAY IF YOU SAY SO, BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG.



NO I DON'T WANT ANY X-RAYS TO PAY FOR, BUT IF THAT'S ALL YOU CAN FIND WRONG YOU'RE A BUM M. D.

OF COURSE IF THIS IS FRIENDLY INTEREST, DOC, MUCH OBLIGED FOR YOUR OPINION, BUT IF THIS IS A PROFESSIONAL CALL YOU'VE GOT TO FIND SOMETHING WORSE THAN A SKIN BRUISE.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—AVERY HAS A RELAPSE

WHY ALL THE PROPS, AVERY? YOU'RE NOT SUCH A CRIPPLE AS THAT ARE YOU?

YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHEN THEY'LL COME IN HANDY, WALT. I'M EXPECTING COMPANY.

THERE'S A STRANGE CAR DOWN THE ALLEY NOW.

THAT'S HIM I GUESS.

?

I'M THE INSURANCE ADJUSTER. I UNDERSTAND YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT.

YES SIR. DROPPED A HEAVY HAMMER ON MY FOOT AND HAVE BEEN TOTALLY LAID UP EVER SINCE.

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THE ALLEY AVERY IS MIS

# GASOLINE ALLEY — AVERY IS MISUNDERSTOOD

HOW DID YOU  
COME OUT WITH  
THE INSURANCE  
ADJUSTER.  
AVERY?

OH, ALL RIGHT, ONLY  
I HAVE TO FILL OUT SOME  
"PROOF OF LOSS" BLANKS  
AND THINGS. A LOT OF  
RED TAPE WHEN HE CAN  
SEE I'M DISABLED.

GET DOC TO  
FIX YOU UP  
WITH A  
STATEMENT.

THAT OLD BIRD IS  
SO CAGEY HE WON'T  
BELIEVE HIS OWN  
EYES NOR TAKE MY  
WORD FOR ANYTHING.

WHY DOC, IS SO CAUTIOUS  
HE WON'T WRITE OUT A BIRTH  
CERTIFICATE FOR LESS THAN  
TWINS, SO HE'LL HAVE 100  
PERCENT MARGIN OF SAFETY.

JUST THE SAME I'VE GOT  
TO GO AND CONVINCE HIM  
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO  
USE THIS FOOT YET.

GASOLINE ALLEY--DOC SECONDS AVERY'S ACCIDENT CLAIM

I'VE GOT MY PROOF OF LOSS' BLANK FILLED IN, DOC, BUT WILL YOU MAKE THIS ONE OUT THAT HAS TO BE SIGNED BY AN M. D.?

CERTAINLY AVERY.

LET ME SEE -- TOTALLY DISABLED -- HAMMER DROPPED ON FOOT -- BLACK AND BLUE SPOT -- SLIGHT SWELLING --

DON'T HURT YOUR CONSCIENCE, DOC, BUT USE SOME BIG MEDICAL TERMS AND MAKE IT SOUND AS SERIOUS AS POSSIBLE.

WHAT'S THIS? TOTAL DISABILITY FROM 3:25 TO 3:55 MONDAY AFTERNOON! YOU KNOW VERY WELL I'VE BEEN TOTALLY DISABLED SINCE MONDAY.

TOTALLY DISORGANIZED YOU MEAN.

DOC YOU OLD SKATE! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO A TAP THIS WEEK.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT MY CONSCIENCE, AVERY. THAT'S THE MOST IT WILL STAND FOR.



# GASOLINE ALLEY--EVERY MAN HIS OWN ATTORNEY



WHAT YOU READIN', UNCA WALT?

I'M TIRED OF WAITING ON LAWYERS, SKEEZIX, SO I GOT A BOOK AND I'M GOING TO READ UP ON OUR CASE MYSELF. IT'S CALLED "LAW AT A GLANCE."



IT ISN'T ANY GOOD. IT HASN'T ANY PICTURES.

LET'S SEE, CORPORATIONS, BANKRUPTCY, CONSPIRACY, REAL ESTATE LAW - WHY SO MUCH SPACE TO UNIMPORTANT SUBJECTS AND SO LITTLE TO THE MOST IMPORTANT - ADOPTION?



HERE IT IS - RIGHTS OF PARENTS PARAMOUNT EXCEPT WHERE INTERESTS OF CHILD DEMAND ACTION BY COURT. AGE OF DISCRETION AND CHOICE BETWEEN PARENTS AND FOSTER PARENTS -



RACHEL WILL YOU STEP OVER AND ASK IF MR. AVERY WILL COME IN. HE WAS IN A LAWSUIT ONCE.

I DON'T THINK HE'LL COME UP THE STEPS, MISTA WALT. HE HURT HIS FOOT AN' IS TROUBLED WITH TOTAL DISABILITY THIS WEEK.

GASOLINE ALLEY—AVERY IS NOT SO CONSERVATIVE

I'M DR. MUSK OF THE ACCIDENTAL CASUALTY INSURANCE CO. IS MR. AVERY IN? I HAVE COME TO EXAMINE THE FOOT THE HAMMER DROPPED ON.



IT'S PRETTY BAD, ISN'T IT DOC?



WELL I'M UNABLE TO FIND ANYTHING WRONG AT THIS LATE DATE EXCEPT AN IODINE STAIN. I UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN DOCTOR EXAMINED YOU SHORTLY AFTER THE ACCIDENT.

YES BUT I'D RATHER YOU'D TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.



WELL, I SUGGEST YOU HAVE HIM MAKE A REPORT WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MINE.

YEAH! MY DOC ALLOWED ME 30 MINUTES DISABILITY AND THIS ONE WON'T RAISE THAT. I'LL WRITE MY OWN REPORT AND IF I CAN'T SELL 'EM THIS GORE FOOT FOR \$15 AT LEAST, I'M NO SALESMAN.



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...ALREADY HEAT WILL BE A LAWYER HIMSELF PRETTY SOON



GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT WILL BE A LAWYER HIMSELF PRETTY SOON

HELLO, MR. REDBERRY! I WAS GOING TO CALL ON YOU TODAY.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, WALT?

WELL I COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT THINKING ABOUT SKEEZIX AND THE CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT. CAN'T YOU ASK 'EM AS A SPECIAL FAVOR TO HURRY IT UP?

I'M GOING TO APPEAR BEFORE IT ON PRELIMINARY CALL ON FRIDAY AND THE DATE WILL BE SET AT THAT TIME—TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS HENCE.

WELL CODA'S ATTORNEY GOES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT TOO, DOESN'T HE, WHEN THE FINAL ARGUMENTS ARE MADE?

YES OF COURSE, BUT HERE IS A NEW LIST OF CITATIONS—BARRY vs REEVES, 214 N.W. 519, FOR INSTANCE, JUST TO MENTION ONE, WHICH STRENGTHENS OUR CASE CONSIDERABLY.

WELL I HOPE HE HASN'T ANY TOO, WHATEVER THEY ARE.

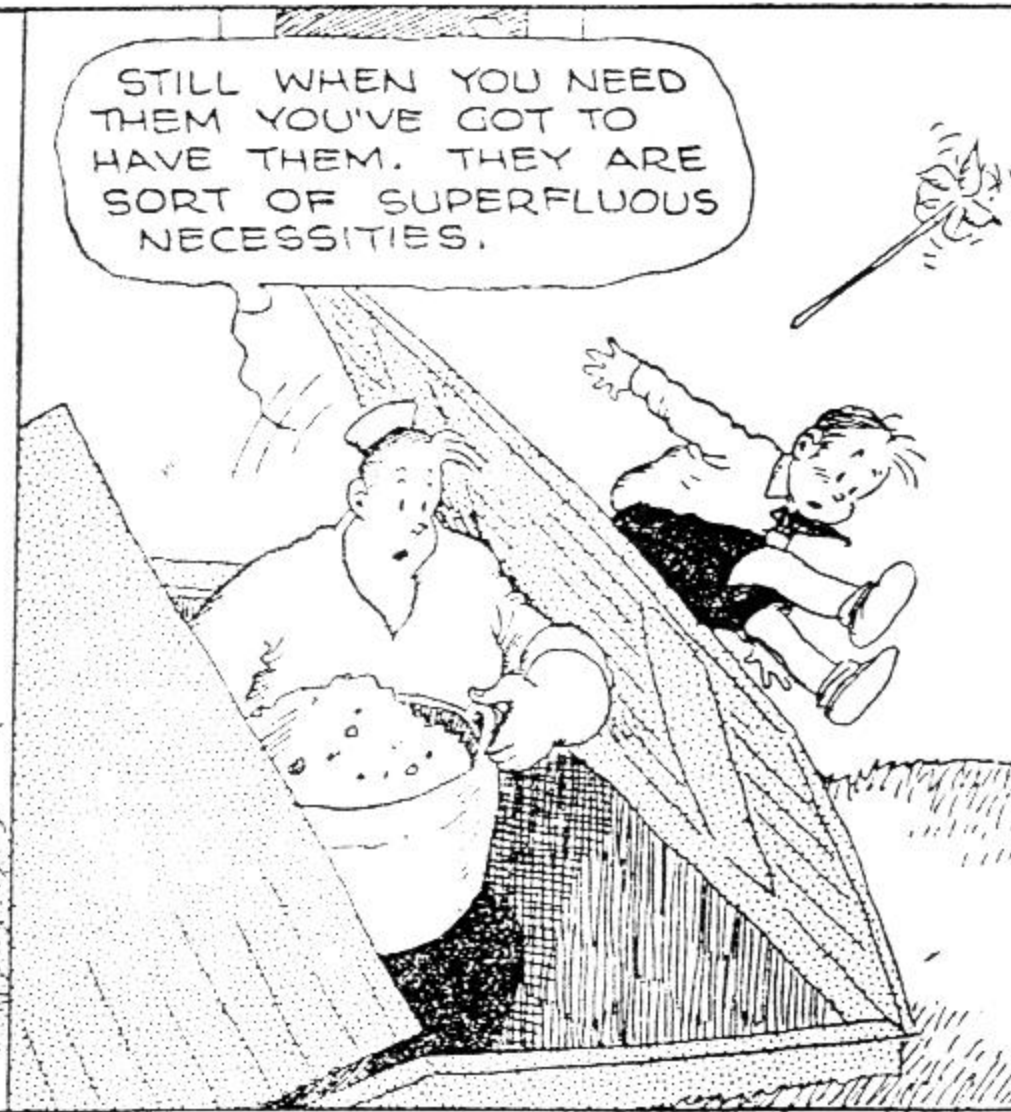
I THINK WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT CASE, WALT. I WILL PRESENT IT ORALLY AND I FEEL I HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY CONVINCING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF REVERSAL OF THE LOWER COURT'S DECISION.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WHAT WAS WALT SAYING?

GOLLY, WHEN YOU GET MIXED UP IN THIS LAW STUFF YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF IT! I'LL BE TICKLED PINK IF I EVER CAN GET AWAY FROM LAWYERS.

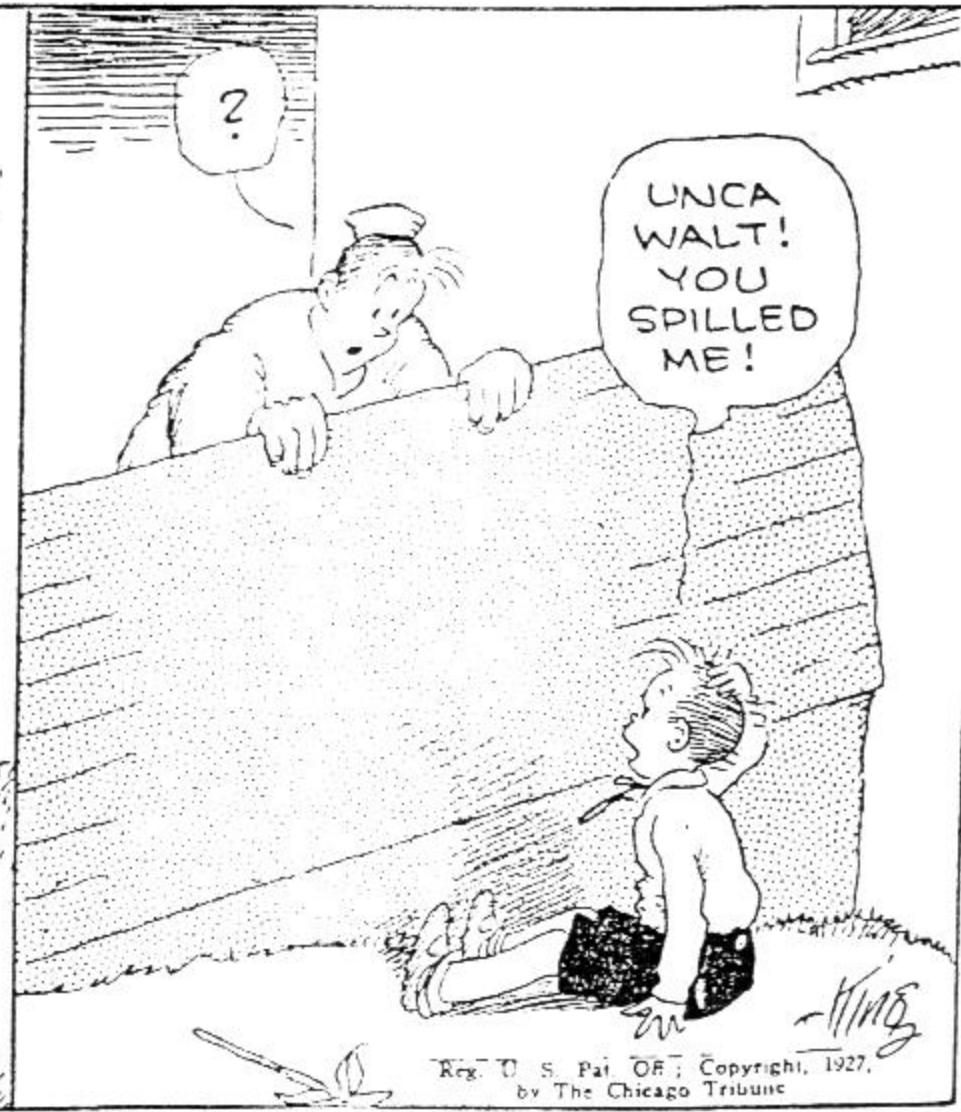


STILL WHEN YOU NEED THEM YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE THEM. THEY ARE SORT OF SUPERFLUOUS NECESSITIES.



?

UNCA WALT!  
YOU SPILLED ME!



# GASOLINE ALLEY - FALSE ALARM



HERE IS MR. REDBERRY AND THERE COMES JUDGE MOLDER, CODA'S ATTORNEY. GOLLY, AFTER THE INSINUATIONS THAT FELLOW CAST ON US AT THE SKEEZIX TRIAL I'LL BET THERE'LL BE A SWELL SCRAP!

?

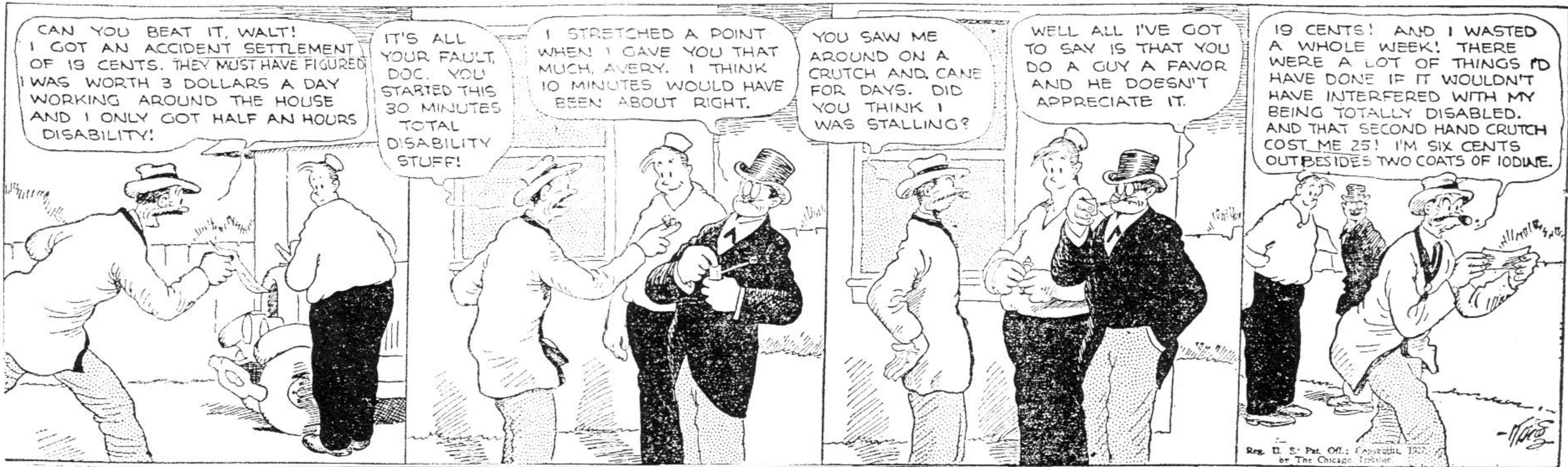
HELLO CHARLIE, GET HOME FROM THE PARTY ALL RIGHT THE OTHER NIGHT?

RATHER LATE BUT IN FINE SHAPE, JOE. HOW'S YOUR GAME? HEAR YOU'VE TAKEN UP GOLF.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! THOSE TWO FELLOWS FOUGHT TOOTH AND NAIL ALL THROUGH THE TRIAL. BELIEVE ME I DON'T FORGET SO QUICKLY THAT HE TOOK SKEEZIX AWAY FROM ME.

AND THEY ARE SOON TO BE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT ON OPPOSITE SIDES AGAIN. I DON'T SEE HOW THEY CAN FIGHT LIKE THEY DO AND EVER SPEAK TO EACH OTHER AFTERWARDS.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THEY FIGURE IT ON THE 24 HOUR DAY BASIS, AVERY



CAN YOU BEAT IT, WALT!  
I GOT AN ACCIDENT SETTLEMENT  
OF 19 CENTS. THEY MUST HAVE FIGURED  
I WAS WORTH 3 DOLLARS A DAY  
WORKING AROUND THE HOUSE  
AND I ONLY GOT HALF AN HOURS  
DISABILITY!

IT'S ALL  
YOUR FAULT,  
DOC. YOU  
STARTED THIS  
30 MINUTES  
TOTAL  
DISABILITY  
STUFF!

I STRETCHED A POINT  
WHEN I GAVE YOU THAT  
MUCH, AVERY. I THINK  
10 MINUTES WOULD HAVE  
BEEN ABOUT RIGHT.

YOU SAW ME  
AROUND ON A  
CRUTCH AND, CAME  
FOR DAYS. DID  
YOU THINK I  
WAS STALLING?

WELL ALL I'VE GOT  
TO SAY IS THAT YOU  
DO A GUY A FAVOR  
AND HE DOESN'T  
APPRECIATE IT.

19 CENTS! AND I WASTED  
A WHOLE WEEK! THERE  
WERE A LOT OF THINGS I'D  
HAVE DONE IF IT WOULDN'T  
HAVE INTERFERED WITH MY  
BEING TOTALLY DISABLED.  
AND THAT SECOND HAND CRUTCH  
COST ME 25! I'M SIX CENTS  
OUT BESIDES TWO COATS OF IODINE.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—RAPID, DEPRECIATE

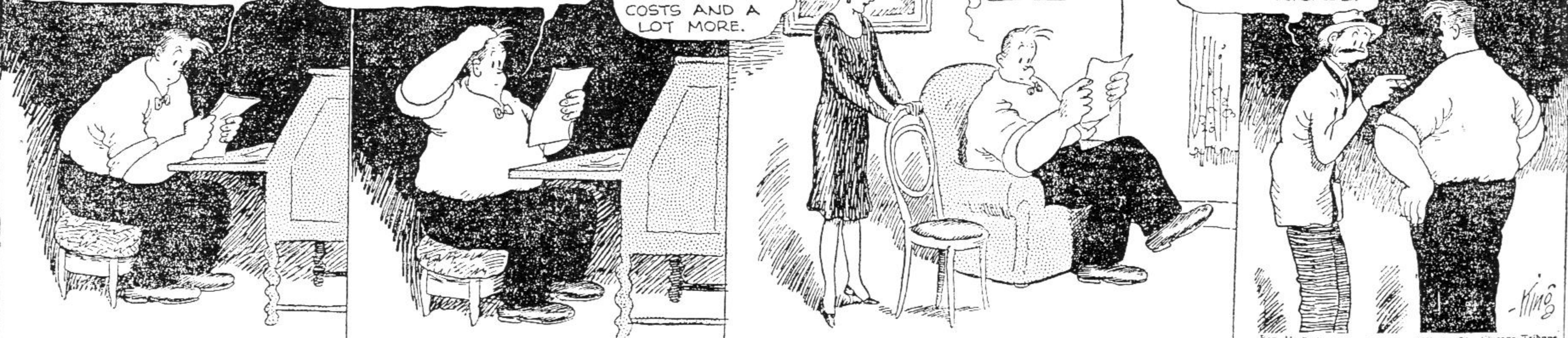
COLLY, HERE'S ANOTHER ATTORNEY'S BILL FOR SERVICES AND COURT FEES AND EXPENSES. WELL HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, I DON'T.

