

AFTER MAKING A FIRST PAYMENT ON A RING AND THEN GOING HOME, I'VE GOT TO START FROM SCRATCH AGAIN.

HERE GOES \$10 OF MY \$25 INTO THE BANK. IT WILL APPLY AGAINST THE FUTURE—WHICH INCLUDES THE NEXT PAYMENT ON THE RING.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH \$25 A WEEK OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH TO GET MARRIED ON—THAT IS, AFTER THE RING IS PAID FOR.

I NEVER LIKED THE IDEA OF A LONG ENGAGEMENT, BUT I CAN SEE NOW THERE'S A REASON FOR THEM.

King

IN ONLY ABOUT FIVE WEEKS, I'LL BE 21 YEARS OLD AND A FULL GROWN MAN.



I'LL HAVE ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF A CITIZEN AND VOTER AS WELL AS ALL THE OBLIGATIONS.



I'LL BE SUBJECT TO CALL TO ARMY SERVICE, WHICH, PERSONALY, I'D RATHER POSTPONE, BUT WHICH I CERTAINLY WON'T DODGE.



Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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I'M READY TO DO MY DUTY WHEN THE TIME COMES, BUT BOY, WILL IT UPSET MY PLANS!



CAN I COME OVER, SALLY?
I'VE GOT TO TALK TO SOMEBODY
ABOUT NINA AND ME GETTING
MARRIED. AND THERE'S NOBODY
BUT YOU TO PICK ON.



OF COURSE, I CAN'T
AFFORD IT BUT WHO
CAN, NOWADAYS?
BESIDES, PEOPLE
WOULD THINK I WAS
TRYING TO DODGE
THE ARMY.

MARRIAGE
WOULDN'T SAVE
YOU FROM
THE ARMY NOW,
SKEEZIX.



I KNOW, SALLY, BUT
YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE
ARE. I'M DUE FOR
SERVICE ANYWAY BUT
IF WE COULD GET
MARRIED FIRST—

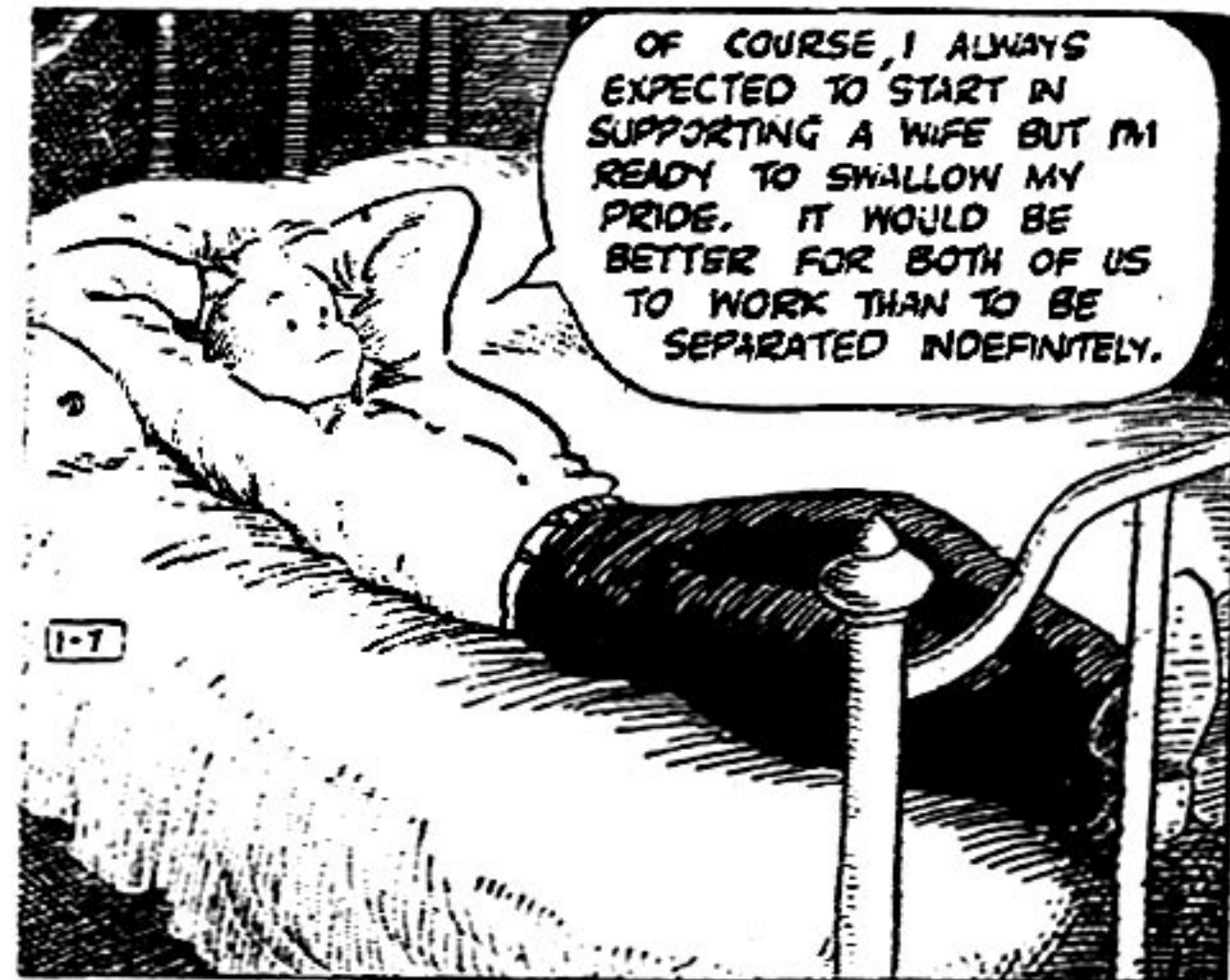
I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL AND
I CAN SEE
YOUR SIDE
OF IT.



DID YOU CATCH
THAT? THEY
ARE TALKING
OF GETTING
MARRIED.

I WOULDN'T
PUT IT PAST
THAT MISS SNIPE—
TRYING TO ROB
THE CRADLE!







I'M HERE ABOUT THAT POSITION OF RECEPTIONIST.

BUT WE ADVERTISED FOR A GIRL.



I KNOW, I REPRESENT A VERY COMPETENT YOUNG LADY WHO LIVES OUT OF TOWN.

ALL RIGHT, YOU MAY SIT DOWN AND TAKE YOUR TURN WITH THE OTHER APPLICANTS.





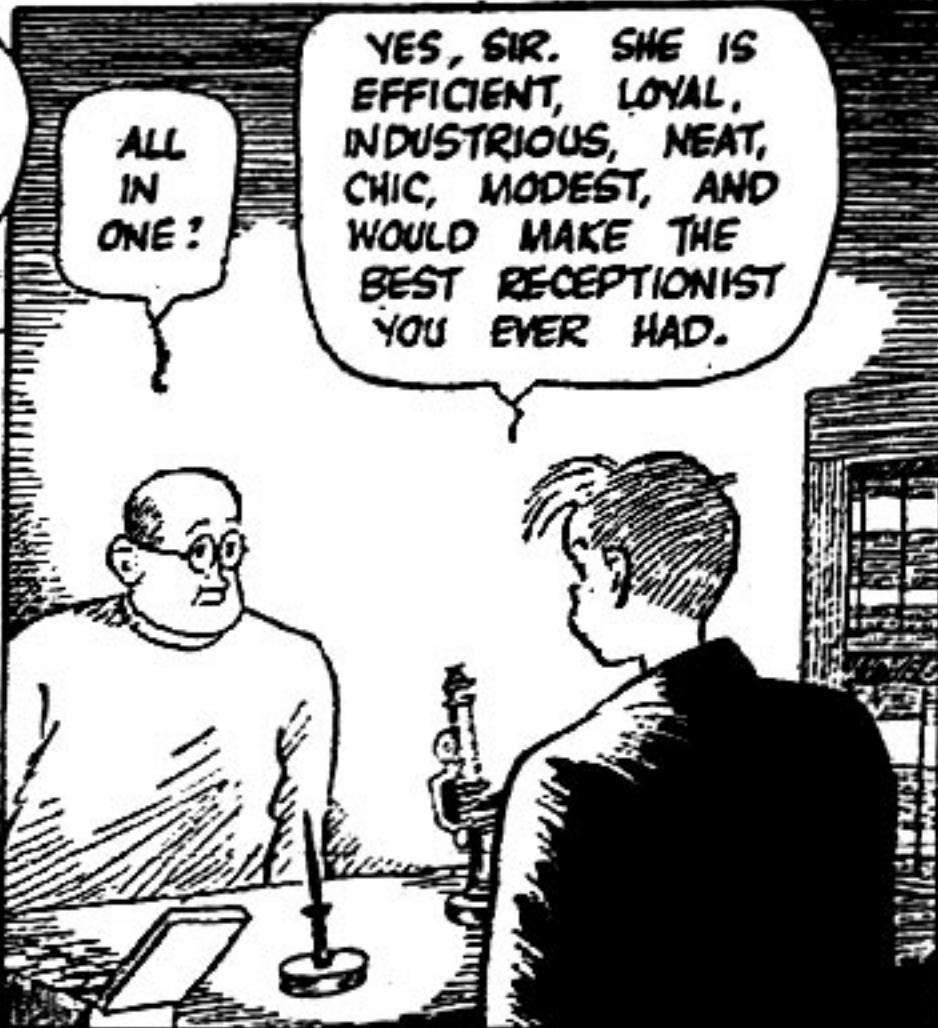
YOU MAY SEE DR. CRUNCH NOW.

THANK YOU.

WELL! YOU LOOK A BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER APPLICANTS FOR RECEPTIONIST.



