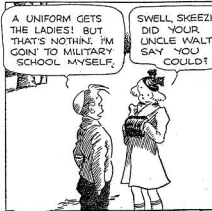






HUH!



A UNIFORM GETS THE LADIES! BUT THAT'S NOTHIN'. I'M GOIN' TO MILITARY SCHOOL MYSELF.

SWELL, SKEEZIX! DID YOUR UNCLE WALT SAY YOU COULD?



WELL, NOT EXACTLY—YET!

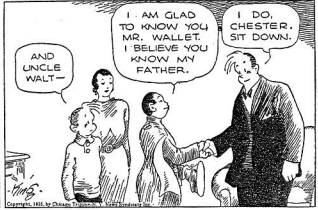
YOU SAY A UNIFORM GETS THE LADIES. IF YOU SHOWED CHESTY TO YOUR AUNTIE BLOSSOM THAT MIGHT HELP.

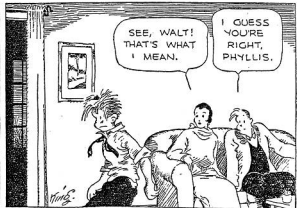
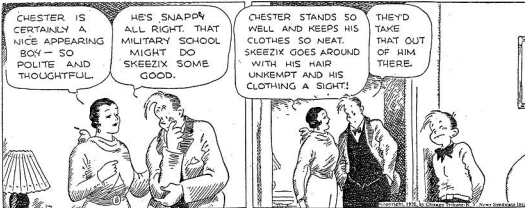


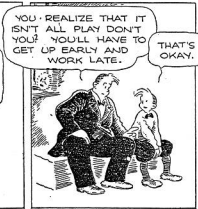
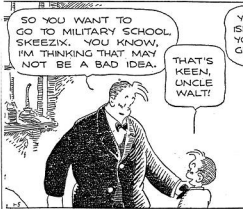
I WOULDN'T ASK HIM, TRIXIE.

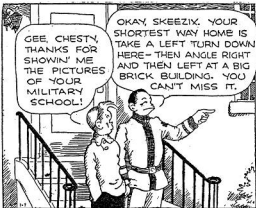
MAYBE A UNIFORM GETS THE LADIES— BUT A LADY CAN GET THE UNIFORM TOO. I'LL ASK HIM.

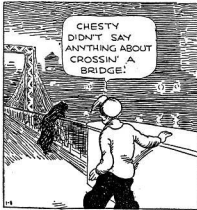
KING









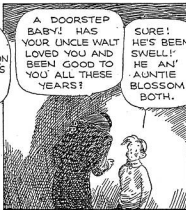




IM SKEEZIX WALLET AN' I WANT TO GO TO UNCLE WALT'S HOUSE.



MY FATHER IS DEAD. I WAS LEFT ON UNCLE WALT'S DOORSTEP YOU KNOW.

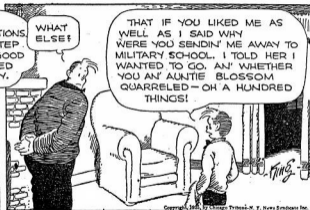
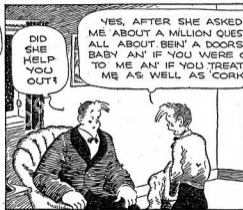
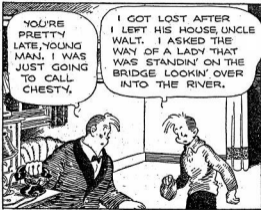


SURE! HE'S BEEN SWELL! HE AN' AUNTIE BLOSSOM BOTH.

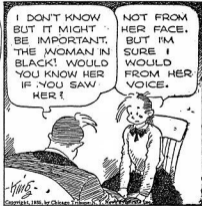


CORKY. HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER. IM HIS STEP BROTHER—YOU KNOW—DOORSTEP BROTHER. HE'S SWELL TOO.

KING







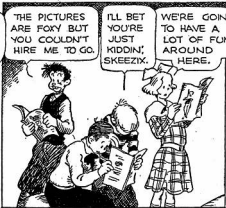


NO, SKEEZIX. DON'T GO AWAY. YOU HAVE THEM COME HERE.

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT WOMAN THAT ASKED ME THOSE QUESTIONS IF I DON'T, AUNTIE BLOSSOM.



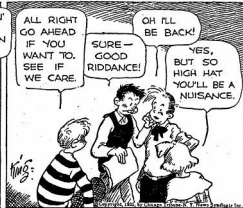
NO, YOU COME OVER HERE. I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE MILITARY SCHOOL CATALOGS.



THE PICTURES ARE FOXY BUT YOU COULDN'T HIRE ME TO GO.

I'LL BET YOU'RE JUST KIDDIN', SKEEZIX.

WE'RE GOIN' TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN AROUND HERE.



ALL RIGHT GO AHEAD IF YOU WANT TO. SEE IF WE CARE.

SURE — GOOD RIDDANCE!

OH I'LL BE BACK!

YES, BUT SO HIGH HAT YOU'LL BE A NUISANCE.

KING

YOUR AUNTIE BLOSSOM AND I ARE AGREED THAT A MILITARY SCHOOL MAY DO YOU A LOT OF GOOD, SKEEZIX.

THAT'S OKAY WITH ME.

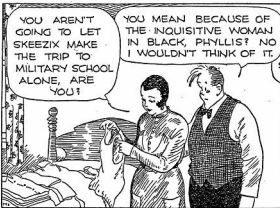
AND I HAVE CHECKED UP ON THE SNAPPER MILITARY ACADEMY. IN THE MATTER OF IDEALS, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSONEL, TRADITION, I FIND IT UNIFORMLY GOOD.

THAT'S ONE THING I'M INTERESTED IN.

WHAT ONE THING!

THAT IT'S UNIFORMLY GOOD—YOU KNOW—GOOD SNAPPY UNIFORMS.

- KING -



GEE, CORKY, IT'S PRETTY NEAR SUPPER TIME. THE FOLKS SENT ME OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

A WOMAN TALKED TO ME, SKEEZIX.

ALL THIS TIME! WHO WAS SHE AN' WHAT DID SHE SAY?

SHE ASKED ME A LOT OF QUESTIONS AN' SHE LOOKED IN MY EARS TO SEE IF THEY WERE DIRTY.

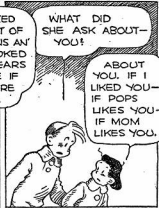
WHAT DID SHE ASK ABOUT—YOU!

ABOUT YOU. IF I LIKED YOU—IF POPS LIKES YOU—IF MOM LIKES YOU.

GOLLY CORKY WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE?

I DUNNO. SHE HAD ON A LONG BLACK COAT.

COME ON, CORKY—WE'VE GOT TO TELL THE FOLKS.



CORKY, YOU SAY THE WOMAN THAT STOPPED YOU ASKED MOSTLY ABOUT SKEEZIX?

YES. AN' IF YOU AN' MOMS TOOK GOOD CARE OF BOTH OF US.

AND SHE ASKED IF WE TREATED SKEEZIX AS WELL AS WE DO YOU?

YES AN' I SAID BETTER. HE GETS BIGGER HELPIN'S AN' CAN STAY UP LATER!

SHE WORE A LONG BLACK COAT. DID YOU SEE HER FACE?

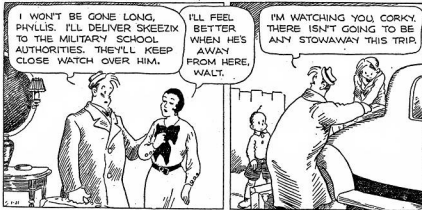
IT WAS TOO DARK.

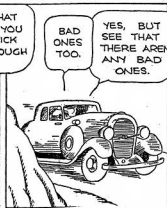
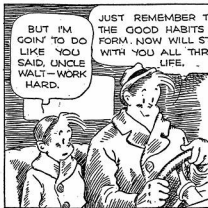
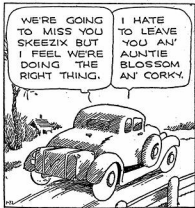
THE WOMAN IN BLACK AGAIN!

SHE CAN'T MEAN ANYTHING GOOD, SKEEZIX. DON'T YOU GO ANYWHERE ALONE TILL YOU START FOR MILITARY SCHOOL.

KING







THERE'S YOUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF SNAPPER MILITARY ACADEMY SKEEZIX. THAT WILL BE HOME TO YOU FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

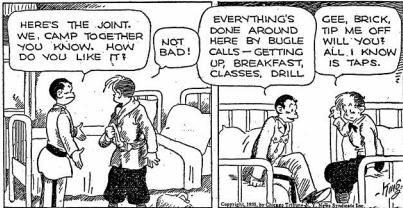
COLONEL, I'VE BROUGHT THIS YOUNG MAN, SKEEZIX WALLET, TO PLACE IN YOUR CARE.

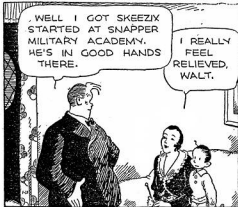
WE ARE ALL READY FOR HIM. I'LL HAVE SOMEONE SHOW HIM HIS ROOM AND HIS CLASSROOMS DIRECTLY.

SO LONG OLD TOP, I'M EXPECTING BIG THINGS OF YOU. KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP.

SURE, UNCLE WALT.

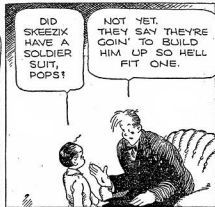
NEW KID.





WELL I GOT SKEEZIX STARTED AT SNAPPER MILITARY ACADEMY. HE'S IN GOOD HANDS THERE.

I REALLY FEEL RELIEVED, WALT.



DID SKEEZIX HAVE A SOLDIER SUIT, POPS?

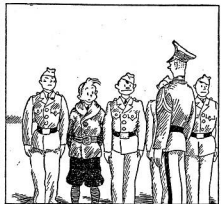
NOT YET. THEY SAY THEY'RE GOIN' TO BUILD HIM UP SO HE'LL FIT ONE.

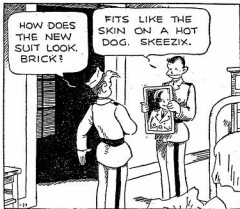


HAVE YOU HEARD ANY MORE FROM THE WOMAN IN BLACK?

NOT A WORD. BUT CORKY SAW HER ON THE WAY TO KINDERGARTEN. SINCE THAT I'VE BEEN WALKING TO AND FRO WITH HIM.

I'LL WALK WITH HIM MYSELF HEREAFTER AND IF I SEE HER I'LL CERTAINLY ASK HER A FEW QUESTIONS MYSELF.







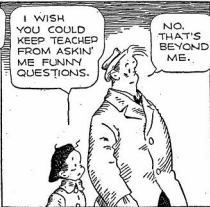
WHY DO YOU WALK TO SCHOOL WITH ME, POPS!

TO KEEP FUNNY WOMEN FROM ASKING YOU QUESTIONS



I DON'T TELL 'EM A THING. I CAN KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

THAT'S THE IDEA. KEEP MUM.

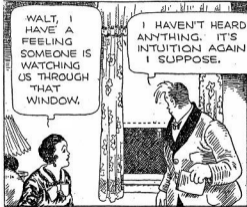


I WISH YOU COULD KEEP TEACHED FROM ASKIN' ME FUNNY QUESTIONS.

NO, THAT'S BEYOND ME.



BE CAREFUL ON THE WAY HOME POPS. DON'T LET ANY FUNNY WOMAN ASK YOU QUESTIONS.

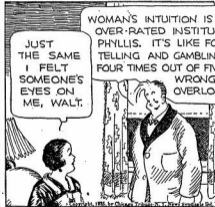


WALT, I HAVE A FEELING SOMEONE IS WATCHING US THROUGH THAT WINDOW.

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING. IT'S INTUITION AGAIN I SUPPOSE.



NOT A SOUL ANYWHERE.



JUST THE SAME I FELT SOMEONE'S EYES ON ME, WALT.

WOMAN'S INTUITION IS AN OVER-RATED INSTITUTION, PHYLLIS. IT'S LIKE FORTUNE TELLING AND GAMBLING. THE FOUR TIMES OUT OF FIVE YOU'RE WRONG ARE OVERLOOKED.



BUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT ONCE, YOU REMEMBER IT AND EVERYBODY ELSE HEARS ABOUT IT.



NO I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYBODY WALT, BUT I'M POSITIVE THERE WAS SOMEBODY LOOKING IN.

WHAT, AGAIN? SO YOU WANT ME TO GO AND LOOK.



YES. SOME LIGHT SNOW HAS FALLEN. YOU CAN TELL IF ANYONE HAS BEEN THERE.

OKAY — JUST TO SATISFY YOU.



BY GOLLY, PHYLLIS, LOOK! COMING AND GOING!

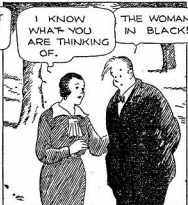


THERE ARE THE TRACKS JUST AS THEY WERE LAST NIGHT, PHYLLIS.

A WOMAN'S FOOTPRINTS. SHE WAS WATCHING US ALL RIGHT.



HERE'S WHERE SHE WENT THROUGH A DEEPER DRIFT. SOMETHING DRAGGED— A LONG COAT!



I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING OF.

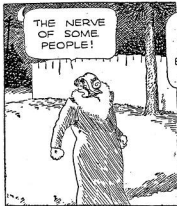
THE WOMAN IN BLACK!



WELL IF SHE'S INTERESTED IN SKEEZIX ANYWAY HE'S GONE AWAY TO SCHOOL

YES, THANK GOODNESS.





THE NERVE
OF SOME
PEOPLE!



YOU SAY
SHE WORE
A LONG
BLACK COAT,
RACHEL!

YASSA, MISTA
WALT, AN' SHE
AST ME MORE
FOOL QUESTIONS!



WHAT
ABOUT?

IS YOU BEEN GOOD TO
SKEEZIX, IS I BEEN
GOOD TO SKEEZIX AN'
'WHERE IS SKEEZIX?



YOU
DIDN'T
TELL HER,
RACHEL?

ME? SAY I GIVE HER
ONE LOOK AN' SHE
DIDN'T WAIT FOR NO
ANSWER.

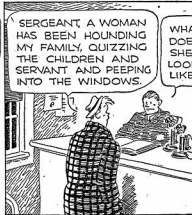


I HATE TO ADMIT I'M GETTING JITTERY BUT I CATCH MYSELF LOOKING BEHIND EVERY TREE.



SERGEANT, A WOMAN HAS BEEN HOUNDING MY FAMILY, QUIZZING THE CHILDREN AND SERVANT AND PEEPING INTO THE WINDOWS.

WHAT DOES SHE LOOK LIKE!



ALL THEY SEEM ABLE TO TELL IS THAT SHE IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND WEARS A LONG BLACK CLOAK.

THAT'S NOT SO MUCH TO GO ON BUT I'LL TELL THE BOYS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HER.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF THEM WALK BACK HOME WITH YOU?

NO THANKS, IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS. SHE'S NOT AFTER ME.





YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT ONE OF THE BOYS TO WALK ALONG WITH YOU MR. WALLET?

NO THANKS, SERGEANT



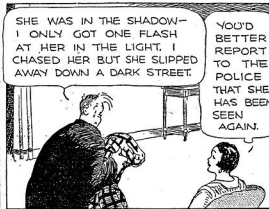
BY GOLLY, I AM BEING FOLLOWED AT THAT!



IF IT'S THAT WOMAN I'LL GRAB HER AND CALL THE POLICE!



GONE! MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL. IT WOULDN'T BE SO EASY TO EXPLAIN HOLDING A SCREAMING WOMAN IN A DARK STREET THIS TIME OF NIGHT!



HELLO, MR. WALLET! HOW IS SKEEZIX GETTING ALONG AT MILITARY SCHOOL?

FINE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU KIDS ABOUT THAT.

THERE ARE CERTAIN REASONS WE ARE NOT SAYING WHERE HE IS. YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYBODY, HAVE YOU?

I HAVEN'T

NEITHER HAVE I.

I HAVE— BUT JUST TO ONE PERSON.

WHO WAS THAT?

SHE SAID SHE WAS A FRIEND OF SKEEZIX'S SO I TOLD HER. IT WAS A WOMAN IN A LONG BLACK COAT.



YOU'VE GOT A WOMAN IN
IN A LONG BLACK COAT,
SERGEANT? I DONT KNOW
THAT I COULD IDENTIFY HER
BUT I'LL BE RIGHT OVER.

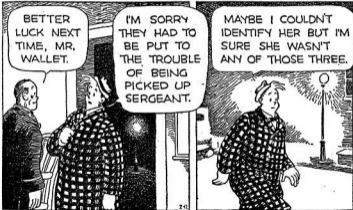
WE HAVE
PICKED UP
THREE OF 'EM
ON SUSPICION,
MR. WALLET.

NO SHE WAS NOT SO
TALL AS THE TALL ONE,
HEAVIER THAN THE SLIM
ONE AND TALLER THAN
THE FAT ONE.

I'M SORRY
BUT I'M SURE
SHE ISN'T
AMONG THEM.

TURN
EM LOOSE,
JERRY.







THERE PHYLLIS,
DONT I LOOK PRETTY
WELL FOR HAVING BEEN
BEATEN UP BY THREE
AMAZONS LAST NIGHT?



MERCY
WALT, WHAT
DO YOU
THINK THEY
WERE TRYING
TO DO!

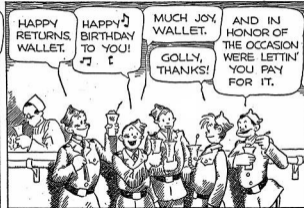
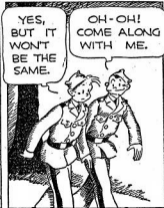
MAKE THE
WORLD SAFE FOR
WOMEN IN LONG
BLACK COATS.

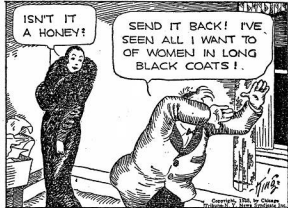
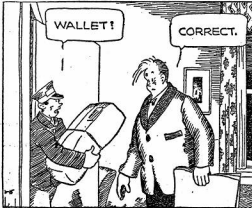


CORKY WHO
GAVE YOUR
DADDY THE
SHINER—YOUR
MAMMA?

NOPE,
IT WAS
THREE
OTHER
WOMEN.







AN' I SAYS
TO HIM, "WHO
TOLD YOU YOU'D
EVER MAKE
A SOLDIER?"



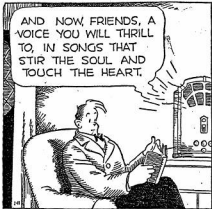
EAVESDROPPIN'
EH, PLEBE!
L' STENIN' IN!

I WASN'T
LISTENING
IN, SIR!

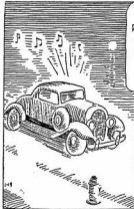


DON'T TALK BACK.
TAKE A BRACE!
NOW HOLD IT TILL
WERE OUT OF SIGHT.





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NO ONE IS PERMITTED IN THE STUDIO. YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE DIRECTOR.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT. I MUST SEE THE SOLOIST WHO HAS JUST BEEN ON THE AIR.



I'M SORRY, MR. WALLET, BUT WE ARE NOT AT LIBERTY TO DIVULGE THE IDENTITY OF "THE WOMAN IN BLACK." HOWEVER YOU MUST HAVE PASSED HER IN THE HALL AS YOU CAME IN.

THE ONLY PERSON I SAW WAS A LADY IN A BROWN COAT, A BLUE DRESS AND A GREEN HAT.

THAT WAS THE WOMAN IN BLACK!



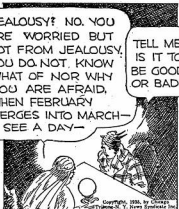




MADAME SOMBRA
WILL SEE YOU
NOW.

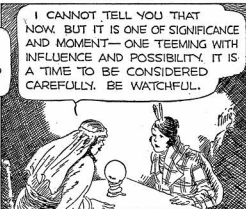


YOU ARE TROUBLED. I
SEE A WOMAN— A
MYSTERIOUS DARK
WOMAN. DARK? NO—
SHE APPEARS DARK
BUT I SEE BLONDE HAIR.

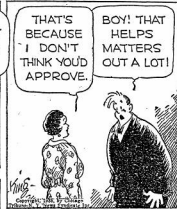
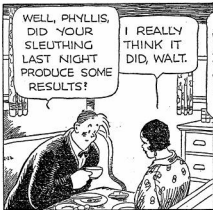


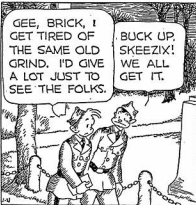
JEALOUSY? NO. YOU
ARE WORRIED BUT
NOT FROM JEALOUSY.
YOU DO NOT KNOW
WHAT OF NOR WHY
YOU ARE AFRAID.
WHEN FEBRUARY
MERGES INTO MARCH—
I SEE A DAY—

TELL ME
IS IT TO
BE GOOD
OR BAD?



I CANNOT TELL YOU THAT
NOW. BUT IT IS ONE OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND MOMENT— ONE TEEMING WITH
INFLUENCE AND POSSIBILITY. IT IS
A TIME TO BE CONSIDERED
CAREFULLY. BE WATCHFUL.





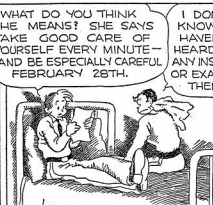
GEE, BRICK, I GET TIRED OF THE SAME OLD GRIND. I'D GIVE A LOT JUST TO SEE THE FOLKS.