THAT SKEEZIX TRIAL WE HAD I'M BUYING ON INSTALLMENTS NOW. ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS THAT REDBERRY EARNED IT. HE WORKED LIKE A DOG.

YOU MUST CONSIDER THIS AS AN INVESTMENT, WALT. IF IT ALL COMES OUT ALL RIGHT IT WILL BE WORTH EVERYTHING IT COSTS AND A LOT MORE.

YES BUT THE SAD PART OF IT IS THAT IT COSTS JUST AS MUCH TO LOSE A CASE AS IT DOES TO WIN IT.

WHAT GETS ME WILD ABOUT IT ALL, WALT, IS THAT YOU PAY HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS FOR BRIEFS AND WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH YOU CAN'T SELL 'EM FOR A NICKEL.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SCENES HERE AND THERE



BEHIND BARS IN UERGA, THIRTY MILES FROM RAGPO, THE CAPITAL OF GIOVANIA, COL. CODA HAS BEEN SPENDING HIS TIME, OF WHICH HE HAS AMPLE, IN WRITING THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY. FREEDOM AS FAR AS HIS EXPECTATIONS ARE CONCERNED IS A THING OF THE DISTANT FUTURE.

I DON'T WISH ANYBODY ANY HARM BUT I'M JUST AS WELL SATISFIED THAT CODA IS SAFELY JUGGED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY UNTIL AFTER SKEEZIX IS DISPOSED OF BY THE SUPREME COURT.

HIS ABSENCE OR PRESENCE WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN THE RESULT.

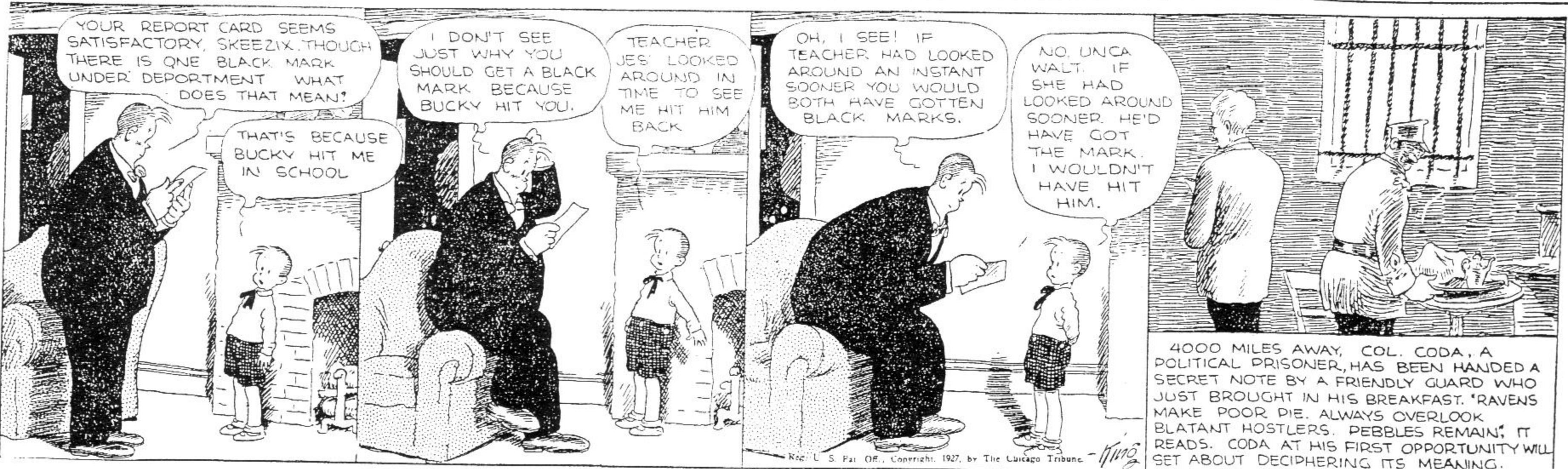
JUST THE SAME HE'S CLEVER AND HAS A LOT OF POWER AND HE MIGHT FIND A WAY OF MAKING THINGS UNPLEASANT.

OF COURSE IF THE COURT DECIDES AGAINST US IT WOULD MEAN AN IMMEDIATE GIVING UP OF SKEEZIX IF CODA WERE HERE.

THE CASE MUST NOT GO AGAINST US, MR. REDBERRY. YOU DON'T THINK IT WILL DO YOU?

ALL I KNOW, WALT, IS THAT I'LL BE READY A WEEK FROM THURSDAY TO MAKE THE PLEA OF MY LIFE. THE CASE IS ON THE CALENDAR FOR THAT DAY.

# GASOLINE ALLEY - THE MATTER OF A SPLIT SECOND



YOUR REPORT CARD SEEMS SATISFACTORY, SKEEZIX. THOUGH THERE IS ONE BLACK MARK UNDER DEPARTMENT. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THAT'S BECAUSE BUCKY HIT ME IN SCHOOL

I DON'T SEE JUST WHY YOU SHOULD GET A BLACK MARK BECAUSE BUCKY HIT YOU.

TEACHER JES' LOOKED AROUND IN TIME TO SEE ME HIT HIM BACK

OH, I SEE! IF TEACHER HAD LOOKED AROUND AN INSTANT SOONER YOU WOULD BOTH HAVE GOTTEN BLACK MARKS.

NO, UNCA WALT. IF SHE HAD LOOKED AROUND SOONER HE'D HAVE GOT THE MARK. I WOULDN'T HAVE HIT HIM.

4000 MILES AWAY, COL. CODA, A POLITICAL PRISONER, HAS BEEN HANDED A SECRET NOTE BY A FRIENDLY GUARD WHO JUST BROUGHT IN HIS BREAKFAST. 'RAVENS MAKE POOR PIE. ALWAYS OVERLOOK BLATANT HOSTLERS. PEBBLES REMAIN,' IT READS. CODA AT HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY WILL SET ABOUT DECIPHERING ITS MEANING.

# GASOLINE ALLEY — FORTUNE FAVORS WALT THIS TIME



COL. CODA WAS YESTERDAY SMUGGLED A NOTE WHICH, (TRANSLATED FROM THE GLOVCI) READ: "RAVENS MAKE POOR PIE. ALWAYS OVERLOOK BLATANT HOSTLERS. PEBBLES REMAIN!" DECIPHERED. HE FINDS IT CONTAINS GOOD NEWS. "BE OF GOOD CHEER, YOUR IMMEDIATE RELEASE BEING CONSIDERED. ACTION TOMORROW!" REKINDLING HOPE SHEDS A WARMER GLOW OVER CODA'S DRAB EXISTENCE.

I'VE BEEN CHECKING UP WITH WICKER WHO HAS JUST LEARNED THAT CODA IS STILL A PRISONER, WITH NO HOPE OF RELEASE FOR SOME TIME.

WELL, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THEN, WALT. HE COULDN'T GET HERE FOR THE HEARING BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT ANYWAY.

IF HE WERE FREE NOW HE COULDN'T MAKE IT. EVEN IF HE WERE IN FRANCE THERE IS NOT A BOAT THAT WOULD GET HIM HERE IN TIME.

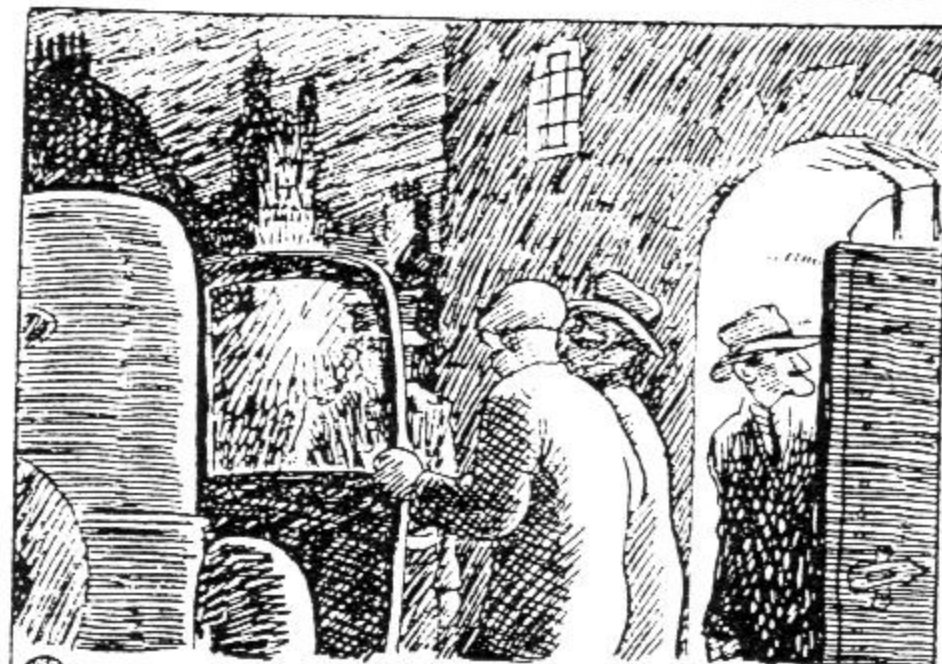
NO AND I HOPE THE GLOVANIAN'S CONTINUE TO WANT TO KEEP HIM UNDER LOCK AND KEY AS MUCH AS I DO.

ANYWAY IT'S A RELIEF TO KNOW HE'S OUT OF LUCK THIS TIME.





GASOLINE ALLEY—ASSORTED FLAVORS PREFERRED



POWERFUL AGENCIES WERE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE AUTHORITIES BY THE MILITARY PARTY IN GLOVANIA AND THE RESULT IS THAT THE PRISON DOORS QUIETLY OPENED FOR COL. CODA EARLY THIS MORNING. A WAITING MOTOR CAR RECEIVED HIM AND HE WAS WHIRLED AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS.



THERE ISN'T ANY STICKUM ON THIS STAMP, MR. ARMSTRONG.

STAMPS

WELL I'LL EXCHANGE IT FOR YOU, SKEEZIX, BUT BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.

THERE ISN'T ANY STICKUM ON THIS ONE EITHER

WHAT'S THE MATTER—DON'T THEY FEED YOU ANYTHING AT HOME?

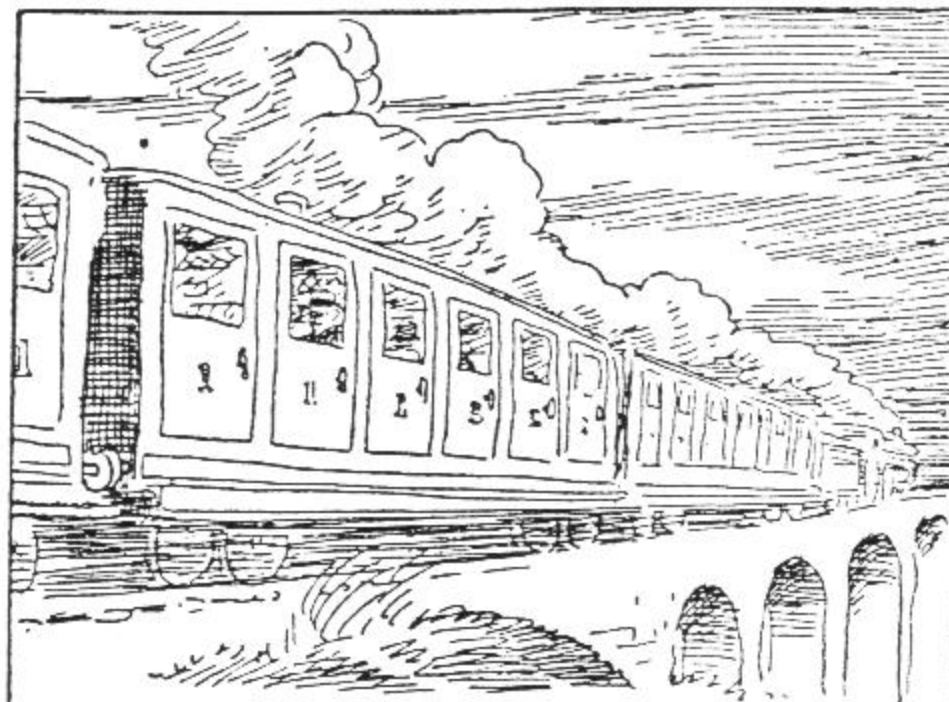
TAMPS



DID YOU MAIL MY LETTER?

YES BUT I DON'T LIKE THE KIND OF STAMPS THEY HAVE THERE. I LIKE VANILLA BETTER.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—NO CHANCE FOR CODA



IN A COMPARTMENT OF A CONTINENTAL TRAIN WESTWARD BOUND TOWARD PARIS SITS COL. CODA, THE PRISON DALLOR STILL UPON HIM. SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER OF GLOVANIA BY SYMPATHETIC COMPATRIOTS HE IS FREE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANS.

THIS READS MIGHTY WELL, MR REDBERRY. I DON'T SEE HOW ANY SET OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES COULD HEAR IT AND FAIL TO AWARD SKEEZIX TO US.

IF I DIDN'T THINK SO I WOULD APPLY TO A JUDGE OF A UNITED STATES COURT FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.



THIS ON THE GROUND THAT SKEEZIX WAS BORN HERE AND IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. CODA IS AN ALIEN. THUS A FEDERAL QUESTION IS INVOLVED. WINNING THIS WE WOULD GET YOU APPOINTED TEMPORARY GUARDIAN WHICH APPOINTMENT WE WOULD SEEK TO HAVE MADE PERMANENT ON THE GROUND THAT CODA IS A FOREIGN CONSPIRATOR AND AN UNFIT PERSON TO HAVE CUSTODY OF SKEEZIX.



IF WE LOSE OUR CASE WE WILL SEEK TO PREVENT CODA FROM GETTING POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX EXCEPT BY DOING IT IN PERSON. IF HE IS IN JAIL THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT.

WELL HE'S OUT OF LUCK. HE'S SURROUNDED BY STONE WALLS FOUR FEET THICK.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOME FOLKS HAVE ALL THE LUCK



COL. CODA IS CANVASSING THE FLYING FIELDS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN SEARCH OF A BOLD AIRMAN WHO IS EQUIPPED FOR A DIFFICULT FLIGHT AND WHO HAS NERVE ENOUGH TO UNDERTAKE AN IMPORTANT AND HIGHLY DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT.

HONEY AIN'T YOU ALL EXCITED 'BOUT YOUR CASE GOIN' UP BEFO' THE SPREME COTE THIS WEEK?

WHAT'S A SPREME COTE RACHEL?

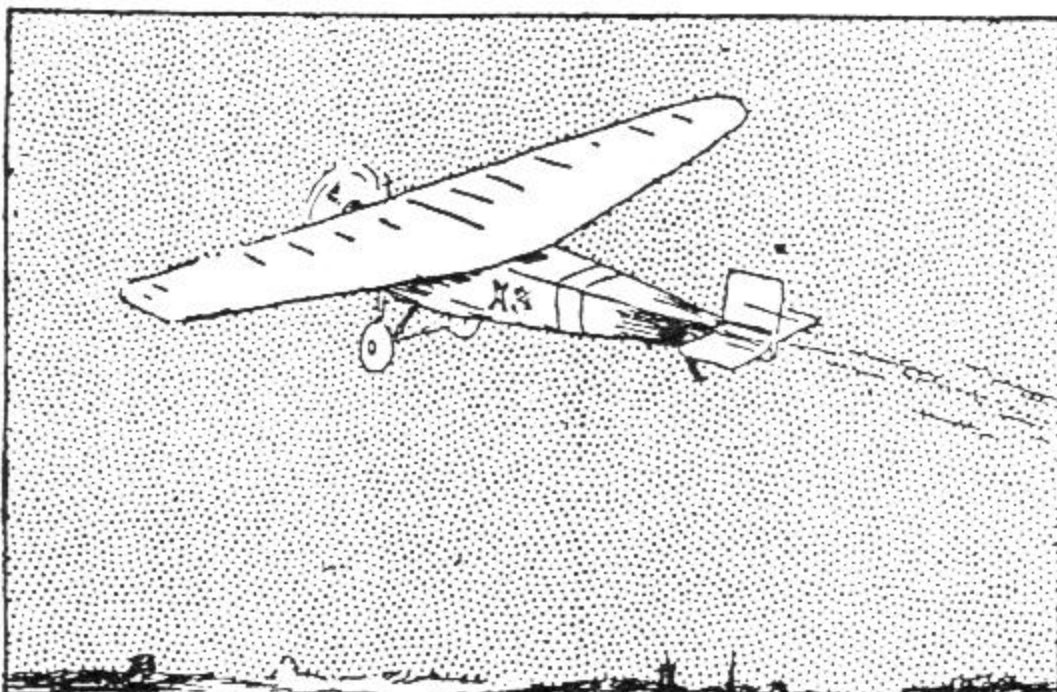


IT'S SOMETHIN' WAY UP AN' IMPORTANT. THEY GOIN' LIBERATE ON YOUR CASE AN' IF THEY GOT A MITE O SENSE THEY GOIN' TIE YOU TIGHTA TO MISTA WALT.



YOU OUGHTA BE A 'MIGHTY PROUD BOY. OLD AS I AM I AIN'T HAD NOTHIN' UP BEFO' THE SPREME COTE YET, AN' I BEEN IN THE LAW TWICE.





WITH NO BLARING OF TRUMPETS, NO REPORTERS, NO MOVING PICTURE CAMERAS, A PLANE ROSE FROM CROYDON FIELD, ENGLAND, AND POINTED ITS NOSE WESTWARD. NO EXPENSE HAD BEEN SPARED TO FIT IT THOROUGHLY, THOUGH HURRIEDLY, FOR A SUSTAINED FLIGHT. BESIDES A PILOT AND MECHANICIAN IT BORE A SLENDER MAN WITH A WEALTH OF WHITE HAIR WHO DISPLAYED GREAT ANXIETY TO REACH AMERICA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.



WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS, PHYLLIS! CODA IS OUT OF JAIL AND HAS LEFT GLOVANIA.



SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL OFFICIALS HAVE GONE OVER TO HIS SIDE AND HAVE EFFECTED HIS RELEASE.

WELL IT IS TOO LATE FOR HIM TO HOPE TO GET OVER HERE UNTIL THE SUPREME COURT HAS HEARD THE SKEEZIX CASE. HE'S ABOUT 10 DAYS TOO LATE.



PARDON ME FOR SMILING. WE GET OUR WISH. THE GLOVANIANS AREN'T SUCH A BAD PEOPLE AT THAT THEY KEPT HIM COOPER UP JUST LONG ENOUGH TO FIT IN WITH OUR PLANS.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT HAS LOST FOUR POUNDS ALREADY



THE CREW OF A FISHING BOAT MANY LEAGUES OFF THE COAST OF IRELAND YESTERDAY WATCHED A LARGE PLANE TRAVELING WESTWARD AT HIGH-SPEED. THEY SAW IT PASS BEYOND THE HORIZON IN A DIRECT LINE FOR LABRADOR. THE NEWS RELAYED TO A MAIL STEAMER IS THE LAST HEARD OF THE X3 WHICH LEFT CROYDON, NEAR LONDON, YESTERDAY MORNING.