I'M NOT APPLYING FOR MYSELF, DOCTOR, BUT I SPEAK FOR A GIRL WITH EXPERIENCE, WONDERFUL PERSONALITY, TACT, ABILITY AND STRIKING BEAUTY.



ALL IN ONE?

YES, SIR. SHE IS EFFICIENT, LOYAL, INDUSTRIOUS, NEAT, CHIC, MODEST, AND WOULD MAKE THE BEST RECEPTIONIST YOU EVER HAD.



YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS YOUNG LADY, I TAKE IT.

PERHAPS I DO. THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO HOLD BACK AND NOT EXAGGERATE.

YOU DID, SKEEZIX? THAT WAS NICE OF YOU. YOU DIDN'T LAND ANY JOB FOR ME, DID YOU?



I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T, BECAUSE THE WAY THINGS ARE, I COULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED IT ANYWAY... OH, SEVERAL THINGS.



I WOULDN'T WANT TO LET THE DOCTORS DOWN NOW AND I NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES FIRST. AND OTHER REASONS I WON'T BORE YOU WITH NOW, HONEY.



I KNOW! IT'S THAT YOUNG DOCTOR! SHE SAYS SHE'S SORRY FOR HIM. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE THAT SORRY!



CHEER UP, SKEEZIX.
WHY SO GLUM? I'LL
BET IT'S THAT DAME
BACK HOME.

MAYBE IT IS, BOUNCE.
I CAN'T HELP THINKING
THAT THINGS AREN'T
GOING AS THEY SHOULD.

ANOTHER GUY, OF
COURSE. DON'T TAKE IT
SO HARD, BOY.
WHO IS HE?

THAT DOCTOR, AGAIN.
I GOT ENGAGED AND
GAVE HER A RING AND
STILL HE SEEMS TO
HAVE MORE INFLUENCE
THAN I DO.

DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
YOU TAKE GIRLS TOO SERIOUSLY FOR
A FELLOW YOUR AGE. LOOK AT ME.
I HAVE A SWELL TIME AND NOT
A WORRY IN THE WORLD.

JUST THE SAME,
I WOULDN'T
TRADE MY WORRIES
FOR ALL YOUR
FUN.







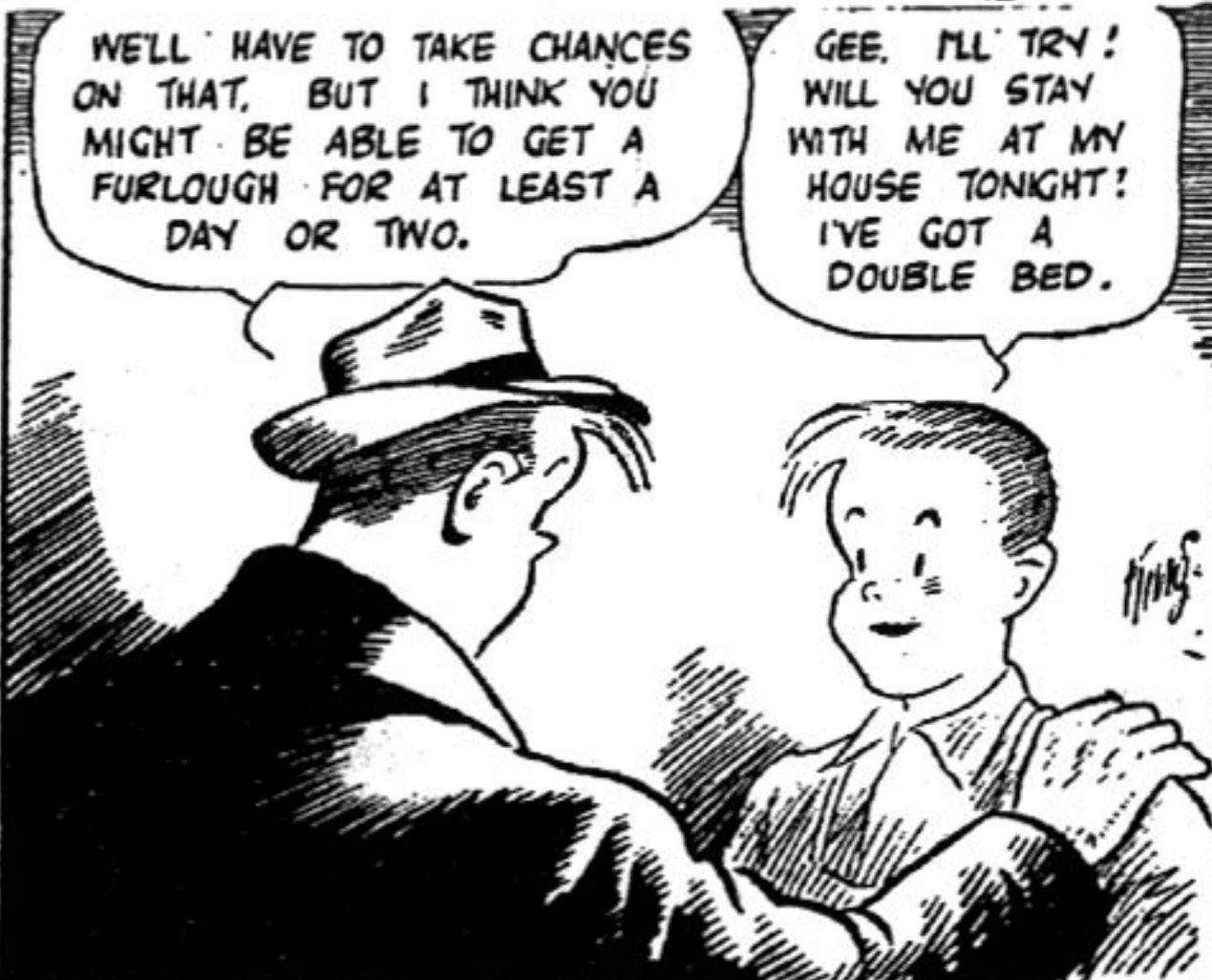
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO HARD TO SEE YOU, SKEEZIX.

NOT MANY PEOPLE GET THIS FAR INTO THE PLANT, UNCLE WALT. OF COURSE, WE ARE IN WAR WORK.



I AM PLANNING A GRAND HOME COMING FOR YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY, WHICH COMES NEXT MONTH. I AM SENDING INVITATIONS TO ALL OF OUR OLD FRIENDS FAR AND NEAR. FOR THE CELEBRATION IN GASOLINE ALLEY.

THAT WILL BE WONDERFUL! BUT PERHAPS I CAN'T GET AWAY.



WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CHANCES ON THAT, BUT I THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A FURLOUGH FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO.

GEE, I'LL TRY! WILL YOU STAY WITH ME AT MY HOUSE TONIGHT? I'VE GOT A DOUBLE BED.



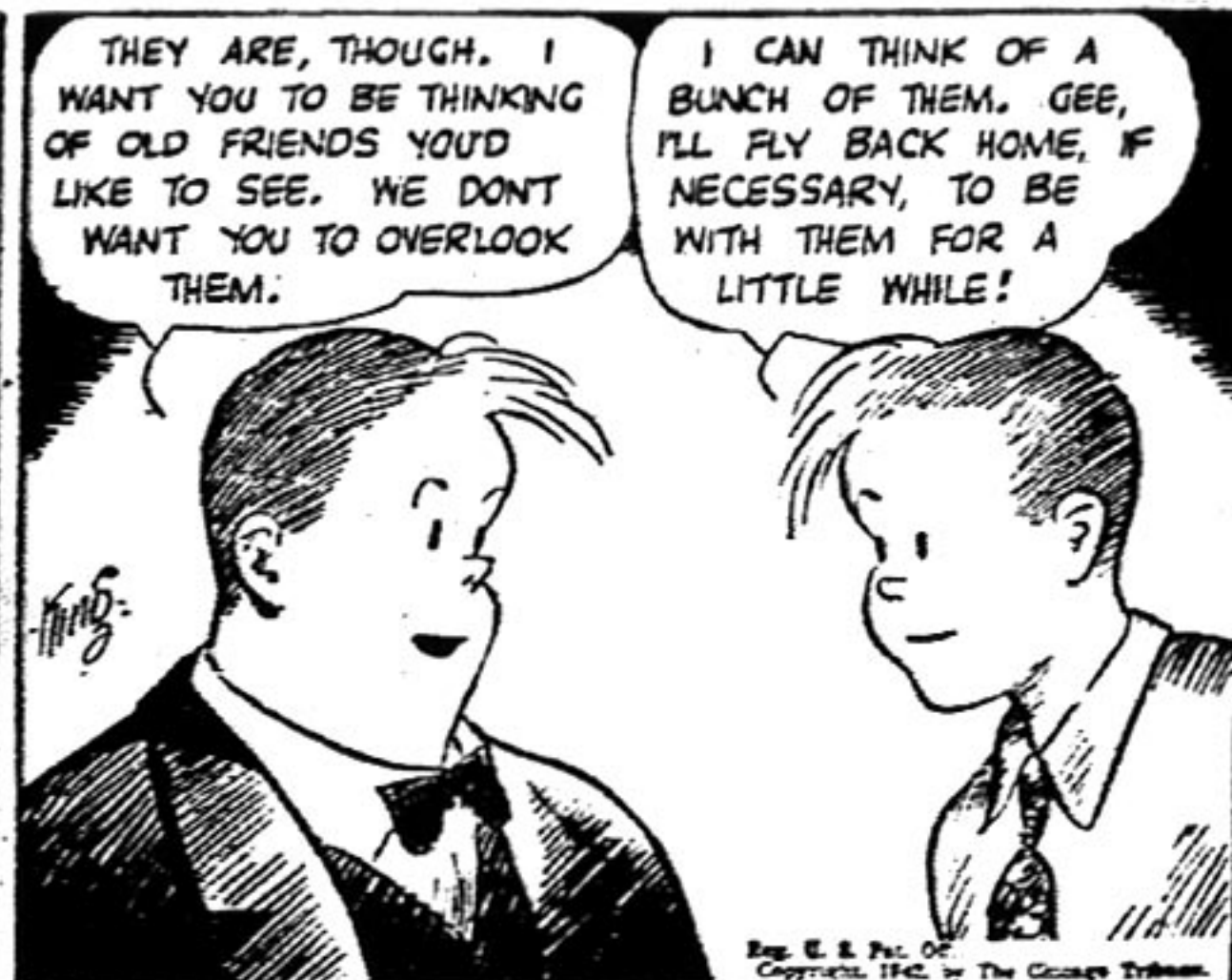
I WANT TO MAKE THAT 21ST BIRTHDAY OF YOURS A BIG ONE, SKEEZIX. DOZENS OF FOLKS YOU'VE KNOWN IN ALL THOSE YEARS ARE INVITED.