BUCK UP, SKEEZIX! WE ALL GET IT.



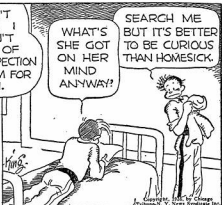
BOY! SWELL! HERE'S A LETTER FROM AUNTIE BLOSSOM.

THAT'S A BRACER.



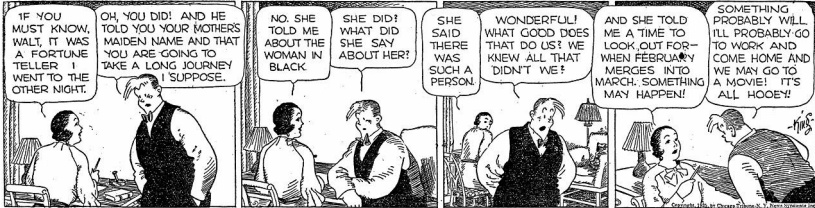
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS? SHE SAYS TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF EVERY MINUTE—AND BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL FEBRUARY 28TH.

I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY INSPECTION OR EXAM FOR THEN.



WHAT'S SHE GOT ON HER MIND ANYWAY?

SEARCH ME BUT IT'S BETTER TO BE CURIOUS THAN HOMESICK.



IF YOU MUST KNOW, WALT, IT WAS A FORTUNE TELLER I WENT TO THE OTHER NIGHT.

OH, YOU DID! AND HE TOLD YOU YOUR MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME AND THAT YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE A LONG JOURNEY I SUPPOSE.

NO. SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE WOMAN IN BLACK.

SHE DID? WHAT DID SHE SAY ABOUT HER?

SHE SAID THERE WAS SUCH A PERSON.

WONDERFUL! WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO US? WE KNEW ALL THAT DIDN'T WE?

AND SHE TOLD ME A TIME TO LOOK OUT FOR—WHEN FEBRUARY MERGES INTO MARCH. SOMETHING MAY HAPPEN!

SOMETHING PROBABLY WILL I'LL PROBABLY GO TO WORK AND COME HOME AND WE MAY GO TO A MOVIE! IT'S ALL HOOEY!

-KING-

FORGET ABOUT THIS FORTUNE TELLER STUFF, PHYLLIS. IF SHE COULD TELL WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AHEAD OF TIME SHE WOULDN'T BE TELLING FORTUNES—SHE'D BE PLAYING THE STOCK MARKET.



COME TO THINK OF IT WE HAVEN'T REALLY HEARD ANYTHING OF THE WOMAN IN BLACK FOR THREE WEEKS. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN FALSE ALARMS.



I THINK SHE'S FORGOTTEN US. ANYWAY IF SHE'S HOOKED UP WITH THIS "FEBRUARY MERGING INTO MARCH" STUFF THAT CAN BE ANY TIME NOW.



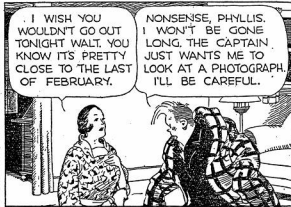
OF COURSE YOU MAY BORROW MY KEYS, WALT, BUT WHERE ARE YOURS?

I DON'T KNOW. THEY'RE IN MY POCKETS SOMEWHERE OR MAYBE I LEFT THEM IN THE CAR LAST NIGHT.





IS IT IMPORTANT, SERGEANT? THE CAPTAIN? SURE I CAN COME OVER.

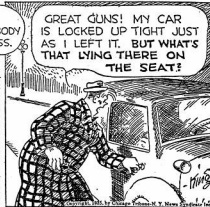


I WISH YOU WOULDN'T GO OUT TONIGHT WALT. YOU KNOW IT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO THE LAST OF FEBRUARY.

NONSENSE, PHYLLIS. I WON'T BE GONE LONG. THE CAPTAIN JUST WANTS ME TO LOOK AT A PHOTOGRAPH. I'LL BE CAREFUL.

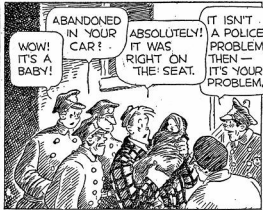


HE DIDN'T WANT MUCH—JUST SOMEBODY TO TALK TO I GUESS.



GREAT GUNS! MY CAR IS LOCKED UP TIGHT JUST AS I LEFT IT. BUT WHAT'S THAT LYING THERE ON THE SEAT?

WALT HAS JUST COME OUT TO HIS CAR IN FRONT OF THE POLICE STATION TO FIND A STRANGE PACKAGE LOCKED IN AND LYING ON THE SEAT. HE IS DUMBFOUNDED AS HE KNOWS HE LOCKED HIS CAR. INVESTIGATING HE FINDS —

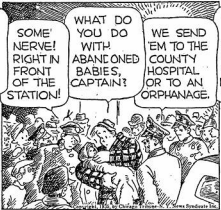


WOW!
IT'S A
BABY!

ABANDONED
IN YOUR
CAR?

ABSOLUTELY!
IT WAS
RIGHT ON
THE SEAT.

IT ISN'T
A POLICE
PROBLEM
THEN —
IT'S YOUR
PROBLEM.



SOME
NERVE!
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
THE
STATION!

WHAT DO
YOU DO
WITH
ABANDONED
BABIES,
CAPTAIN?

WE SEND
EM TO THE
COUNTY
HOSPITAL
OR TO AN
ORPHANAGE.



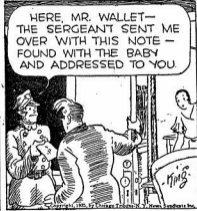
THAT IS,
IF THE
PEOPLE
THEY'RE
LEFT TO
DONT WANT
'EM.

CUTE LITTLE
FELLA! I'D LIKE
TO KEEP THIS
ONE BUT MY
WIFE WOULD NEVER
STAND FOR IT.

CALL
UP THE
DOC.
JOE.



A BABY! WHERE IS IT NOW?



AFTER WALT FOUND THE BABY IN HIS CAR AND HAD TURNED IT OVER TO THE POLICE TO BE PUT IN AN ORPHANAGE, HE AND PHYLLIS AGREED IT WAS THE ONLY THING HE COULD HAVE DONE

SHORTLY AFTERWARD THE CAPTAIN SENT OVER A NOTE FOUND PINNED TO THE BABY'S CLOTHING AND ADDRESSED TO WALT.

DEAR MR. & MRS. WALLET—
I ENTRUST MY BABY TO YOU, CONFIDENT IT WILL BE CHERISHED AND CARED FOR. I KNOW ALL ABOUT SKEEZIX HAVING BEEN LEFT ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND THE LOVE AND DEVOTION HE HAS HAD AT YOUR HANDS, FOR LONG YEARS—SINCE HE WAS NO BIGGER THAN MY OWN BABY. I HAVE SEEN HIM GROW IN STATURE, STRENGTH AND KNOWLEDGE, WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENT OF YOUR HOME!



THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD I WOULD LEAVE SUCH A TREASURE—WHOM I LOVE MORE THAN MY OWN LIFE. I KNOW YOUR HEARTS ARE LARGE AND THAT YOU WILL NOT BETRAY THE SUPREME TRUST I PLACE IN YOU.

ANGUISHED MOTHER

P.S. THE RING KEEP ALWAYS WITH MY BABY.



SHE SEEMS TO KNOW ALL ABOUT US AND BOY! SHE CERTAINLY DOES PUT IT UP TO US!

IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE TO LET ANYBODY LIKE THAT DOWN, WALT, BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY POSSIBILITY IN THE WORLD OF TAKING ON SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY.



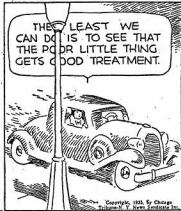


WALT, I CAN'T GET THE BABY THAT WAS ABANDONED IN YOUR CAR OUT OF MY MIND. I WANT TO SEE IT.

I THINK YOU CAN, PHYLLIS. I'LL FIND OUT WHERE IT IS.

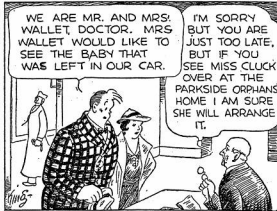


THE SERGEANT SAYS IT'S AT THE COUNTY HOSPITAL YET AND HELL CALL THE DOC ABOUT IT.



THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS TO SEE THAT THE POOR LITTLE THING GETS GOOD TREATMENT.

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WE ARE MR. AND MRS. WALLET, DOCTOR. MRS WALLET WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BABY THAT WAS LEFT IN OUR CAR.

I'M SORRY BUT YOU ARE JUST TOO LATE, BUT IF YOU SEE MISS CLUCK OVER AT THE PARKSIDE ORPHANS HOME I AM SURE SHE WILL ARRANGE IT.

PHYLLIS HASN'T SEEN THE BABY WHICH WAS ABANDONED IN WALT'S CAR THE OTHER NIGHT. IT HAS GONE FROM POLICE STATION TO HOSPITAL TO ORPHANAGE. SO HAVE WALT AND PHYLLIS. SHE HAS DECIDED SHE'D LIKE TO SEE IT.

H



MISS CLUCK? WE ARE MR. AND MRS. WALLET. MAY WE SEE THE BABY THAT WAS LEFT IN OUR CAR THE OTHER NIGHT?

OH, THE RUNNING BOARD BABY!



WHY THE RUNNING BOARD BABY? IT WASN'T YOU KNOW.

NOT EXACTLY, BUT IT ISN'T EXACTLY A DOORSTEP BABY YOU SEE.



GOLLY, HE'S A BRIGHT LOOKING LITTLE FELLOW! I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIM THE OTHER NIGHT.

HE'S A DARLING!

YOU'RE BOTH WRONG—IT'S A GIRL!

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WALT AND PHYLLIS HAVE JUST FOUND THE BABY AT THE PARKSIDE ORPHANS HOME. AND THEY HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT IT IS A GIRL!



A GIRL! I JUST TOOK IT FOR GRANTED IT WAS A BOY.

SHE'S SWEET, WALT.



SURE SHE'S SWEET, BUT A GIRL!

AND SHE LOOKS SO HEALTHY.



GOLLY, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HELD ONE THAT SIZE.

SEE HOW SHE LOOKS AT YOU WITH THOSE BIG EYES!



THANK YOU MISS CLUCK. WE WERE JUST SORT OF CURIOUS, THE BABY HAVING BEEN LEFT IN OUR CAR, YOU KNOW



WALT, THAT BABY IS AN AWFULLY SWEET LITTLE THING I HAD NO IDEA!

YES FOR A GIRL BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS A BOY ALL THE TIME.

I WISH WE WERE SITUATED SO WE COULD TAKE THE DEAR LITTLE THING.

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME IT MIGHT BE A GIRL.



YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE A GIRL WOULD YOU, PHYLLIS?

I DIDN'T THINK SO BUT SINCE I'VE SEEN HER—



WEAKENING, EH? I WOULDN'T MIND IT MYSELF BUT WE'RE GETTING OLDER AND THINGS AREN'T THE SAME AS WHEN SKEEZIX WAS LEFT TO US.



IT'S A BIG UNDERTAKING I KNOW BUT OUR CHILDREN ARE GROWING AWAY FROM US

BUT WE'D HAVE TO STAY AT HOME AND GIVE UP WHAT FREEDOM WE HAVE.

I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER, WALT, AND I THINK YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR US TO TAKE THAT BABY GIRL FROM THE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

BUT IT WAS YOU YOURSELF THAT SAID OUR CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP AND AWAY FROM US

YES BUT YOU HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT WE WOULD BE STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN JUST WHEN WE ARE GETTING WHERE WE CAN ENJOY THINGS OUTSIDE OUR OWN HOME.

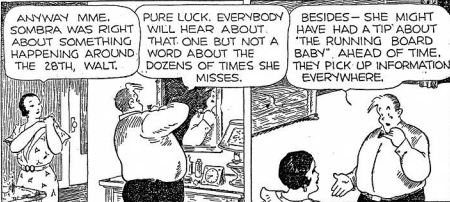
BUT WE'VE NEVER HAD A GIRL AND THE LITTLE THING NEEDS A HOME.

WITH SKEEZIX AWAY AT MILITARY SCHOOL AND CORKY COMING ALONG WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY TAKE ON THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT THE MOTHER MADE SUCH A PLEA IN HER LETTER, AND PUT SUCH TRUST IN US IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A QUITTER.



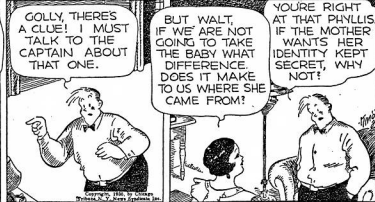
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ANYWAY MME. SOMBRA WAS RIGHT ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING AROUND THE 28TH, WALT.

PURE LUCK. EVERYBODY WILL HEAR ABOUT THAT. ONE BUT NOT A WORD ABOUT THE DOZENS OF TIMES SHE MISSES.

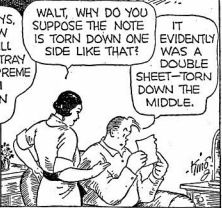
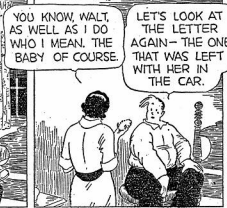
BESIDES—SHE MIGHT HAVE HAD A TIP ABOUT "THE RUNNING BOARD BABY" AHEAD OF TIME. THEY PICK UP INFORMATION EVERYWHERE.



GOLLY, THERE'S A CLUE! I MUST TALK TO THE CAPTAIN ABOUT THAT ONE.

BUT WALT, IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE THE BABY WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO US WHERE SHE CAME FROM?

YOU'RE RIGHT AT THAT PHYLLIS. IF THE MOTHER WANTS HER IDENTITY KEPT SECRET, WHY NOT?



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AND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NOTE LEFT WITH THE BABY IN MY CAR IT SAYS "THE RING KEEP ALWAYS WITH MY BABY".

WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY RING WHY NOT GO OVER TO THE ORPHANAGE AND FIND OUT IF THEY KNOW ABOUT IT!

PHYLLIS, I SUSPECT THIS IS A RUSE TO GET TO SEE THAT BABY AGAIN.

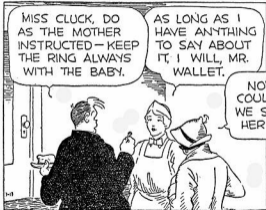
NOT AT ALL. OF COURSE WHILE WE ARE THERE WE CAN SEE HOW SHE'S GETTING ALONG.

THAT IS THE RING, MR. WALLET IT WAS ON A LITTLE RIBBON TIED AROUND THE BABY'S NECK.

IT'S A CAMEO OF A MAN'S HEAD. RATHER UNUSUAL.

IT LOOKS LIKE AN HEIRLOOM OF SOME SORT.







THAT BABY WAS LEFT IN OUR CAR, WALT, AND I WANT TO HAVE HER.

BUT YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND SO, PHYLLIS. IF WE DID GET HER I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAUL HER BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE AGAIN.



SHE'S SUCH A DEAR AND THE ORPHANAGE IS NO PLACE FOR HER. AND IF SOMEONE ELSE TAKES HER IT MIGHT NOT BE THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON AT ALL.

I'M NOT ARGUING AGAINST IT YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT I'D WANT YOU TO BE SURE.



COME ON WALT! LET'S GO TO THE ORPHANAGE RIGHT AWAY AND GET HER.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH I'D LIKE TO HAVE HER. ONLY DON'T EVER SAY I WAS THE ONE THAT CROWDED YOU INTO IT—

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- KING -

MISS CLUCK, WE HAVE COME BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE TO TAKE THE RUNNING BOARD BABY. WE'VE DECIDED WE WANT HER.

YOU CANT TAKE HER LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW, MR. WALLET. YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE TRUSTEES.

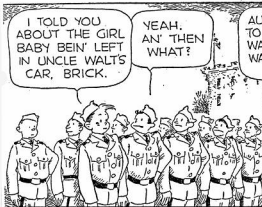
BUT SHE WAS LEFT IN MY CAR. IF SHE HADN'T BEEN, YOU PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE SEEN HER.

I KNOW, BUT THE RULES ARE THAT THE TRUSTEES MUST INVESTIGATE CAREFULLY ANYONE WANTING TO TAKE A CHILD. THEY ARE THE ONES TO DECIDE.

WHY I COULD HAVE KEPT HER WHEN I HAD HER AND THE TRUSTEES WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A WORD TO SAY ABOUT IT!

BUT YOU GAVE HER UP. SHE IS THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY NOW.





I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE GIRL BABY BEIN' LEFT IN UNCLE WALT'S CAR, BRICK.

YEAH. AN' THEN WHAT?



AUNTIE BLOSSOM WANTED TO KEEP IT AN' UNCLE WALT DIDN'T. THEN UNCLE WALT WANTED IT AN' SHE DIDN'T.

COULDN'T THEY GET TOGETHER?



WELL THE POLICE PUT IT IN AN ORPHANAGE AN' NOW NEITHER ONE OF 'EM CAN GET IT.

I KNOW—NOW THEY BOTH WANT IT.

GOING TO TAKE THE BABY FROM THE ORPHANAGE, WALT?

I'D LIKE TO, DOC, AND SO WOULD PHYLLIS—NOW. BUT SHE'S SUBJECT TO A CHANGE OF MIND.

I THINK YOU SHOULD, WALT. I'LL FIX THINGS SO PHYLLIS WILL BE MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO TAKE HER.

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?

DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER NOW, DOC. YOU'RE LIABLE TO SPOIL IT ALL.

I'LL ARRANGE IT AND I WON'T SAY A WORD TO PHYLLIS.

I HAVE COME BEFORE THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARKSIDE ORPHANS HOME BECAUSE WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THE "RUNNING-BOARD BABY."

WE WILL BE GLAD TO CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION, MR. WALLET. YOU WILL KINDLY FILL IN THIS BLANK.

BUT, YOU KNOW, THE BABY WAS LEFT TO OUR CARE ORIGINALLY. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE SEEN HER IF WE HADN'T PERMITTED IT.

THAT IS PROBABLY TRUE. BUT WE MUST CAREFULLY INVESTIGATE EACH APPLICANT.

WE TAKE NO SMALL RESPONSIBILITY, WHEN WE PLACE A BABY IN A HOME.

MOREOVER ANOTHER COUPLE ARE FOND OF THE SAME BABY AND EXPECT TO MAKE APPLICATION TO ADOPT IT.



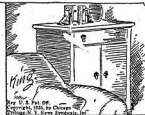
THERE JUST ISN'T ANY JUSTICE. CAN YOU IMAGINE IT, PHYLLIS? HAVING TO SIGN AN APPLICATION, BE INVESTIGATED AND ALL THAT RIGAMAROLE!



WHY THE BABY WAS LEFT RIGHT IN OUR CAR BY THE MOTHER AND WE WERE TRUSTED WITH THE CARE OF IT. I GUESS SHE OUGHT TO HAVE THE SAY OF WHO GETS IT.



THIS OTHER COUPLE THAT WANTS IT—THEY HAVEN'T A RIGHT IN THE WORLD! I'LL GO INTO COURT! WE'VE GOT A CLAIM NO JUDGE OR JURY CAN OVERLOOK.



YOU'RE RIGHT WALT. WE WON'T LET THEM HAVE HER.



King
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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LOOK, WALT, I GOT A BLANK FROM THE PARKSIDE ORPHANS' HOME. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF YOU AND PHYLLIS ARE SUITABLE FOLKS TO ADOPT A BABY FROM THERE.

DO THE BEST YOU CAN, AVERY. WE WANT THAT BABY AND IT'S ALL TANGLED UP IN RED TAPE.

DO YOU DRINK? WHAT IS MY ESTIMATE OF YOUR INCOME?

USE YOUR OWN JUDGMENT. YOU KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT IT AS ANYBODY.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL HABITS?

DO WHAT YOU CAN, AVERY. AND GIVE ME A GOOD BOOST ON WHAT WE'VE DONE FOR SKEEZIX—AND SAY WE'VE HAD 14 YEARS EXPERIENCE.



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KING

SERGEANT YOU REMEMBER THE TIME I MISSED MY KEYS TO THE CAR AND HAD TO BORROW MY WIFE'S. THEN THE BABY WAS LEFT IN MY CAR AND LOCKED IN.

YES. DID YOU EVER SEE THEM AGAIN, MR. WALLET?

CORKY JUST FOUND THEM IN THE FRONT YARD. WHOEVER PARKED THE BABY EVIDENTLY USED MY KEYS AND THREW THEM ONTO THE LAWN.

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER FROM THE WOMAN IN BLACK?

NOT A THING—SINCE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BABY WAS LEFT. YOU DIDN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF MME. SOMBRA?

NOT A THING. WE QUIZZED HER FOR AN HOUR AND SHE SWORE SHE HAD NOTHING BUT 'PSYCHIC INFORMATION' FOR HER PROPHECIES.

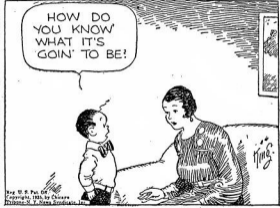


GEE MOMS,
THERE'S NOTHIN'
TO DO. WHEN
IS SKEEZIX
COMIN' HOME?

HE'S AT MILITARY
SCHOOL AND HE
WON'T BE BACK
UNTIL VACATION.