ISN'T THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDHOOD WONDERFUL! HE HAS NO CONCEPTION OF WHAT IS HANGING OVER HIS HEAD. OUR CASE COMES UP BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT THURSDAY— I WISH I WASN'T WORRYING ANY MORE THAN HE IS.



IF HE IS AWARDED TO PHYLLIS AND ME, AS I AM HOPING AND FERVENTLY PRAYING, ALL WELL AND GOOD. IF NOT THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT SORT OF FIGHT WE WILL HAVE TO PUT UP.



WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING THEY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WE ELDERS CAN DO ENOUGH OF IT FOR ALL CONCERNED. AND AS MUCH AS I FEAR THE RESULT I WANT IT SETTLED DEFINITELY THIS SUSPENSE IS TERRIFIC



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX WORTH A HUNDRED TIMES HIS WEIGHT IN WORRY



24 HOURS HAVE PASSED YET THE LITTLE FISHING BOAT IS THE LAST TO HAVE SEEN THE TRANS-ATLANTIC PLANE WHICH LEFT CROYDON, ENGLAND, DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. IT CARRIED A PILOT, A MECHANICIAN, AND A DISTINGUISHED LOOKING GREY HAired MAN WHO FINANCED THE FLIGHT. THEY CARRIED ONLY ENOUGH PETROL TO KEEP THEM IN THE AIR UNTIL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. UNLESS THEY MANAGED TO LAND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE AMERICAN COAST THE ATLANTIC ALONE KNOWS THEIR FATE.

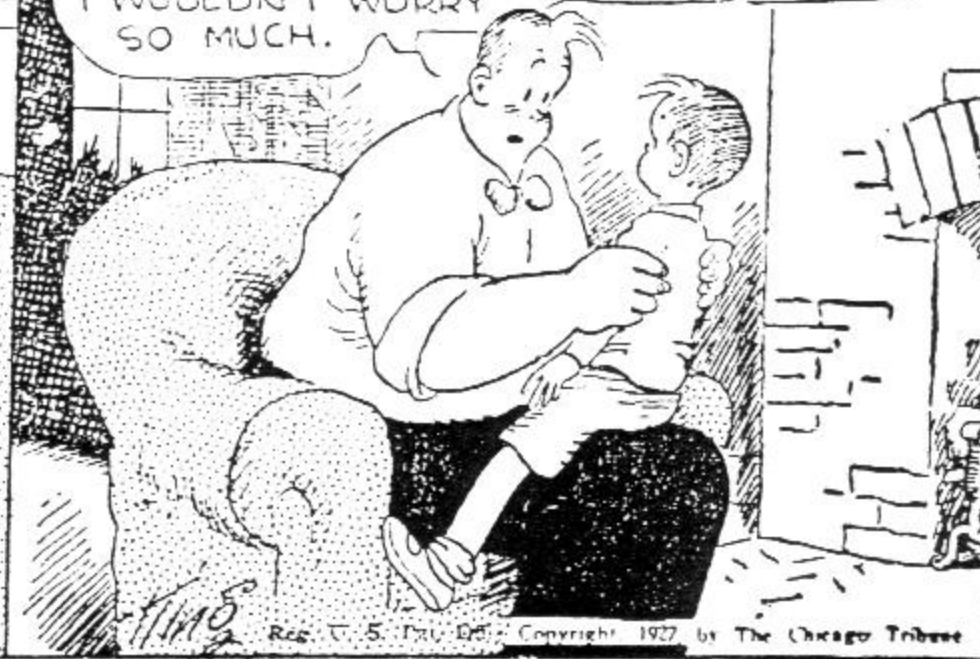
THE WORST OF ALL THIS IS THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO DO. I CAN'T SETTLE DOWN TO ANYTHING. ANYWAY, THE SUPREME COURT HEARS OUR CASE TOMORROW.



GOLLY, I CAN'T WORK AND I CAN'T READ! I CAN'T KEEP MY MIND ON A THING. WHY DOES A PERSON HAVE TO BE SO UPSET WHEN IT DOESN'T DO HIM ANY GOOD?



AND IF I HAD GIVEN YOU UP INSTEAD OF KEEPING YOU THAT MORNING I FOUND YOU ON MY DOORSTEP I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THESE TROUBLES. BUT BY NOW I'D HAVE BEEN A CRABBY OLD BACHELOR NO GOOD TO MYSELF NOR ANYONE ELSE. YOU ARE CERTAINLY WORTH EVERY WORRY I'VE HAD OVER YOU—OR I WOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT'S ATTORNEY PRESENTS HIS ARGUMENT

THIS MORNING OPENS THE HEARING BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT ON THE APPEAL FOR A REVERSAL OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS DECISION AWARDED THE CUSTODY OF SKEEZIX TO COL. HENRI CODA, HIS FATHER. MR. REDBERRY, REPRESENTING WALT, HAS QUOTED AUTHORITIES TO SHOW THAT WHEREAS FORMERLY THE TENDENCY WAS TO MAKE THE BLOOD FATHER'S RIGHTS PARAMOUNT, RECENT DECISIONS HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD MUST BE CONSIDERED ABOVE EVERYTHING. \* THE AEROPLANE LONG OVERDUE FROM ENGLAND AND BEARING A PASSENGER OF COL. CODA'S GENERAL DESCRIPTION HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM UP TO THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. GRAVE FEARS ARE EXPRESSED BY THOSE DEEPLY INTERESTED

LET ME SUMMARIZE BRIEFLY WALT WALLET HAS CARED FOR AND NURTURED THIS CHILD IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH PRACTICALLY FROM THE TIME OF ITS BIRTH. LEFT ON WALLET'S DOORSTEP, SKEEZIX HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP AS A SON AND THE AFFECTION ON BOTH SIDES IS AS DEEP AS IT IS TOUCHING. PHYLLIS WALLET HAS BEEN A TRUE MOTHER TO SKEEZIX. THE CUSTODY HAS BEEN AWARDED BY A LOWER COURT TO THE FATHER, COL. HENRI CODA, WHOSE REAL INTEREST IN HIS SON DATES ONLY FROM LAST SPRING.



"THE FATHER DOES NOT HAVE AN ABSOLUTE LEGAL RIGHT TO THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD AS AGAINST THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO MAY BE EVEN STRANGERS BY BLOOD." I QUOTE FROM KNOCHEMUS VS KINO 193 IOWA, "IT WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG BOTH IN LAW AND IN MORALS TO SEVER THE RELATIONS OF A CHILD FROM THOSE WHO HAVE NURSED, LOVED AND CHERISHED IT FOR A LONG PERIOD OF YEARS, AND SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT SHOULD NOT BE REVOCABLE AT THE PLEASURE OF A PARENT."



AND I APPEAL TO YOU, IF THE COURT PLEASE, NOT ALONE AS JUDGES IN THE HIGHEST TRIBUNAL IN THE STATE, BUT AS HUMAN BEINGS, AS MEN WITH HEARTS AS WELL AS MINDS, BOTH OF WHICH MAY BE IN FULL ACCORD IN PROMPTING THE REVERSAL OF THIS DECISION AND THE FINAL AWARDED OF SKEEZIX TO WALT WALLET.



## GASOLINE ALLEY—CODA'S ATTORNEY PLEADS THE COLONEL'S CASE

JUDGE MOULDER, ATTORNEY FOR COL. CODA IN THE CASE OF SKEEZIX, DEFENDING THE DECISION OF THE CIRCUIT COURT WHICH WALT IS TRYING TO HAVE REVERSED, CLAIMS THAT HEREDITY IS THE ONE INFALLIBLE GUIDE IN ALL SUCH CASES. HE ADMITS THAT EXPEDIENCY OFTEN MAKES NECESSARY TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN BUT THAT ALL RIGHTS GROWING OUT OF SUCH ARE LIKEWISE TEMPORARY. \*\*\* UNLESS THEY WERE COMPELLED TO LAND ON A REMOTE BEACH OR WERE PICKED UP BY A CHANCE VESSEL, COL. CODA AND HIS FLIERS, WESTWARD BOUND OVER THE ATLANTIC, HAVE BEEN GIVEN UP AS LOST

IF THE COURT PLEASE, THE SITUATION IN THIS CASE IS UNIQUE. IN HANDING DOWN HIS DECISION JUDGE BLY SAID: "THE APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE FATHER, COL. HENRI CODA, IS JUSTIFIED ON THE GROUND THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF SKEEZIX UNTIL MONTHS AFTER HIS BIRTH." THIS AND THE FACT THAT A THOUSAND MILES OF LAND AND THREE THOUSAND MILES OF SEA SEPARATED THEM FOR SIX YEARS IS REASON ENOUGH THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INTIMATE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.



HOWEVER, NO JUSTIFICATION IS NEEDED. BLOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN THICKER THAN WATER AND ALWAYS WILL BE. A FATHER'S RIGHT TO HIS CHILD, REGARDLESS OF OTHER SENTIMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS, IS UNQUESTIONED, PET THEORIES AND BOLSHIEV DOCTRINES TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING. THE DECISION OF THE LOWER COURT IS SOUND, JUST, AND SHOULD BE SUSTAINED.



AT THIS MOMENT THE COURTROOM DOOR OPENED AND ADMITTED A TALL STATELY FIGURE WITH A KEEN ARISTOCRATIC FACE AND GRAY HAIR. COL. CODA'S PILOT HAD MADE A SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT WESTWARD ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN!

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. Copyright 1927.  
by The Chicago Tribune



# GASOLINE ALLEY--ALLEY CONFERENCE

THE HEARING BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT TO PASS UPON THE DECREE OF JUDGE BLY GIVING CUSTODY OF SKEEZIX TO COL. CODA, HIS FATHER, IS FINISHED AND SKEEZIX'S FUTURE IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE SEVEN JUDGES. WALT HAS EVERYTHING TO GAIN BECAUSE THINGS WENT AGAINST HIM IN THE LOWER COURT AND A REVERSAL OF THAT DECISION WOULD END ALL HIS TROUBLES. BESIDES THAT IT WOULD BECOME A LEGAL PRECEDENT AND WOULD AID ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE ADOPTED OR CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

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GOLLY, THE NEWSPAPERS ARE CERTAINLY PLAYING UP THAT STORY OF EAGLES, THE PILOT OF THE X3, WHO FLEW FROM ENGLAND TO THE UNITED STATES. HE DESERVES A LOT OF CREDIT. IT WAS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

YES HE GOT CODA HERE IN TIME FOR THE SKEEZIX TRIAL, BUT I HEAR CODA IS SORE AS A BOIL BECAUSE THEY DEVOTE COLUMNS TO EAGLES AND HARDLY MENTION CODA AT ALL AND THEN MERELY AS A PASSENGER.

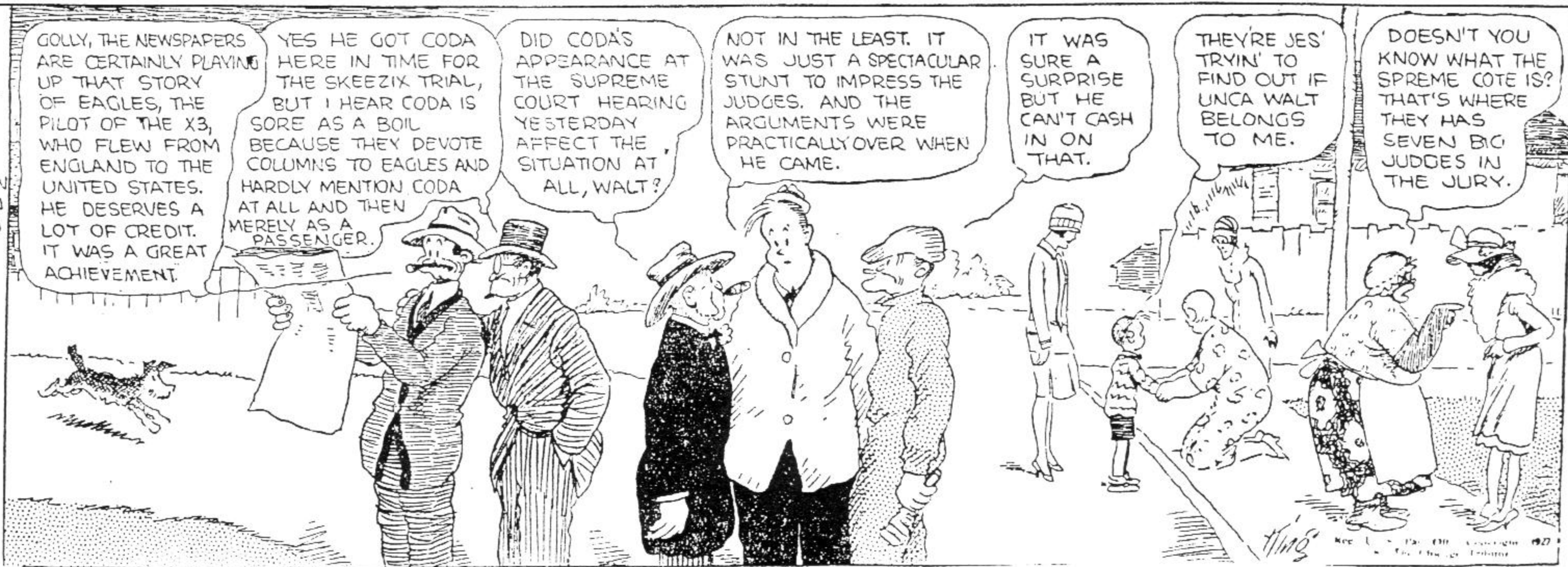
DID CODA'S APPEARANCE AT THE SUPREME COURT HEARING YESTERDAY AFFECT THE SITUATION AT ALL, WALT?

NOT IN THE LEAST. IT WAS JUST A SPECTACULAR STUNT TO IMPRESS THE JUDGES. AND THE ARGUMENTS WERE PRACTICALLY OVER WHEN HE CAME.

IT WAS SURE A SURPRISE BUT HE CAN'T CASH IN ON THAT.

THEY'RE JES' TRYIN' TO FIND OUT IF UNCA WALT BELONGS TO ME.

DOESN'T YOU KNOW WHAT THE SPREME COTE IS? THAT'S WHERE THEY HAS SEVEN BIG JUDGES IN THE JURY.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS RECEIVING CALLERS

BOTH SIDES CLOSED THEIR ARGUMENTS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT LAST WEEK. COL CODA ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY, HAVING BROKEN ALL RECORDS BY FLYING FROM ENGLAND TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING. IT WILL DOUBTLESS BE A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE THE DECISION IS HANDED DOWN.

THE COURT IN THE TRIAL LAST SUMMER AWARDED SKEEZIX TO ME. IN SPITE OF THAT THIS WALT HAS HAD POSSESSION OF HIM. THERE IS NO LEGAL REASON WHY I SHOULD NOT HAVE HIM MYSELF.

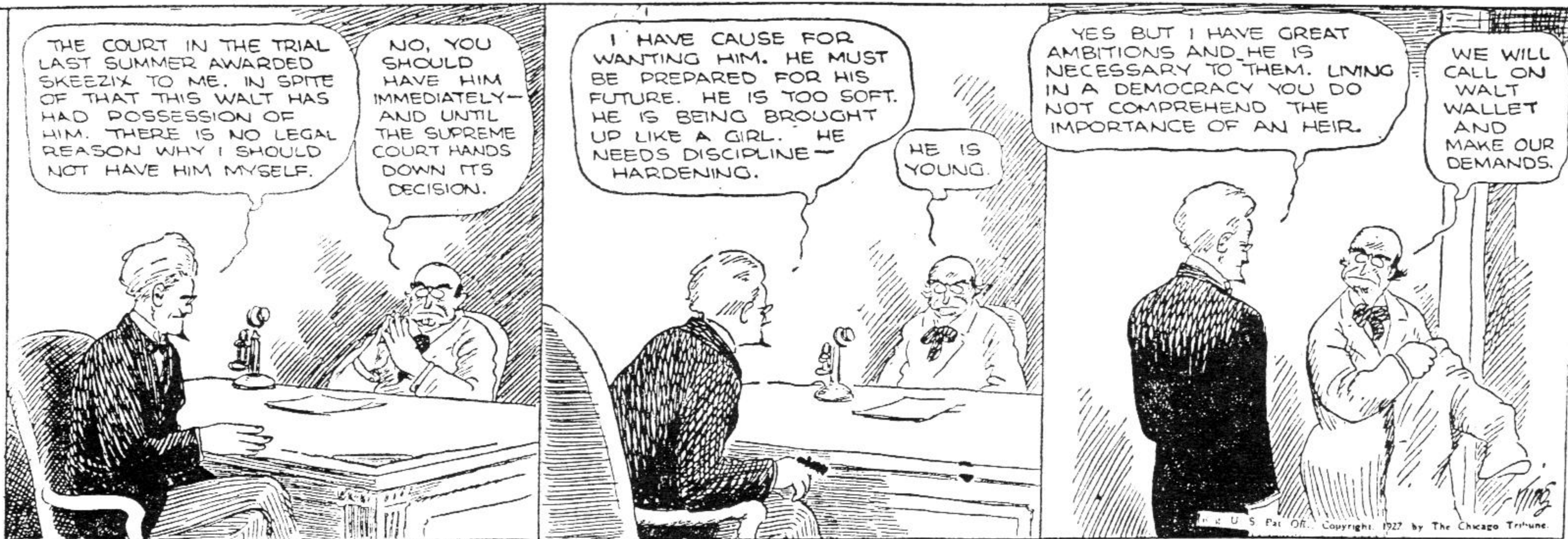
NO, YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM IMMEDIATELY—AND UNTIL THE SUPREME COURT HANDS DOWN ITS DECISION.

I HAVE CAUSE FOR WANTING HIM. HE MUST BE PREPARED FOR HIS FUTURE. HE IS TOO SOFT. HE IS BEING BROUGHT UP LIKE A GIRL. HE NEEDS DISCIPLINE—HARDENING.

HE IS YOUNG.

YES BUT I HAVE GREAT AMBITIONS AND HE IS NECESSARY TO THEM. LIVING IN A DEMOCRACY YOU DO NOT COMPREHEND THE IMPORTANCE OF AN HEIR.

WE WILL CALL ON WALT WALLET AND MAKE OUR DEMANDS.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WHILE THE SUPREME COURT DELIBERATES

BY THE TERMS OF JUDGE BLY'S DECISION LAST SUMMER SKEEZIX BELONGS TO ME. AND I HAVE COME TO TAKE HIM.

OVER MY DEAD BODY YOU TAKE HIM! I WARN YOU THAT YOU HAD BETTER NOT TRY!

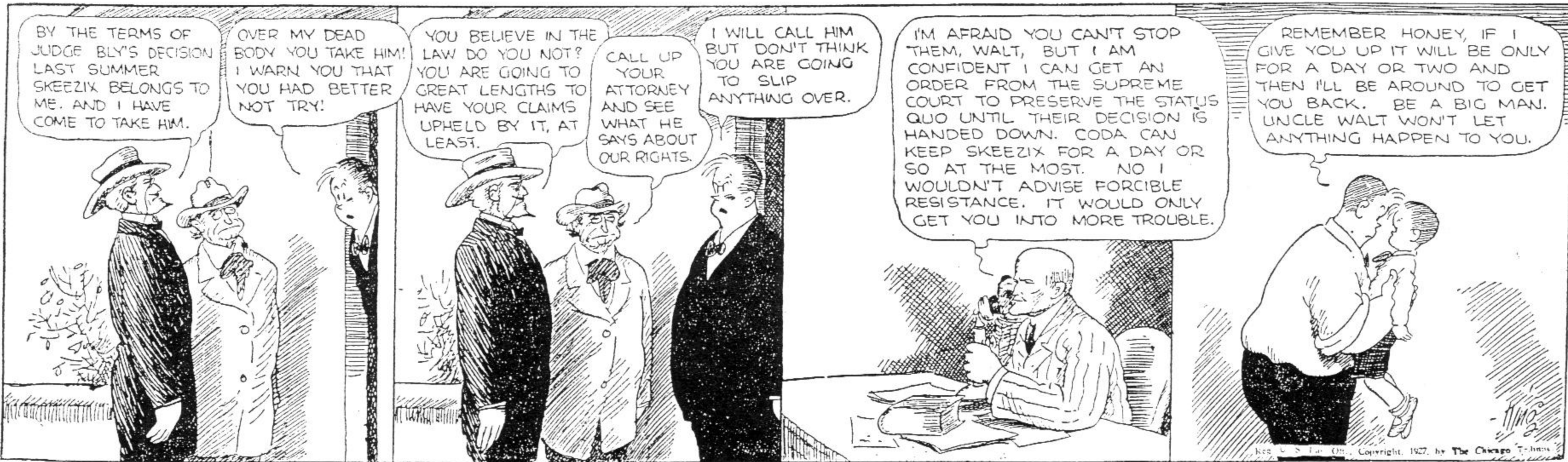
YOU BELIEVE IN THE LAW DO YOU NOT? YOU ARE GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO HAVE YOUR CLAIMS UPHELD BY IT, AT LEAST.