THAT WILL MAKE A WOW OF A HOMECOMING, UNCLE WALT.



FOLKS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN AGES HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED. THEY REALIZE THAT YOUR COMING OF AGE IS A MOMENTOUS OCCASION.

IT IS FOR ME, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE WAS INTERESTED.



THEY ARE, THOUGH. I WANT YOU TO BE THINKING OF OLD FRIENDS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE. WE DON'T WANT YOU TO OVERLOOK THEM.

I CAN THINK OF A BUNCH OF THEM. GEE, I'LL FLY BACK HOME, IF NECESSARY, TO BE WITH THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

I SAW NINA BEFORE I LEFT HOME, SKEEZIX. SHE'S LOOKING FINER EVERY DAY.

YOU KNOW, UNCLE WALT, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THINGS THERE. THERE'S A YOUNG DOCTOR WHO IS ALL HEPPED UP ABOUT HER.

DON'T YOU BEGIN GETTING ANY SUCH IDEAS, SON. IF YOU LET THE GREEN DEVIL, JEALOUSY, GET A TOE HOLD, YOU'LL BE MISERABLE.

BUT A FELLOW CAN'T HELP WONDERING.

YOU TWO ARE ENGAGED AND IF YOU CAN'T HAVE ALL-OUT TRUST IN EACH OTHER, YOU ARE IN A BAD WAY. I'M CERTAIN THAT NINA WOULDN'T BE DISLOYAL TO YOU IN ANY WAY.

I AM, TOO, UNCLE WALT. IT ALL COMES FROM OUR BEING SEPARATED THIS WAY.









OF COURSE, MR. WICKER WILL BE AT THE HOMECOMING, DOC. HE WAS A FAVORITE OF SKEEZIX WHEN SKEEZIX WAS A LITTLE TYKE.

AND IT WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT YOUR MOTHER, WALT.



NOBODY KNOWS WHAT EVER BECAME OF MME. OCTAVE. SHE SHOULD BE INVITED IF WE COULD FIND HER, AVERY.

THEN THERE'S UNCLE JERRY AND LORA.

MAYBE WE COULD ROUND UP RACHEL AND MANDY AND PLATO AND ANTHRACITE TO SERVE THE REFRESHMENTS.



MISS BUDD, SKEEZIX'S FIRST TEACHER, IS OVER AT WYEVILLE.

SQUINT WILL COME NO MATTER WHERE WE LOCATE HIM. HE'S ONE OF THE OLD STANDBYS.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A QUORUM, WALT.



I GOT YOUR NOTE ABOUT THE HOMECOMING FOR SKEEZIX'S BIRTHDAY, MR. WALLET. I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP WITH THE INVITATIONS.

THANKS, NINA. I'LL CALL ON YOU.



WE MUST MAKE IT AN OCCASION TO BE REMEMBERED, MR. WALLET.

NOW THAT YOU AND SKEEZIX HAVE THINGS ALL SETTLED, NINA, THERE'S A FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU.



I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU THAT IS IN MY POWER, MR. WALLET.

ALL RIGHT, CALL ME UNCLE WALT — LIKE SKEEZIX DOES.



HOW ARE YOU COMING, WALLET?

VERY WELL, MR. HARP. THIS MODEL CHECKS VERY ACCURATELY WITH BLUEPRINT 106B73.



HOW IS WALLET GETTING ON IN YOUR DEPARTMENT, HARP?

HE'S LEARNING FAST, CHIGGER. HE HAS A REMARKABLE FACULTY FOR READING BLUEPRINTS AND TRANSLATING THEM INTO THE ROUND.



IT WAS WUMPLE WHO WISHED HIM ONTO YOU— I DIDNT DO IT.

HE DID US A FAVOR. WALLET IS GOING TO DEVELOP INTO A VALUABLE MAN. NO APOLOGY NECESSARY.

WALLET, I'VE NOTICED YOUR INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF ENGINEERING DRAWINGS. I THINK YOU HAVE SOME OF THE PRACTICAL IMAGINATION IT TAKES TO COMPREHEND THEM.

I'M VERY MUCH INTERESTED ALONG THAT LINE, MR. HARP?

IF YOU'D CARE TO SPEND SOME OF YOUR SPARE TIME AT IT, HERE'S A BOOK ON THE READING OF MECHANICAL DRAWINGS, YOU MAY BORROW.

THANK YOU A LOT. I'D SURE LIKE TO TAKE IT HOME WITH ME.

AND IF YOU ARE SERIOUS ENOUGH, THERE ARE NIGHT SCHOOLS TO HELP YOU GET AHEAD FASTER.

I'M SERIOUS, MORE SO THAN I'VE EVER BEEN BEFORE. I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.

YOU GO TO NIGHT SCHOOL BOUNCE. DO THEY HAVE A COURSE IN MECHANICAL DRAWING AND BLUEPRINT READING?

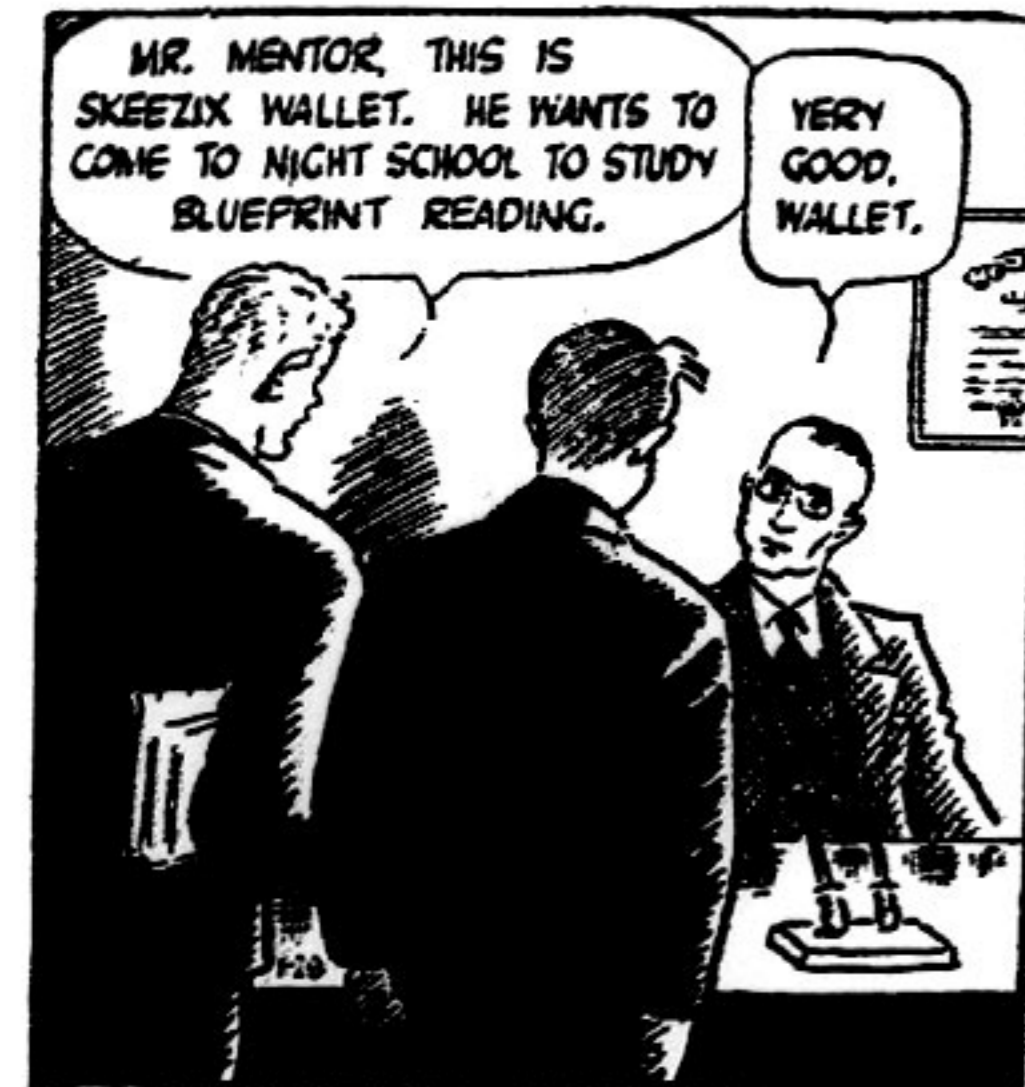
SURE, SKEEZIX, AND A LOT OF THINGS. I'M TAKING METALLURGY.

MR. HARP SUGGESTED SOME NIGHT WORK AND I WANT TO. — LOOK INTO IT.