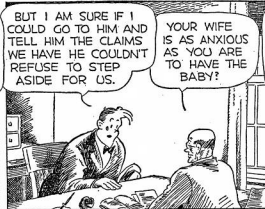


YOU'RE LONESOME
AREN'T YOU, CORKY.
HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HAVE A
LITTLE BABY SISTER?

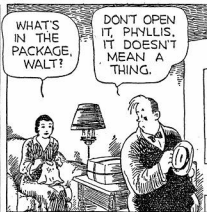


HOW DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S
GOIN' TO BE?

KING



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GET ON YOUR HAT, PHYLLIS! MR. GARDER FROM THE ORPHANAGE SAYS WE CAN HAVE THE BABY!



ISN'T THAT A BREAK, PHYLLIS!

SHE'S PERFECT!

SHE SHOULDN'T GO TO ANYONE WHO DOESN'T THINK SO.



GOLLY, MR. GARDER, I'M TICKLED! I'D SURE LIKE TO THANK THE PERSON THAT GAVE UP THE BABY TO US.

JUST A MOMENT, HE'S HERE.

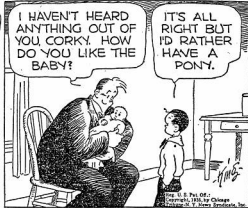
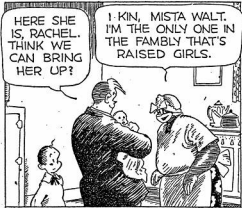


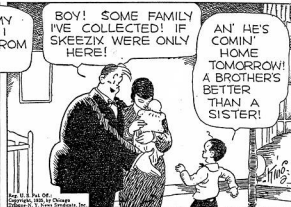
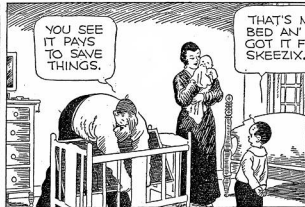
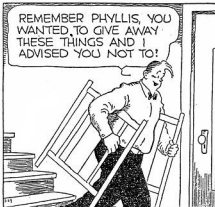
DOC! YOU?

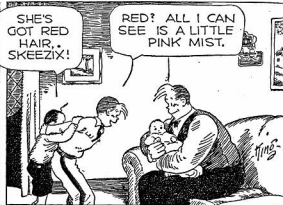


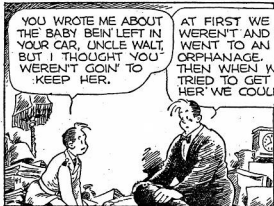
THE VERY SAME.

THE ORPHANS' HOME HAS CONSENTED TO LET THE WALLETS HAVE THE "RUNNING-BOARD BABY." THE OTHER APPLICANT WITHDREW IN WALT'S FAVOR— AND THEN WALT DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS DOC WHO HAD BEEN HIS RIVAL!









YOU WROTE ME ABOUT THE BABY BEIN' LEFT IN YOUR CAR, UNCLE WALT, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOIN' TO KEEP HER.

AT FIRST WE WEREN'T AND SHE WENT TO AN ORPHANAGE. THEN WHEN WE TRIED TO GET HER WE COULDN'T.



WHY NOT?

FIRST WE HAD TO BE INVESTIGATED. THEN WE FOUND SOMEBODY ELSE WANTED HER TOO—WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE DOC AND MRS. DOC.



BUT WE'VE GOT HER NOW AND YOU'VE GOT A REAL LIVE BABY SISTER.

ISN'T IT FUNNY—YOU'VE HAD A DOORSTEP BABY, A RUNNIN' BOARD BABY AN ONLY ONE THAT YOU HAD TO KEEP!

DOC, I'M SORRY IT WAS YOU WE HAD TO TAKE THAT RUNNING BOARD BABY AWAY FROM. FUNNY WE BOTH WANTED HER.

I DIDN'T WANT HER, WALT.

DIDN'T WANT HER? WHY ON EARTH DID YOU MAKE APPLICATION AT THE ORPHANAGE?

OH YOU AND PHYLLIS COULDN'T MAKE UP YOUR MINDS. I JUST THOUGHT I'D HELP YOU OUT.

GOSH, DOC, DON'T EVER TELL PHYLLIS YOU APRIL FOOLED HER INTO IT! SHE'D BACK OUT IN A HURRY.

SAY YOU COULDN'T PULL HER LOOSE FROM THAT BABY NOW WITH A WRECKING CAR CRANE!

-KING-

GEE, AUNTIE BLOSSOM, THE KIDS WANT TO SEE OUR NEW BABY! CAN THEY?

YES, SKEEZIX. HAVE THEM COME IN.

LOOK! SHE'LL TAKE HOLD OF MY FINGER!

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HER, GOOTCH.

NOTHIN' TO GET EXCITED ABOUT. A GIRL BABY ISN'T SO HOT.

SHE'S A DARLING! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH A GIRL BABY?

ALL SHE CAN GROW UP INTO IS A SISTER. I'VE GOT ONE OF THEM AN' I OUGHT TO KNOW.







COMING UP!



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I LIKE TO HOLD HER, UNCLE WALT.

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING CARE OF HER. AS CO-PILOT WILL YOU TAKE HER OVER FOR A FEW MINUTES?

SURE WE'LL GET ALONG KEEN!

I'LL BE BACK IN A JIFFY.

OH BOY! IF THOSE CADETS COULD SEE YOU NOW!

THAT WHAT YOU BEEN LEARNIN' AT MILITARY SCHOOL?

SURE! HE'S IN THE INFANTRY!

King

ALL I'M THINKIN' UNCLE WALT, IS WHEN THE NEXT VACATION IS GOIN' TO BE.

IT WON'T BE LONG. MEANWHILE DO SOME THINKING ABOUT HISTORY AND ALGEBRA.



IF THAT'S A CAKE YOU'VE GOT THERE, SKEEZIX, LET'S SEE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

THERE'S NO USE LETTIN IT DRY UP AN' GET STALE.

I'LL TAKE A CHANCE. RACHEL MADE IT FOR ME TO TAKE TO SCHOOL.

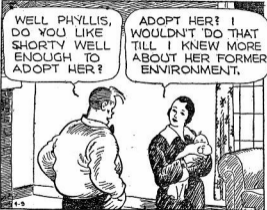


AS I SAID, WALLET, IT WOULDN'T LAST THREE MINUTES IN THAT HUNGRY BUNCH OF WOLVES.

YES WE MIGHT AS WELL GET THE GOOD OUT OF IT— INSTEAD OF THOSE HYENAS.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.





WELL PHYLLIS,
DO YOU LIKE
SHORTY WELL
ENOUGH TO
ADOPT HER?

ADOPT HER? I
WOULDN'T DO THAT
TILL I KNEW MORE
ABOUT HER FORMER
ENVIRONMENT.



WELL, SHE
CERTAINLY
HASN'T HAD
MUCH OF
THAT.

ANYWAY, SHE
HAS SOME HEREDITY
WE DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT.



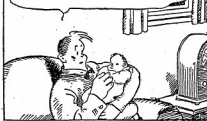
YES AND THAT'S ALL
SHE'S GOT. IF SHE'S
WILLING TO GIVE US
THAT IN TRADE FOR OUR
ENVIRONMENT, IT
OUGHT TO BE
A DEAL.

- KING

ALL WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR HEREDITY, DUMPLIN', IS THAT IT GOES BACK INTO THE DIM PAST AS FAR AS THE BLUEST BLOOD OF ROYALTY.



YOU HAD TWO PARENTS, FOUR GRAND-PARENTS, AND EIGHT GREAT GRAND-PARENTS. THAT'S 14 FOREBEARS IN A MERE HUNDRED YEARS.



AT THE USUAL RATE YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD ABOUT A THOUSAND AND TWENTY SINCE THE MAYFLOWER DOCKED.



SINCE WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR YOU'VE HAD 60 MILLION ANCESTORS. SO I DARE SAY YOU'RE A GOOD SAMPLE OF THE HUMAN RACE IF THERE EVER WAS ONE. WE'LL KEEP YOU.





ADA, ALICE, ANNABELLE
ANNE, ARABELLA, BERNICE,
BERTHA, CAROLINE —



PHYLLIS,
HOW DO YOU
LIKE SALLY
FOR A NAME?

I THINK
SARAH WOULD
BE BETTER,
WALT.

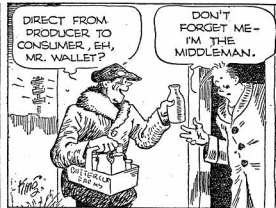


A THOUSAND
TIMES NO ON SARAH,
SAYS SHE!



I KNOW—
CALL HER
SIREN!



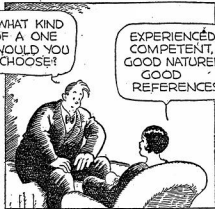




NO, WALT. I CAN'T GO OVER TO THE WIMPLES. I'VE GOT TO STAY WITH BABY.

I CAN SEE VERY PLAINLY WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE A NURSE.

WHAT KIND OF A ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



EXPERIENCED, COMPETENT, GOOD NATURED, GOOD REFERENCES.



AD TAKER, PLEASE.



THERE; IT IS ALL DONE, PHYLLIS! YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PICK IN THE MORNING.

BUT I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE A BABY AND A NURSE TOO ON MY HANDS NOW.





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PHYLLIS, HERE'S MISS DUFF WHO I THOUGHT WOULD MAKE A FINE NURSE FOR BABY.

STEP IN, HERE, MISS DUFF.

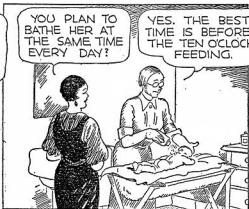


IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG, DID YOU HIRE HER?

NO I DIDN'T HIRE HER! SHE WOULDN'T DO AT ALL, WALT. BUT YOU WERE SO INSISTENT I HELD OFF FOR A WHILE.



HOWEVER HERE IS MISS RICKETT WHO I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE.





YOU'RE RACHEL
AREN'T YOU? WELL,
HERE IS SOME
OF THE BABY'S
WASHING.

WHY ME?
YOU IS
THE BABY'S
CHAMBA'MAID
AIN'T YOU?



WELL THERE
WAS CERTAINLY
NO WASHING
MENTIONED IN
MY CONTRACT.

AN' I AIN'T
HAD NO
ORDERS TO
TAKE NO
ORDERS FROM
NOBODY.

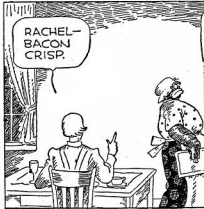


SO YOU
REFUSE
TO DO
IT?

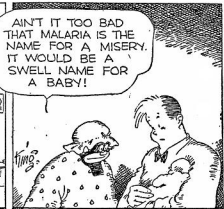
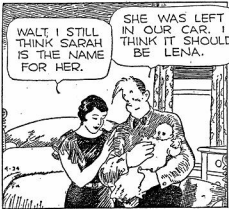
I'LL DO
ANYTHING
MIS' WALLET
TELLS ME—



BUT I AIN'T
GOIN' TO RECIEVE
NO INSTRUCTIONS
FROM NO GATE
CRASHER!







RACHEL, I'M TAKING CARE OF THAT BABY. YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER.

SAY, I BEEN AROUND HERE MORE YEARS THAN YOU HAS DAYS. I GUESS I CAN TOUCH ANYTHING I WANTS TO.

I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE HER PAWED OVER BY EVERY TOM, DICK AND HARRY.

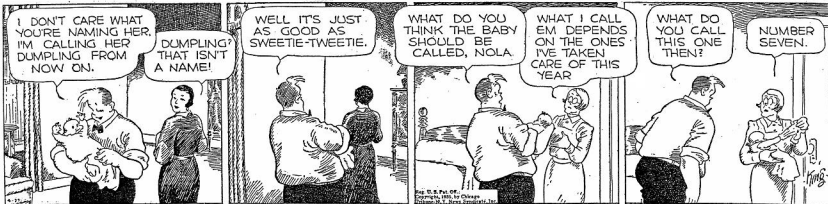
WHO'S A TOM DICK AN' HARRY!

MRS. WALLET MADE ME RESPONSIBLE AND WHEN I SAY DON'T, I MEAN DON'T.

ALL RIGHT, IF SHE MADE YOU IRRESPONSIBLE MAYBE YOU CAN SAY WHAT I DONT DO. BUT YOU AIN'T GOT NO SAY WHAT I DOES DO.



King, W. S. Pac. Ill.
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I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'RE NAMING HER. I'M CALLING HER DUMPLING FROM NOW ON.

DUMPLING? THAT ISN'T A NAME!

WELL IT'S JUST AS GOOD AS SWEETIE-TWEETIE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BABY SHOULD BE CALLED, NOLA.

WHAT I CALL EM DEPENDS ON THE ONES I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THIS YEAR

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS ONE THEN?

NUMBER SEVEN.

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KING

HERE, RACHEL, TAKE THE BABY. I THINK THAT PHONE CALL IS MINE.

WHO, ME?

SHE WON'T LET ME TOUCH YOU, HONEY, CEPT WHEN SHE WANTS TO SHOVE YOU OFF ONTO SOMEBODY.

I AIN'T POISON YOU KNOW. AN I HAS BRUNG UP MORE BABIES THAN YOU HAS EVER CHANGED.

WELL YOU CAN REST ON YOUR RECORD BECAUSE YOU AREN'T GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS ONE.

HERE ARE SOME NAMES
IN THE NEWS TODAY, PHYLLIS—
BARBARA, RUTH, JANE, IVA,
GRAYCE, NANCY, VIRGINIA—

POPS - PAL
HAS GOT A
LETTER FOR
YOU!



PLEASE NAME THE BABY
JUDITH— SIGNED "J": BY
GOLLY, THAT HANDWRITING
LOOKS FAMILIAR!

AND
LOOK—
THERE'S
A SEAL!



PHYLLIS! DIG OUT THE
NOTE THAT WAS LEFT WITH
THE BABY—THE ONE SIGNED
ANGUISHED MOTHER.

I BELIEVE
THAT'S IT,
WALT!



YES SIR, THE HANDWRITING IN THE NOTE WE GOT YESTERDAY AND IN THE ONE LEFT WITH THE BABY ARE IDENTICAL.

"PLEASE NAME THE BABY JUDITH!"

AND THIS SEALING WAX SEAL, PHYLLIS! THAT'S THE SAME DESIGN THAT IS ON THE CAMEO RING.

I'LL GET THE RING AND SEE.

THE MOTHER MUST HAVE AN INTAGLIO SEAL OR RING WHICH WILL LEAVE AN IMPRESSION IN WAX JUST LIKE THAT RING.

WHAT'S AN INTAGLIO?

AN INTAGLIO IS CUT INTO A STONE—JUST THE REVERSE OF A CAMEO, WHICH IS LEFT IN RELIEF.

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HERE IS THE RING WHICH WAS TIED AROUND THE BABY'S NECK—AND THIS IS THE SEAL ON THE LETTER.



IT IS EVIDENTLY FROM THE BABY'S MOTHER. IF SHE WANTS HER TO BE NAMED JUDITH IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.

IT'S A GOOD NAME AND JUDY IS A GOOD NICKNAME.



THE NOTE IS POSTMARKED CHATTANOOGA.

SHE SEEMED TO KNOW THE BABY HADN'T BEEN NAMED.

I WONDER HOW SHE KNEW.

AND I WONDER IF SHE IS GOING TO TRY TO HANDLE THINGS BY REMOTE CONTROL.



WELL, WE'RE GOING TO LET YOUR MOTHER HAVE HER WAY.



YOU ARE JUDITH, OFFICIALLY SPEAKING, JUDITH.



YOU ARE JUST JUDY TO ME HOWEVER, JUDY.



BUT YOUR MOTHER BETTER NOT GET INTO THE HABIT OF SENDING DIRECTIONS.



AS LONG AS WE FURNISH YOUR GRUB YOU'LL TAKE YOUR ORDERS FROM US.



WASHIN' WASHIN'
WASHIN'! IF IT AIN'T
BOTTLES IT'S POTS
AN' IT'S PANS OR
IT'S DIPERS.

WHEN I WAS TAKIN'
CARE OF BABIES NOBODY
WAS MORE ECONOMICAL
OF DISHES THAN I WAS.

MORE?

YES. ANY
OBJECTION?

FROM THE DISHES
AN' CLO'ES I HAS TO
CLEAN YOU'D THINK
THAT BABY WAS
QUINTUPLETS

THERE ARE SOME MORE BABY THINGS FOR WASHING, RACHEL.

I AIN'T BLIND.

BABY THINGS? SHE'S GOT ALL HER OWN UNDERNIFTIES AN' MENTIONABLES WRAPPED IN THE MIDDLE.

THAT'S THE LAST STRAW. I DON'T HAVE TO STAND IT NO MORE. I'M GOIN' PLACES.

SORRY, MIS' WALLET BUT I IS LEAVIN'.

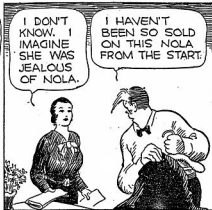
LEAVING, RACHEL! YOU CAN'T MEAN IT. WHY?

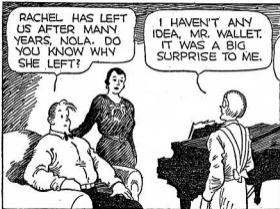
THIS HOUSE AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR ME AN THAT NOLA WOMAN.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TWO WERE HAVING DIFFICULTIES.

WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?

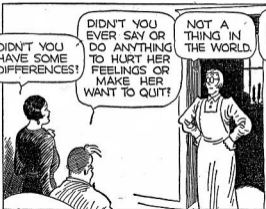
THERE AIN'T NONE YET, BUT I'M LEAVIN' JUST BEFORE I STARTS SOME.





RACHEL HAS LEFT US AFTER MANY YEARS, NOLA. DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE LEFT?

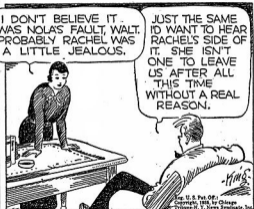
I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA, MR. WALLET. IT WAS A BIG SURPRISE TO ME.



DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOME DIFFERENCES?

DIDN'T YOU EVER SAY OR DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER FEELINGS OR MAKE HER WANT TO QUIT?

NOT A THING IN THE WORLD.



I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WAS NOLA'S FAULT, WALT. PROBABLY RACHEL WAS A LITTLE JEALOUS.

JUST THE SAME I'D WANT TO HEAR RACHEL'S SIDE OF IT. SHE ISN'T ONE TO LEAVE US AFTER ALL THIS TIME WITHOUT A REAL REASON.

NOW THAT RACHEL HAS LEFT US, NOLA, I HOPE YOU WILL DO ALL YOU CAN TO HELP.

I SURE WILL, MRS. WALLET.

CAN YOU COOK?

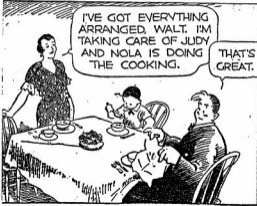
ME? YES'M, BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL COOK AND TAKE CARE OF JUDY.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE CARE OF JUDY. I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT BEAUTIFULLY.

SO THEY HIRE ME FOR A NURSE AND THINK THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE A COOK OUT OF ME? I WARN 'EM IT'S NOT GOING TO LAST.



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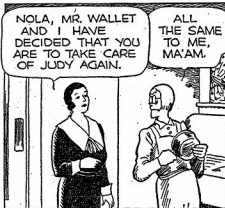


ALL RIGHT—THEY ASKED FOR MY COOKING, AND THEY'RE GOING TO GET IT.



PHYLLIS, AS A COOK NOLA IS TERRIBLE. I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO DO THE COOKING YOURSELF, AND LET HER TAKE CARE OF THE BABY.

IT IS PRETTY BAD, WALT.



NOLA, MR. WALLET AND I HAVE DECIDED THAT YOU ARE TO TAKE CARE OF JUDY AGAIN.

ALL THE SAME TO ME, MA'AM.



IS THAT RICH! SHE'S GOING TO DO THE COOKING BECAUSE THEY CAN'T STAND MINE.



RACHEL GONE AND THE NURSE CAN'T COOK. WELL I USED TO DO IT.



RACHEL HAS DONE IT FOR SO MANY YEARS IM REALLY OUT OF PRACTICE, WALT.



A PERSON HAS TO KEEP HER HAND IN. YOU JUST LOSE THE KNACK IF YOU STOP FOR A WHILE.



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, PHYLLIS.



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I'M SORRY I SAID
WHAT I DID ABOUT
YOUR COOKING,
PHYLLIS, IF I HURT
YOUR FEELINGS.

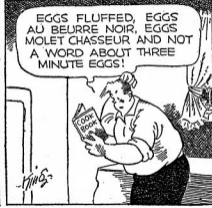
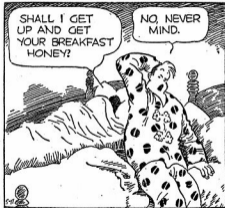
THAT'S
ALL RIGHT,
WALT. I DON'T
BLAME YOU.

I HAVEN'T BEEN
DOING IT AND IT
WAS PRETTY BAD.
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO TAKE ANYTHING
BACK.

OH I WASN'T
TAKING ANYTHING
BACK— I JUST
REMARKED I
WAS SORRY I
SAID IT.

WELL YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU CAN DO
IF YOU DON'T LIKE
IT— DO IT
YOURSELF!