CALL UP YOUR ATTORNEY AND SEE WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT OUR RIGHTS.

I WILL CALL HIM BUT DON'T THINK YOU ARE GOING TO SLIP ANYTHING OVER.

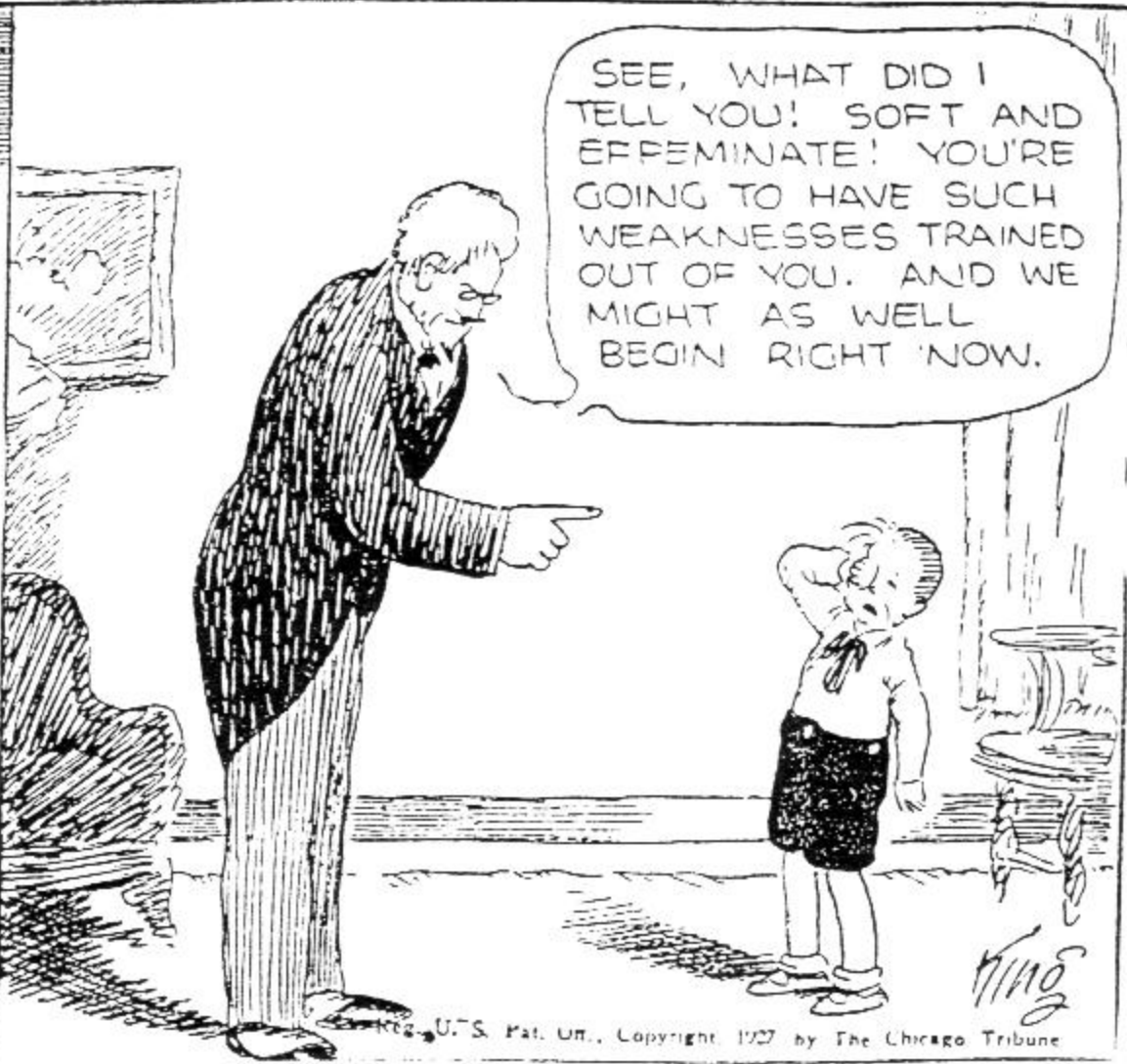
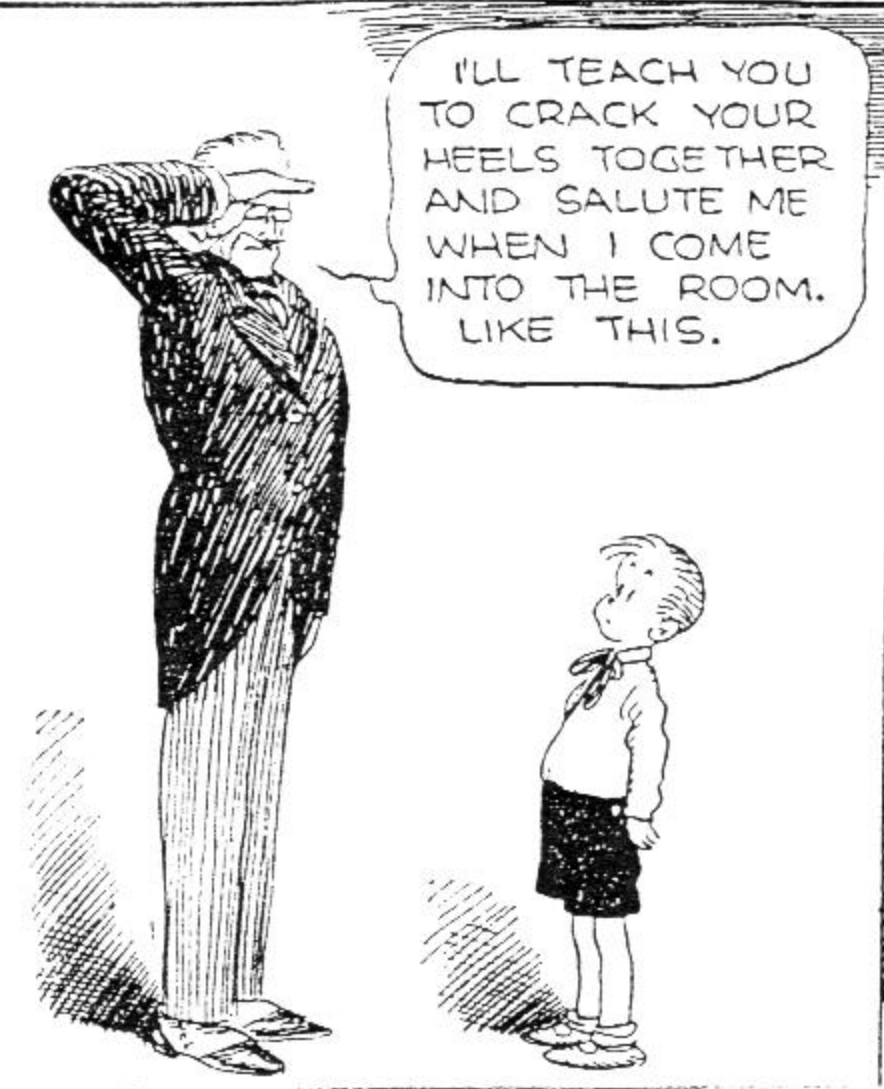
I'M AFRAID YOU CAN'T STOP THEM, WALT, BUT I AM CONFIDENT I CAN GET AN ORDER FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO UNTIL THEIR DECISION IS HANDED DOWN. CODA CAN KEEP SKEEZIX FOR A DAY OR SO AT THE MOST. NO I WOULDN'T ADVISE FORCIBLE RESISTANCE. IT WOULD ONLY GET YOU INTO MORE TROUBLE.

REMEMBER HONEY, IF I GIVE YOU UP IT WILL BE ONLY FOR A DAY OR TWO AND THEN I'LL BE AROUND TO GET YOU BACK. BE A BIG MAN. UNCLE WALT WON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A NEW ORDER OF THINGS

WALT IS RUSHING HIS ATTORNEY, MR REDBERRY, BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT FOR AN ORDER PERMITTING SKEEZIX TO REMAIN WITH WALT UNTIL THE COURT'S DECISION IS HANDED DOWN. THEY HAD OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO PREVENT CODA TAKING POSSESSION OF SKEEZIX BY AUTHORITY OF THE LOWER COURT'S DECISION.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOLDIER STUFF

STAND UP STRAIGHT. YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A SOLDIER IF YOU WALK LIKE THAT. AND WHEN I SAY HALT YOU STOP RIGHT IN YOUR TRACKS.



A SOLDIER STANDS LIKE THIS— SPINE STRAIGHT, CHEST OUT, HEELS TOGETHER.

I DON'T WANT TO BE A SOLDIER. I WANT TO PLAY WITH PAL.



THAT'S SENTIMENT. THAT ISN'T BEING THE KIND OF BOY I WANT YOU TO BE. I CAN USE YOU IF YOU'LL LEARN TO DO JUST AS I SAY. AND WE CAN BECOME VERY POWERFUL AND THWART OUR ENEMIES.

I WANT UNCA WALT.

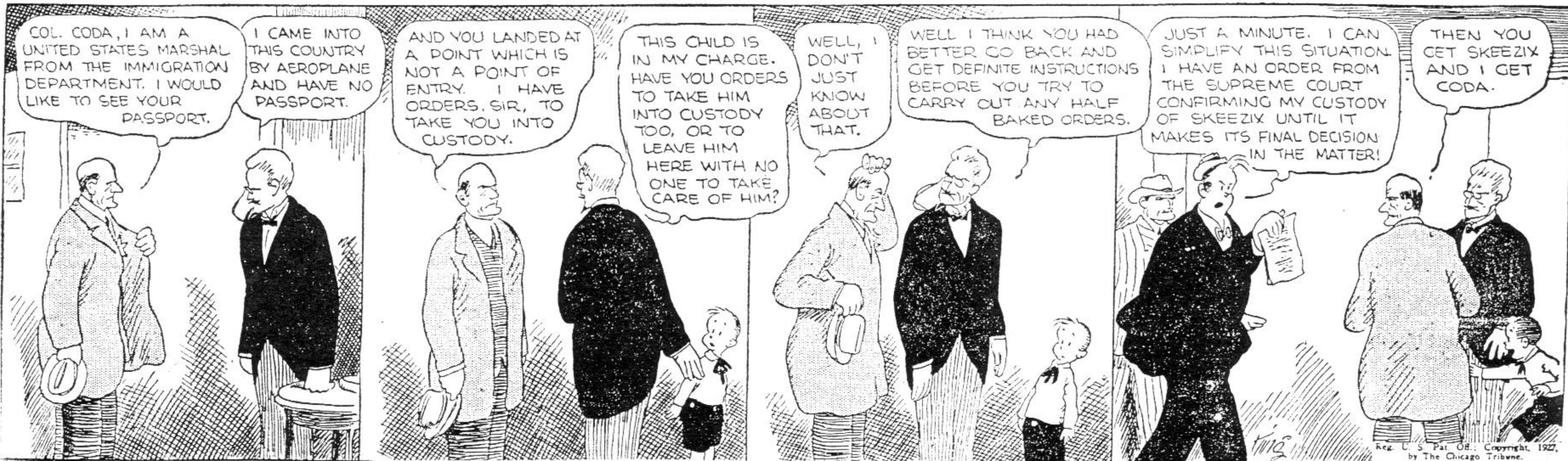


THAT'S ONE THING YOU MUST GET OVER. THIS MAN YOU CALL UNCLE WALT IS A NOBODY. HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, I CAN DO EVERYTHING. YOU JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT HIM.

I WANT TO GO HOME!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ONE MORE DIFFICULTY SETTLED

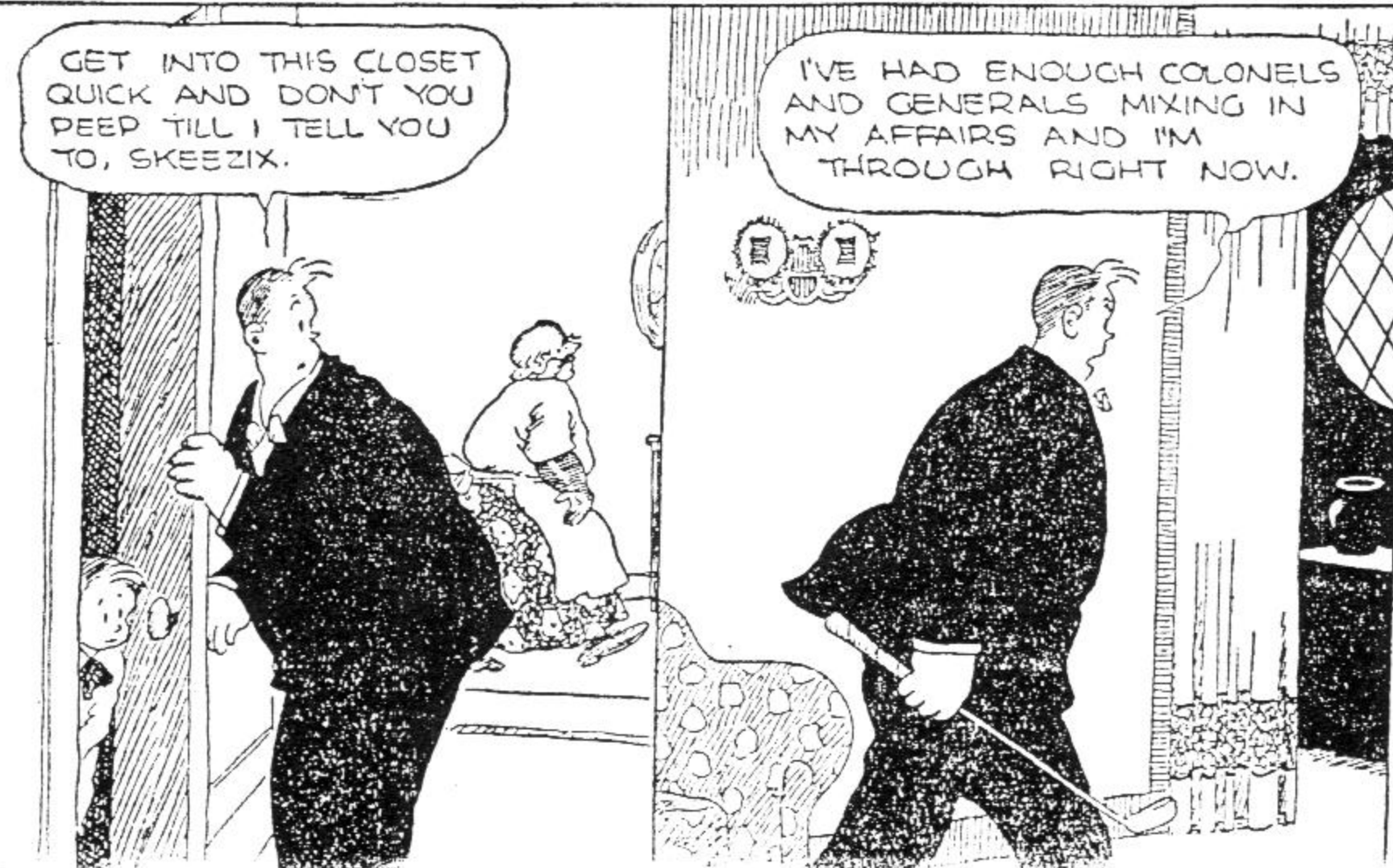


GASOLINE ALLEY — WALT CAN BEAT UP AN ARMY RIGHT NOW



REMEMBER WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY ABOUT THE BAD PENNY — IT ALWAYS COMES BACK. THAT'S WHAT YOU DID.

THEY'S A MILITARY LOOKIN' MAN AT THE DOOR, MISTA WALT, WANTS TO SEE YOU.



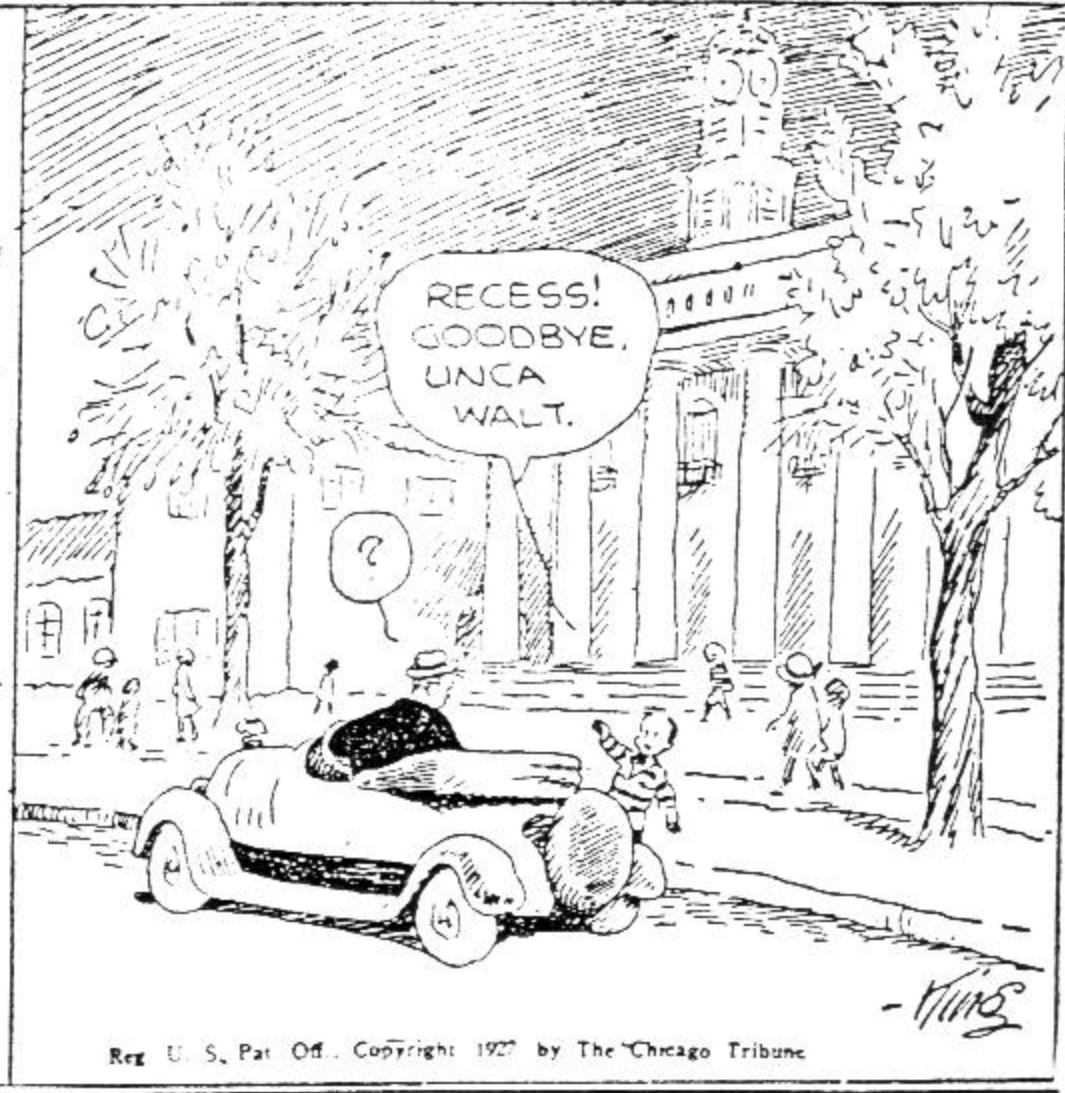
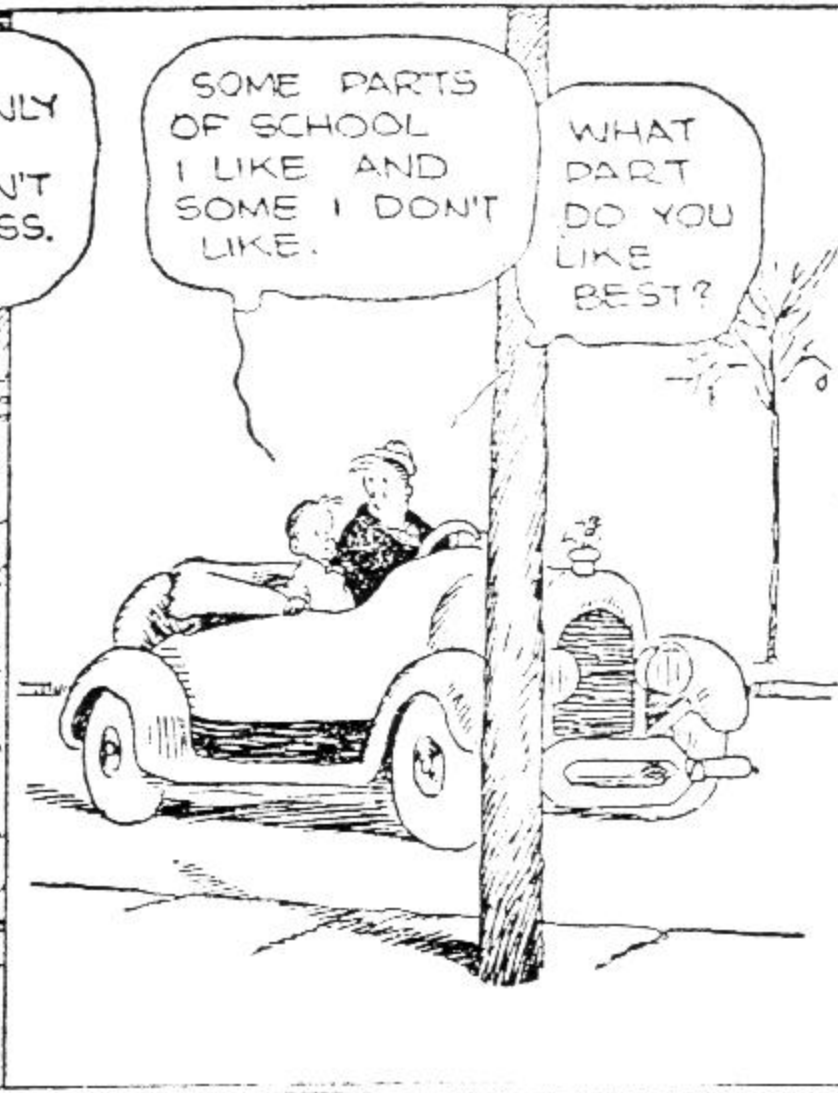
GET INTO THIS CLOSET QUICK AND DON'T YOU DEEP TILL I TELL YOU TO, SKEEZIX.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH COLONELS AND GENERALS MIXING IN MY AFFAIRS AND I'M THROUGH RIGHT NOW.