IF HE SUGGESTED IT, TAKE MY TIP AND DO IT. HE'D HAVE KEPT MUM IF HE DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD ABILITY.

SUPPOSE I GO ALONG WITH YOU TONIGHT AND FIND OUT ABOUT IT.

SURE. WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER AND GOING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER, BUT I CAN STAND IT IF YOU CAN.



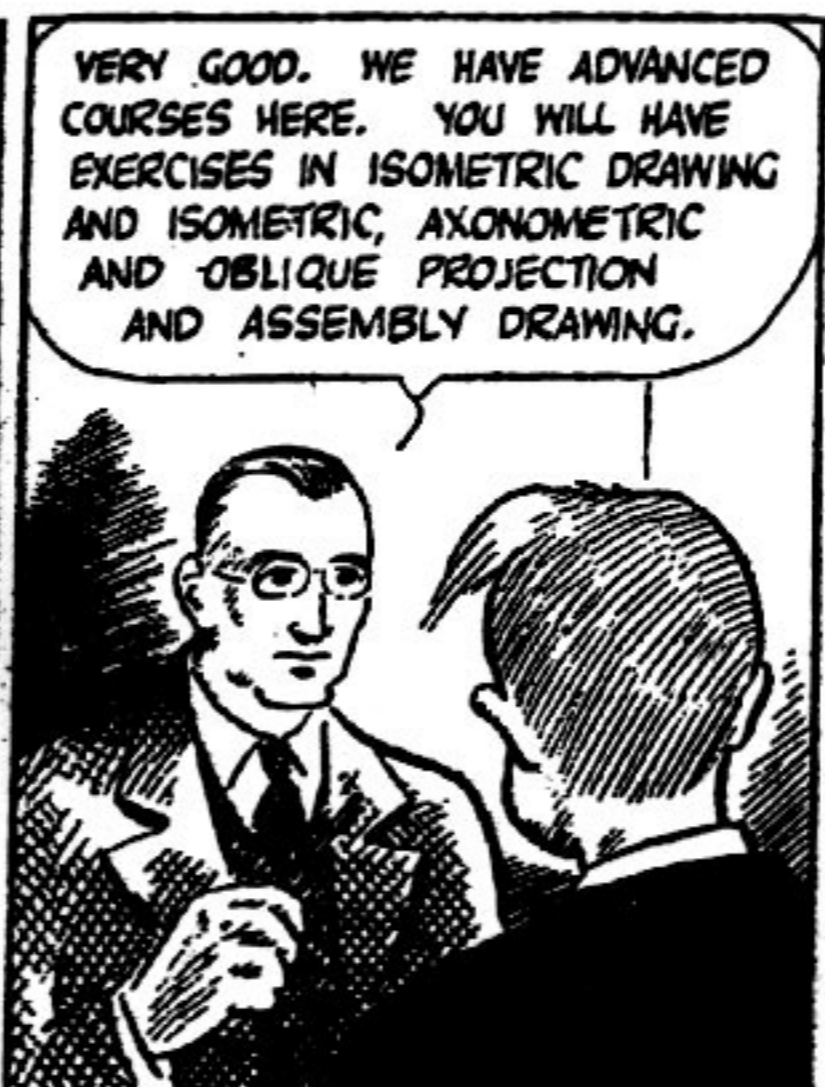
MR. MENTOR, THIS IS SKEEZIX WALLET. HE WANTS TO COME TO NIGHT SCHOOL TO STUDY BLUEPRINT READING.

VERY GOOD, WALLET.



OF COURSE, THE BACKGROUND FOR BLUEPRINT READING IS MECHANICAL DRAWING. HAVE YOU STUDIED THAT?

I HAD IT IN HIGH SCHOOL, MR MENTOR.



VERY GOOD. WE HAVE ADVANCED COURSES HERE. YOU WILL HAVE EXERCISES IN ISOMETRIC DRAWING AND ISOMETRIC, AXONOMETRIC AND OBLIQUE PROJECTION AND ASSEMBLY DRAWING.

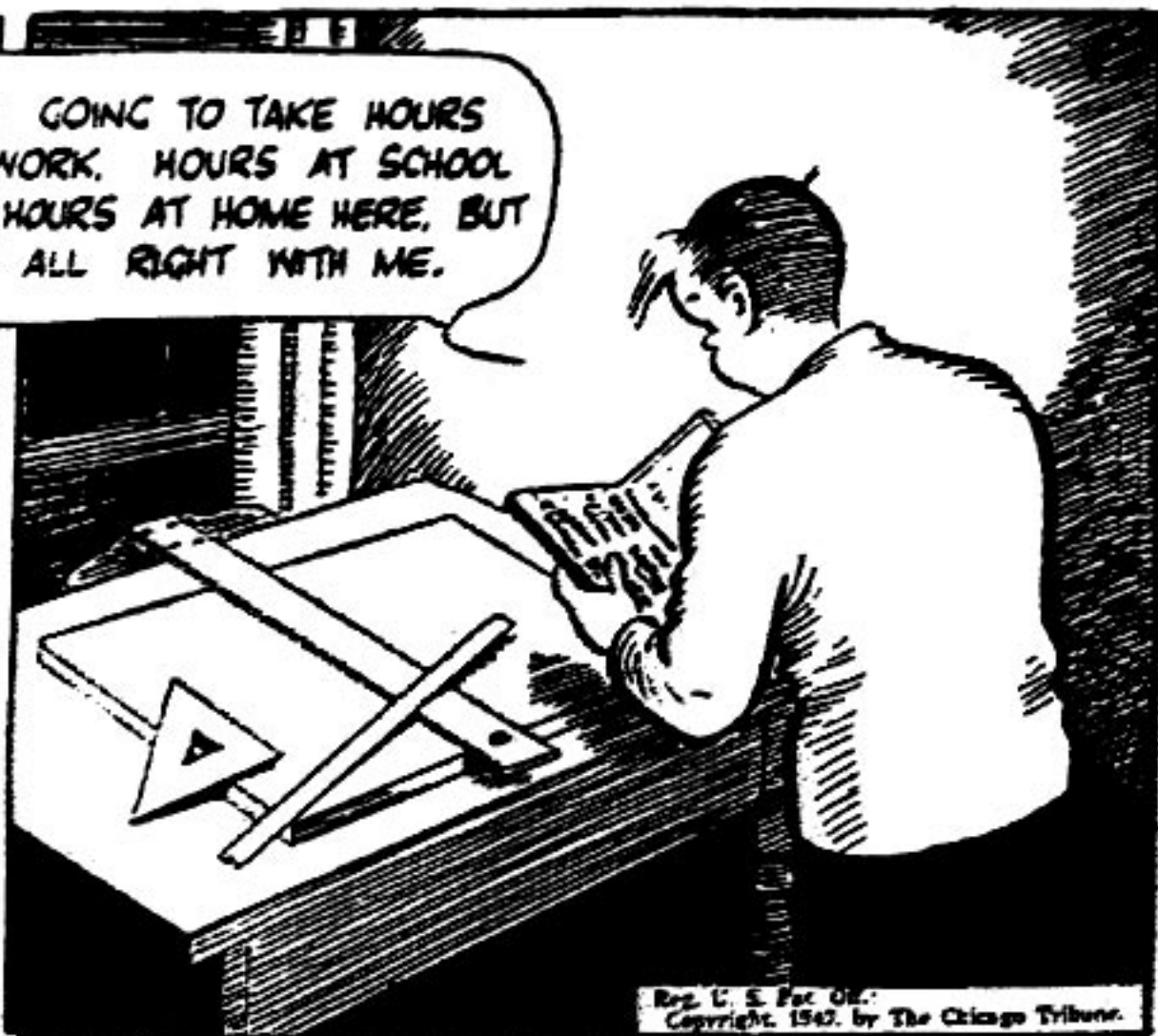


YOUR PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WILL GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE IN DIMENSIONING AND FITS AND TOLERANCES. OUR EXPERT INSTRUCTORS WILL TAKE YOU AS FAR AS YOU WANT TO GO.

THANKS, MR. MENTOR. I'LL START RIGHT NOW.



THESE ARE TIMES WHEN A FELLOW MUST GO ALL-OUT FOR HIS JOB. HE'S GOT TO PREPARE TO DO THE BEST HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING.



IT'S GOING TO TAKE HOURS AT WORK, HOURS AT SCHOOL AND HOURS AT HOME HERE, BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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THE BETTER I CAN DO AT THIS, THE MORE I CAN HELP THE WAR EFFORT— IN THE SERVICE OR OUT OF IT.





THIS WOULDN'T BE A HOMECOMING WITHOUT YOU, SQUINT. I KNEW YOU'D COME.

IF THAT LITTLE HALF-PINT, SKEEZIX, IS TO BE 21 YOU COULDN'T KEEP ME AWAY, WALT.



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THESE YEARS?

I STARTED MAKIN' MODERNISTIC TOTEM POLES IN ALERT BAY BUT I COULDN'T SELL 'EM TO THE INDIANS.