NOW IF
THAT ISN'T
'PRECISELY
LIKE A
WOMAN!



I WONDER IF I SHOULD BOIL 'EM THREE MINUTES EACH?

MR. WALLET!

IS MY BREAKFAST READY YET OR SHALL I FEED THE BABY?

YOUR BREAKFAST?

SAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? IF YOU EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR YOU YOU CAN GO JUMP IN THE LAKE

NO— THAT'S TOO MILD. YOU CAN EAT SOME OF YOUR OWN COOKING!



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HERE'S SOME MORE OF BABY'S WASHING, MRS. WALLET.

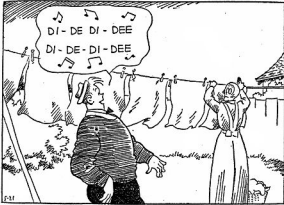
WELL, GO AHEAD AND WASH IT!

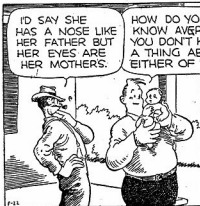
WALT, I'M GETTING MADDER AND MADDER. I'M GOING OUT AND FIRE NOLA THIS MINUTE,

NOT SO FAST, PHYLLIS. WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M DOING THE COOKING SO SHE THINKS I'M GOING TO DO THE WASHING TOO, DOES SHE?

COUNT TEN A FEW TIMES WHILE I THINK. WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO GET RACHEL BACK BEFORE WE LET NOLA GO.





I'D SAY SHE HAS A NOSE LIKE HER FATHER BUT HER EYES ARE HER MOTHER'S.

HOW DO YOU KNOW AVERY? YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT EITHER OF 'EM.



I'M JUST TRYING TO RECONSTRUCT THEM FROM WHAT I SEE HERE.

WHO DO YOU THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE DOC?

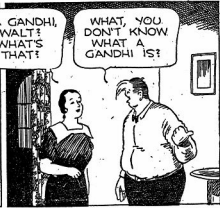
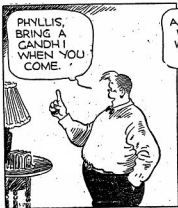


WAIT A MINUTE—DON'T TELL ME!

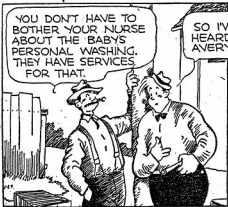


I'VE GOT IT—GANDHI!

For 10¢ per copy, complete with Chicago Tribune, 7, West Loop, Ill.



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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER YOUR NURSE ABOUT THE BABY'S PERSONAL WASHING. THEY HAVE SERVICES FOR THAT.

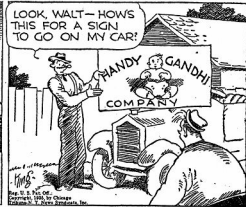
SO I'VE HEARD, AVERY.



SURE. FRESH SUPPLY DELIVERED EVERY MORNING. AND SAY, ALL IT WOULD TAKE TO GO INTO THAT BUSINESS WOULD BE A FEW WASHTUBS.

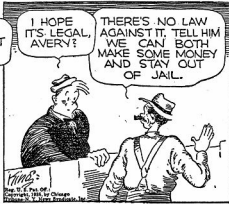
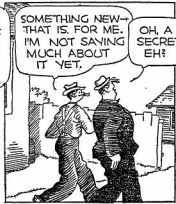


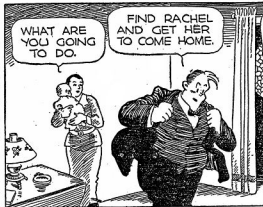
A FELLOW COULD HIRE SOME WOMEN TO DO THE WASHING. NO OVERHEAD. YOU KNOW THAT'S A THOUGHT!

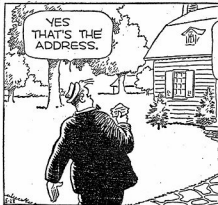


LOOK, WALT—HOW'S THIS FOR A SIGN TO GO ON MY CAR?

King
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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YES THAT'S THE ADDRESS.



DOES MANDY WORK HERE?

KITCHEN HELP'S COMPANY GOES TO THE KITCHEN ENTRANCE.



MANDY, I'M LOOKING FOR RACHEL. DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?

I AIN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW, MISTA WALT.



I WANT TO FIND OUT IF SHE ISN'T READY TO COME BACK TO US.

HER SISTA LUCY LIVES UP IN THE NEX' BLOCK. MAYBE HER LIPS AIN'T SEALED LIKE MINE IS.





MISTA WALT! HOW YOU EVA FIND ME?

YOU CAN'T HIDE OUT ON US, RACHEL.



WE'RE GOING TO FIRE MISS NOLA. WOULDNT YOU LIKE TO COME BACK HOME?

I'M STAYIN' HERE WITH A FRIEND OF MINE. GETTIN' ALONG SWELL. BUT OF COURSE IF YOUR HOUSE AINT HAUNTED NO MORE —



AN' NO USE MY COMIN' BACK IF I DONT GIT TO TAKE CARE OF JUDY.

THAT'S PART OF IT. YOU TALK TO MRS. WALLET.



AN COMP'NY ON THE BACK PORCH NIGHTS.



OF COURSE YOU UNDERSTAND, RACHEL, THAT CLEANLINESS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

YES'M, MIS WALLET.

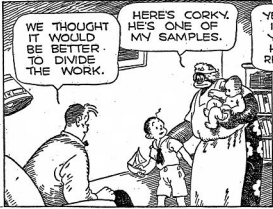
THAT NOT ONLY THE BOTTLES BUT THE FUNNEL AND STIRRING SPOONS AND ALL MUST BE COMPLETELY STERILIZED.

YES'M. YOU-ALL HAS GOT ME AS SUPERSTITIOUS ABOUT GERMS AS I EVA BEEN ABOUT GHOSTS AN' LUCKY CHARMS.



RACHEL, I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU WHEN WE TOOK ON NOLA AS NURSE FOR JUDY.

NO SAH, MISTA WALT.



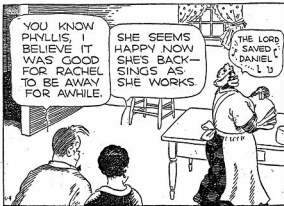
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DIVIDE THE WORK.

HERE'S CORKY, HE'S ONE OF MY SAMPLES.



YES AND SKEEZIX IS ANOTHER. YOU COULDN'T HAVE BETTER RECOMMENDATIONS.

AN' MISTA WALT, IF YOU GOIN' TO SPLIT THE WORK AGAIN I LIKE TO SUJGEST SOMEBODY—AN' IT AINT MISS NOLA.



COME TO THINK OF IT, PHYLLIS, RACHEL DID ASK FOR BACK PORCH COMPANY PRIVILEGES. MAYBE SHE HAS A BEAU.

IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME.

AND SHE SAID A WHILE AGO SHE WAS GOING OUT ON THE BACK PORCH.

WHY DON'T YOU CASUALLY WANDER PAST—OUT TO THE GARAGE?





SO SKEEZIX
COMIN' HOME NEXT
WEEK. THAT'S SWELL!
HE'S ANOETHA ONE
'O MY CHILLUN.

YES BUT
WHAT ABOUT
THIS NEW
BEAU YOU
HAVE
RACHEL?

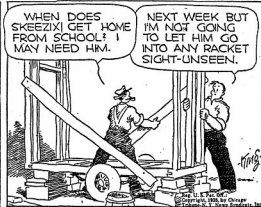
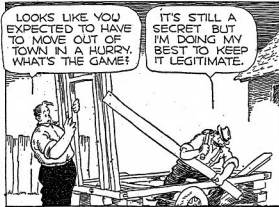
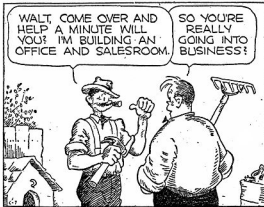


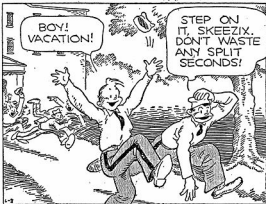
HIM! HIS WIVES
GOES TOO FAST. HE
BURIES 'EM ALL.
THREE OF 'EM DONE
GONE ALONG ALREADY.

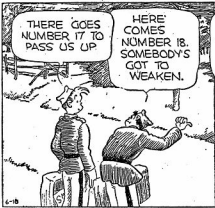
THAT
DOESNT SOUND
ENCOURAGING.



I AFRAID HE'S TIGHT. NEX'
WEEK I GOIN' FIX-UP A
STORY ABOUT HOW I GOT
TO HAVE SOME MONEY. IF HE
HESITATES, I CAN'T USE HIM.





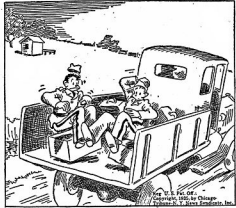


THERE GOES NUMBER 17 TO PASS US UP.

HERE COMES NUMBER 18. SOMEBODY'S GOT TO WEAKEN.



HOP IN KIDS. SEE IF YOU CAN HOLD DOWN THEM BOXES.



Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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NICE LITTLE LIFT. LET'S SIT DOWN AN' WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE.

SIT DOWN AFTER THAT? NOTHIN' DOIN'! LET'S HIKE.

OUR
LUCK IS
TERRIBLE.

ALL RIGHT, DO
LIKE I SAID—
PUT ON OUR
FULL DRESS
HATS.

THIS'LL STOP
'EM IF
ANYTHING WILL.

OH-OH! SISTER ACT,
EH? SORRY GALS, BUT
I'M ALL FILLED UP.

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
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TRUST CO. OF N. Y. STATE

WAKE UP, BRICK. TIME TO GET GOIN'.

GEE MISTER, DON'T HAVE US ARRESTED! WE'RE HITCH-HIKIN' HOME AN' WE SLEPT IN YOUR HAY MOW LAST NIGHT.

YOU GET THE HAY SEED OUT OF YOUR HAIR AND WE'LL SEE WHAT WE'LL DO WITH YOU.

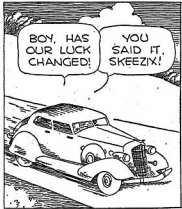
GOLLY, MR. HENRY, WE DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

THAT'S OKAY, BUT DON'T YOU CHALK ANY SIGN ON MY GATE MEANING "GOOD BREAKFAST!"



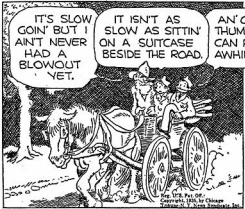
HOW'S TRAVELIN', BOYS?

IT WAS PRETTY TOUGH TILL YOU HOVE IN SIGHT, MISTER.



BOY, HAS OUR LUCK CHANGED!

YOU SAID IT, SKEEZIX!



IT'S SLOW GOIN' BUT I AINT NEVER HAD A BLOWOUT YET.

IT ISN'T AS SLOW AS SITTIN' ON A SUITCASE BESIDE THE ROAD.

AN' OUR THUMBS CAN REST AWHILE.



HOW YOU SITTIN' SKEEZIX?

PRETTY UNLESS WE COME TO A RAILROAD UNDERPASS

SO LONG, BRICK. I'M WIRIN' UNCLE WALT WHEN I'LL BE IN.

SWELL TRIP. KEEP AWAY FROM GALS AN' EARTHQUAKES TILL I SEE YOU AGAIN.

SKEEZIX WIRES HE'LL BE HOME ON THE 2:15 TRAIN. IT'S FROM HODVILLE, 19 MILES AWAY!

YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY, WALT. IT'S ALMOST THAT NOW!

SKEEZIX IT'S GRAND TO SEE YOU BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US KNOW BEFORE WHAT TRAIN YOU'D BE IN ON?

OUR SCHEDULE GOT ALL MIXED UP, UNCLE WALT. I DID AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT MYSELF.

HASN'T JUDY GROWN, SKEEZIX?

SURE. SHE'LL BE COVERING THE BLOCK IN NO TIME.

YOUR AUNTIE BLOSSOM FIXED SOME NEW CURTAINS FOR YOUR BEDROOM.

SWELL UNCLE WALT, I'VE JUST OKAYED 'EM.

UNCLE AVERY HAS BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU. HE WANTS TO TALK BUSINESS.

UNCLE AVERY?

WHAT'S THE THUMB SIGN - SOMETHING YOU PICKED UP AT SCHOOL?

NO SOMETHING I PICKED UP ON THE WAY HOME.



UNCLE AVERY
WANTS TO TAKE
ME INTO
BUSINESS WITH
HIM, UNCLE
WALT.

YES, HE'S
SPOKEN TO
ME ABOUT
IT.



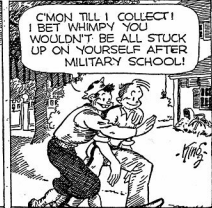
BUT HE HASN'T
TOLD ME JUST WHAT
THE BUSINESS IS.
WHAT IS IT? DO
YOU KNOW!

OH THAT'S A
SECRET! HE
TOLD ME NOT
TO SPILL IT
TO ANYBODY.



BUT YOU'D TELL
ME WOULDN'T YOU,
SKEEZIX? YOU
KNOW I WOULDN'T
BREATHE IT TO
A SOUL

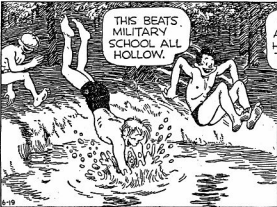
I'M SORRY BUT
THAT'S ONE THING
I LEARNED IN
MILITARY SCHOOL:
NEVER PEACH
ON A PAL.



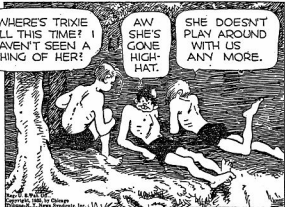
6-18

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KING



THIS BEATS MILITARY SCHOOL ALL HOLLOW.



WHERE'S TRIXIE ALL THIS TIME? I HAVEN'T SEEN A THING OF HER?

AW SHE'S GONE HIGH-HAT.

SHE DOESN'T PLAY AROUND WITH US ANY MORE.

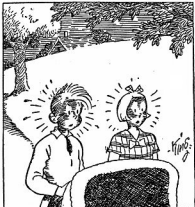
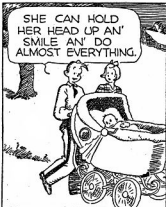


THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HER.

SHE PLAYS OFF SHY, AN' BLUSHES AN' EVERYTHING.

SURE SHE'S TRYIN' TO MAKE OUT SHE'S A LADY!





WHAT DO YOU MAKE AVERY'S PAIN ERADICATOR OUT OF, UNCLE AVERY?

THAT'S A CAREFULLY GUARDED SECRET, SKEEZIX.

IF YOU STAY IN THE BUSINESS AND HELP MAKE IT GROW AND PROSPER I MAY TELL YOU SOMETIME.

IF IT SUCCEEDS, AS I FULLY EXPECT IT TO I'LL GROW WEALTHY AND RETIRE. THEN THERE MUST BE SOMEONE TO CARRY ON. IF YOU ARE ENERGETIC AND INDUSTRIOUS YOU MAY BE THE ONE. I'LL TELL YOU THEN.



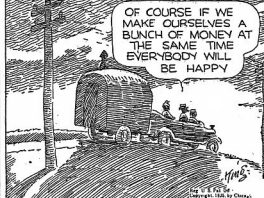
IT'S KEEN OF YOU TO TAKE ME ALONG, UNCLE AVERY!

REMEMBER SKEEZIX, WE ARE ON A MISSION OF MERCY TO THE WHOLE WORLD.



SWELL! THAT'S A LOT OF TERRITORY.

YES SIR, WE'RE GOING TO BANISH PAIN AND SUFFERING WITH AVERY'S SURE SHOT PAIN ERADICATOR.



OF COURSE IF WE MAKE OURSELVES A BUNCH OF MONEY AT THE SAME TIME EVERYBODY WILL BE HAPPY

KING

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I HOPE WE DID
THE RIGHT THING—
LETTING SKEEZIX
GO WITH AVERY
AND EMILY.

AVERY IS A GOOD
SCOUT. IT WILL
BE FINE FOR
ALL OF THEM.

AVERY IS
SO NARROW—
AND TIGHT.

WELL IT WON'T HURT
SKEEZIX ANY TO LEARN
SOMETHING ABOUT
HANGING ONTO MONEY—

I ONLY
HOPE IT'S
CATCHING.

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SO YOU
AIN'T GOIN'
TAKE IT,
HEY?



WE SEE
ABOUT
THAT!



OF
ALL THE
SPUNK!



COME ON NOW—
YOU CAN'T WEAR
ME OUT.



GO AHEAD—
EVERY TIME
YOU SQUAWK
I SQUIRT!



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COME ALONG, GIRL FRIEND. WE SEE WHAT YOU TIP THE SCALES AT TODAY.



BOY! YOU HAS LOST TWO OUNCES.



NO SIR, I CANT MAKE IT COME RIGHT AN' YOU LOST A OUNCE YESTADY TOO



THERE THERE, JUDY! 'TAIN'T NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT.



JUDY'S BEEN LOSIN' WEIGHT, MIS' WALLET, AN' SHE WON'T EAT. NOW SHE'S RUNNIN' A TEMPACHURE.

SHE'S BEEN RESTLESS AND HAS CRIED A LOT. I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HER, RACHEL.

WALT, JUDY IS SICK. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY.

I'LL GET DOC.

CERTAINLY I'LL COME RIGHT OVER, WALT. DO YOU MIND IF I ANSWER MY PHONE FIRST?

YOU DON'T NEED TO, DOC. THAT'S PHYLLIS TRYING TO HURRY US ALONG.

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IT ISN'T SERIOUS, PHYLLIS. A CHANGE OF FORMULA AND I AM SURE JUDY WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

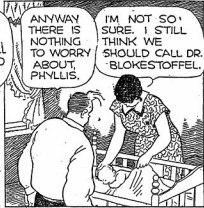
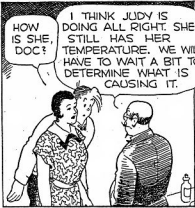
THAT'S GREAT, DOC!

WALT, I'M NOT SATISFIED. I THINK WE OUGHT TO CALL IN DR. BLOKESTUFFEL.

WHAT FOR? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH OUR DOC? HE'S BEEN ALL RIGHT BEFORE.

I KNOW BUT DR. BLOKESTUFFEL IS A FINE BABY SPECIALIST.

SAY, DOC WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR SKEEZIX—AND LOOK WHAT HE DID FOR CORKY. WE CAN'T TOSS HIM OVER NOW.



ALL RIGHT, CALL HIM IF YOU'VE GOT TO PHYLLIS, BUT I'LL STICK TO WHAT DOC SAYS.

I AM DR. BLOKESTOFFEL.

OH YES, I WAS EXPECTING YOU!

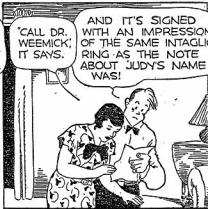
WHAT IS CAUSING THE TEMPERATURE MAY BE A DIGESTIVE DISTURBANCE OR POSSIBLY A MINOR INFECTION. 24 HOURS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TELL.

MEANWHILE, MRS. WALLET, THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY. I WILL CALL TOMORROW MORNING.



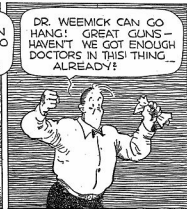
SPECIAL DELIVERY

DR. BLOKESTOFFEL IS VERY ATTRACTIVE, WALT, AND HE HAS AN AIR OF KNOWING WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT.



'CALL DR. WEEMICK,' IT SAYS.

AND IT'S SIGNED WITH AN IMPRESSION OF THE SAME INTAGLIO RING AS THE NOTE ABOUT JUDY'S NAME WAS!



DR. WEEMICK CAN GO HANG! GREAT GUNS—HAVEN'T WE GOT ENOUGH DOCTORS IN THIS THING—ALREADY?



HOW DID THEY KNOW JUDY WAS SICK? AND THEY WANT TO BUTT IN ON IT! I'M TIRED OF THIS REMOTE CONTROL THING ANYWAY!

GASOLINE ALLEY—A CLINIC?

DON'T BE SORE, DOC BUT PHYLLIS GOT A BIT NERVOUS AND HAS CALLED DR. BLOKESTOFFEL IN TO SEE JUDY.

NOT A BIT, WALT. YOU PEOPLE CAN CALL WHOM YOU CHOOSE.

I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT HER TOO, DOC. WHATEVER PHYLLIS DOES YOU'RE MY PHYSICIAN—SEE:

NONSENSE. WE CAN'T BOTH PRESCRIBE FOR JUDY.

NO USE OF MY HANGING AROUND.

LISTEN DOC— IF YOU— JUST A MINUTE— SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR.

AND WHO ARE YOU?

I AM DR. WEEMICK.

DR. WEEMICK,
YOU SAY?
WE DIDN'T
CALL YOU.

I COME IN
RESPONSE TO A
NOTE. IT WAS
SIGNED BY ONLY
A SEALING WAX
IMPRESSION OF
A HEAD.