I IS THE DOH MAN OVA AT THE BATIK HOTEL ROUND THE CORNA, MISTA WALT, AN' YOU LEFT YOUR CAH PAKED TOO NEAR OUR FRONT DOH.

-HNOZ





# GASOLINE ALLEY—SKEEZIX SEEMS HAPPY RIGHT NOW



CODA, YOU KNOW, STARTED SKEEZIX IN WITH MILITARY TRAINING AND WAS VERY MEAN TO HIM THE SHORT TIME HE HAD HIM.

ASIDE FROM YOUR CLAIMS, WALT, CODA, SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAVE SKEEZIX. HE WOULD MERELY TAKE HIM ABROAD AND MAKE A POLITICAL PAWN OF HIM.

DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, WALT. EVERYTHING POINTS YOUR WAY AS FAR AS I CAN SEE.

UNCA WALT!

I KNOW, MR. WICKER, BUT I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHTS OF SKEEZIX BEING BULLIED AND BROWBEATEN.

I CAN SPELL NOW—SEAT AN' MEAT AN' EAT.

THAT REMINDS ME, SKEEZIX! RACHEL HAS CALLED US TO LUNCH. WED BETTER TRAVEL.

OH BOY! IT MAKES ME PUFF TO RUN LIKE THIS!

YOU'RE BIGGER THAN I AM, UNCA WALT, AN' I DON'T PUFF!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—COMMITTEE IN SESSION

COL. CODA HAS RUN UP AGAINST DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AND UNLESS ATTORNEY MOULDER IS ABLE TO SAVE THE SITUATION, DEPORTATION IS THE NEXT STEP. COMING INTO THIS COUNTRY IS GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASON AND CODA'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH ATTEMPTING THE OVERTHROW OF A FRIENDLY NATION HAVE NOT HELPED HIS CAUSE.

HAVEN'T YOU ANY NEWS WITH REGARD TO A DECISION FROM THE SUPREME COURT, MR REDBERRY?

NOT YET, WALT. THEY WILL TAKE THEIR TIME TO DELIBERATE AND THEN ONE OF THEM WILL BE CHOSEN TO WRITE A DECISION. WE HAVE MADE A GOOD FIGHT AND ALL WE CAN DO IS TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME

AS I SAT WATCHING THOSE SEVEN MEN, THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD EVER DO ANYTHING BUT AWARD SKEEZIX TO ME.

THEY ARE HUMAN, THEY ARE WISE AND THEY ARE ON THE SQUARE. THERE IS ONLY ONE WISE DECISION THEY CAN MAKE SO I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN POSSIBLY LOSE.

I AM SURE WE PROVED THAT "THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD" WOULD CONTINUE HIM WITH ME. I CERTAINLY WOULD DECIDE THAT WAY IF I WAS ON THE SUPREME COURT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT KNOWS HIS OWN MIND

DID YOU WASH YOUR FACE, SKEEZIX, AS I TOLD YOU TO?

NO, AUNTIE BOSSOM. BUT IT FEELS CLEAN.

YOU DON'T THINK THEY WILL LET CODA GO DO YOU, MR. WICKER?

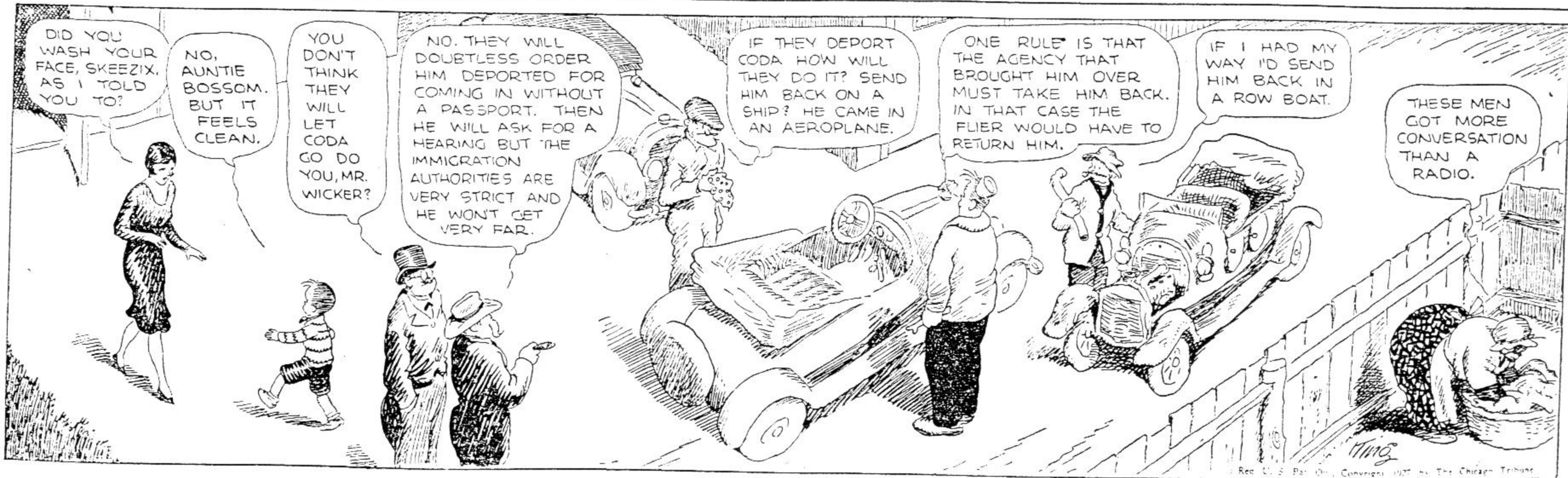
NO. THEY WILL DOUBTLESS ORDER HIM DEPORTED FOR COMING IN WITHOUT A PASSPORT. THEN HE WILL ASK FOR A HEARING BUT THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ARE VERY STRICT AND HE WON'T GET VERY FAR.

IF THEY DEPORT CODA HOW WILL THEY DO IT? SEND HIM BACK ON A SHIP? HE CAME IN AN AEROPLANE.

ONE RULE IS THAT THE AGENCY THAT BROUGHT HIM OVER MUST TAKE HIM BACK. IN THAT CASE THE FLIER WOULD HAVE TO RETURN HIM.

IF I HAD MY WAY I'D SEND HIM BACK IN A ROW BOAT.

THESE MEN GOT MORE CONVERSATION THAN A RADIO.



GASOLINE ALLEY — RACHEL IS OUT TONIGHT

MIS WALT, IF YOU AIN'T GOIN' NO PLACE WOULD YOU MIND IF I WENT OUT THIS EVENIN'?

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT, RACHEL. I'LL BET YOU HAVE A DATE WITH YOUR BOY FRIEND.

YOU MEAN HENRY? NO MAM. THIS MAN IS A SUSTANTIAL CITIZEN.— NOT ONE O' YOUR FLIGHTY KIND. HE GOT POSE AN' DIGNITY.

A REGULAR SHEIK THIS TIME.

NO MAM. HE OPENS THE DOOR AT A FUNERAL STABLISHMENT AN' WEARS A COAT THAT MAKES A ADMIRABLE IN THE NAVY LOOK SICK. HE GOT PERSONALITY PLUS, BUT HE AIN'T NO SHEIK.

THIS MAN GOT BRAINS. SOMETHIN' I AIN'T GOT NO TIME FOR IS LOUNGE LIZARDS AN' GARTA SNAKES.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—NOT FOR SALE

THAT'S A GOOD LOOKING DOG YOU HAVE THERE. I'LL GIVE YOU A NICKEL FOR HIM.

NO. I WOULDN'T SELL HIM.

WELL I'LL RAISE IT TO A DIME THEN. HOW ABOUT THAT?

NO! I'VE 'DOPTED HIM A LONG TIME AGO AND YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM.

YOU'D BETTER SELL HIM TO ME OR I MAY GET HIM SOME OTHER WAY.

BUT I 'DOPTED HIM. ARE YOU A LAWYER?

DON'T RUN AWAY, PAL! I WON'T LET HIM GET YA!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—GOOD NEWS—BUT NOT FOR CODA

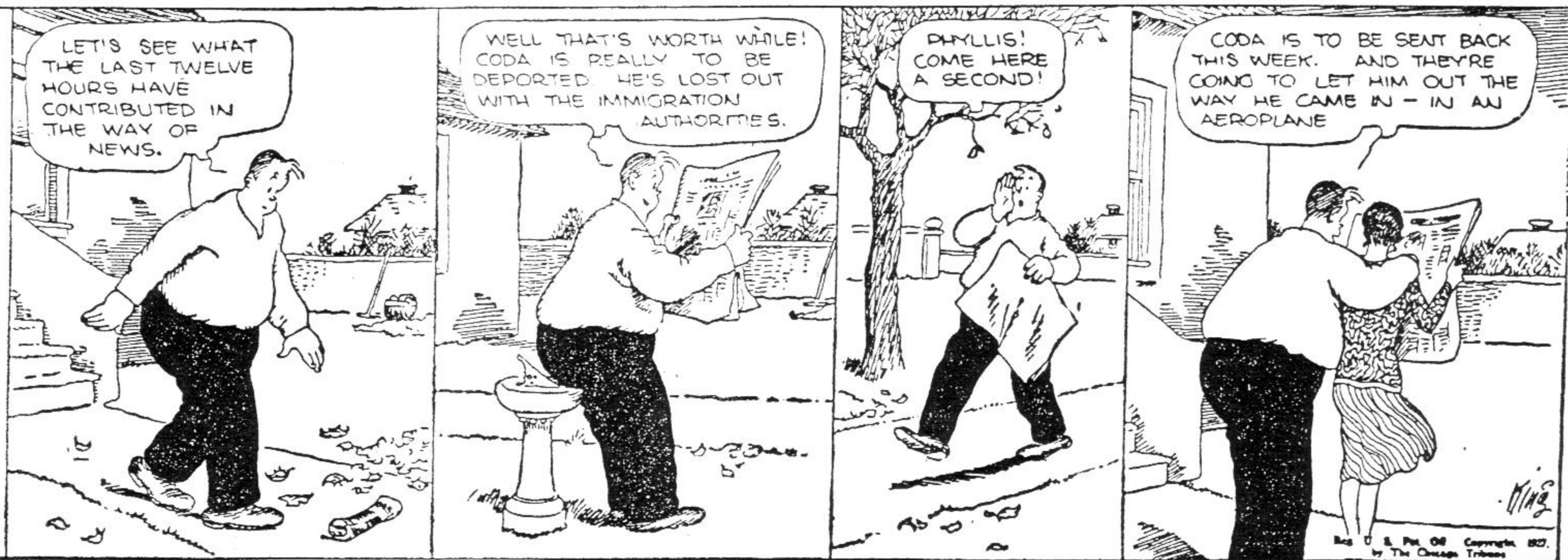
**C**OL CODA CONTESTED THE RULING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR THAT HE BE DEPORTED, BUT HIS ARGUMENTS WERE OVERRULED AND HE IS TO BE SENT HOME. HOWEVER, A SPECIAL RULING IS TO BE MADE IN HIS CASE AND HIS REQUEST TO BE PERMITTED TO FLY BACK ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IS TO BE GRANTED.

LET'S SEE WHAT THE LAST TWELVE HOURS HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN THE WAY OF NEWS.

WELL THAT'S WORTH WHILE! CODA IS REALLY TO BE DEPORTED. HE'S LOST OUT WITH THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

PHYLLIS! COME HERE A SECOND!

CODA IS TO BE SENT BACK THIS WEEK. AND THEY'RE GOING TO LET HIM OUT THE WAY HE CAME IN — IN AN AEROPLANE



# GASOLINE ALLEY--SOLACE

A TRIAL FLIGHT OF THE X3, THE PLANE IN WHICH CODA AND HIS PILOT SAIL EASTWARD SATURDAY WAS MADE TODAY IT WAS FOUND TO BE SOMEWHAT NOSE-HEAVY SO SOME OF THE SUPPLIES WERE SHIFTED AFT.



I WISH THAT SUPREME COURT KNEW HOW THEY ARE WASTING MY TIME. I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING UNTIL I HEAR THEIR DECISION.



WALT, DEAR, YOU ARE SO RESTLESS, WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND TAKE A NICE BRISK WALK? IT WILL, DO YOU GOOD.

WELL I'LL TRY IT, PHYLLIS.



AVERY, WALT HAS JUST STARTED FOR A WALK. CATCH HIM AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T TAKE HIS MIND OFF HIS TROUBLES



I'VE GOT TROUBLES TOO. WALT YOU KNOW THAT BRAND NEW CELLULOID WINDOW I CUT YESTERDAY AND PUT IN THE REAR OF MY TOP? DOC RAN A RAKE HANDLE THROUGH IT THIS MORNING

# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE BIG MOMENT ARRIVES

**EXTRA!**

SUPREME COURT HANDS DOWN DECISION IN SKEEZIX CASE. MR. REDBERRY ATTORNEY FOR WALT HASTENS TO GET A COPY FROM THE CLERK OF THE COURT WHICH HE READS TO WALT'S ANXIOUS EARS

THIS COURT, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE TREND OF THE AUTHORITIES GENERALLY AND WITH ITS OWN PAST DECISIONS, HOLDS THAT IN HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS OF THIS CHARACTER THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS PARAMOUNT. THE EVIDENCE IN THIS CASE SHOWS THAT THE APPELLANT, WALT WALLET, AND LATER HIS WIFE, PHYLLIS BLOSSOM WALLET, HAVE EXHIBITED THE TENDEREST SOLICITUDE TOWARD THE CHILD, SKEEZIX, HAVE SACRIFICED IN MANY WAYS FOR HIM AND ALWAYS WITH HIS BEST INTERESTS IN VIEW.

WE ARE NOT OVERLOOKING THE CLAIMS OF THE FATHER, COL. HENRI CODA, TO THE TIES OF HEREDITY AND BLOOD, MANY OF WHICH ARE BASED ON HIS OWN AND HIS COUNTRY'S TRADITION WHICH HAVE NO WEIGHT IN THIS COURT. NOR IS IT OVERLOOKING THE TURBULENT CAREER, AND, AS INDICATED BY THE PAST, THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE INTO WHICH SKEEZIX WOULD BE PRECIPITATED IF CUSTODY WERE GIVEN TO THE APPELLEE, CODA. DETAILS AND INCIDENTS BROUGHT OUT IN THE TESTIMONY INDICATE TRAITS OF CHARACTER IN THE FATHER UNDER WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THIS COURT, THE BEST NATURE AND ABILITIES OF THE CHILD WOULD NOT THRIVE AND GROW. COMPARED WITH THE PROVED WORTH AND COMPETENCY OF THE ENVIRONMENT FURNISHED BY THE APPELLANT, WALLET, AND HIS HOUSEHOLD A FUTURE WITH CODA SEEMS PRECARIOUS AND UNSTABLE.

DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE MR. REDBERRY.

THE INSTINCT OF FATHERHOOD WAS NOT AROUSED IN COL. CODA UNTIL THE CHILD WAS PAST SIX YEARS OLD, YEARS IN WHICH WALT WALLET WATCHED OVER IN ANXIETY AND TRAVAIL AS WELL AS IN JOY, THE DEVELOPING LIFE, AND FELT THE FULL FORCE OF THE GROWING LOVE OF SKEEZIX FOR HIM. FOR THE WELFARE OF THIS CHILD AND IN THE INTERESTS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE THOSE OF ADOPTION AND NOT OF BLOOD WE BELIEVE THAT THE RETENTION OF SKEEZIX IN THE HOME OF WALT AND PHYLLIS WALLET TO BE VITALLY IMPORTANT, AND THAT THE CLAIMS OF THE APPELLEE BE DEEMED INFERIOR TO THOSE OF THE APPELLANT. WE REACH THE DECISION THAT THE TRIAL COURT ERRED UPON THIS RECORD AND THE JUDGMENT APPEALED FROM MUST BE, AND IS HEREBY REVERSED!

THEN SKEEZIX IS MINE FOREVER!



# GASOLINE ALLEY—EVERYTHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

A SWEEPING DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT IN WALT'S FAVOR PERMITS A DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND CELEBRATION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN A SAD OCCASION IF WALT HAD HAD TO SPEND THE DAY IN DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY. THE ALLEY BUNCH ASSEMBLES AND REJOICES WITH WICKER AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALL'S WELL WITH THE WORLD

THE GREAT DAY HAS COME AND GONE! THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT HANDED DOWN YESTERDAY WAS A VICTORY FOR WALT AND SKEEZIX FROM EVERY STANDPOINT. NOT ONLY DOES IT GIVE WALT AND PHYLLIS A FIRM AND FINAL HOLD ON SKEEZIX BUT IT CONSTITUTES A PRECEDENT WHICH WILL MAKE THOUSANDS OF FOSTER PARENTS SECURE IN THE POSSESSION OF THEIR ADOPTED SONS AND DAUGHTERS. \*\*\* WIN OR LOSE COL CODA'S PLANS ARE NECESSARILY THE SAME. ORDERED DEPORTED HE IS TO TAKE THE AIR IN A TRANSATLANTIC PLANE TOMORROW UNLESS THE WEATHER PROHIBITS AN AUSPICIOUS START.