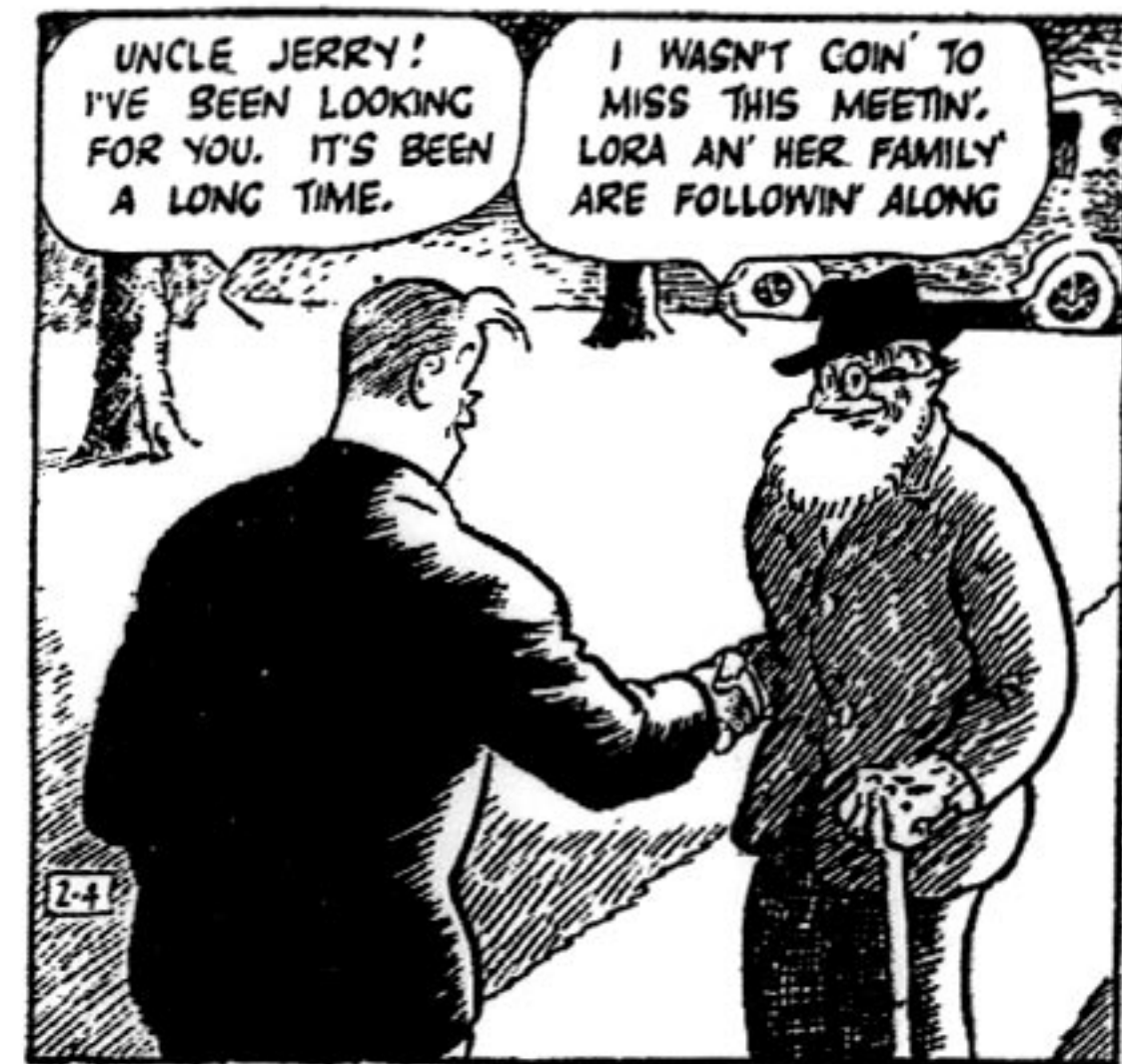


I WAS GUIDE ON A DUDE RANCH UNTIL THEY TRIED TO MAKE ME QUIT CHAWIN' TOBACCO. THEN I WAS CHASED OUT OF THE HOPI COUNTRY FOR TEACHIN' THE SNAKE DANCERS THE RUMBA.



REMEMBER OL' CRACKER JOE WE KNEW DOWN IN FLORIDA DURIN' THE BOOM? HE WANTS ME TO GO IN WITH HIM DOWN THERE MAKIN' AUTOMOBILE TIRES OUT OF ALLIGATOR HIDE.





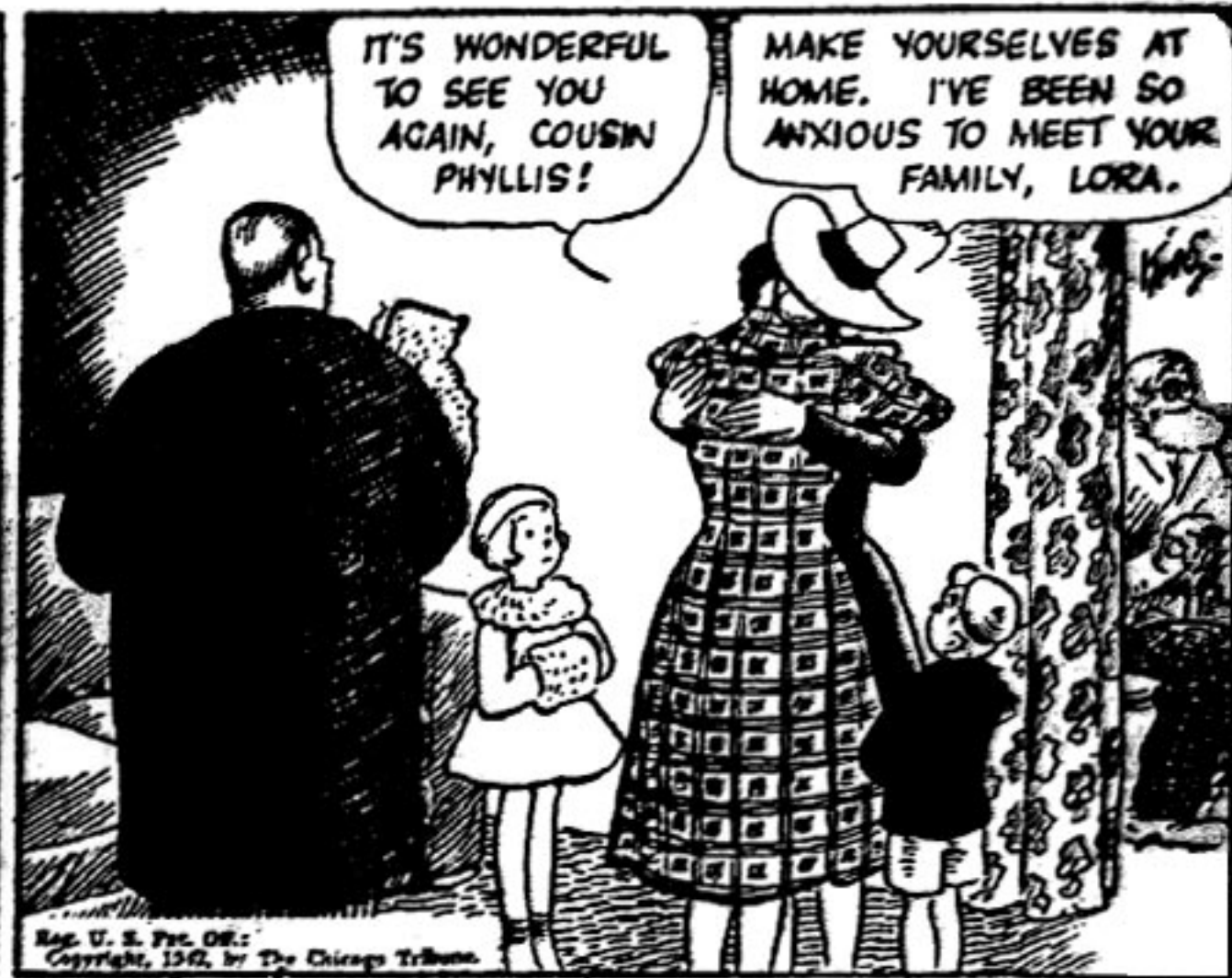
UNCLE JERRY!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU. IT'S BEEN
A LONG TIME.

I WASN'T GOIN' TO
MISS THIS MEETIN'.
LORA AN' HER FAMILY'
ARE FOLLOWIN' ALONG



COUSIN WALT! YOU
HAVEN'T MET MY HUSBAND,
JOE, OR ALICE OR JOE
JUNIOR OR JOAN.

WELCOME, EVERYBODY! YOU
CERTAINLY HAVE BRANCHED
OUT, LORA. PHYLLIS IS
LOOKING FOR YOU.



IT'S WONDERFUL
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN, COUSIN
PHYLLIS!

MAKE YOURSELVES AT
HOME. I'VE BEEN SO
ANXIOUS TO MEET YOUR
FAMILY, LORA.

ACHEL HAS BEEN WITH THE WALLETS SINCE SKEEZIX'S FIRST YEAR. MANDY WAS PHYLLIS' MAID BEFORE SHE MARRIED WALT. NOW SHE'S MAID IN A NIGHT CLUB REST ROOM. PLATO WAS MR. WICKER'S CHAUFFEUR YEARS AGO. NOW HE'S A PORTER ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STREAMLINER.

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IN THE KITCHEN, THE GASOLINE ALLEY WIVES HAVE ORGANIZED. EMILY AND AMY, WIVES OF AVERY AND BILL ARE COOKING PIES AND PASTRIES. DOC'S WIFE, HAZEL, AND PHYLLIS WALLET ARE PLANNING BAKED HAMS, BEEF ROASTS AND FRIED CHICKEN.



WE HAVEN'T ANY IDEA YET HOW MANY THERE ARE GOING TO BE. AMY.

TWENTY PIES WILL GO A LONG WAY. EMILY.

HAVE YOU ANY FIGURES ON THE CROWD, PHYLLIS?

ACCEPTANCES ARE STILL COMING IN, HAZEL. THERE ARE 50 ALREADY.

AVERY SAYS TO HAVE PLENTY TO EAT, EVEN IF WE EACH HAVE TO CHIP IN A COUPLE OF BUCKS TO HELP WALT OUT.