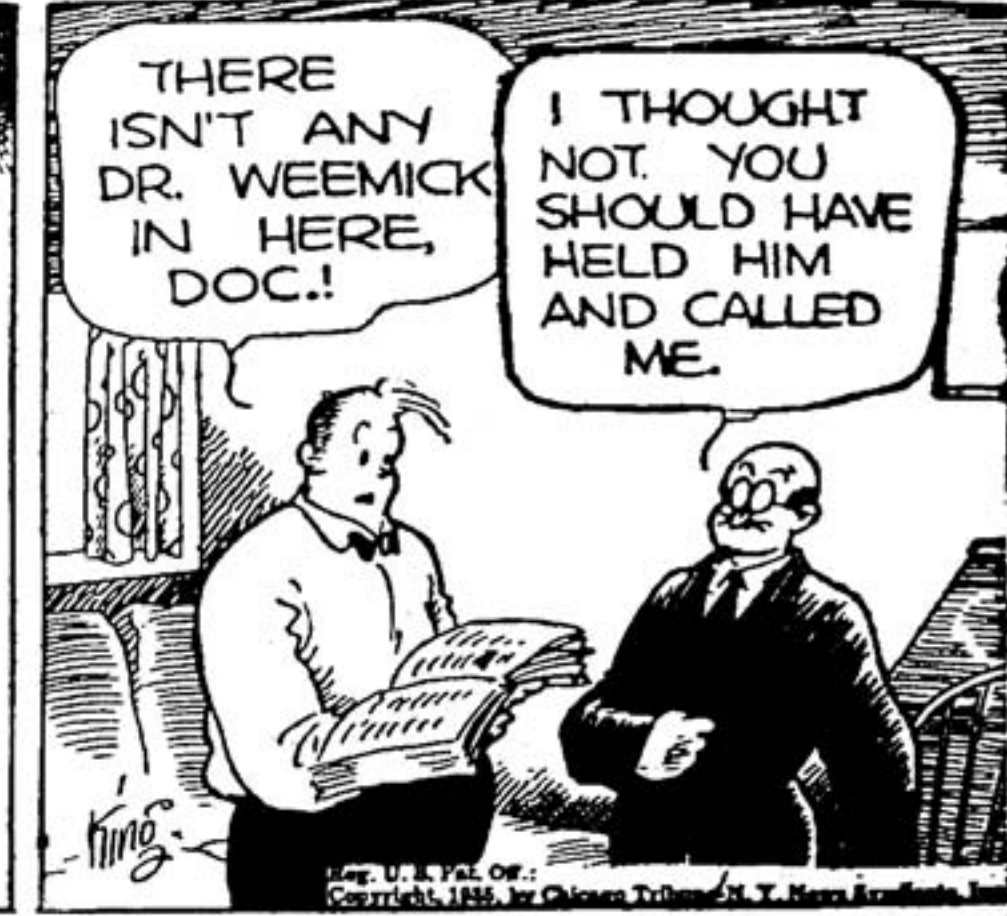
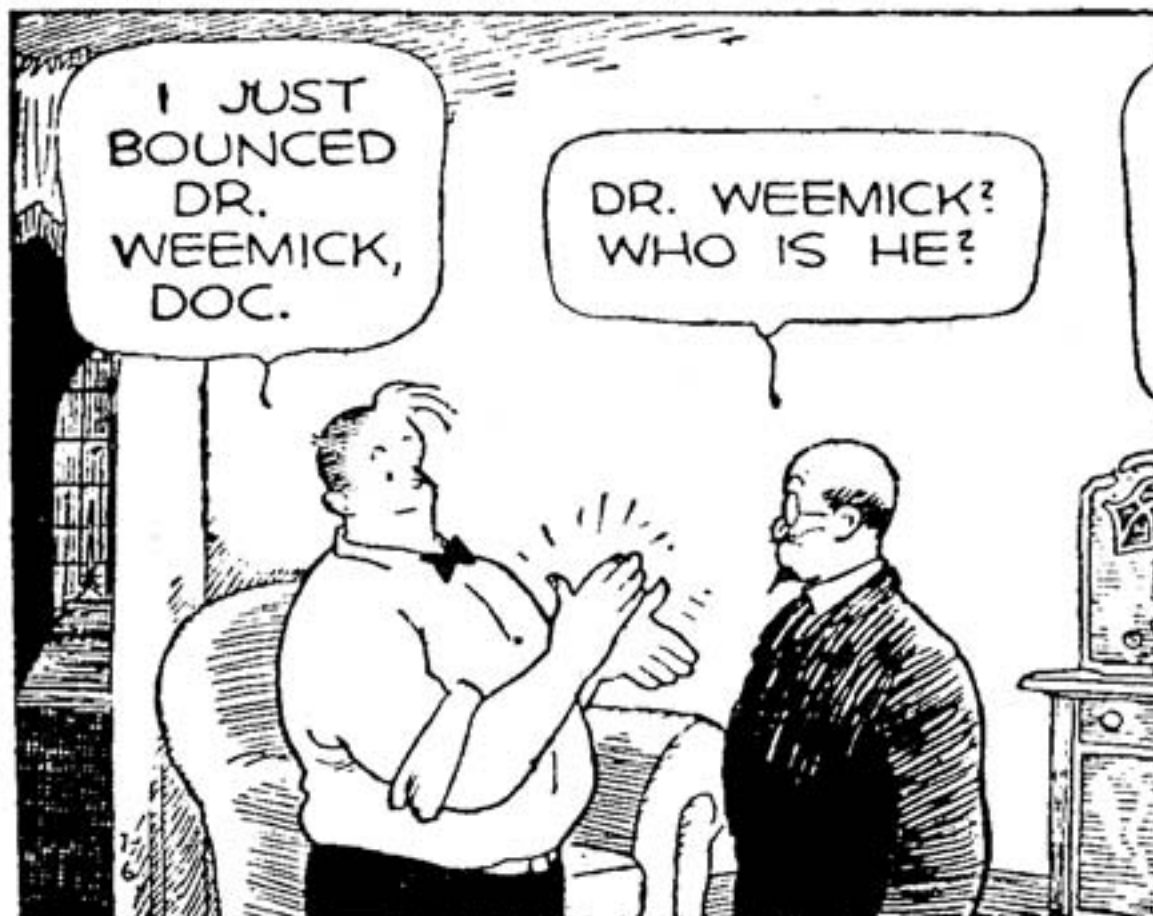
WE'VE GOT TOO
MANY DOCTORS
ALREADY. BESIDES
I'M NOT PAYING
ANY FEES TO
STRANGE M.D.'S

BUT
I DON'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
PAY ME
'A FEE.

OH, SO YOU EXPECT
SOMEONE ELSE TO!
YOU MUST KNOW
SOMETHING ABOUT
WHERE THIS CHILD CAME
FROM. WHO WAS IT?

I REALLY
CAN'T SAY.

YOU MEAN YOU
WON'T! DON'T COME
AROUND HERE ANY
MORE UNTIL YOU'LL
TALK.



IS JUDY ANY BETTER, DR. BLOKESTOFFEL?

SHE IS, MRS. WALLET. SHE'S GREATLY IMPROVED THIS MORNING.

WALT! DR. BLOKESTOFFEL SAYS JUDY IS WORLDS BETTER.

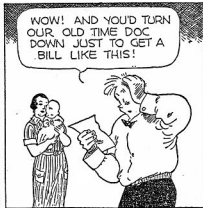
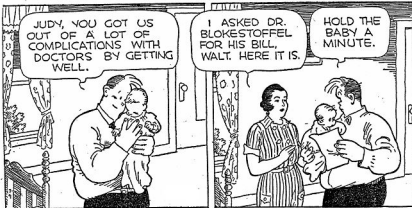
I HAVEN'T ANY CONFIDENCE IN WHAT HE SAYS. I'M GOING TO GET DOC.

DOC, I WANT YOU TO COME AND SEE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT JUDY.

NO WALT, IT WOULD BE UNETHICAL FOR ME TO ENTER THE CASE NOW. SHE'S DR. BLOKESTOFFEL'S PATIENT.

JUDY, IT DON'T TAKE NO HIGH PRICE MEDICATION FOR ME TO TELL YOU IS JES ABOUT WELL AGAIN.

King
CICCO





THERE'S A LEAK SOMEWHERE. JUDY'S MOTHER OR WHOEVER IT IS, SEEMS TO KNOW ALL ABOUT HER.

SHE KNEW IT JUST AS SOON AS JUDY WAS SICK.



YES, AND BEGAN TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS.



RACHEL, DID YOU TELL ANYBODY ABOUT JUDY BEING SICK?

NO-SAH, NOT TO NOBODY. COURSE I HINTED A LITTLE ABOUT IT TO MY SISTA.



AN THE PREACHA AST HOW WE WAS GETTIN' ON AN' I JES' SLIGHTLY MENTIONED IT TO HIM.



PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FINDING OUT WHAT GOES ON AROUND HERE, CORKY. I HOPE YOU DONT TELL ABOUT US OR JUDY OR ANYBODY.

NO POPS.



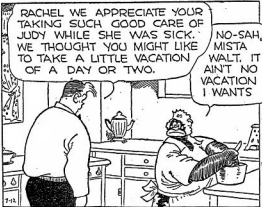
THAT'S RIGHT. HEREAFTER WE HAVE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL WHAT WE TELL FOLKS.



HELLO, CORKY. HOW IS YOUR LITTLE BABY SISTER?



NONE O' YOUR BUSINESS!





THAT'S JUST WHAT RACHEL SAID, PHYLLIS—SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED.

IT JUST WOULDN'T WORK OUT, WALT. I'LL TALK TO HER.



MR. WALLET MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD YOU, RACHEL, ABOUT YOUR GETTING MARRIED.

NOME. I BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT IT.



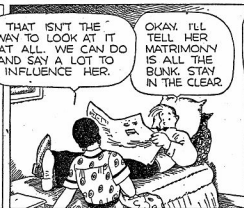
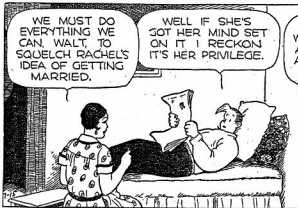
YOU KNOW THAT IS A SERIOUS STEP. I HOPE YOU WON'T RUSH INTO IT WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

AIN'T NO NO-COUNT MAN GOIN' HURRY ME.

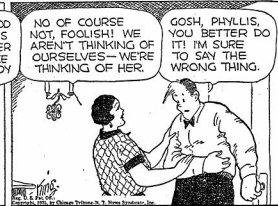


YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE A GOOD HOME LIKE YOU HAVE HERE UNLESS YOUR HUSBAND COULD PROVIDE YOU AS WELL AS WE HAVE, WOULD YOU?

THEY AIN'T NONE O' THAT KIND LOOSE







IT WOULDN'T DO AT ALL FOR RACHEL TO GET MARRIED. YOU GO AND TALK TO HER.

WELL HERE GOES!



IF YOU'VE GOT ANY SENSE, RACHEL, YOU'LL LAY OFF THIS MARRIAGE STUFF.



I'M TELLIN' YOU, THERE'S NOTHIN' TO IT BUT A LOT OF GRIEF. I'VE BEEN MARRIED 11 YEARS. I OUGHT TO KNOW.



YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'RE WELL OFF— YOU GIVE UP YOUR INDEPENDENCE AND YOUR DISPOSITION AND YOUR MONEY AND YOUR FUN.



WALT THOSE WERENT THE ARGUMENTS YOU WERE GOING TO USE AT ALL! THE IDEA!

GOSH PHYLLIS, THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES I COULD THINK OF!



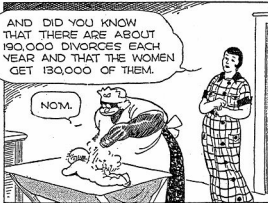
THERE'S THE BACK DOOR BELL, WALT, AND RACHEL'S OUT. NOW'S A GOOD CHANCE TO GET A LOOK AT HER BOY FRIEND.

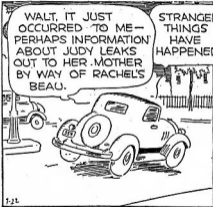
OKAY.

RACHEL AROUND?

WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE!

HE HAD ON A LIGHT BLUE SHIRT AND RED SUSPENDERS.





WALT, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME—PERHAPS INFORMATION ABOUT JUDY LEAKS OUT TO HER MOTHER BY WAY OF RACHEL'S BEAU.

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.



I DOUBT IT BUT I'LL FIND OUT.



RACHEL, YOU KNOW I ASKED YOU TO BE TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT NEWS OF JUDY. BY ANY CHANCE YOU DON'T MENTION SUCH THINGS TO YOUR BOY FRIEND?

WHO ME!



ACCIDENTALLY I MEAN.

HIM? SAY! I DIDN'T KETCH HIM YOUNG BUT I DON'T TELL HIM NOTHIN

YOU'LL GIVE US PLENTY OF NOTICE, RACHEL, WHEN YOU GET MARRIED SO WE CAN GET SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR PLACE?

OH MIS WALLEY, YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS GIVIN' UP MY JOB?

YOU DON'T EXPECT TO MAKE A HOME FOR YOUR HUSBAND AND STAY IN IT?

NO'M. NO JOB, NO GITTIN' MARRIED!

AN' I THOUGHT BESIDES THAT MAYBE I COULD HIRE HIM OUT TO YOU.

GOODNESS! WHAT COULD WE USE HIM FOR, RACHEL?

HE COULD SHOFR, MOW THE LAWN, WASH WINDOWS, CLEAN SHOES. I WOULDN'T CHARGE MUCH FER HIM.

ANYWAY
RACHEL
ISN'T GOING
TO LEAVE
US.

AND SHE
WANTS TO
RENT OUT
HER
PROSPECTIVE
HUSBAND TO
US. THAT'S
GOOD!

WALT,
WHERE DID
YOU GET
THAT PIPE?

ISN'T IT
A BEAUTY!
DOC GAVE IT
TO ME. SOMEBODY
GAVE IT TO
HIM.

WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT PIPES?
WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO WITH
IT? NOT SMOKE IT!

JUST LOOK
AT IT AN
FEEL OF IT
I' GUESS.

NOT
BAD!



WHY MISTA WALT—I AIN'T NEVA SEEN YOU SMOKE A PIPE BEFORE.

I'M NOT SMOKING IT, RACHEL—I'M JUST BREAKING IT IN.

WALT; TRY SOME OF MY SPECIAL MIXTURE, I INVENTED IT MYSELF.

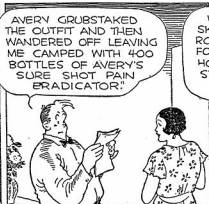
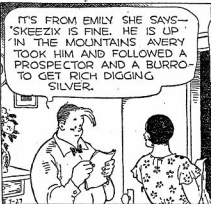
THANKS DOC. I'M NOT SMOKING THIS MORNING.

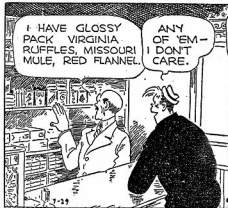
FILL UP THE OLD STOVE WITH THIS, WALT. IT WORKS SWELL IN A PIPE.

I'M JUST AIR CONDITIONING IT, BILL.

WALT, ANYBODY COULD SEE YOU'RE NOT USED TO A PIPE. IT'S BOTTOM SIDE UP.

I'M NOT SO DUMB. IF I DON'T KEEP IT THAT WAY SOMEBODY WILL PUT TOBACCO IN IT.



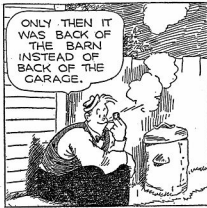


I HAVE GLOSSY
PACK VIRGINIA
RUFFLES, MISSOURI
MULE, RED FLANNEL.

ANY
OF 'EM—
I DON'T
CARE.



I FEEL LIKE A
KID AGAIN. I
HAVEN'T DONE THIS
FOR 25 YEARS.



ONLY THEN IT
WAS BACK OF
THE BARN
INSTEAD OF
BACK OF THE
GARAGE.



THE ONLY THING THAT
TAKES THE KICK OUT
OF IT IS THAT I KNOW
DEAR OL' DAD WON'T
APPEAR AROUND THE
CORNER WITH A
SHINGLE IN HIS
HAND.

GETTING YOUR PIPE BROKEN' IN WALT?

THERE SHE IS, DOC—I'VE BEEN CARRYING HER AROUND A WEEK. SHE'S ALL BROKEN IN.

YOU CAN'T SEASON A PIPE IN A WEEK. IT TAKES MONTHS!

THEN MAYBE MINE ISN'T SEASONED. I'VE ONLY SMOKED HER ONCE.

SEE THERE! I HAVEN'T TOUCHED THAT CAKE IN THERE SINCE LAST FALL. AND IT'S JUST GETTING GOOD.

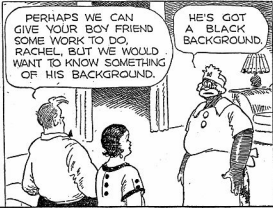
YOU DON'T SAY!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE HER BACK, DOC. I'LL NEVER MAKE A SMOKER. I HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH PERSEVERANCE.



IF RACHEL'S FRIEND IS HANDY WITH TOOLS, PHYLLIS, WE MIGHT GIVE HIM A FEW ODD JOBS.

WE'D WANT TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT HIM.



PERHAPS WE CAN GIVE YOUR BOY FRIEND SOME WORK TO DO, RACHEL, BUT WE WOULD WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING OF HIS BACKGROUND.

HE'S GOT A BLACK BACKGROUND.



AND WHAT HAS HIS TRADE OR OCCUPATION BEEN?

FOR FOUR YEARS HE HAS BEEN A BUCK PRIVATE IN THE ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED.



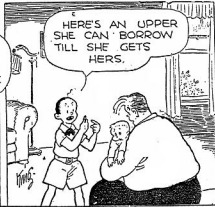
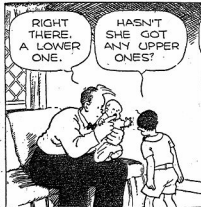
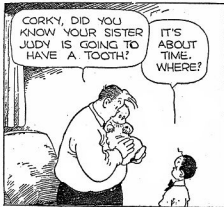
WALT, PUT DOWN YOUR PET— THAT EMPTY PIPE — AND COME WITH ME.

DON'T YOU THINK JUDY IS GETTING A TOOTH? IT'S A LOWER MIDDLE ONE. I FORGET WHAT YOU CALL THEM.

A STALAGMITE. THEY COME UP FROM BELOW. STALACTITES COME DOWN FROM ABOVE.

WALT, YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED — SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE TO YOUR SON LIKE THAT!

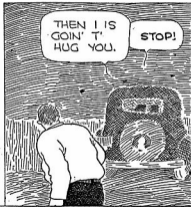
KING





RACHEL,
I IS GOIN'
T' PUT MY
ARM AROUND
YOU —

STOP!



THEN I IS
GOIN' T'
HUG YOU.

STOP!



LOOK
OUT, I IS
GOIN' TO
KISS YOU.

STOP!



RACHEL
AND HER
SWEETIE
ARE SITTIN'
IN YOUR
CAR?

YES, IT SOUNDED
TO ME AS IF
THEY WERE
DICTATING A
NIGHT-LETTER.

-KING-



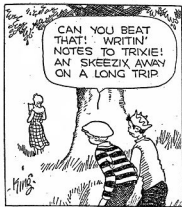






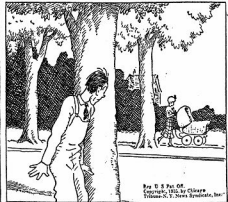
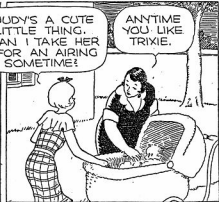
SPUD PUT
SOMETHING IN
A HOLLOW TREE?
WHY DIDN'T
YOU STICK
AROUND AN'
COP IT!

HE HUNG
AROUND
TOO. C'MON,
LET'S CHECK
IT.




CAN YOU BEAT
THAT! WRITIN'
NOTES TO TRIXIE!
AN' SKEEZIX AWAY
ON A LONG TRIP.

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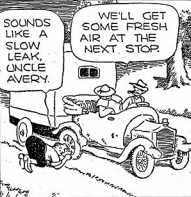


MEANWHILE SKEEZIX CONTINUES WITH AVERY IN THE BUSINESS VENTURE OF SELLING AVERY'S SURE SHOT PAIN ERADICATOR TO AILING HUMANITY.



SOUNDS LIKE A SLOW LEAK, UNCLE AVERY.

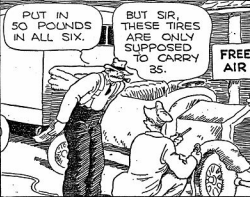
WE'LL GET SOME FRESH AIR AT THE NEXT STOP.



PUT IN 50 POUNDS IN ALL SIX.

BUT SIR, THESE TIRES ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO CARRY 35.

FREE AIR



SAY, IF I CAN GET A TOTAL OF 90 POUNDS OF ANYTHING FOR NOTHING I'M NOT GOING TO PASS IT UP!





THERE THEY GO—CHUMMY AS CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE.



TO THINK SPUD WOULD PULL SUCH A STUNT WITH SKEEZIX AWAY.



IN CASES LIKE THAT IT'S USUALLY THE WOMAN'S FAULT.

DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD WRITE SKEEZIX A LETTER?



MAYBE ABOUT TRIXIE, NOT ABOUT SPUD.

NO. SPUD'S A WOMAN HATER. HE WOULDN'T DO IT IF HE WASN'T LED.

DEAR SKEEZIX— WE HATE TO TELL YOU AN' SPOIL YOUR TRIP BUT YOUR GIRL TRIXIE IS TROTTIN' AROUND WITH ANOTHER GUY.

WE WOULDN'T MENTION IT BUT WE THINK YOU'D OUGHT TO KNOW.

TELL HIM NOT TO MIND. GIRLS ARE THE BUNK ANYWAY.