SKEEZIX, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY I AM TODAY! IT'S JUST LIKE TAKING A LOAD OF BRICK OFF MY HEART TO READ THAT DECISION!

I'M FEELIN GOOD TODAY TOO UNCA WALT!



ISN'T IT GRAND! I CAN HOLD INSIDE MY ARMS THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN THE WORLD AND THEY'RE ALL MIE WITHOUT A COMEBACK!

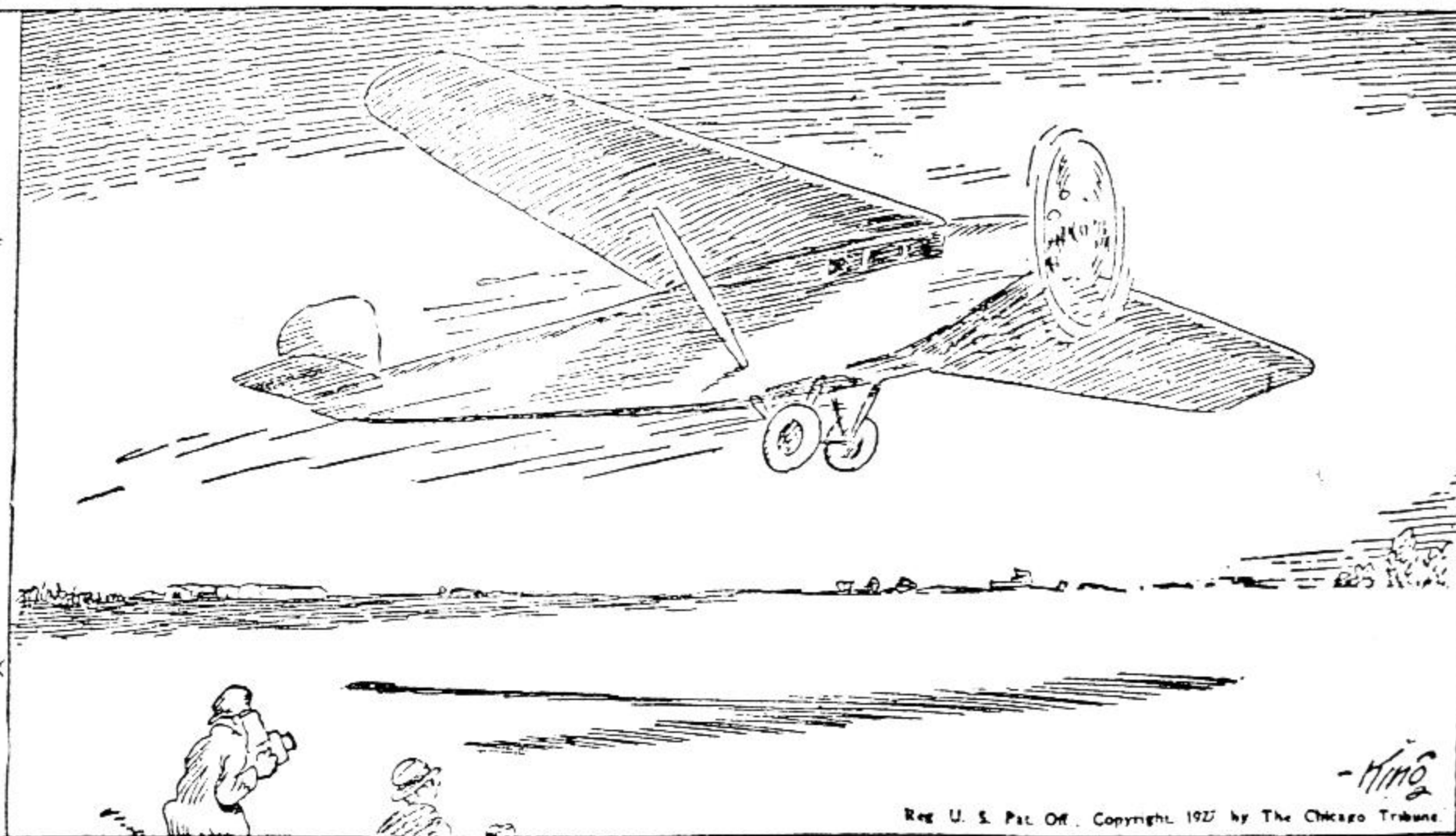
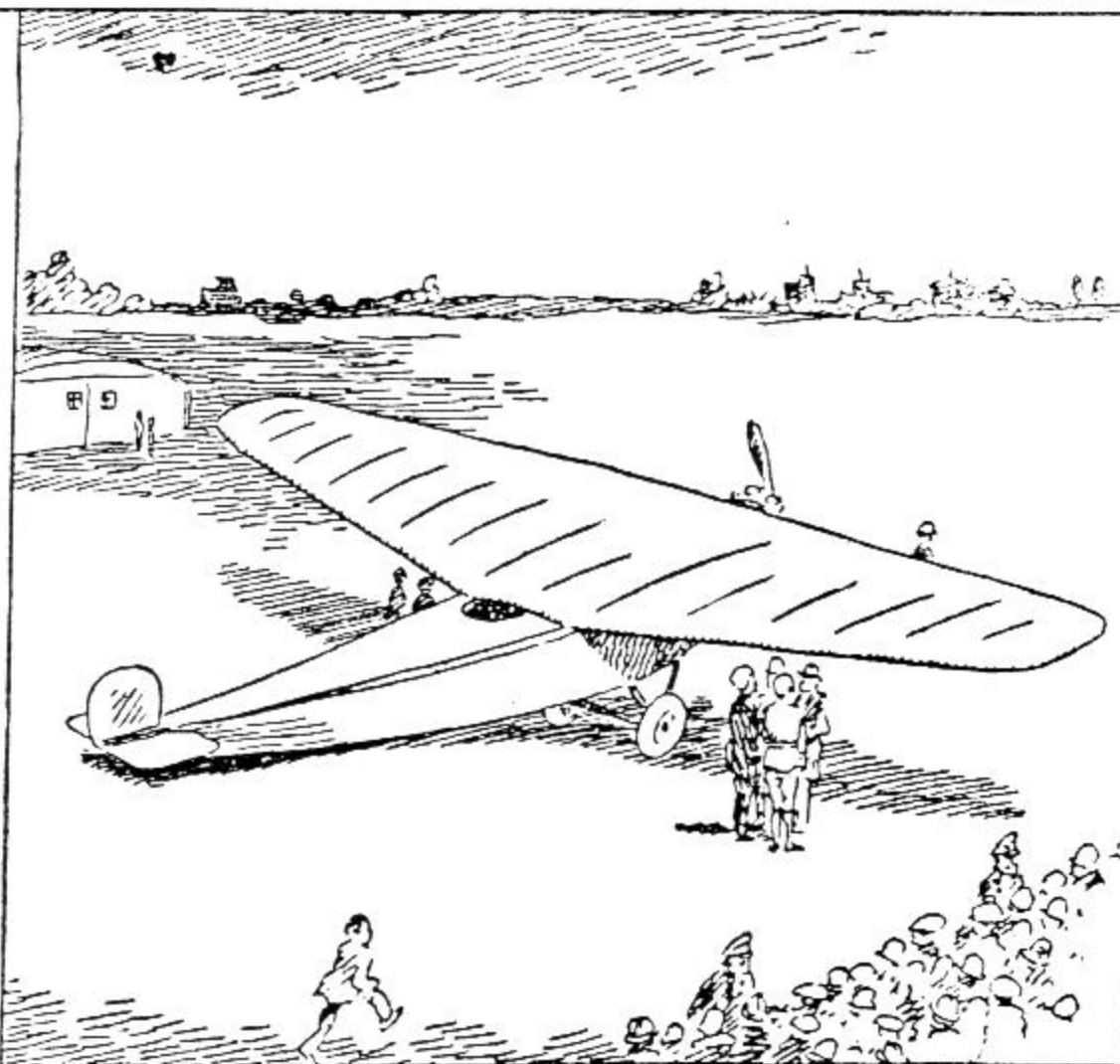


WHEE! PAL! I KNEW THE JUDGES WOULDN'T TAKE ME AWAY FROM YOU!



## GASOLINE ALLEY—GIVING CODA THE AIR

THE DAY DAWNS CLEAR AND COOL WITH INDICATIONS OF SETTLED WEATHER CONDITIONS. CODA AND HIS PILOT ARE READY TO POINT THE NOSE OF THEIR PLANE EASTWARD IN ANOTHER FLIGHT OVER THE OCEAN—THIS TIME IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. COL. CODA IS CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS HE EXPRESSES HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN FAVOR OF WALT BUT SEEMS TOO MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIP TO MAKE ANY FURTHER STATEMENT. THE BIG MONOPLANE TAXIES ACROSS THE FIELD, CLEARS THE TREES, CIRCLES ONCE AND IS AWAY.



-MIMO

GASOLINE ALLEY—THE RETURNS ARE COMING

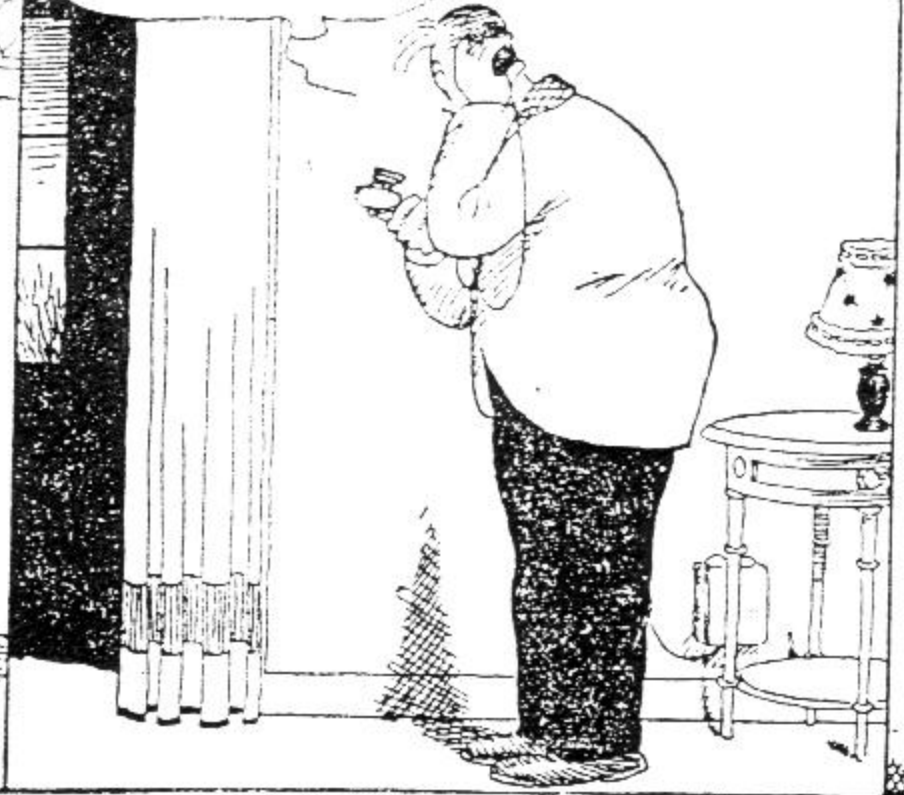
I'M GETTING A LOT OF LETTERS OF CONGRATULATION ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION. IT WAS CERTAINLY ALL IN MY FAVOR AND I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANY MORE ABOUT SKEEZIX.



THIS MAN WRITES - "MY BEST WISHES MR. WALLET AND MY THANKS FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. WE ADOPTED TWO CHILDREN THREE YEARS AGO AND I REALIZE YOUR VICTORY IS A VICTORY FOR US ALSO!" AND THERE'S THE PHONE!



YES'M. SKEEZIX IS MINE FOREVER YES'M. THE FIGHT I MADE WAS SELFISH OF COURSE, JUST BECAUSE I WANTED SKEEZIX. BUT IF IT DOES YOU SOME GOOD TOO I'M ALL THE HAPPIER.



"NOT ONLY AMERICA FOR AMERICANS, BUT AMERICANS FOR AMERICA. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WINNING FIGHT TO KEEP SKEEZIX FOR US. AMERICA FIRST—GLOVANIA ALSO RAN!"



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT ENLIGHTENS THE PRESS

**N**O WORD HAS BEEN HAD OF COL. CODA AND HIS PILOT WHO STARTED EASTWARD IN THE X3 FOR A FLIGHT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC LAST SATURDAY. BOATS INSTRUCTED BY WIRELESS TO KEEP WATCH FOR THEM HAVE REPORTED NO SIGN OF THEM OR THEIR CRAFT.

MR. WALLET, THE SUNDAY SPLURGE WOULD LIKE TO RUN A STORY IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION. DO YOU THINK A PERSON IS AS FOND OF AN ADOPTED CHILD AS ONE OF HIS OWN?

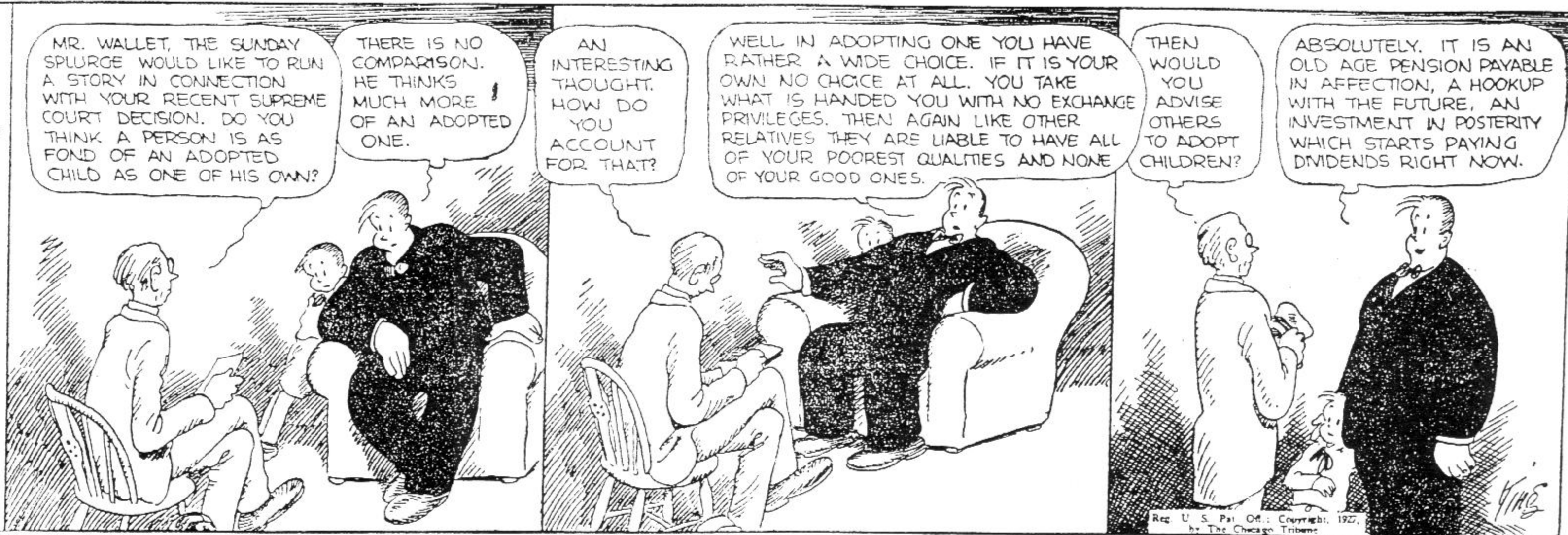
THERE IS NO COMPARISON. HE THINKS MUCH MORE OF AN ADOPTED ONE.

AN INTERESTING THOUGHT. HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THAT?

WELL IN ADOPTING ONE YOU HAVE RATHER A WIDE CHOICE. IF IT IS YOUR OWN NO CHOICE AT ALL. YOU TAKE WHAT IS HANDED YOU WITH NO EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES. THEN AGAIN LIKE OTHER RELATIVES THEY ARE LIABLE TO HAVE ALL OF YOUR POOREST QUALITIES AND NONE OF YOUR GOOD ONES.

THEN WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHERS TO ADOPT CHILDREN?

ABSOLUTELY. IT IS AN OLD AGE PENSION PAYABLE IN AFFECTION, A HOOKUP WITH THE FUTURE, AN INVESTMENT IN POSTERITY WHICH STARTS PAYING DIVIDENDS RIGHT NOW.



GASOLINE ALLEY—DON'T TELL A SOUL



NOW THAT THE COURT DECISION  
CAME OUT IN OUR FAVOR AND WE  
ALL HAVE OUR HEALTH AND  
THREE SQUARES A DAY THERE  
ISN'T MUCH ELSE TO BE  
DESIRED.

ARE  
YOU  
SURE  
THERE  
ISN'T,  
WALT?

THAT'S ENOUGH  
TO MAKE ANYBODY  
HAPPY! WHAT ELSE  
COULD ADD TO THAT?

COME  
HERE AND  
I'LL TELL  
YOU A  
LITTLE  
SECRET.

YOU DON'T SAY! I'LL BE -  
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK  
OF THAT!

-King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—GUESS AGAIN

GOLLY, EVER SINCE I HEARD THAT LITTLE SECRET YESTERDAY I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE A TWO-YEAR-OLD. THIS IS MY LUCKY SEASON.

BOYS, IT'S MY TREAT. HELP YOURSELF

WALT, YOU'RE A GOOD SCOUT AT THAT. I'LL TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I'VE SAID.

HERE'S HOW, WALT.

IT'S MIGHTY KIND OF YOU, OLD TOP, THOUGH IT DOESN'T TAKE SO MUCH GENEROSITY FOR A FELLOW THAT DOESN'T SMOKE TO GIVE AWAY CIGARS.

I'LL SMOKE THIS AFTER CHRISTMAS DINNER WALT.

THE OCCASION I SUPPOSE IS YOUR VICTORY BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.

YES WALT IS SETTING 'EM UP BECAUSE HE WON CLEAR ACROSS THE BOARD WITH THAT CASE OF HIS.

NOT AT ALL. THIS IS A SECRET!

*Hines*  
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GASOLINE ALLEY—UPWARD BOUND

STILL NO WORD OF CODA! HIS PLANE, THE X3, HEADED EASTWARD FOR A HOP OVER THE ATLANTIC SIX DAYS AGO. SOME HAVE GIVEN HIM AND HIS PILOT UP FOR LOST WHILE OTHERS HOPE THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED DOWN ON AN OBSCURE COAST OF LABRADOR OR NEWFOUNDLAND, OR PICKED UP BY A FISHING BOAT OFF IRELAND AND IS UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE.



WELL, ON TOP, I'M STILL TALLER THAN YOU ARE BUT YOU'RE GAINING ON ME. I USED TO BE FIVE TIMES AS TALL BUT NOW I'M NOT EVEN TWICE.

I'M CATCHING UP TO YOU FAST, UNCA WALT.



THAT REMINDS ME - I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF IT FOR AGES



THERE! THAT'S HOW HIGH YOU ARE NOW - JUST CLIMBING UP THIS DOORFRAME LIKE A MONKEY UP A TREE.