BILL IS GETTING A 40-POUND CHEESE.

WE'VE ORDERED OODLES OF MEAT AND VEGETABLES.

DOC SAYS ALL THEM TO THE GUARDS.

AN ALBUM OF SOME OF SKEEZIX'S OLD FRIENDS AS THEY USED TO BE IN THEIR YOUNGER DAYS. YOU MAY REMEMBER SOME OF THEM.



LORA



MR. NICKER



Doc.



SKEEZIX



BILL



HAZEL



EMILY



AMY

THE GASOLINE ALLEY WIVES.



SQUINT.



SPUD, WHIMPY & GOOTCH.



PAL.

SKEEZIX HIMSELF, 20 YEARS AGO.



PHYLLIS BLOSSOM BEFORE MARRIAGE TO WALT.



TOPS



LARKIE



LINA

I'M UNCLE JERRY, LORA'S FATHER. WE STAYED WITH WALT'S FOLKS HERE IN THE CITY ONCE AN BY GUM. DID I HIT THE HIGH SPOTS?

I'M THE OLD PROSPECTOR THAT WALT GRUBSTAKED A COUPLE OF TIMES IN THE UTAH HILLS. IF HE'LL DO IT AGAIN, I KNOW A DIGGINS THAT WILL MAKE FT. KNOX LOOK LIKE A PIGGY BANK.



WHAT LINE ARE YOU IN, MR. CLOCK?

I'M A DIRT FARMER. NINA'S MY DAUGHTER AND SHE'S GOING TO MARRY SKEETIX, YOU KNOW.



HI, SQUINT!

I SEE YOU FELLOWS HAVE FOUND SOMETHING IN COMMON, AND IF YOU ASK ME, I'D SAY IT WAS WHISKERS.





IT'S NINE TO MEET YOU, TRIPUD.

IT'S SEEN YEARS, TRALLY.

WHIMPY, YOU'VE SURELY GOTTEN.

YOU WERE KNEE-HIGH YOURSELF, JEAN.

I HOPED YOU'D BE HERE, TOPS.

GEE, SNIFE, I'M GLAD I GOT LEAVE!

GOOTCH, WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE?

GOSH, JESSICA, I WAS BUSY.

THE BUNCH IS TOGETHER AGAIN, SKEEZIX.

GOSH, SWEET, NINA.

OLD FRIENDS ARE BEST, BRICK.

I HOPE I'M NOT TOO OLD, TRICKIE.



YOU GET 21 SOCKS FROM EACH OF US SATURDAY, SKEEZIX.

HOW COME ALL THIS FUSS? I'M 21, TOO.

YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD AN UNCLE WALT, WHIMPY.

I'M GLAD SOMEBODY HAD AN UNCLE WALT.

THIS IS DIVINE, GOOTCH. PLEASE DON'T GO BACK TO THE NAVY.

NO, TOPS, WE COULDN'T GET ALONG ON \$21 A MONTH.



I JUST WANT TO TOUCH YOU, SKEEZIX.

7-13



SKEEZIX, WHO WAS THAT WOMAN WHO WALKED UP AND KISSED YOU?



I DIDN'T KNOW, NINA, BUT NOW I DO, THAT WAS MME. OCTAVE. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT SHE'S MY MOTHER!

TELL ME ABOUT HER, SKEEZIX.



NO ONE KNEW ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS LEFT ON UNCLE WALT'S DOORSTEP. BUT WHEN I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD, SHE CLAIMED ME AND THERE WAS A LONG-DRAWN-OUT LEGAL BATTLE. I WAS AWARDED TO UNCLE WALT AND HE ADOPTED ME. MME OCTAVE HAS NEVER PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ME, SO UNCLE WALT AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM HAVE BEEN MY REAL PARENTS ALL THESE YEARS.

21 YEARS AGO THIS MORNING, SKEEZIX WAS LEFT ON UNCLE WALT WALLET'S DOORSTEP.

HE ENTERS MANHOOD SURROUNDED BY A HOST OF OLD FRIENDS. THIS SIDE OF SKEEZIX, YOU WILL FIND SPUD, WHIMPY, GOOTCH, JESSICA, TOPS, NINA, SISSY BLY, TRIXIE, SALLY, CORKY, JUDY, MR. & MRS. CLOCK, THE OLD PROSPECTOR, MRS. NOSEY, PLATO, ANTHRACITE AND HIS HOT BAND, AND OTHERS.



FRIENDS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONGRATULATIONS. YOU HAVE MADE ME VERY HAPPY. OLD FRIENDS ARE THE BEST FRIENDS. I'LL REMEMBER YOU, ALWAYS.

▲ JUNTIE PHYLLIS BLOSSOM, MME. OCTAVE, UNCLE WALT AND HIS MOTHER, DOC AND HAZEL, ANERY AND EMILY, MR. WICKER, BILL AND AMY, SQUINT, UNCLE JERRY, LORA AND HUSBAND, AUNT HESSIE, PHOEBE, MR. TOPPER AND MR. WANE. ALSO RACHEL AND MANDY.

GASOLINE ALLEY—

By King



IS THIS WHERE I REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE?

YES, SIT DOWN. I'LL HAVE TO HAVE YOUR NAME, RESIDENCE, AGE AND OCCUPATION.



I'M SKEEZIX WALLET, 409 11TH ST, 21, INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH WORKER.

THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS?



MY UNCLE, WALT WALLET, BACK IN GASOLINE ALLEY.

I'D SAY YOU ARE ABOUT 5 FEET. 10 AND WEIGH ABOUT 145, SANDY HAIR, LIGHT COMPLEXION.



WHAT COMES NEXT, MR. PICK?

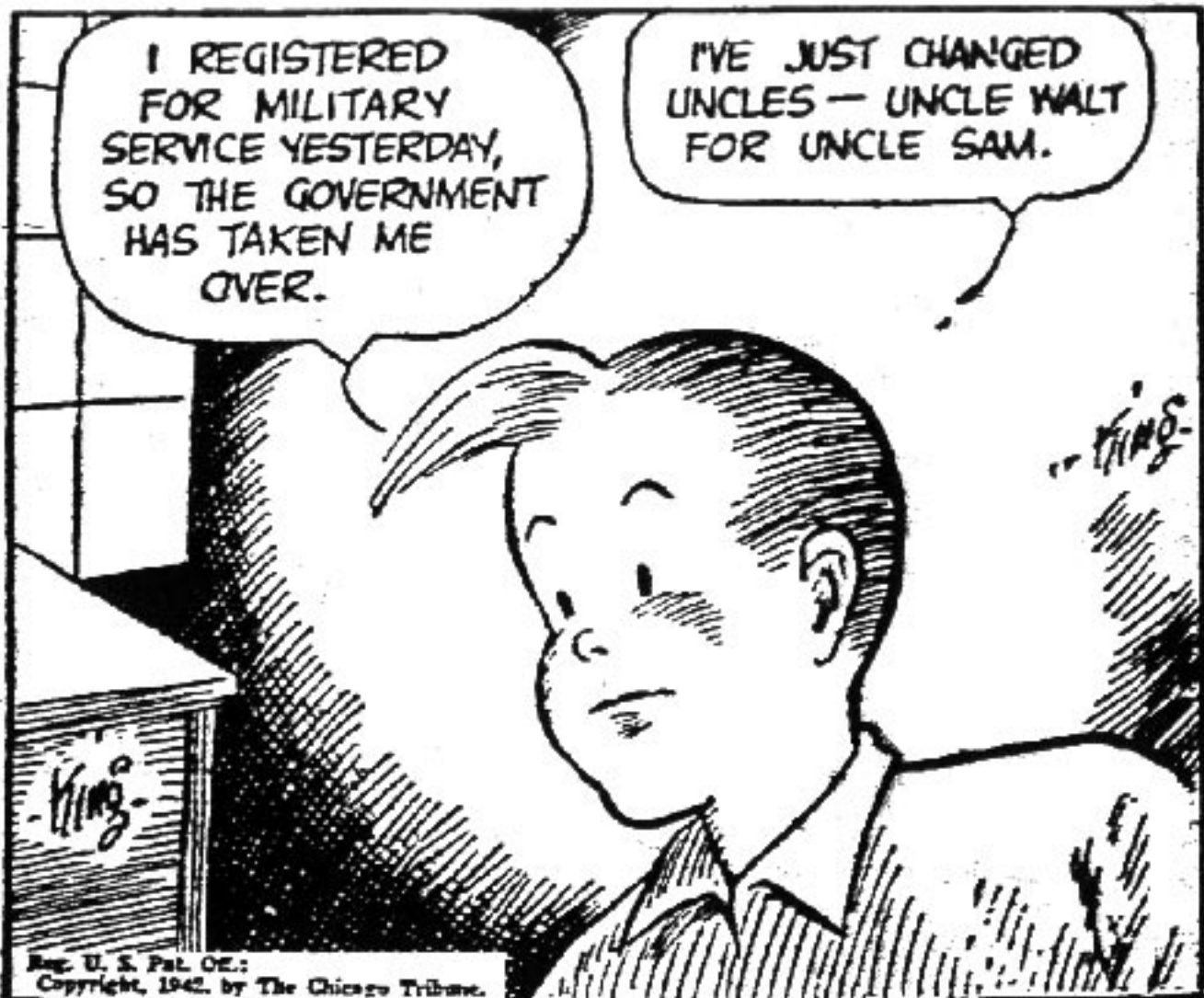
KEEP YOUR REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING FURTHER UNTIL THE DRAWING OF NUMBERS.



ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF BECOMING 21 YEARS OLD HAS SUBSIDED AND NOW I KNUCKLE DOWN IN EARNEST. I'M ON MY OWN.