SHE ISN'T TRUE TO YOU AN' SHE'S BEIN' FALSE TO YOU. LET US KNOW IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING. GOOTCH AND WHIMPY.

WE'VE GOT TO SCARE UP A STAMP TO MAIL IT.

I WONDER IF WE COULD BUM ONE OFF OF TRIXIE.





WHIMPY I DON'T THINK
WE'D OUGHT TO MAIL
THAT LETTER ABOUT
TRIXIE TO SKEEZIX.

WE'VE
GOT TO,
IT'S
SEALED
AND
STAMPED.

LOOK I
CAN OPEN
IT UP.

YES BUT
WE CAN'T
WASTE THE
'STAMP AN'
ENVELOPE.

ALL RIGHT
WE'LL WRITE
HIM ANOTHER
LETTER.



DEAR SKEEZIX— WE
ARE ALL WELL HOPING
YOU ARE THE SAME —
YOURS TRULY GOOTCH
AND WHIMPY.

NO USE
WORRYING SKEEZIX
WITH DETAILS.

I BRUNG SOCRATES
LIKE YOU SAID,
MISTA WALLET,
FOR ODD JOBS.

ALL RIGHT
SOCRATES, YOU
CAN START ON
MY CAR.

HERE'S BODY
POLISH AND 'A RAG.
BUT WHAT'S THAT
YOU'VE GOT
THERE!

ONE O' MY TOOLS
I ALWAYS USES ON
EVERY JOB,
MISTA WALT.

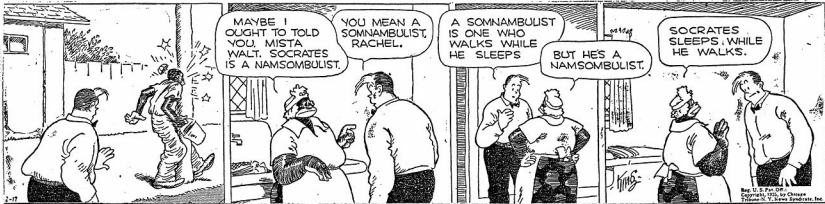
SOCRATES,
WHERE IS
YOU?

WAKE UP,
YOU NO
'COUNT!

WHAT YOU
MEAN, LOAFIN'
ON MISTA
WALT'S TIME?

I KINDA GOT
RELAXED, RACHEL.
I FIGGERED IT MUST
BE THE NOON HOUR
COMIN' ON.

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SPUD HASN'T GOT A NECKTIE OR HIS HAIR COMBED TODAY

OR A SHINE OR A MANICURE.

SHUT UP!



WHAT WAS THE LOWDOWN ON YOU AN' TRIXIE, SPUD?

AW I GOT A LETTER FROM SKEEZIX AN' SHE DIDN'T. I WOULDN'T LET HER SEE IT.



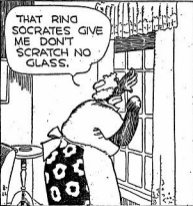
SO SHE STRUNG ME ALONG UNTIL I DID. THEN SHE DROPPED ME LIKE A HOT CAKE.



SO SKEEZIX WAS RIGHT!

YEP—GIRLS ARE THE BUNK.

WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK US IN THE FIRST PLACE!



YES, JUDY HAS TWO
TEETH BELOW, AND ONE
ABOVE IS ALL READY
TO COME THROUGH.

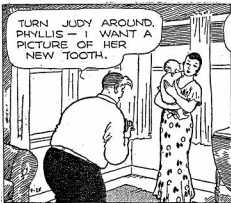
WHY MRS.
WALLET, IT'S
THROUGH!

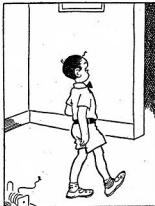
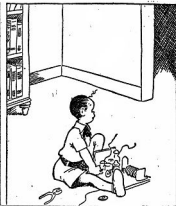
IT IS
AT THAT.

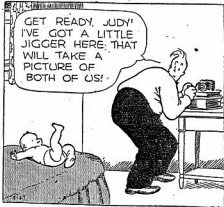
YOU DON'T SEEM
TO BE VERY
HAPPY ABOUT IT.

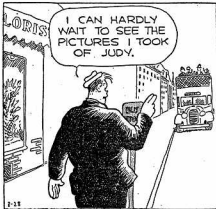
PHYLLIS!
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

MATTER ENOUGH! I'VE
BEEN WATCHING JUDY'S
GUMS FOR A WEEK AND
IT HAD TO BE MRS.
NOSEY WHO DISCOVERED
HER NEW TOOTH!





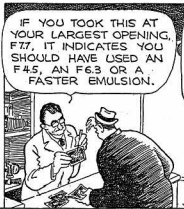




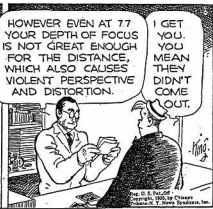
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THE PICTURES I TOOK OF JUDY.



THIS NEGATIVE, YOU CAN SEE, IS WEAK. YOU USED TOO SMALL AN APERTURE OR A TOO RAPID SHUTTER SETTING— OR BOTH.



IF YOU TOOK THIS AT YOUR LARGEST OPENING, F7.7, IT INDICATES YOU SHOULD HAVE USED AN F4.5, AN F6.3 OR A FASTER EMULSION.



HOWEVER EVEN AT 7.7 YOUR DEPTH OF FOCUS IS NOT GREAT ENOUGH FOR THE DISTANCE, WHICH ALSO CAUSES VIOLENT PERSPECTIVE AND DISTORTION.

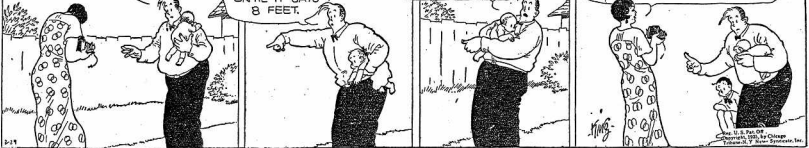
I GET YOU. YOU MEAN THEY DIDN'T COME OUT.

NO, PHYLLIS,
YOU'VE GOT IT
POINTED WRONG.

TURN THAT
LITTLE GADGET
ON THE SIDE
UNTIL IT SAYS
8 FEET.

NOW IT'S TIPPED.
IT WILL BE CROOKED
ON THE NEGATIVE.

SAY: AM I TAKING A PICTURE
OF JUDY—OR A PICTURE OF
YOU TELLING ME HOW TO
TAKE A PICTURE OF JUDY?



HERE ARE THE PICTURES YOU TOOK OF ME AND JUDY, PHYLLIS.

THERE'S SOMETHING SOUR ABOUT THAT ONE.

YOU MOVED THE CAMERA THIS ONE IS OUT OF FOCUS AND HERE YOU GOT HALF OF ME AND NO JUDY.

LOOK! HERE'S THE ONLY GOOD ONE. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TOOK ONE OF CORKY, PHYLLIS.

I DIDN'T.

NEITHER DID I.

I KNOW! I SHOT AT YOU AND JUDY AND HIT CORKY.

King
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SOCRATES, MISTA WALT WANTS YOU TO MOP THIS BASEMENT. AN MIND YOU DON'T LAY DOWN ON THE JOB!



DID YOU STAY AWAKE?

NO, I WENT TO SLEEP WORKIN'. BUT WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS ALL DONE

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-King-

SO THAT'S THE NEW BABY, MR. WALLET. I CAN SEE SHE HAS YOUR EYES AND HAIR.

YOU FLATTER ME.

THE NOSE ISN'T YOURS I'VE NEVER MET MRS. WALLET. PERHAPS THE BABY'S NOSE IS LIKE THE MOTHER'S.

IS IT, MR. WALLET?

I COULDN'T SAY, MA'AM. I'VE NEVER MET THE MOTHER EITHER.



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SOCRATES, MISTA WALT'S REMARKIN' YOU GITTIN' LAZY. YOU GOTTA BRACE UP.

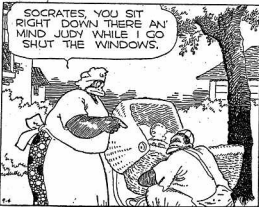
I AINT NOTICED IT.



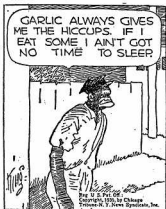
EV'Y TIME HE GOES TO SLEEP WORKIN' I GOIN' PLUNK HIM WITH SKEEZIX'S AIR GUN.



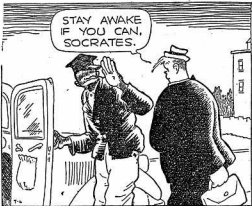
MOSQUITOES GITTIN' BAD, RACHEL. AINT YOU NOTICED IT?



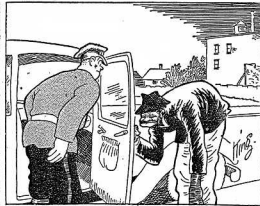
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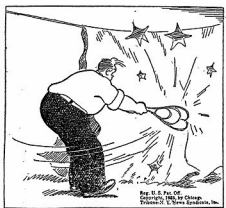
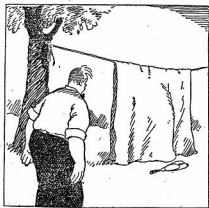
MIS WALLEY!
THEY'S A SAFETY
PIN MISSIN' AN' I
THINK JUDY HAS
SWALLOWED IT!

CAN
THIS BE
THE ONE,
RACHEL?

BY GOLLY! I
MUSTA PUT IT
THERE WITH MY
FINGERS AN'
NOT MY HEAD.

WE THOUGHT
JUDY HAD
'SWALLOWED A
SAFETY PIN,
WALT, BUT WE
FOUND SHE
HADN'T.

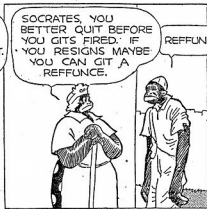
RACHEL,
YOU'RE THE
ONE THAT
LOOKS AS
IF YOU'D
SWALLOWED
IT!





RACHEL, I'M SORRY ABOUT SOCRATES BUT HE IS SO FULL OF LANGUOR I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO LET HIM GO.

HE AIN'T FULL O' THAT STUFF, MISTA WALT. HE JEST LAZY.



SOCRATES, YOU BETTER QUIT BEFORE YOU GITS FIRED. IF YOU RESIGNS MAYBE YOU CAN GIT A REFFUNCE.

REFFUNCE?



MISTA WALT, I GOIN' RESIGN.

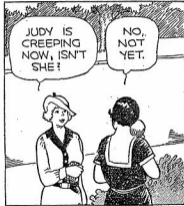
I'M SORRY, SOCRATES, BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO LET YOU GO.



YOU HANDED HIM SOMETHIN'? YOU DONT MEAN YOU TALKED BACK TO MISTA WALT?

NO. I JES' HANDED HIM MY RESIGNATION.





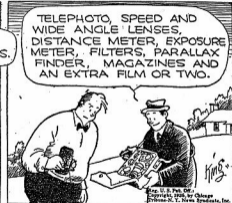
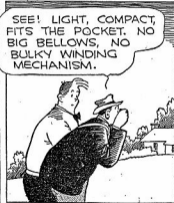
TAKING A PICTURE? LOOK! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAUL AROUND A BIG BOX LIKE THAT. A MINIATURE CAMERA IS THE THING.

SEE! LIGHT, COMPACT, FITS THE POCKET. NO BIG BELLOWS, NO BULKY WINDING MECHANISM.

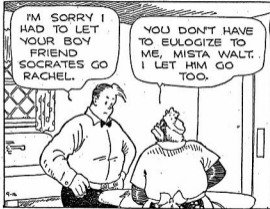
WHAT DO YOU CARRY IN THE CASE?

JUST A FEW ACCESSORIES.

TELEPHOTO, SPEED AND WIDE ANGLE LENSES, DISTANCE METER, EXPOSURE METER, FILTERS, PARALLAX FINDER, MAGAZINES AND AN EXTRA FILM OR TWO.

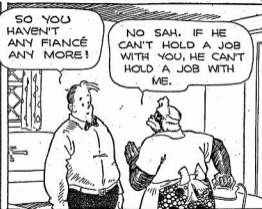


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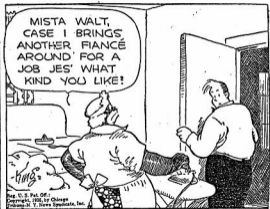
I'M SORRY I HAD TO LET YOUR BOY FRIEND SOCRATES GO RACHEL.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EULOGIZE TO ME, MISTA WALT. I LET HIM GO TOO.

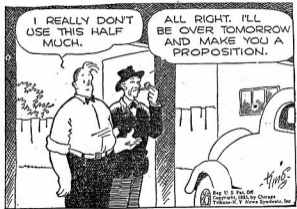
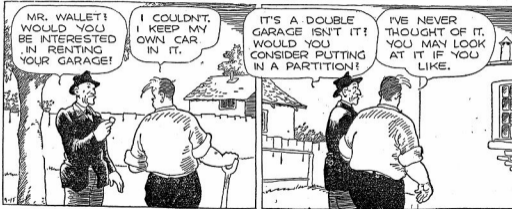


SO YOU HAVEN'T ANY FIANCÉ ANY MORE?

NO SAH. IF HE CAN'T HOLD A JOB WITH YOU, HE CAN'T HOLD A JOB WITH ME.



MISTA WALT, CASE I BRINGS ANOTHER FIANCÉ AROUND FOR A JOB JES' WHAT KIND YOU LIKE?



I'M HERE AGAIN ABOUT RENTING YOUR GARAGE, MR. WALLET.

OH YES MR.—

MR. ORBIT. I'LL PAY YOU \$10 PER MONTH FOR HALF OF IT PROVIDING YOU PARTITION IT OFF.

THAT'S AGREEABLE TO ME.

WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE IT IN BLACK AND WHITE. THAT SAYS I'LL TAKE IT FOR THREE MONTHS WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF SIX

OKAY. I'LL START WORK ON IT IMMEDIATELY.

YOU CAN MOVE YOUR CAR IN BY SATURDAY, MR. ORBIT.

BUT MR. WALLET, I HAVEN'T ANY CAR.

BY THE WAY, PHYLLIS, I'VE RENTED OUR GARAGE.

TO WHOM? AND WHY? WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OUR CAR IN IT

THAT'S ALL BEEN ARRANGED. I'M PUTTING A PARTITION IN AND WE KEEP OUR HALF.

WHEN IS HE GOING TO MOVE HIS CAR IN?

HE HASN'T ANY CAR.

THEN WHAT IS HE GOING TO USE IT FOR? HE MAY BE A BOOTLEGGER, OR A SMUGGLER, OR A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE.

HE MAY BE A COUNTERFEITER, OR NARCOTIC SELLER, OR A WHITE SLAVER, YOU DON'T KNOW.

WELL, I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHICH.

THIS ORBIT
FELLOW SAID
TO MAKE THE
PARTITION AIR
TIGHT, ELBERT.

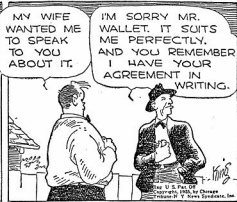
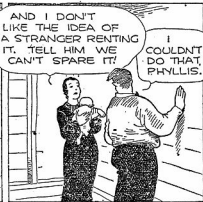
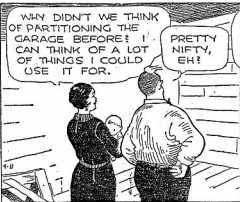
EVIDENTLY HE
DON'T FAVOR
'CRACKS AN'
KNOTHOLES TO
PEEK THROUGH.

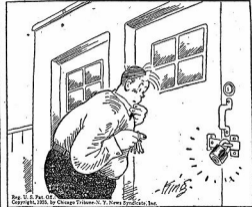
WITHOUT A
CAR WHAT DO
YOU SUPPOSE
HE'D USE A
GARAGE FOR?

SOME FOLKS LIVE
IN 'EM, OR HAVE A
SHOP, OR STORE
THEIR FURNITURE.

BELIEVE ME,
I'M GOING
TO WATCH
CAREFULLY
AND SEE.

I WOULD IF I WAS
YOU. I KNEW A CASE
WHERE A FELLOW
FILLED ONE UP WITH
DYNAMITE AN' NOBODY
KNEW IT TILL ALL OF
A SUDDEN.





WALT, I THINK THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN ORBIT'S RENTING OUR GARAGE AND JUDY.

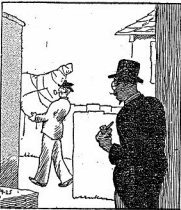
NONSENSE. NOBODY WOULD GO ABOUT IT THAT WAY IF THEY WANTED TO SPY ON JUDY.

WHY HE CAN WATCH OUR EVERY MOVE.

YES AND WE CAN WATCH HIS. EVERYBODY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS INTERESTED IN HIM ALREADY.

HE COULD BE MAKING DAILY REPORTS.

LOOK! THE GARAGE DOORS ARE TOWARD THE ALLEY AND HE COULD HARDLY SEE THE HOUSE FOR THE SHRUBBERY. HE'S GOT SOME OTHER RACKET.



WALT, YOUR GARAGE TENANT JUST WENT PAST CARRYING A FUNNY LOOKING PACKAGE.

SO?

DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM AT ALL? HE'S VERY MYSTERIOUS.

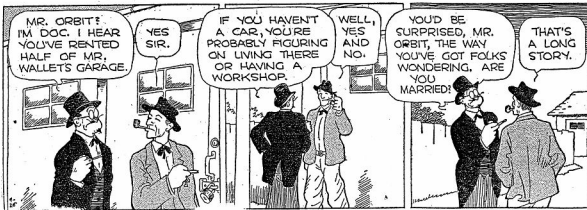


HE WON'T TELL ME A THING. SUPPOSE YOU TRY, DOC.



HE DOESN'T BOTHER ME ANY BUT PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO FIGURE HE'S HERE TO NO GOOD PURPOSE.

WELL, I'M MERELY HIS LANDLORD.



WHAT LUCK, DOC?

SAY, I BRACED YOUR GARAGE TENANT AND YOU COULDN'T GET ANY INFORMATION OUT OF HIM WITH A CORKSCREW.

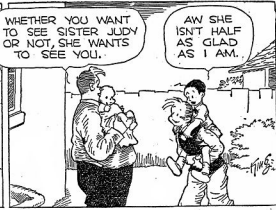
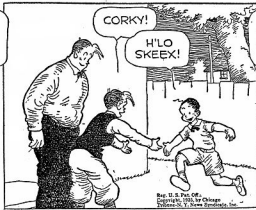
THAT MAKES IT UNANIMOUS. BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIM GUILTY YET.

NO. BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE HAD IN THAT FUNNY SHAPED PACKAGE.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM NO, BUT HE PAID A MONTH'S RENT IN ADVANCE.

IF HE'S ON THE SQUARE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SO MYSTERIOUS. I'M GLAD HE ISN'T IN MY GARAGE.





'SURE. A
MAN'S RENTED
OUR GARAGE.

WE KNOW THAT
AN' WE'RE KEEPIN'
AN EYE ON HIM.

LISTEN,
SKEEZIX, HE
CAN'T LOCK
THAT PADLOCK
FROM INSIDE.

NOPE, IF
THAT'S THERE
WE KNOW HE'S
OUT. I GUESS
THAT'S
DETECTIVE
WORK.

NOW CORKY, YOU
BEAT IT. DETECTIVES
TRAVEL IN PAIRS,
NOT THREES.

AN' DON'T YOU
BREATHE A WORD
OF WHAT YOU'VE
HEARD TODAY.

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KING

WE FIGURED OUT, UNCLE WALT, THAT IF THE PADLOCK WAS LOCKED ON THE OUTSIDE HE COULDN'T BE INSIDE.

VERY GOOD DEDUCTION, BOYS

SO IF THE PADLOCK IS SHUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WATCH FOR HIM TO COME OUT.

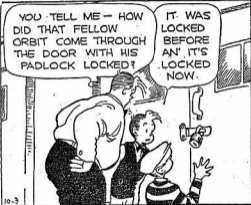
RIGHT YOU ARE.

LOOK! THERE HE GOES!

HOW DID HE GET OUT?

HE MUST HAVE UNLOCKED IT FROM THE INSIDE!

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YOU TELL ME — HOW DID THAT FELLOW ORBIT COME THROUGH THE DOOR WITH HIS PADLOCK LOCKED?

IT WAS LOCKED BEFORE AN' IT'S LOCKED NOW.



HE COULDN'T HAVE REACHED OUT THE WINDOW.

NO, I LOOKED AT THAT. IT DOESN'T OPEN AN' IT'S PUTTIED UP.



I'M SURE HE'S MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD. AND I DON'T THINK HE'S A MAGICIAN.

HE'S GOT SOME REASON FOR BEING MYSTERIOUS.

HE'S CROOKED OR HE'S CRACKED.

THIS WON'T LOOK SUSPICIOUS ACROSS THE ALLEY.

AN' BEHIND THE FENCE LIKE THIS.

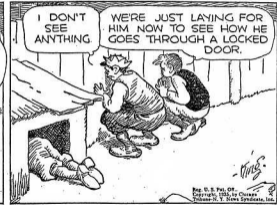
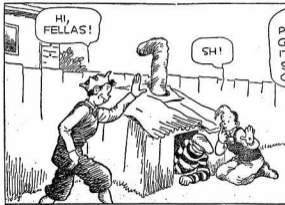
FINE, SKEEZIX, BUT YOU KIDS MUSTN'T HAVE A FIRE IN THERE SO CLOSE TO MY GARAGE.