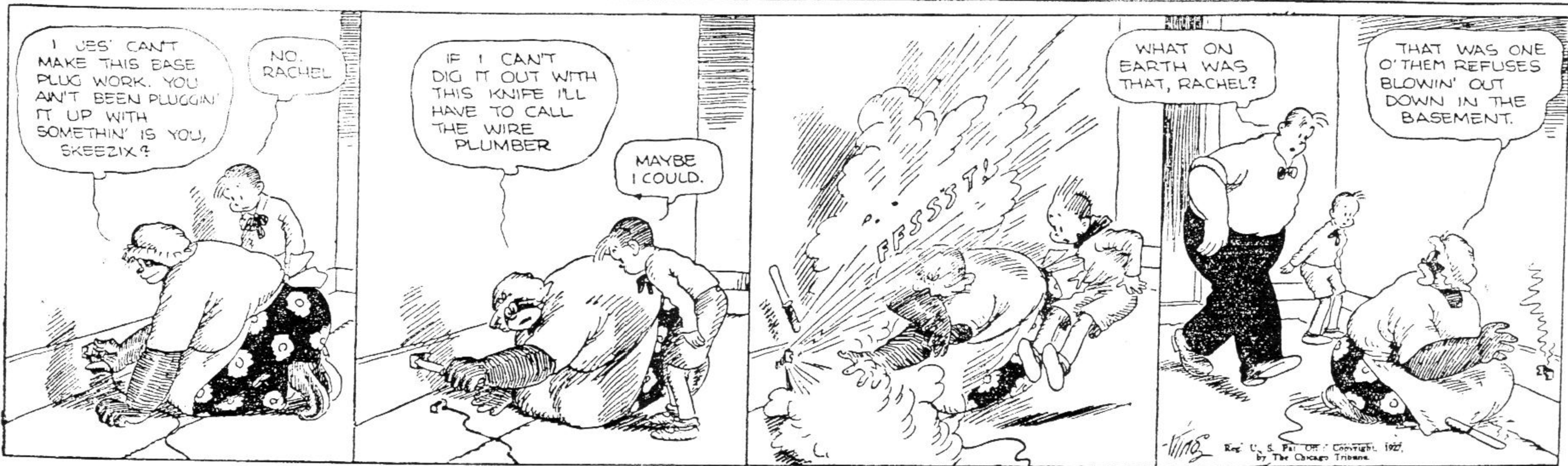
THAT FIRST MARK WAS WHEN YOU COULDN'T STAND BY YOURSELF - AND THE SECOND WAS ABOUT THE TIME YOU STARTED RUNNING AWAY. THE NEXT WAS RIGHT AFTER YOU HAD THE MEASLES

AM I A GROWNUP YET, UNCA WALT?

King



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A CURRENT EVENT



I JES' CANT MAKE THIS BASE PLUG WORK. YOU AN'T BEEN PLUGGIN' IT UP WITH SOMETHIN' IS YOU, SKEEZIX?

NO, RACHEL

IF I CANT DIG IT OUT WITH THIS KNIFE I'LL HAVE TO CALL THE WIRE PLUMBER

MAYBE I COULD.

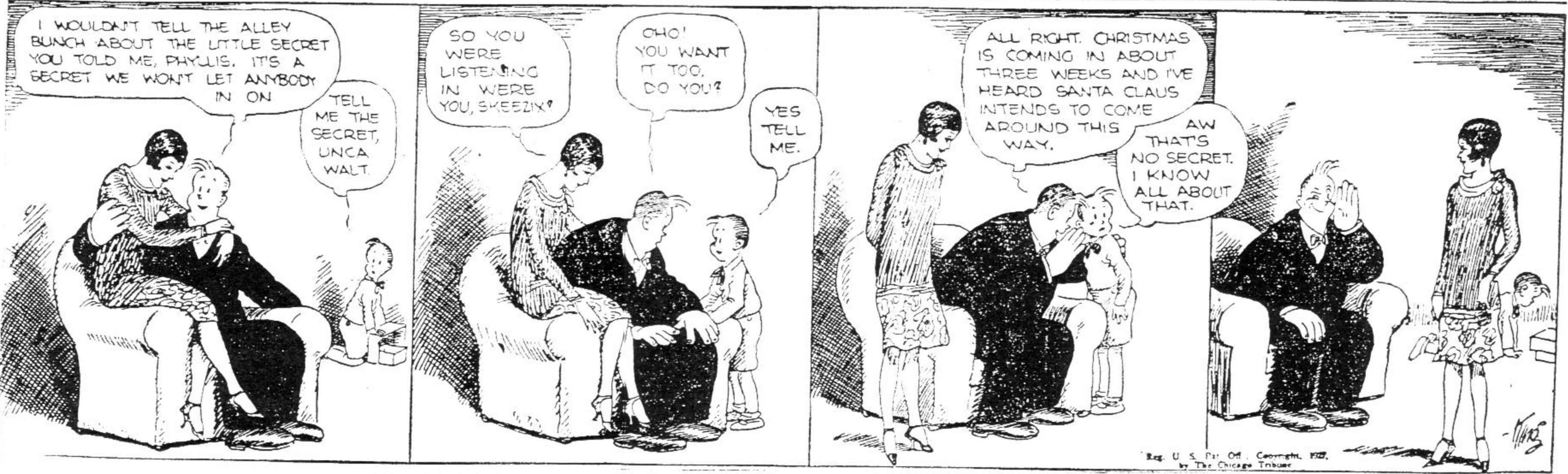
WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT, RACHEL?

THAT WAS ONE O'THEM REFUSES BLOWIN' OUT DOWN IN THE BASEMENT.

VINGO

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—YOU CAN'T FOOL SKEEZIX



I WOULDN'T TELL THE ALLEY BUNCH ABOUT THE LITTLE SECRET YOU TOLD ME, PHYLLIS. IT'S A SECRET WE WON'T LET ANYBODY IN ON

TELL ME THE SECRET, UNCA WALT.

SO YOU WERE LISTENING IN WERE YOU, SKEEZIX?

OHO! YOU WANT IT TOO, DO YOU?

YES TELL ME.

ALL RIGHT. CHRISTMAS IS COMING IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND I'VE HEARD SANTA CLAUS INTENDS TO COME AROUND THIS WAY.

AW THAT'S NO SECRET. I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT COMES DOWN WITH AN IDEA

WALT, ONE THING WE'VE GOT TO BE THINKING ABOUT IS CHRISTMAS CARDS. DO YOU REMEMBER IF THE CARROMS SENT US ONE LAST YEAR?

GOLLY, THAT'S RIGHT. NO I DON'T REMEMBER.

THE WORTLES DID. SO WE'LL HAVE TO SEND THEM ONE BUT I DON'T CARE FOR THEM PERSONALLY. WE WANT TO REMEMBER THE CULBERTSONS AND DOC LYBRAND.

I WISH WE COULD THINK UP SOMETHING ORIGINAL. I HATE TO PICK OUT A DESIGN OF RED CANDLES AND GREEN HOLLY AND HAVE OUR NAMES ENGRAVED ON IT. IT'S SO MUCH LIKE EMBALMED SENTIMENT.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT— I'LL GET SOME LINOLEUM AND WE'LL CUT OUT OUR OWN DESIGN IN IT AND PRINT IT OURSELVES.

THAT WOULD BE FINE, WALT. DO YOU THINK WE COULD?

CERTAINLY. I'M GOING TO ORDER SOME LINOLEUM NOW. IT WILL AT LEAST CARRY SOME FRESHLY CUT SENTIMENTS.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—OVERSTOCKED

WALT, THE LINOLEUM YOU ORDERED FOR MAKING THE CUT TO PRINT OUR CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM IS IN THE KITCHEN.

GOOD! NOW WE'LL GET UP A DESIGN AND I'LL CUT IT IN LINOLEUM.

GREAT GUNS! I WANTED A SQUARE FOOT AND THEY SENT ME HALF AN ACRE!

LOOK LINDA WALT! I'M A CAVE MAN!

SAY, THERE'S A BIG MISTAKE ON THIS LINOLEUM - I ORDERED ENOUGH TO CUT FOR A CHRISTMAS CARD - I BEG YOUR PARDON - YOU ARE MISTAKEN - NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT ENOUGH TO COVER A KITCHEN GARDEN!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT IS A HARD PROPOSITION

A MAN IS SO HARD TO GET ANYTHING FOR, FOR CHRISTMAS.



THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF THINGS A WOMAN ALWAYS WANTS AND APPRECIATES.



AND EVEN A MAN ISN'T SO DIFFICULT IF HE SMOKES.



BUT WALT DOESN'T SMOKE. IF HE HAD MORE VICES HE WOULD BE LOTS EASIER THIS TIME OF YEAR.



THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I CAN THINK OF I'D LIKE.



OH WELL, I'LL PUT DOWN A HALF DOZEN SHIRTS UNTIL I HAVE A BETTER INSPIRATION.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT'S STOCK IS DOWN

I HAVEN'T REALLY DARED FIGURE IT UP BEFORE BUT ALL THESE COURT COSTS AND LAWYERS FEES HAVE PLAYED HOB WITH MY ASSETS.



PHYLLIS DO YOU KNOW THAT OUR FINANCES ARE IN A PRETTY PRECARIOUS CONDITION? UNTIL WE GET SQUARED AWAY ON LAWYERS FEES AND LEGAL EXPENSES WE'RE GOING TO BE PRETTY LOW.



I'M NOT WORRYING, WALT. SEE, I'VE STARTED IN ALREADY TO MEND YOUR SOCKS!

BUT I'M SERIOUS, PHYLLIS. I'M SORRY BUT IT'S GOING TO BE A MIGHTY SLIM CHRISTMAS FOR US.



IT ISN'T ANY SURPRISE TO ME, WALT. AND I'M NOT NATURALLY VERY ECONOMICAL BUT I CAN BE WHEN IT'S NECESSARY. YOU JUST WATCH ME. I'M GOING TO BE SO TIGHT I'LL MAKE AVERY LOOK LIKE A PHILANTHROPIST.

GOLLY, PHYLLIS IS A BRICK! WITH HER STICKING BY ME IT WON'T BE ONE TENTH AS HARD A PULL.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—A CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION

WHATEVER ELSE WE HAVE TO SKIMP THIS YEAR ONE THING I'M NOT GOING TO ECONOMIZE ON IS PHYLLIS' CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

I WISH I KNEW WHAT SHE'D LIKE. A WOMAN WANTS A LOT OF THINGS BUT YOU CAN MAKE A BAD MISTAKE IN ANY OF THEM.

SKEEZIX, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU AND I HAD BETTER DO FOR AUNTIE BOSSOM FOR CHRISTMAS?

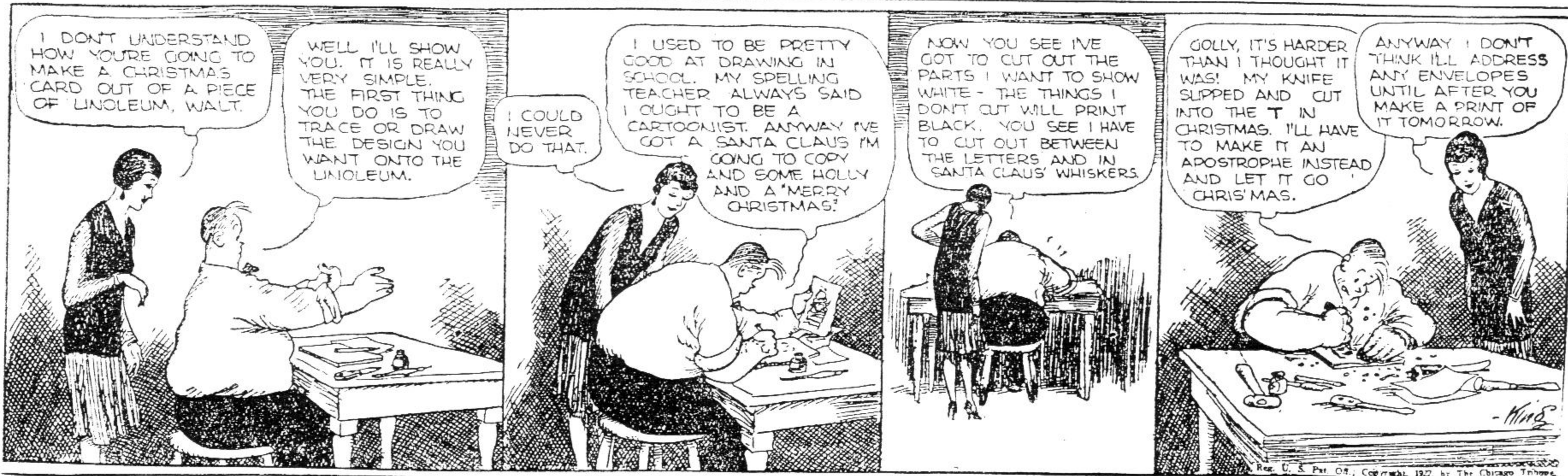
I THINK SHE WOULD LIKE A FIRE ENGINE WITH A WHISTLE AN' A GONG AN' REAL LADDERS.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT WOULD BE A BIT TOO YOUNG AND BOISTEROUS FOR HER?

NOT IF I WOULD SHOW HER HOW TO USE IT.

*King*

# GASOLINE ALLEY—PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST AT WORK



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS CARD OUT OF A PIECE OF LINOLEUM, WALT.

WELL I'LL SHOW YOU. IT IS REALLY VERY SIMPLE. THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS TO TRACE OR DRAW THE DESIGN YOU WANT ONTO THE LINOLEUM.

I COULD NEVER DO THAT.

I USED TO BE PRETTY GOOD AT DRAWING IN SCHOOL. MY SPELLING TEACHER ALWAYS SAID I OUGHT TO BE A CARTOONIST. ANYWAY I'VE GOT A SANTA CLAUS I'M GOING TO COPY AND SOME HOLLY AND A 'MERRY CHRISTMAS!'

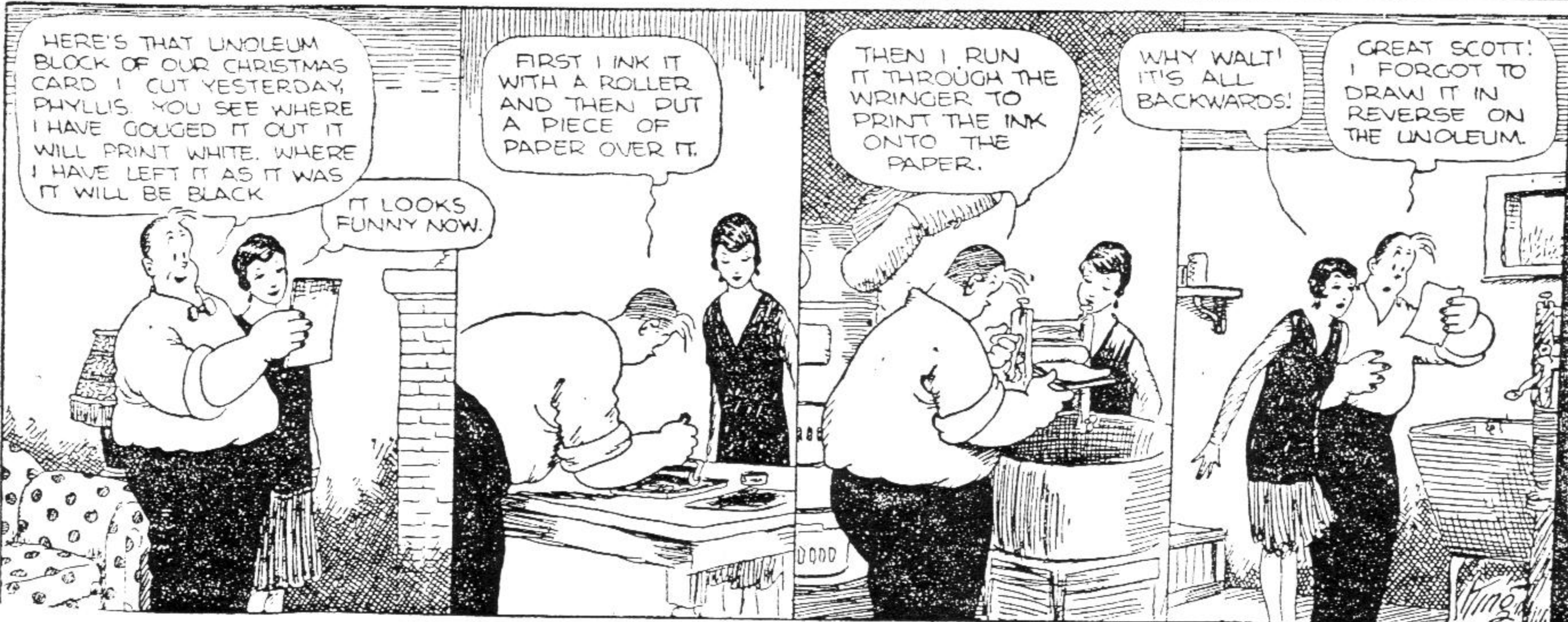
NOW YOU SEE I'VE GOT TO CUT OUT THE PARTS I WANT TO SHOW WHITE - THE THINGS I DON'T CUT WILL PRINT BLACK. YOU SEE I HAVE TO CUT OUT BETWEEN THE LETTERS AND IN 'SANTA CLAUS' WHISKERS.

GOLLY, IT'S HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WAS! MY KNIFE SLIPPED AND CUT INTO THE T IN CHRISTMAS. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT AN APOSTROPHE INSTEAD AND LET IT GO 'CHRIS'MAS.

ANYWAY I DON'T THINK I'LL ADDRESS ANY ENVELOPES UNTIL AFTER YOU MAKE A PRINT OF IT TOMORROW.



GASOLINE ALLEY—SAY IT WITH LINOLEUM



GASOLINE ALLEY—LOOKS LIKE A BIG YEAR FOR WALT

I'M WILLING TO ECONOMIZE ON CHRISTMAS, NOW THAT IT IS NECESSARY. IF WALT WILL DO LIKEWISE



I'VE GOT SOME MATERIAL AND I'M GOING TO MAKE HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT. IT WON'T BE EXPENSIVE AND I DON'T HAVE TO STINT ON WORK.



AUNTIE BOSSOM, I'M GOIN' TO GET UNCA WALT SOMETHING NICE FOR CHRISTMAS.



THAT'S FINE



DO YOU THINK HE'LL GIVE ME ENOUGH MONEY TO GET HIM A NICE AIRGUN? I GOT IT ALL PICKED OUT IN THE MAIL ORDER CATALOG!



- KING

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GASOLINE ALLEY—THERE'S A SALESMAN IN THE FAMILY

UNCA WALT, WILL YOU BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS FROM ME? THE SCHOOL KIDS ARE SELLIN' 'EM.

AN' THE MONEY GOES TO MAKE SICK FOLKS WELL AN' THEY ARE A CENT APIECE AN' ALL THAT'S TWO DOLLARS.

THAT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD INVESTMENT TO ME. I'LL TAKE THEM.

THEY'RE CHRISTMAS SEALS RACHEL AN' THEY'RE GOOD LUCK.

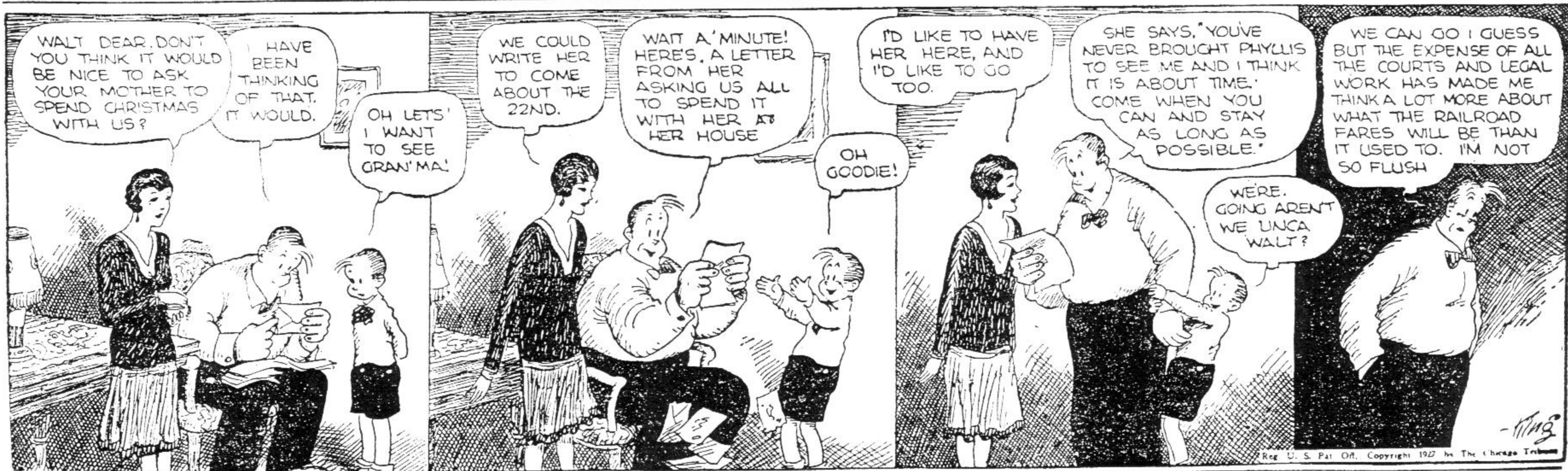
I'LL TAKE 15 CENTS WORTH OF 'EM. MY CHRISTMAS CARDS DON'T BRING ME NO LUCK AT ALL.