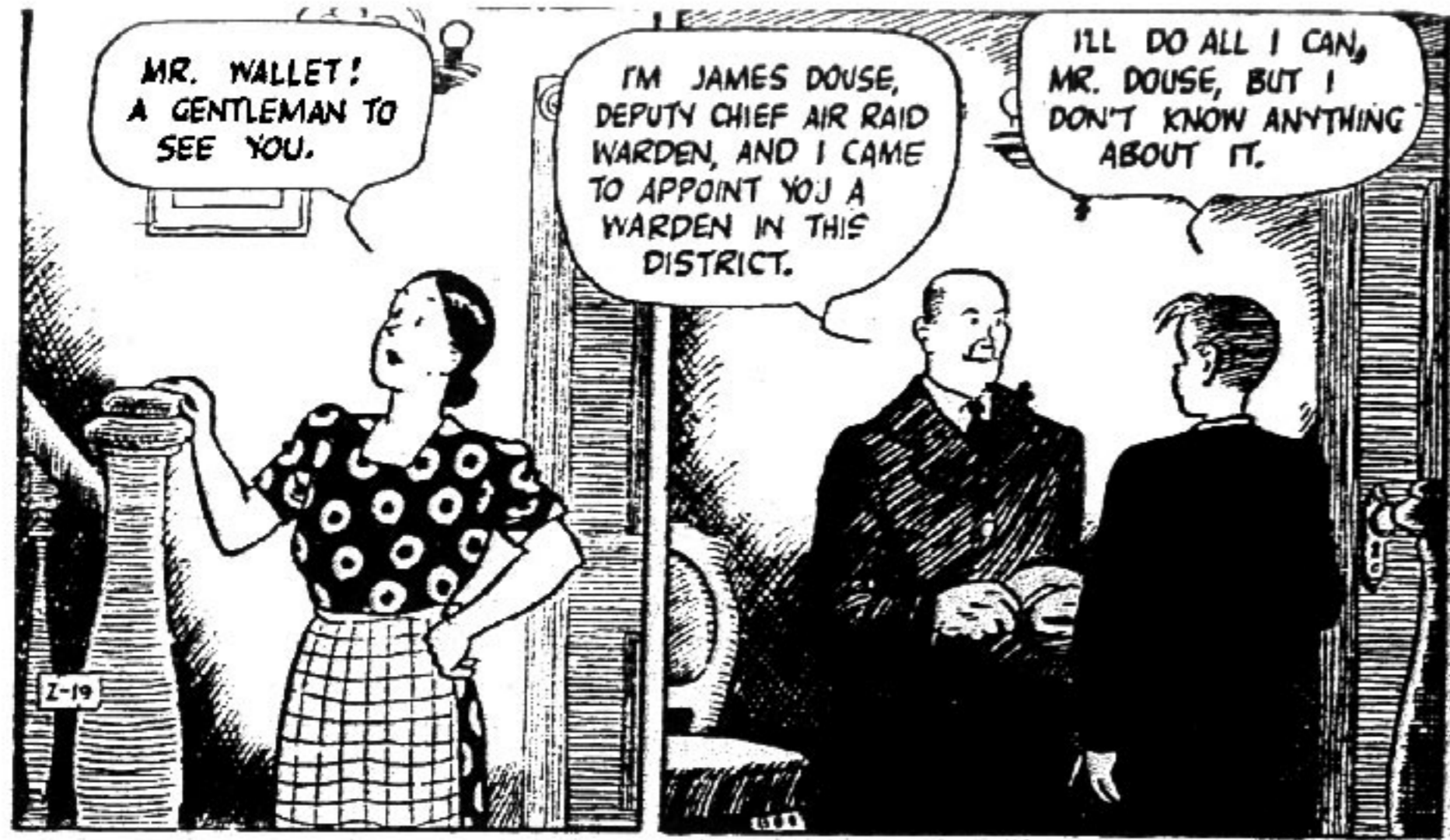
UNCLE WALT HAS BEEN MY PROTECTOR AND GUARDIAN ALL THESE YEARS. HE HASN'T THAT RESPONSIBILITY ANY MORE.



I REGISTERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE YESTERDAY, SO THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ME OVER.

I'VE JUST CHANGED UNCLES — UNCLE WALT FOR UNCLE SAM.





MR. WALLET!
A GENTLEMAN TO
SEE YOU.

I'M JAMES DOUSE,
DEPUTY CHIEF AIR RAID
WARDEN, AND I CAME
TO APPOINT YOU A
WARDEN IN THIS
DISTRICT.

I'LL DO ALL I CAN,
MR. DOUSE, BUT I
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.



YOU'LL BE INSTRUCTED
IN YOUR DUTIES. THERE
ARE MEETINGS EACH WEEK
WHICH YOU WILL BE
REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

I'M GLAD
TO DO
ALL I CAN
TO HELP.



IN CASE OF A BLACK OUT,
YOUR DUTIES ARE IMPORTANT.
IN CASE OF AIR RAID THE
NEED WILL BE VITAL.

THANK YOU,
MR. DOUSE.
YOU CAN
COUNT ON
ME





HI, SALLY SNIPE!
GOING MY WAY?

MAYBE YOU'RE
GOING MINE,
SKEEZIX.



I'M SURPRISED!
YOU DON'T LOOK
ANY MORE LIKE
A FULL GROWN
MAN THAN YOU
DID LAST WEEK

YOU DON'T MEAN
IT! I DON'T FEEL
LIKE ONE BUT I
THOUGHT I LOOKED IT.



IT WAS AN
INTERESTING
BIRTHDAY PARTY
AND I'M GLAD I
WAS INVITED.

I WANTED
YOU TO MEET
SOME OF MY
OLD PALS.



OH, YOU'RE
SAVING FOR
A RAINY
DAY, TOO!

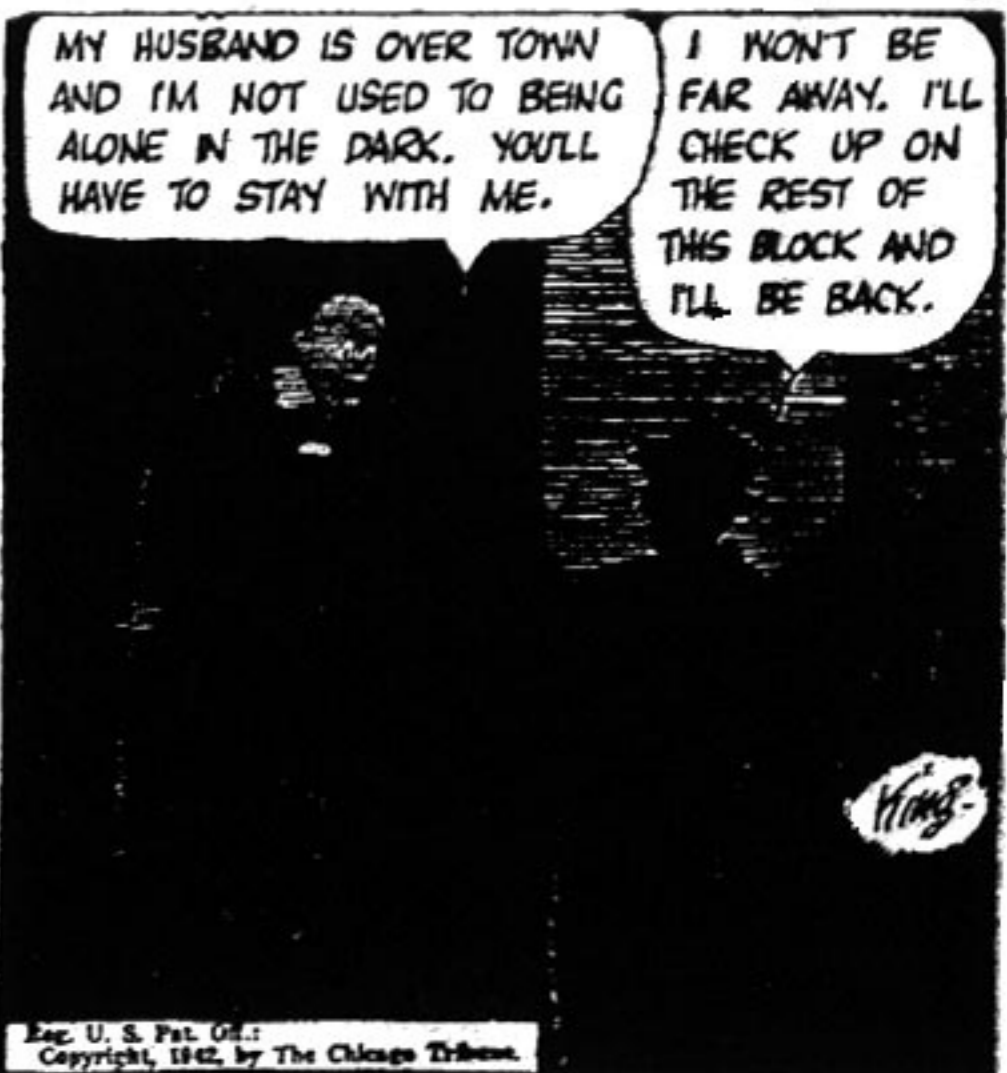
I'M SAVING
FOR THE RAINY
DAY THAT'S
ALREADY HERE.

DEFENSE SAVINGS
BONDS & STAMPS





7-74



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King

SIT DOWN, WALLET. NOW THAT YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR MILITARY DUTY, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY REASON YOU SHOULDN'T SERVE?