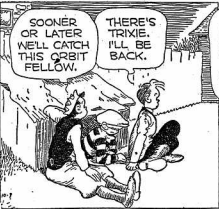
SH! THAT ISN'T A SMOKESTACK, UNCLE WALT, IT'S A PERISCOPE.

I GET YOU! TO KEEP AN EYE ON MY TENANT? WOULDN'T A KNOTHOLE HAVE WORKED AS WELL?

MAYBE, BUT IT ISN'T NEARLY SO SCIENTIFIC.

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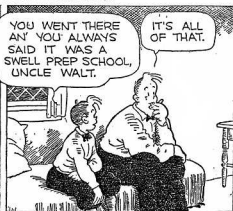






IT ISN'T THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SNAPPER AGAIN. I'D JUST RATHER GO TO BUNKER.

I THOUGHT PERHAPS BUNKER NEXT YEAR. SKEEZIX.



YOU WENT THERE AN' YOU ALWAYS SAID IT WAS A SWELL PREP SCHOOL, UNCLE WALT.

IT'S ALL OF THAT.



I'D LIKE TO GO WHERE YOU WENT BUT MAYBE YOU CAN'T GET ME IN.

SAY, I CAN GET YOU IN IF ANYBODY CAN GET ANYBODY IN!

SKEEZIX, YOU CAN WATCH THROUGH THE PERISCOPE WHILE WE ARE AT SCHOOL.

THAT'S NO FUN ALONE.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.

OH, I'LL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL PRETTY SOON. I'M WAITIN' TO FIND OUT WHERE.

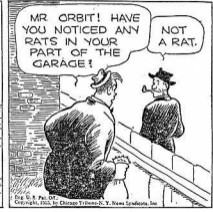
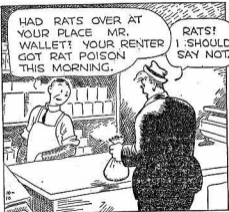
SO YOU AREN'T GOIN' TO SNAPPER? WHY?

I'VE STARTED AN AGITATION ON UNCLE WALT TO LET ME GO TO BUNKER PREP SCHOOL.

SHUCKS! I'LL BET IT'S CO-EDUCATIONAL!

10-7

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THAT FELLOW HAS BEEN IN OUR GARAGE A WEEK, WALT, AND YOU HAVEN'T FOUND OUT A THING ABOUT HIM.

BUT I HAVE! HE JUST BOUGHT SEVERAL CANS OF RAT POISON.

RAT POISON? HE HASN'T RATS. WHAT CAN HE WANT WITH THAT STUFF?

MAYBE HE LIVES ON IT.

IT'S NO JOKING MATTER. I'VE HAD A PECULIAR FEELING AGAINST THAT MAN FROM THE FIRST.

GIVE HIM TIME. IT'S A WOMAN'S PRIVILEGE TO CHANGE HER INTUITION.





WALT, I SIMPLY CANT
STAND HAVING THAT
MAN ORBIT ON OUR
PROPERTY.

I'LL SEE WHAT
I CAN DO BUT
HE HASN'T DONE
ANYTHING.

DONE ANYTHING?
HASN'T HE
BOUGHT RAT
POISON AND
THEN GIVEN
THE CHILDREN
CANDY!

I WISH YOU'D SAVED IT.
I'D HAVE HAD IT ANALYZED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HED DO A
THING LIKE
THAT.

JUST THE
SAME HE'S
GOT TO GET
OFF THE
PLACE— OR
I WILL!

ALL RIGHT,
PHYLLIS, I'LL
TAKE LEGAL
STEPS TOMORROW.

MORTIMER, I'VE RENTED MY GARAGE TO A FELLOW AND PHYLLIS SAYS I'VE GOT TO PUT HIM OUT.

HAS HE A LEASE, WALT?

YOU SAY HE WROTE IT? WELL HE CERTAINLY SEWED THINGS UP. YOU SAY HE'S OBJECTIONABLE. IN WHAT WAY?

THAT'S THE TROUBLE—WE CAN'T REALLY PUT OUR FINGER ON ANYTHING.

IS HE NOISY? GET INTOXICATED! TRESPASS ON YOUR YARD? IF NOT YOU'D BETTER TRY TO BUY HIM OFF. IS HE A NUISANCE IN ANY WAY?

HE ISN'T ANY OF THOSE THINGS, MORTIMER. IT'S JUST THAT HE'S SO MYSTERIOUS THE NEIGHBORS THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG.

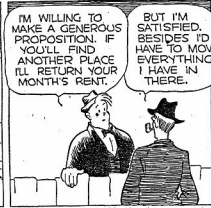


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MR. ORBIT, I'VE DECIDED I NEED YOUR HALF OF MY GARAGE.

BUT SO DO I, MR. WALLET.



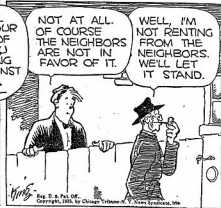
I'M WILLING TO MAKE A GENEROUS PROPOSITION. IF YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER PLACE I'LL RETURN YOUR MONTH'S RENT.

BUT I'M SATISFIED. BESIDES I'D HAVE TO MOVE EVERYTHING I HAVE IN THERE.



I'LL PAY MOVING EXPENSES.

NO, I THINK I'LL HOLD YOU TO OUR AGREEMENT. OF COURSE IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST ME - IF I AM A BAD TENANT -



NOT AT ALL. OF COURSE THE NEIGHBORS ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF IT.

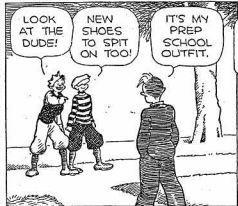
WELL, I'M NOT RENTING FROM THE NEIGHBORS. WE'LL LET IT STAND.

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A TREAT FOR YOU, JUDY—SKEEZIX ALL DECKED OUT IN A NEW SUIT!

I'M GLAD THEY'RE LONG PANTS.



LOOK AT THE DUDE!

NEW SHOES TO SPIT ON TOO!

IT'S MY PREP SCHOOL OUTFIT.

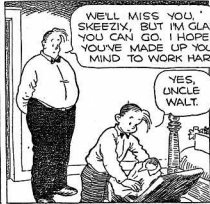


C'MON—SIT DOWN, SKEEZIX.

YES, DON'T BE SO SNOOTY.

I DON'T WANT TO BAG THE KNEES.

SHUCKS I'VE NEVER NOTICED IT—I'VE WORN LONG PANTS FOR YEARS.



I'M GLAD YOU PUT IT OVER WITH YOUR UNCLE WALT TO COME TO BUNKER, SKEEZIX.

SO AM I, BRICK. BUT CAN YOU BEAT IT— THEM PUTTIN' ME IN TO ROOM WITH SISSY BLY?

WELL, I CAN STAND IT IF HE CAN. HAVE ANY FUN AROUND HERE?

SURE. THERE'S A GOOD BUNCH OF INDIANS.

THERE'S A BULL SESSION IN SOMEBODY'S ROOM ABOUT EVERY NIGHT.

GOOD. I WAS AFRAID THEY MIGHT GIVE YOU HOME WORK TO DO.

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THE FELLOW IN YOUR GARAGE? MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU OUT.

BOY, I WISH YOU WOULD!

CAN I DO IT MY OWN WAY, WALT?

YES, USE YOUR OWN TECHNIQUE—AND NO QUESTIONS ASKED, AVERY.

THERE WON'T BE ANY HARD FEELINGS—BETWEEN US, I MEAN?

IMPOSSIBLE. AND YOU MAY SAVE ME A LOT OF ARGUMENT WITH PHYLLIS. SHE'S PRETTY RESTLESS.

YOU DON'T MEAN TO SAY, PHYLLIS, THAT YOU'D TAKE JUDY AND GO AWAY!

I WOULD, WALT. I SIMPLY CAN'T ENDURE THE IDEA OF THAT MAN!

LISTEN, AVERY HAS PROMISED HE'S GOING TO GET RID OF THIS ORBIT PERSON FOR ME. NOW YOU'LL STAY?

HE'LL HAVE TO HURRY—MY MIND IS MADE UP.

DON'T BE HASTY. WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN— BOTH OF US.

I CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS. EVERY NOISE I HEAR I THINK OF HIM. I CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER!

I'M GOING TO CONTACT THAT ORBIT FELLOW IF IT TAKES ALL NIGHT.



MR. ORBIT, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE GARAGES? I'VE GOT ONE YOU'D LIKE.

I HAVE A FAINT NOTION THAT MR. WALLET DOESN'T ENJOY 'ME IN HIS.



THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU IN MINE.

YOU'RE SURE HE DIDN'T SUGGEST IT?



NO SIR! \$10 A MONTH ISN'T TO BE SNEEZED AT AND I'LL GIVE REAL SERVICE.

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE VERY DEFINITE REASONS FOR STAYING WHERE I AM.



KING

MR. WALLET,
HERE IS MY
SECOND
MONTH'S RENT

I'D RATHER
NOT TAKE IT,
MR. ORBIT. I'D
RATHER HAVE
THE SPACE.



COME HERE
A MOMENT,
PLEASE.



IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH
ME IF YOU DON'T
TAKE IT BUT I WANT A
WITNESS THAT I
OFFERED IT TO YOU.

TAKE IT,
WALT!
DON'T TURN
IT DOWN!



TAKE THE TEN
AND DO YOUR
ARGUING AFTERWARDS—
THAT'S MY MOTTO!





COME BACK HERE, WALT. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

HERE'S A CRISP NEW \$10 BILL THAT YOUR GARAGE RENTER BOUGHT SOME TOOTHPASTE WITH.


IT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S WHAT I DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF IT WAS HOT OFF THE PRESS.

IF IT'S PHONEY IT CERTAINLY IS A GOOD JOB.


HAS HE GOT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS OVER IN YOUR GARAGE?

NOBODY HAS GOT A PEEP INSIDE OF IT. HE KEEPS IT LOCKED UP TIGHT.



I TOLD YOU I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THIS FELLOW ORBIT RIGHT FROM THE START. NOW WE'VE GOT A COUNTERFEITER IN OUR GARAGE.

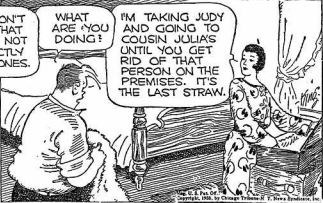
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT, PHYLLIS.



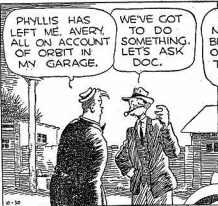
WHAT ELSE CAN A BODY THINK HE'S SECRETIVE AND TOUCHY, KEEPS HIS GARAGE LOCKED TIGHT AND NOW IS BRINGING OUT FRESH \$10 BILLS.

WE DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT PERFECTLY GOOD ONES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

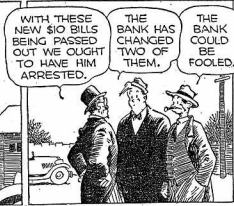


I'M TAKING JUDY AND GOING TO COUSIN JULIA'S UNTIL YOU GET RID OF THAT PERSON ON THE PREMISES. IT'S THE LAST STRAW.



PHYLLIS HAS LEFT ME, AVERY, ALL ON ACCOUNT OF ORBIT IN MY GARAGE.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING. LET'S ASK DOC.



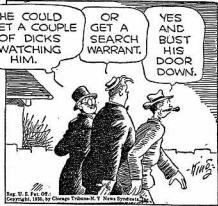
WITH THESE NEW \$10 BILLS BEING PASSED OUT WE OUGHT TO HAVE HIM ARRESTED.

THE BANK HAS CHANGED TWO OF THEM.

THE BANK COULD BE FOOLED.



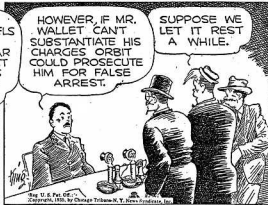
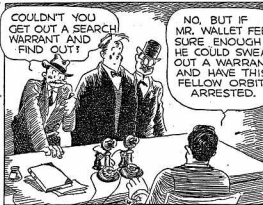
I THINK WE SHOULD TALK IT OVER WITH THE POLICE CAPTAIN.



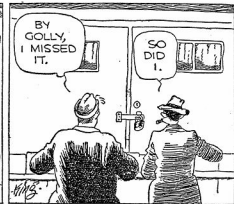
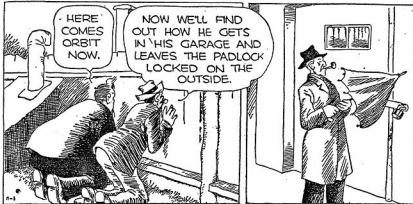
HE COULD SET A COUPLE OF DICKS WATCHING HIM.

OR GET A SEARCH WARRANT.

YES AND BUST HIS DOOR DOWN.







MR WALLET, WE REPRESENT THE TUESDAY AFTERNOON LAW AND ORDER CLUB. WE KNOW YOU ARE HARBORING A COUNTERFEITER ON YOUR PREMISES.



DO YOU WANT HIM? YOU CERTAINLY CAN HAVE HIM.



PERHAPS YOU DO NOT KNOW THAT THE PERSON WHO RENTS HIS PROPERTY FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES CAN BE ARRESTED AS AN ACCESSORY.



FINE. I'D BE MIGHTY GLAD TO FIND OUT I'M DOING JUST THAT.

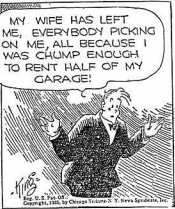
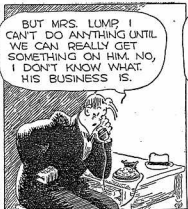
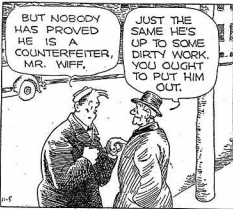


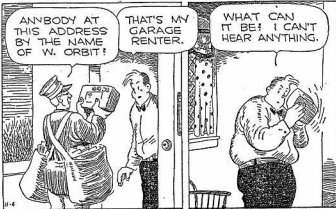
DO YOU REALIZE YOU CAN BE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED OR HEAVILY FINED?



GRAND! YOU PROVE YOUR POINT THAT HE'S A COUNTERFEITER AND I'LL FIRE HIM JUST LIKE THAT AND GIVE MYSELF UP.







ANYBODY AT THIS ADDRESS BY THE NAME OF W. ORBIT?

THAT'S MY GARAGE RENTER.

WHAT CAN IT BE? I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.



MAILED IN SPRINGFIELD BY TIBROW, WHOEVER THAT IS.



THAT'S THE FIRST MAIL HE'S HAD HERE, AVERY.

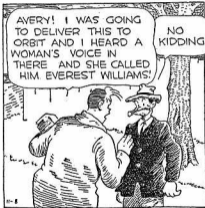
I THINK THE POLICE OUGHT TO INVESTIGATE THAT RETURN ADDRESS.

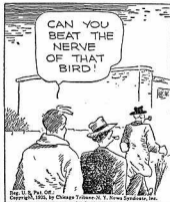
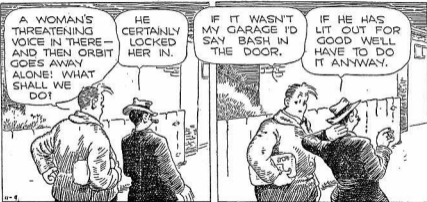


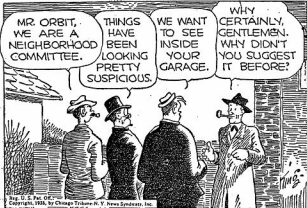
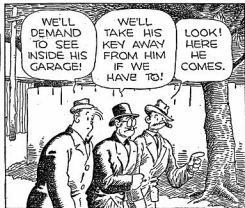
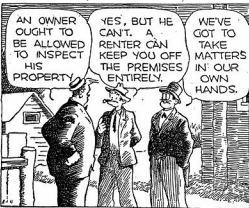
I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH CURIOSITY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S PACKAGES BEFORE - BUT I'VE GOT IT NOW.

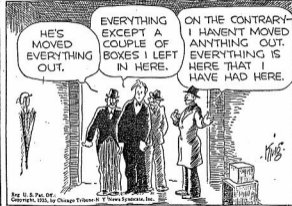
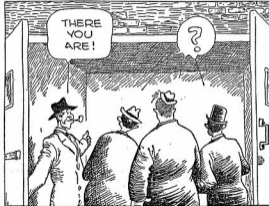
KING

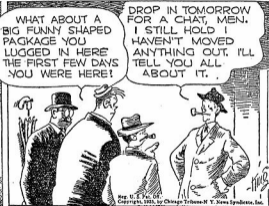
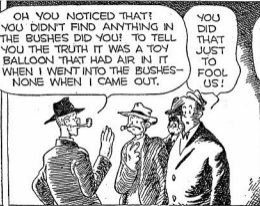
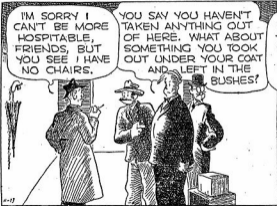












WE STILL WANT TO KNOW, MR. ORBIT, WHAT BECAME OF THE BIG QUEER SHAPED OBJECT YOU BROUGHT IN HERE ALL WRAPPED UP.

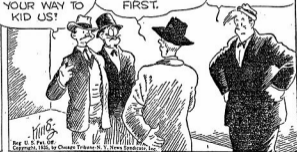
I'M SURPRISED, GENTLEMEN. IT IS IN FULL VIEW.

THERE YOU HAVE IT—MY UMBRELLA. IT MERELY HAPPENED TO BE OPEN WHEN IT WAS WRAPPED, THAT'S ALL.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BITE. WHY HAVE YOU BEEN GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO KID US?

I HAVE NO SECRETS BUT I'D RATHER ANSWER YOUR OTHER QUESTIONS FIRST.

ALL RIGHT, WHERE ARE YOUR SIX CANS OF RAT POISON?





OH, THE RAT POISON! YOU DIDN'T SEE ME BRING THAT HERE.

NO, BUT WE FOUND OUT YOU BOUGHT IT.

AND IT DIDN'T SOUND SO GOOD—SIX CANS!



I HAVE THAT AT MY ROOM. IT HASN'T BEEN OPENED AND I AM THINKING OF EXCHANGING IT FOR SOMETHING MORE EDIBLE.

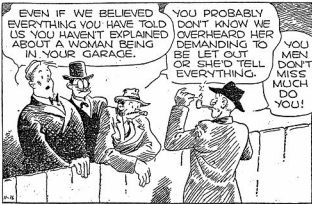
YOU WOULDN'T FOOL US?



BY GOLLY, HE'S RIGHT, WE JUST ASSUMED HE WAS BRINGING IT HERE.

ONE THING HE DOESN'T KNOW WE KNOW IS THAT THERE WAS A WOMAN IN THERE.

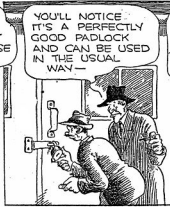
YES, THREATENING HIM SHE'D SPILL THE BEANS, IF HE DIDN'T LET HER OUT. WE'LL SPRING THAT ON HIM TOMORROW.



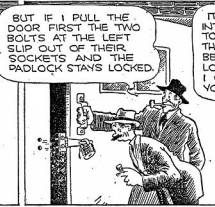


ON THE Q.T., MR. ORBIT, HOW DID YOU GO THROUGH THE DOOR WITH IT FIRMLY PADLOCKED!

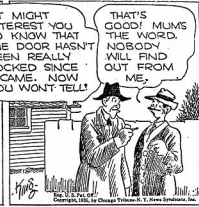
I WAS HOPING TO KEEP THAT A SECRET — BUT IF YOU'LL PROMISE TO KEEP IT DARK —



YOU'LL NOTICE IT'S A PERFECTLY GOOD PADLOCK AND CAN BE USED IN THE USUAL WAY —



BUT IF I PULL THE DOOR FIRST THE TWO BOLTS AT THE LEFT SLIP OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS AND THE PADLOCK STAYS LOCKED.

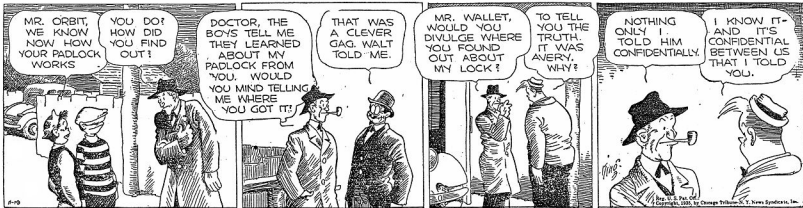


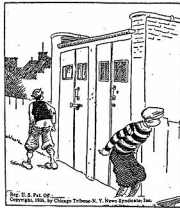
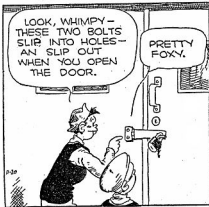
IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT THE DOOR HASN'T BEEN REALLY LOCKED SINCE I CAME. NOW YOU WON'T TELL!

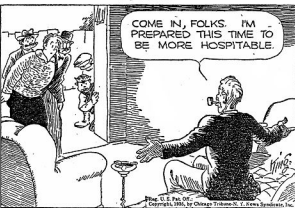
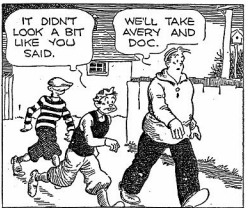
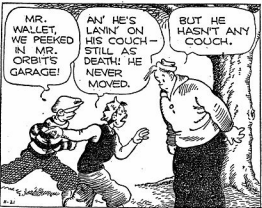
THAT'S GOOD! MUM'S THE WORD. NOBODY WILL FIND OUT FROM ME.