SKEEZIX, WILL YOU MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME?

IT WON'T GO IF IT DOESN'T HAVE A CHRISTMAS SEAL STAMP ON IT. I KNOW 'CAUSE I SELL 'EM.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—AWAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS



# GASOLINE ALLEY—SOLVED

CAN I HAVE SOME MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS, AUNTIE BOSSOM?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN SOME? I'M SURE WE COULD THINK UP A WAY. YOU THINK AND I'LL THINK.

THE GROCERY MAN GETS MONEY FOR GROCERIES AN' THE MILK MAN GETS MONEY FOR MILK - BUT I HAVEN'T GOT ANY GROCERIES OR MILK.

I KNOW WHAT I'M GOIN' TO DO.

I CAN DO THIS EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL.

THEY DON'T NEED TO GIVE THE ICE MAN ANY MORE MONEY FOR ICE.

-King

# GASOLINE ALLEY—ALL ABOARD!



HEY FELLAS, WALT AND PHYLLIS ARE LEAVING ON THE TRAIN THIS MORNING. WE OUGHT TO SEE THEM OFF

WALT, YOU LOOK LIKE A DRUM MAJOR. YOU MUST THINK YOU'RE GOING TO THE NORTH POLE WITH AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT.

WALT IS SO USED TO RIDING THE BUMPERS HE THINKS A GREENLAND LAYOUT IS NECESSARY IN A PULLMAN.

IT'S COLD UP WHERE I'M GOING. THEY BLOW BOTTLES OUT OF MOLASSES IN JANUARY AND THEY'RE GOOD UNTIL APRIL

COURSE I DON'T KNOW BUT I THINK I'M GOIN' TO GET A HAMMER AND SOME NAILS

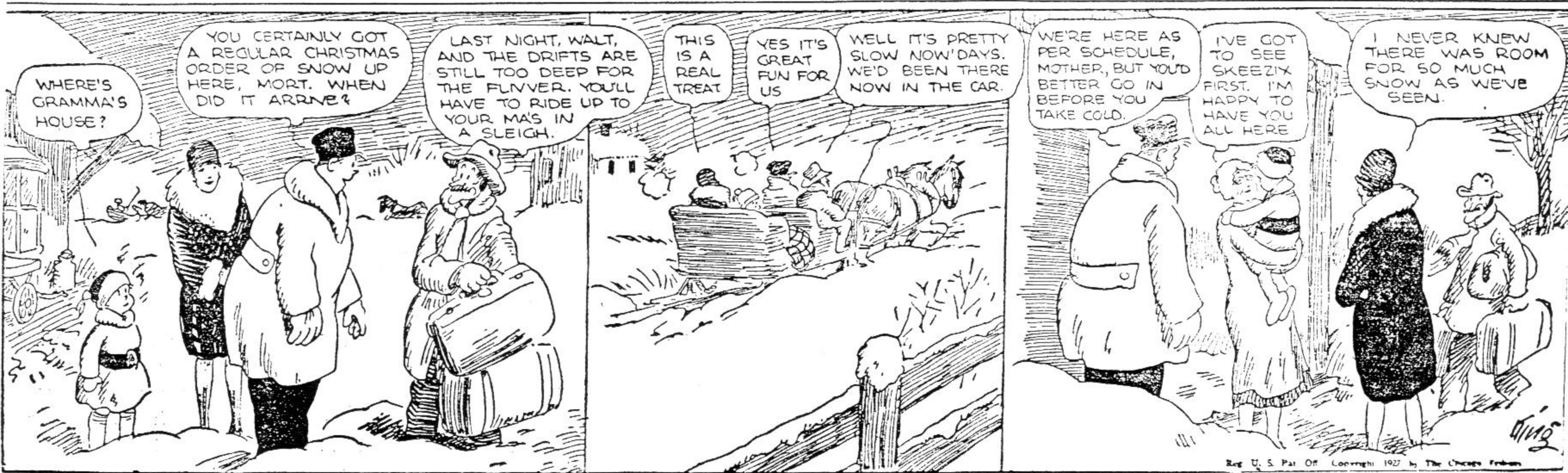
PHYLLIS, THIS IS IN LIEU OF A CHRISTMAS CARD. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS BIT OF CANDY WITH MY HEARTY HOLIDAY WISHES.

MR. WICKER, I ACCEPT THESE CALORIES IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT I HEREBY SACRIFICE MY GIRLISH FIGURE.

DON'T LET 'EM GIVE YOU ANY BENT ONES

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—HOME AGAIN!



GASOLINE ALLEY—CAREFUL, MOTHER, WALT IS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE IT

SEE UNCLE WALT AND GRANDMA HAVING SUCH A GOOD VISIT! WE WON'T DISTURB THEM NOW.

WHY? THEY'RE JES' TALKIN'.

TOMAH IS CERTAINLY BOOMING, MOTHER. YOUR CONGRESSMAN MUST BE ALL RIGHT TO PUT OVER SUCH A NICE POST OFFICE.

IT WILL BE THE FINEST IN THIS PART OF THE STATE. OF COURSE YOU SAW THAT THEY'D BUILT THE OLD STONE LIVERY BARN OVER INTO A MOVIE THEATER. WE HAVE TWO NOW.

HOW IS DOC JOHNSON? I SAW HIM ACROSS THE STREET BUT HE'S NEVER LOOKED THE SAME TO ME SINCE HE CUT OFF HIS WHISKERS.

OH HE'S BUSY IF IT ISN'T MEASLES AND WHOODING COUGH IT'S CRANBERRIES. THEY HAD A GOOD CROP ON THE MARSH BUT HAD A HARD TIME GETTING PICKERS.

IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN, MOTHER. AND PHYLLIS IS ENJOYING IT TOO. SHE THINKS YOU ARE PRETTY NICE.

PHYLLIS IS A FINE GIRL, WALT. I MAY BE A BIT PREJUDICED BUT SHE'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY FINE TO BE THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU.



# GASOLINE ALLEY—BACK INTO HISTORY

YOU KNOW, PHYLLIS, I GET A BIG KICK OUT OF GETTING HOME HERE AND SEEING MOTHERS THINGS - THE THINGS I GREW UP WITH.

THAT'S A LOVELY OLD MAPLE FOUR-POSTER, WALT, AND I'M CRAZY ABOUT THAT QUILT. I'LL BET SHE MADE IT HERSELF.

I USED TO COME DOWN AND DRESS IN FRONT OF THIS FIREPLACE ON THE COLDEST MORNINGS AND I STARTED TO SCHOOL BY THIS CLOCK AT 25 TO NINE.

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN GRAMMA'S CHEST. SHE LET ME LOOK INTO IT.

I'LL BET IT'S A DOLL SHE HAD WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

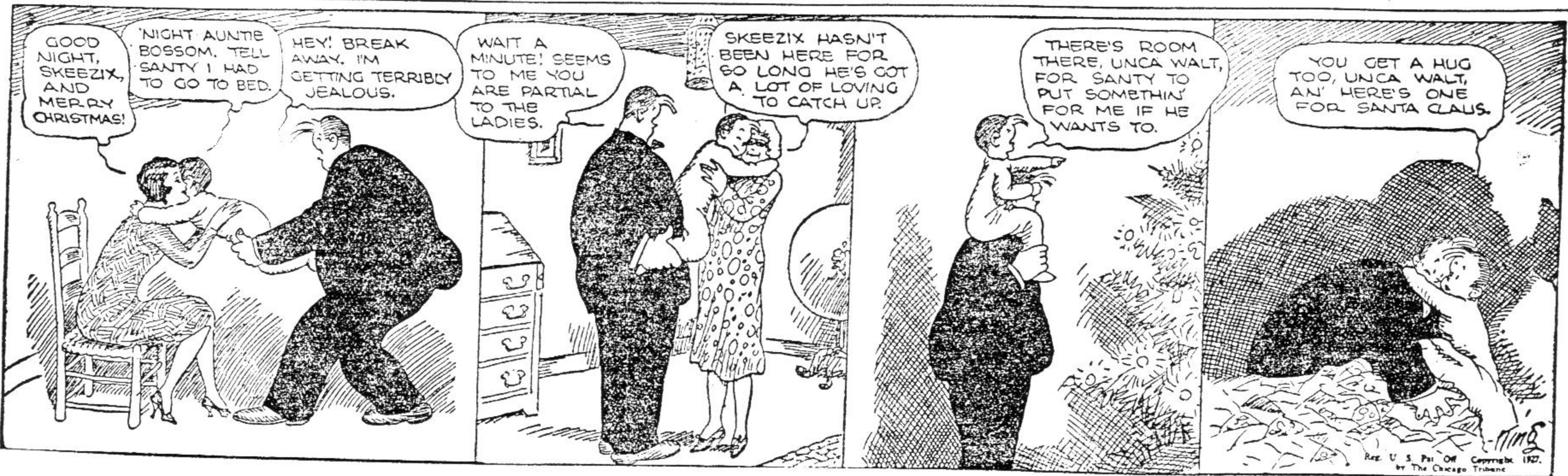
THAT'S JUST WHAT IT IS - LONG BEFORE I WAS A LITTLE BOY.

THOSE ARE CHOICE CANDLESTICKS AND THIS IS A FINE OLD LADDERBACK CHAIR.

# GASOLINE ALLEY—'T WAS TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS



GASOLINE ALLEY—PROPAGANDA?



GOOD NIGHT, SKEEZIX, AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

'NIGHT AUNTIE BOSSOM. TELL SANTY I HAD TO GO TO BED.

HEY! BREAK AWAY. I'M GETTING TERRIBLY JEALOUS.

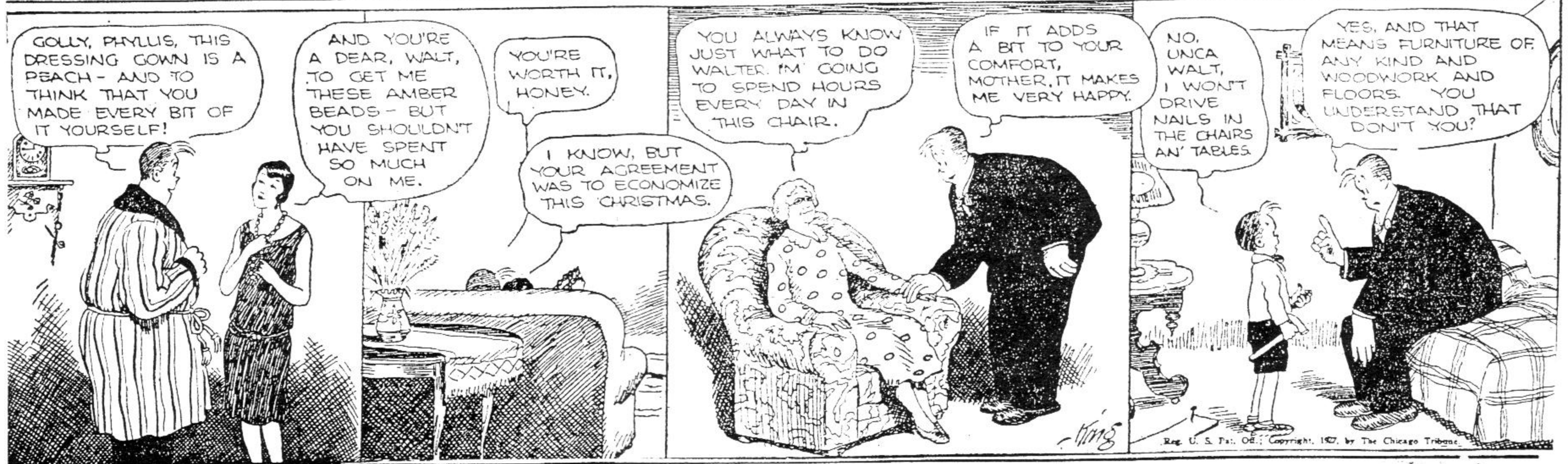
WAIT A MINUTE! SEEMS TO ME YOU ARE PARTIAL TO THE LADIES.

SKEEZIX HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR SO LONG HE'S GOT A LOT OF LOVING TO CATCH UP.

THERE'S ROOM THERE, UNCA WALT, FOR SANTY TO PUT SOMETHIN' FOR ME IF HE WANTS TO.

YOU GET A HUG TOO, UNCA WALT, AN' HERE'S ONE FOR SANTA CLAUS.

GASOLINE ALLEY — BREAKING IN THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS



GOLLY, PHYLLIS, THIS DRESSING GOWN IS A PEACH - AND TO THINK THAT YOU MADE EVERY BIT OF IT YOURSELF!

AND YOU'RE A DEAR, WALT, TO GET ME THESE AMBER BEADS - BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SPENT SO MUCH ON ME.

YOU'RE WORTH IT, HONEY.

I KNOW, BUT YOUR AGREEMENT WAS TO ECONOMIZE THIS CHRISTMAS.

YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO WALTER. I'M GOING TO SPEND HOURS EVERY DAY IN THIS CHAIR.

IF IT ADDS A BIT TO YOUR COMFORT, MOTHER, IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY.

NO, UNCA WALT, I WON'T DRIVE NAILS IN THE CHAIRS AN' TABLES.

YES, AND THAT MEANS FURNITURE OF ANY KIND AND WOODWORK AND FLOORS. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT DON'T YOU?

King

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER TOWN

TOMAH IS GROWING UP, MOTHER. I WAS GOING TO DROP INTO THE OLD McMULLEN BAKERY AND FOUND IT GONE.

YES THEY TORE IT DOWN AND BUILT A FILLING STATION THERE.

THEN I LOOKED FOR THE OLD LIVERY STABLE DOWN BEYOND THE LIBRARY AND THEY'VE MADE A FILLING STATION OUT OF THAT.

YES, THAT HAS BEEN IN SOME TIME.

AND YOU'VE SEEN THE GARAGE AND FILLING STATION ACROSS FROM THE PARK WHERE CROSSETTS USED TO BE.

YES, I MET HENRY SKINNER ON THE STREET. HE'S NOT FARMING SO STRENUOUSLY ANY MORE IS HE?

NO, NUMBER 12 RUNS PAST HIS FARM NOW AND HE'S RUNNING A FILLING STATION OUT THERE.

GASOLINE ALLEY—WALT'S BEEN IN THE COOKIE JAR

SURE I KNOW HOW TO MAKE COOKIES, GRAMMA. YOU CUT 'EM OUT WITH A COOKIE CUTTER.

WE'LL MAKE UP A BATCH BECAUSE UNCLE WALT LIKES THEM.

I'LL SHOW RACHEL HOW WHEN I GO HOME.

PERHAPS I'D BETTER KEEP YOU HERE TO HELP ME ALL THE TIME.

MAYBE UNCA WALT WOULD LEND ME TO YOU.

LOOKA THE STAR COOKIES I MADE, UNCA WALT, AN' SEE WHAT GRAMMA MADE FOR ME.

GREAT SCOTT! I SEE WHERE I'M GOING TO BE DEVOURED ALIVE!

# GASOLINE ALLEY—A THREE CORNERED SECRET

I HAVEN'T SAID A WORD TO MOTHER ABOUT OUR LITTLE SECRET, PHYLLIS. DO YOU THINK I'D BETTER TELL HER?

YOU DO JUST AS YOU LIKE ABOUT IT, WALT.

I'M SURE SHE WON'T TELL ANYBODY AND SHE'S CERTAINLY AN INTERESTED PARTY.

I KNOW SHE WILL APPRECIATE BEING IN ON IT. IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.

MOTHER CROSS YOUR HEART YOU WON'T TELL A SOUL AND I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET THAT ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT!

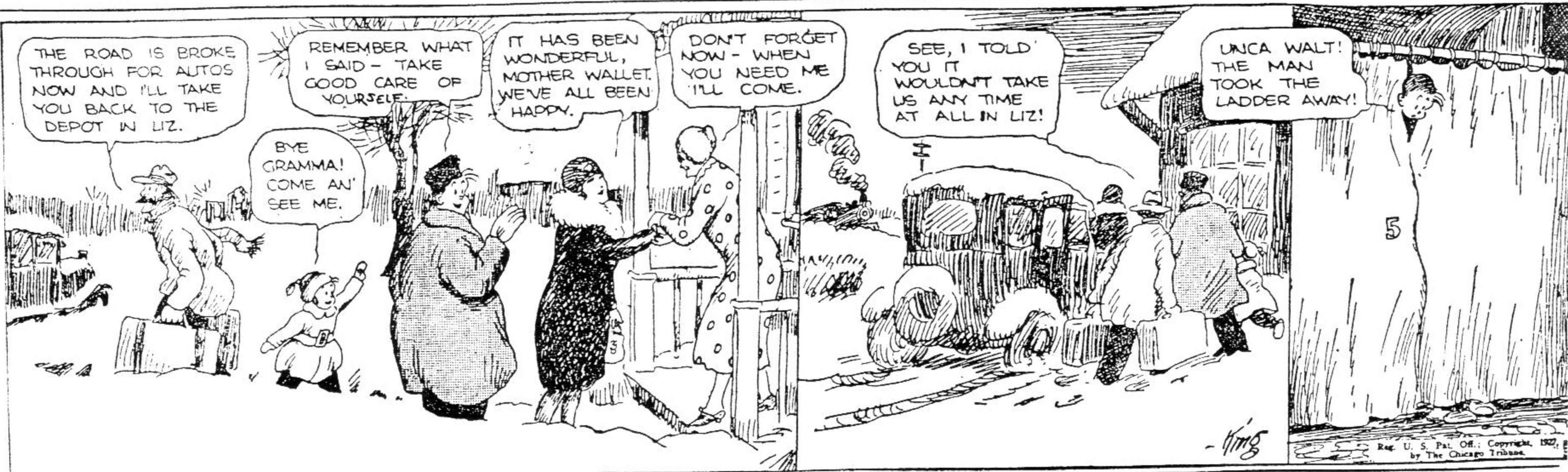
IT'S VERY INTRIGUING, WALTER.

REALLY? WHY THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU'RE NOT ANY HAPPIER ABOUT IT THAN I AM.

ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS, MOTHER! AND REMEMBER—NOT A HINT TO ANYBODY.

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# GASOLINE ALLEY—BACK TOWARD HOME





# GASOLINE ALLEY—THE ECONOMY ADMINISTRATION IS ON

I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK FROM THE STICKS, WALT. WE'RE HAVING A SWELL PARTY OVER AT THE WILD AND WOOLLY WIGWAM TONIGHT AND WE WANT YOU AND PHYLLIS.

THANKS, BILL, BUT I'M SAFE AND SANE TONIGHT.

WALT, I HAVE A TABLE TONIGHT AT THE PURPLE PUP AND HAVE PLACES FOR YOU AND PHYLLIS.

SORRY, MR WICKER, BUT WE'VE MADE PLANS AND CAN'T MAKE IT THIS TIME.

WALT! WAIT! I'VE GOT THREE TICKETS FOR THE MIDNIGHT SHOW AT THE CURLICUE TONIGHT BUT MY SISTER-IN-LAW CAN'T GO. I'LL SELL YOU HER TICKET FOR HALF PRICE.

THANKS AVERY BUT I'M ALL HOOKED UP.

I'M GLAD WE ARE ALL BY OURSELVES TONIGHT, WALT DEAR.

THIS POPCORN PARTY BEATS A QUANTITY PRODUCTION NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND I'D RATHER SIT HERE THAN BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH ON A DANCE FLOOR.

ME TOO.

-King