KING

GASOLINE ALLEY—The Well Known Secret.









YOU'VE GOT YOUR PLACE DOLLED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN, MR. ORBIT.

PRETTY NIFTY, BY THE WAY, YOU WERE GOING TO TELL US WHY YOU'VE BEEN KIDDING US.

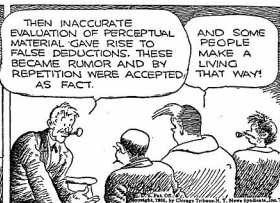
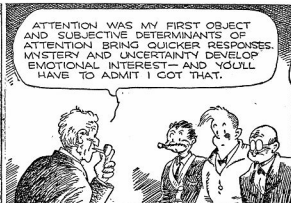
PERHAPS IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN KIDDING YOU. IT'S MY PROFESSION...

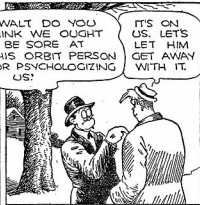
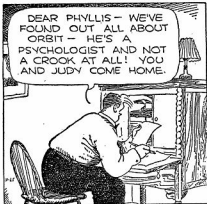
PROFESSION? THAT'S A SWELL PROFESSION TO BE IN!

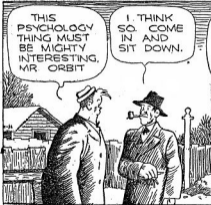
WHAT DO YOU CALL YOURSELF-A SPOOFOLOGIST!

NO, I'M EMPLOYED BY THE BFXU INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND I'M A PSYCHOLOGIST.

CURIOSITY AND RUMOR ARE MY RESEARCH SUBJECTS AND THIS HAS BEEN MY LABORATORY. I HAVE KEPT NOTES ON EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE AND ON YOUR AND THE NEIGHBORS' REACTIONS I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME.

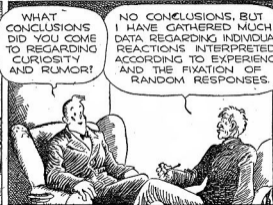






THIS PSYCHOLOGY THING MUST BE MIGHTY INTERESTING, MR. ORBIT

I THINK SO. COME IN AND SIT DOWN.



WHAT CONCLUSIONS DID YOU COME TO REGARDING CURIOSITY AND RUMOR?

NO CONCLUSIONS, BUT I HAVE GATHERED MUCH DATA REGARDING INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS INTERPRETED ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE, AND THE FIXATION OF RANDOM RESPONSES.



AND ABOUT THE \$10 BILLS FOLKS SUPPOSED WERE COUNTERFEIT?

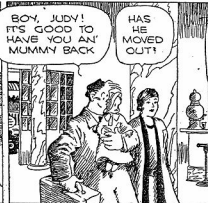
LACK OF SIGNIFICANT DISCRIMINATION IN IDENTIFYING DETAILS. CUMULATIVE UNREASON AND GENERALIZATION OF EMOTIONAL RESPONSES GIVING RISE TO A GROUP PATTERN OF HOSTILE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR.

King
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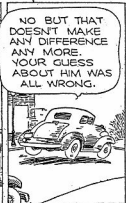
WALT, ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT FELLOW ORBIT IS ALL RIGHT! I WON'T GO HOME IF HE ISN'T!

OF COURSE HE IS, PHYLLIS. DOC AND AVERY THINK SO TOO.

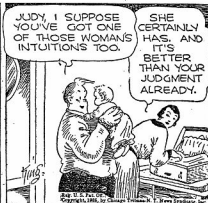


BOY, JUDY! IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU AN' MUMMY BACK

HAS HE MOVED OUT!



NO BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE ANY MORE. YOUR GUESS ABOUT HIM WAS ALL WRONG.



JUDY, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE WOMAN'S INTUITIONS TOO.

SHE CERTAINLY HAS. AND IT'S BETTER THAN YOUR JUDGMENT ALREADY.



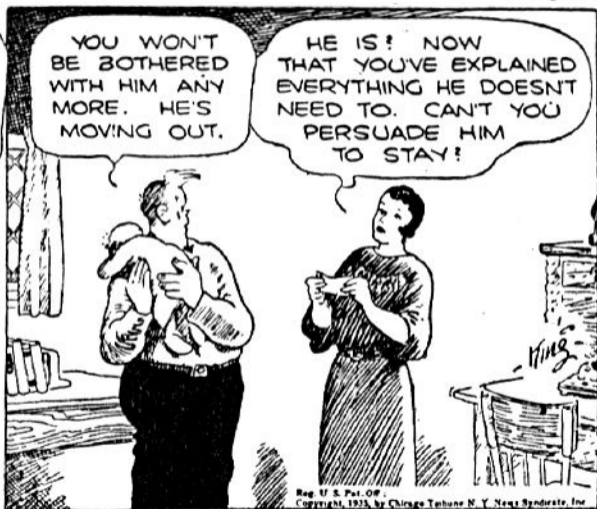
REALLY, ORBIT IS A REGULAR FELLOW. I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU MEET HIM.

HE'S YOUR LITTLE PLAYMATE. I WOULDN'T MEET HIM ON A BET.



HERE'S HIS LAST PAYMENT FOR RENT—THE \$10 DUE TO COMPLETE OUR DEAL

FOR ME? WELL HE AT LEAST PAYS HIS DEBTS. THAT'S SOMETHING.



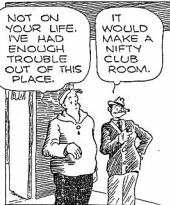
YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED WITH HIM ANY MORE. HE'S MOVING OUT.

HE IS! NOW THAT YOU'VE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING HE DOESN'T NEED TO. CAN'T YOU PERSUADE HIM TO STAY?



WELL, ORBIT HAS GONE.

GOIN' TO RENT IT AGAIN, WALT?



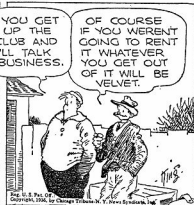
NOT ON YOUR LIFE. I'VE HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE OUT OF THIS PLACE.

IT WOULD MAKE A NIFTY CLUB ROOM.



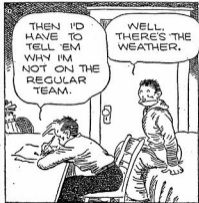
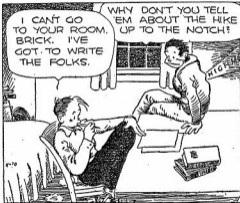
YES, BUT FOR WHAT CLUB!

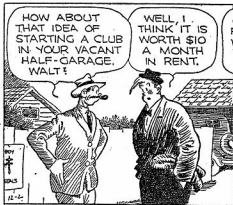
WE'D GET ONE UP— YOU AND DOC AND BILL AND ME FOR CHARTER MEMBERS.



YOU GET UP THE CLUB AND I'LL TALK BUSINESS.

OF COURSE IF YOU WEREN'T GOING TO RENT IT WHATEVER YOU GET OUT OF IT WILL BE VELVET.





WELL, I THINK IT IS WORTH \$10 A MONTH IN RENT.

OF COURSE FOR A CLUB WE'D HAVE TO HAVE HEAT.

YES, AND TO HAVE A STOVE. WE'D HAVE TO HAVE A CHIMNEY—WHICH WOULD TAKE AT LEAST \$20.

YOU COULD PAY THAT OUT OF RENT MONEY. IT'S A PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT.

BUT WHO WOULD PAY RENT MONEY—YOU AND DOC AND BILL, I SUPPOSE.

LET'S SEE—THREE CHARTER MEMBERS AT \$3.33 APIECE.

FOUR AT ONLY \$250, WALT. WE'D TAKE YOU IN AS A CHARTER MEMBER TOO.



I'VE GOT IT ALL FIXED, WALT DOC AND BILL WILL COME INTO OUR CLUB AT \$2.50 PER.

AND YOU TOO, AVERY?



THAT'S ONE THING I WANTED TO SEE YOU ABOUT. I FIGURED WE COULD BUILD THE CHIMNEY OURSELVES. COME WITH ME.

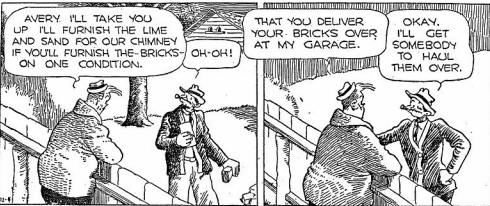


NOW I'VE GOT ENOUGH USED BRICK. THEY SHOULD BE WORTH \$10. I'LL TURN 'EM IN FOR FOUR MONTHS' DUES.

BUT WHAT ABOUT LIME AND SAND AND CEMENT?



YOU'D FURNISH THAT FOR YOUR DUES. THEN THE CASH THESE OTHER BIRDS PAY WILL BE ALL VELVET?



AVERY, I'LL TAKE YOU UP I'LL FURNISH THE LIME AND SAND FOR OUR CHIMNEY IF YOU'LL FURNISH THE BRICKS—ON ONE CONDITION.

OH-OH!

THAT YOU DELIVER YOUR BRICKS OVER AT MY GARAGE.

OKAY, I'LL GET SOMEBODY TO HAUL THEM OVER.



OH WELL, I NEED THE EXERCISE AND THE MONEY.

YES SIR, YOUR GARAGE CAN BE FIXED UP INTO A NICE CLUB ROOM, WALT.

WELL, IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A CLUB WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE A NAME AND ELECT OFFICERS.



LISTEN. THAT'S THE FIRST THING EVERY CLUB DOES. LET'S BE DIFFERENT. NO NAME, NO OFFICERS, NO BYLAWS, NO COMMITTEES.

I NEVER HEARD OF ONE WITHOUT 'EM.



AS SOON AS YOU GET 'ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A PROGRAM, AN AIM, A QUOTA AND A GOAL THEN THE FIRST THING YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT A SLOGAN AND A THEME SONG. LET'S JUST HAVE SOME FUN.



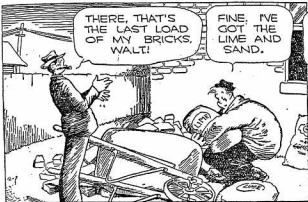
YOU SAY YOU'RE
STARTING A CLUB
IN THE GARAGE?
WHO ARE?

OH, AVERY
AND DOC
AND BILL
AND I.

BUT THERE'S
NO HEAT.
YOU'LL FREEZE
TO DEATH!

THAT'S ALL FIXED.
WE'RE BUILDING A
CHIMNEY AND PUTTING
IN A STOVE.

WALT, IF YOU'RE PUTTING
A STOVE IN THERE IT WILL BE
JUST THE PLACE FOR ME TO
HAVE A SEWING ROOM —
OR A WASHLINE.



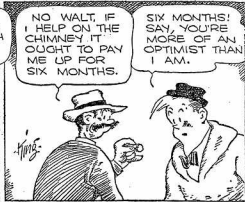
THERE, THAT'S THE LAST LOAD OF MY BRICKS, WALT!

FINE, I'VE GOT THE LIME AND SAND.



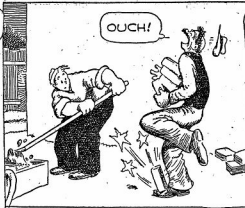
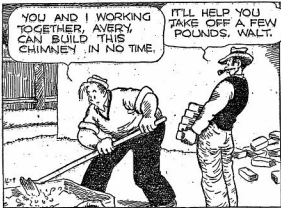
NOW MY CLUB DUES ARE PAID FOR FOUR MONTHS—ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT.

THEY'RE PAID, AVERY, WHEN YOU AND I GET THROUGH BUILDING THIS CHIMNEY.



NO WALT, IF I HELP ON THE CHIMNEY IT OUGHT TO PAY ME UP FOR SIX MONTHS.

SIX MONTHS! SAY, YOU'RE MORE OF AN OPTIMIST THAN I AM.





YEP, WALT, THE OLD FOOT THAT I DROPPED THE BRICK ON HAS GOT ME ALL CRIPPLED UP.

GOLLY, AVERY, THATS TOUGH!

YES IT IS. AND IM MIGHTY SORRY I CANT HELP YOU TODAY.

DONT LET THAT BOTHER YOU A BIT, AVERY.



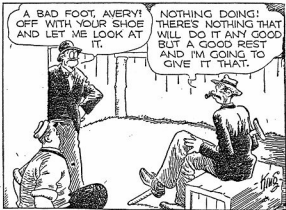
NOW GO RIGHT AHEAD AND DONT MIND ME, WALT. IVE WATCHED BRICKLAYERS BY THE HOUR. I CAN GIVE YOU A LOT OF POINTERS.



HAS DOC SEEN THE FOOT YOU DROPPED THE BRICK ON, AVERY?



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HOW AM I DOIN'?

WE'RE GOING O.K., EXCEPT SHE'S GOT A LIST TO STARB'RD. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LATE.



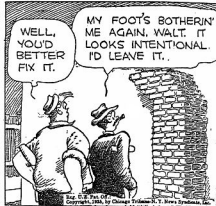
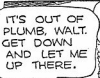
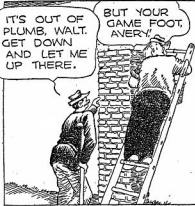
THAT'S EASY. I'LL BRING IT BACK IN THE NEXT FOUR ROWS.

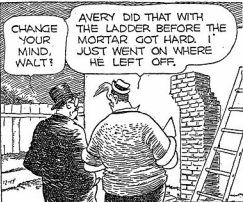
NOW BEFORE THE MORTAR GETS DRY TAKE A BLOCK OF WOOD AND RAKE THE JOINTS.



THEN WHEN SHE'S UP I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO MIX SOME ACID AND CLEAN UP THE WHOLE JOB.

I GUESS I'M PRETTY SLOW, AVERY. YOU'RE FOUR DAYS AHEAD OF ME ALREADY!





CHANGE YOUR MIND, WALT?

AVERY DID THAT WITH THE LADDER BEFORE THE MORTAR GOT HARD. I JUST WENT ON WHERE HE LEFT OFF.



SO AVERY'S HIND LEG IS WELL AGAIN?

NO, WE HAD AN ARGUMENT AS TO WHO SHOULD FIX THE CHIMNEY AND HIS LEG HAD A RELAPSE.



THE OLD HYPOCRITE! HE'D JUST RATHER SEE SOMEBODY LAY BRICKS THAN LAY BRICKS HIMSELF.



GONE MODERNIST, AVERY?

DOC, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. BUT THE SPLINTS SLIPPED.



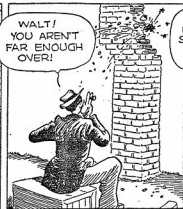
SO YOU'RE NOT WORKING ON YOUR CHIMNEY TODAY, WALT? THANK GOODNESS.

NO, CORKY AND I HAVE A LOT OF BUSINESS TO DO. AND I'M THINKING OF TAKING JUDY.

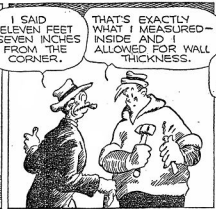


CORKY, IF YOU COULD HAVE ANYTHING IN THE STORE THAT YOU WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

A LIVE SANTA CLAUS



WALT!
YOU AREN'T
FAR ENOUGH
OVER!



I SAID
ELEVEN FEET
SEVEN INCHES
FROM THE
CORNER.

THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT I MEASURED—
INSIDE AND I
ALLOWED FOR WALL
THICKNESS.

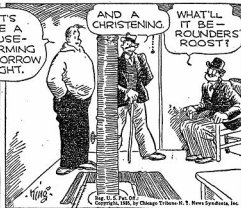
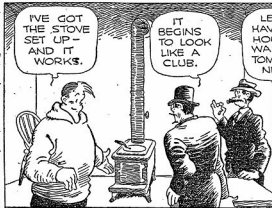


WHAT'S
THE
ARGUMENT!

WALT CHISELED
THROUGH FOR
A STOVEPIPE
AND MISSED
THE CHIMNEY.

AVERY!
YOU FORGOT
TO ALLOW
FOR THE
CROOK.

KING



I BROUGHT HAMBURGERS AND BUNS.

I'VE GOT COFFEE, OLIVES AND A PIE! WHAT DID YOU BRING, AVERY!

I BROUGHT A COFFEE POT, FRYING PAN AND SALT.

IT'S TO BE A MOMENTOUS CLUB HOUSE WARMING! A HE-MAN RETREAT! THROUGH THESE PORTALS SHALL NO WOMAN ENTER!

ATTABOY, WALT!



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PHYLLIS, DOC AND AVERY AND BILL AND I WENT OUT TO OPEN OUR CLUB AND WE FOUND A BIG WASH STRUNG ALL OVER THE PLACE!



LOOK, WALT. JUDY HAS ANOTHER TOOTH!



THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. I'VE FIXED THAT UP FOR A CLUB AND IT'S GOING TO BE A CLUB.



WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THE FELLOWS THOUGHT!



YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THAT CLUB THAN IN JUDY'S NEW TOOTH!

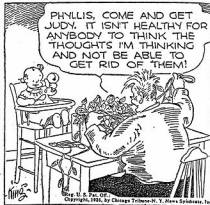
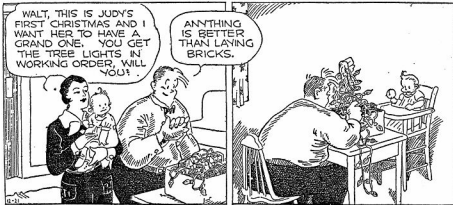


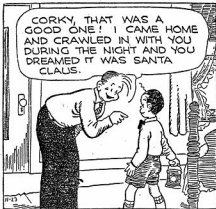
YOU PUT ME IN A VERY EMBARRASSING POSITION, PHYLLIS!



I SHOULD THINK YOU WOULD BE EMBARRASSED-PUTTING AN OLD CLUB AHEAD OF A BRAND NEW TOOTH!







AHA! THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL CREEPING UP ON A FELLA!

JUST WHEN I WAS SECRETLY WRAPPING MY PACKAGES.

ALL RIGHT, JUDY. I'LL LET YOU IN ON IT FOR ONE NICE BIG LOOK.

BUT I WARN YOU—IF I CATCH YOU TELLING ANYBODY I'LL MAKE IT TOUGH FOR YOU.





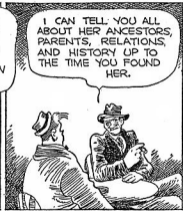
I'M NOT ACCUSTOMED TO MEETING STRANGERS IN STRANGE PLACES ON PHONE CALLS.

I THOUGHT YOU'D COME. I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO LEARN ABOUT JUDY.



YES. BUT I WANT TO KNOW WHOM I'M GETTING IT FROM AND WHETHER IT'S THE TRUTH.

NEVER MIND WHO YOU'RE GETTING IT FROM. AND I CAN SATISFY YOU I KNOW MY STUFF.



I CAN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HER ANCESTORS, PARENTS, RELATIONS, AND HISTORY UP TO THE TIME YOU FOUND HER.



I WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

NOT SO FAST. IT ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS THAT. YOU MEET ME HERE TOMORROW. THIS MEETING WAS JUST TO GET ACQUAINTED.

I HOPE YOU HAVE IDENTIFICATION AND SOME INFORMATION FOR ME TODAY.

I HAVE, BUT FIRST I WANT AN UNDERSTANDING.

THIS IS BETWEEN OURSELVES. IF YOU START THE POLICE OR ANY PRIVATE DETECTIVES TRYING TO FIND OUT THINGS FASTER THAN I TELL YOU, IT'S ALL OFF.

ALL-RIGHT! I HEARD YOU.

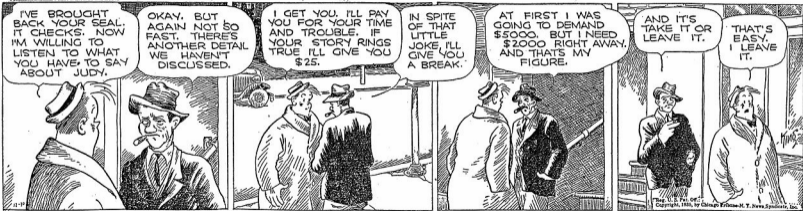
DID YOU EVER SEE THAT BEFORE!

DID I! THAT'S THE IMPRESSION IN WAX OF AN INTAGLIO RING—AND IT LOOKS THE SAME AS THE DESIGN ON THE CAMEO RING THAT CAME WITH JUDY.

IT IS THE SAME. IS THAT PROOF ENOUGH FOR YOU?

YOU LET ME TAKE THIS IMPRESSION HOME. I WANT TO COMPARE IT WITH THE ONE I HAVE.





I'VE BROUGHT BACK YOUR SEAL. IT CHECKS. NOW I'M WILLING TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT JUDY.

OKAY, BUT AGAIN NOT SO FAST. THERE'S ANOTHER DETAIL WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED.

I GET YOU. I'LL PAY YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE. IF YOUR STORY RINGS TRUE I'LL GIVE YOU \$25.

IN SPITE OF THAT LITTLE JOKE, I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK.

AT FIRST I WAS GOING TO DEMAND \$5000. BUT I NEED \$2000 RIGHT AWAY. AND THAT'S MY FIGURE.

AND IT'S TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

THAT'S EASY. I LEAVE IT.