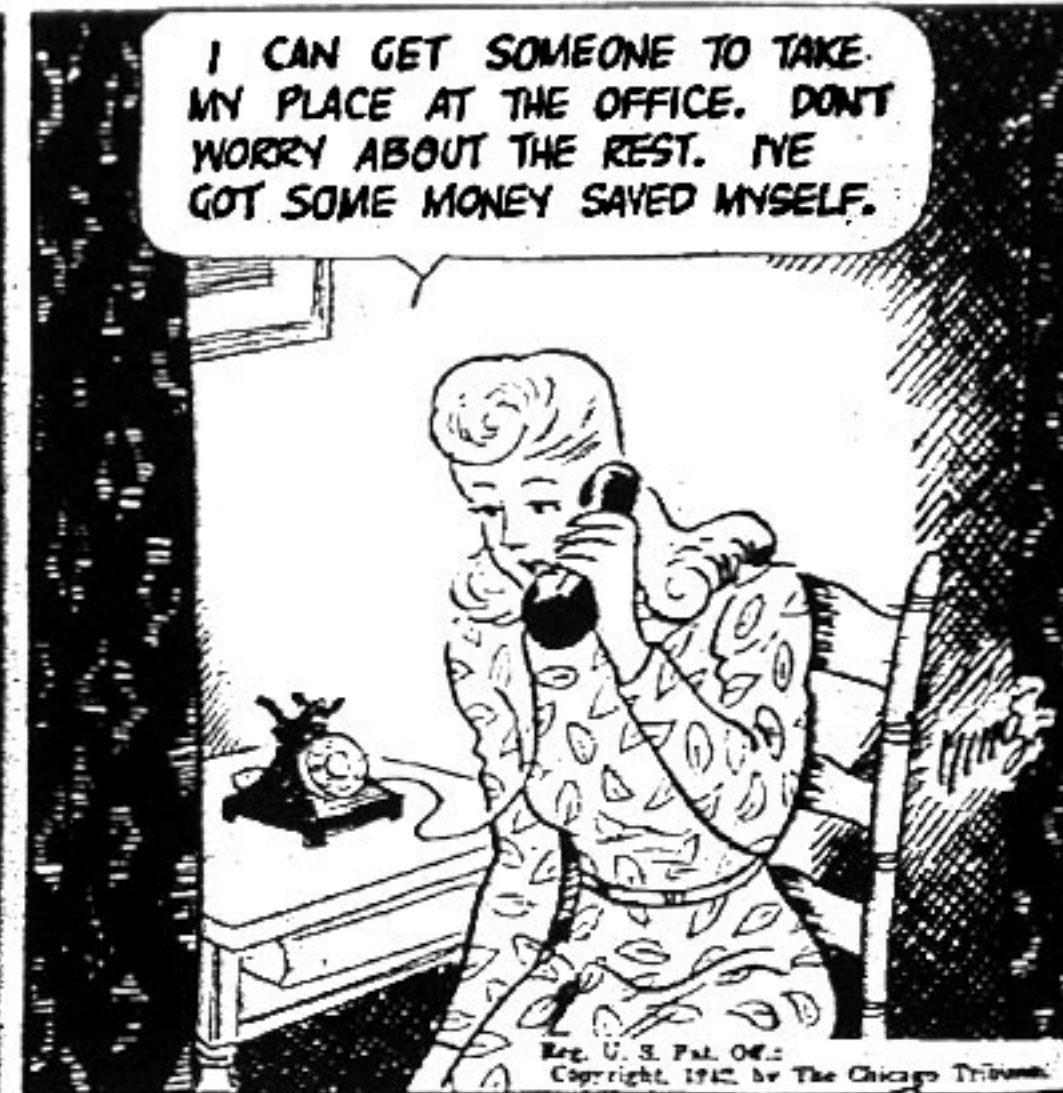
NO, SIR. I'M THE RIGHT AGE, FIT AND HEALTHY.

I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT YOU HAVE DONE WELL HERE. YOU HAVE BECOME PROFICIENT, CAPABLE AND NECESSARY, AND I AM ASKING THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST A DEFERMENT FOR YOU FOR THREE MONTHS.

THANK YOU, MR. HARP, BUT I HAVE DECIDED TO GO WHEN CALLED

THAT IS A WORTHY RESOLVE, SKEEZY. BUT YOU KNOW THE WAR IS BEING FOUGHT IN PLANTS LIKE THIS AS WELL AS IN THE FRONT LINES. WE WILL NEED TIME TO FIND A MAN AND TRAIN HIM TO REPLACE YOU.

I'M WILLING TO HELP THAT MUCH, BUT I FEEL IT IS MY DUTY TO GO WHEN THE TIME COMES.





I'M ALL REGISTERED AND EVERYTHING, NINA, BUT MY BOSS, MR. HARP, SAYS THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO ASK FOR DEFERMENT FOR SIX EMPLOYEES, AND I'M ONE OF THEM.

THAT'S GRAND, SKEEZIX! I'M GLAD YOU WON'T HAVE TO GO IMMEDIATELY.

IF IT GOES THROUGH, HONEY, WE OUGHT TO PLAN TO SEE AS MUCH OF EACH OTHER AS WE CAN. WHAT ABOUT YOUR GETTING A JOB HERE IN DETROPOLIS?

THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO— IF I COULD.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN. EXPERIENCED GIRLS IN YOUR LINE AREN'T TOO PLENTIFUL. THEN WE COULD HAVE EVENINGS AND SUNDAYS TOGETHER. I'VE MISSED YOU TERRIBLY!

AND I'VE BEEN AWFULLY LONESOME WITHOUT YOU, DARLING. I'D HAVE TO GIVE MY DOCTORS TIME TO GET SOMEONE ELSE. I'D LOVE TO COME.

NINA, THREE MONTHS IS AN
AWFULLY SHORT TIME. IF I GET
DEFERRED EVEN THAT LONG,
AND WE HAVE GOT A LOT OF
DECIDING TO DO.

WE MUST
MAKE THE
MOST OF
WHAT TIME
WE HAVE,
SKEEZIX.

WE'RE GOING TO GET
MARRIED SOMETIME. THE
QUESTION IS WHETHER TO DO
IT MIGHTY SOON AND HAVE
SOME WEEKS TOGETHER, OR
TO WAIT AND HAVE IT
POSTPONED, FOR PERHAPS
YEARS.

WHAT MATTERS
IS NOW WE WILL
FEEL ABOUT IT
AFTER THE
THREE MONTHS
IS GONE.

I KNOW HOW I
WILL FEEL, NINA. I
WOULD ALWAYS BE
GLAD THAT WE DID
IT, NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR
ANGLE IS, BUT I KNOW IT
WOULD BE DEVASTATING FOR
ME TO GO THROUGH ALL THOSE
MONTHS AND YEARS AND BE
ONLY ENGAGED TO YOU.

I WOULD FEEL
THE SAME WAY,
SKEEZIX. IT
WOULD BE VERY
DISHEARTENING.



YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF GETTING MARRIED SO YOUNG SKEEZIX. IT'S PUPPY LOVE, WAIT TILL YOU GET YOUR EYES OPEN.

MINE ARE WIDE OPEN, BOUNCE I'VE FOUND THE RIGHT GIRL. THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT!

IF YOU'RE GOING INTO THE ARMY, YOU CAN'T GET HOME EVERY TIME YOU'RE ON LEAVE. IT WILL BE A LONESOME LIFE IF YOU CAN'T STEP OUT A LITTLE.

I'M ENGAGED TO NINA AND I'D FEEL MYSELF OBLIGATED AS MUCH ONE WAY AS THE OTHER.

WELL, SUIT YOURSELF, BUT DON'T COME AROUND KEEPING ON MY SHOULDER WHEN IT'S ALL OVER.

YOU'VE PLAYED AROUND WITH A LOT OF GIRLS, BOUNCE, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE.

I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, NINA, AND GOT TO THINKING. IF I'M AWAY FOR A LONG TIME IT'S GOING TO BE A FRIGHTFULLY DULL LIFE FOR YOU.

I'LL MISS YOU TERRIBLY, BUT I'M GOING TO KEEP BUSY.



YES, BUT IF YOU WERE MARRIED YOU'D FEEL THAT YOU COULDN'T GO OUT WITH ANYBODY. YOU WOULDN'T BE NEARLY AS RESTRICTED IF YOU WERE JUST ENGAGED.

FOOLISH, BEING MARRIED TO YOU WOULD COMPENSATE FOR EVERYTHING.



COME ON. MY ROOMING HOUSE LIVING ROOM IS ALL RIGHT TO VISIT IN BUT LET'S GO WHERE IT'S PRIVATE AND COZY.



SWEETHEART, BEING MRS SKEEZIX WALLET WITH NO HUSBAND TO TAKE YOU PLACES WOULD KEEP YOU OUT OF A LOT OF GOOD TIMES.

I'M NOT LOOKING FOR GOOD TIMES, DARLING. I'D RATHER BE MRS. SKEEZIX WALLET THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.



NOW, NINA, LET'S FIGURE HOW IT WOULD BE IF WE WERE GETTING MARRIED VERY SOON. WE'D HUNT UP SOME MODEST HOUSEKEEPING ROOMS.

YES, NEAR ENOUGH TO THE PLANT SO YOU COULD COME HOME FOR LUNCH.

AND WE WOULD SPEND EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER THAT I WASN'T ACTUALLY WORKING.

I'D WALK WITH YOU TO THE PLANT, SKEEZIX, AND MEET YOU WHEN YOU WERE THROUGH.

AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO A MOVIE SHOW JUST TO GET SOME PLACE TO SIT WHERE WE'D BE ALONE.

EXACTLY, DARLING.

AND THEN, AFTER A FEW WEEKS, I'D GO AWAY. THAT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE JOLT.

JUST THE SAME, WE'D BE INFINITELY BETTER OFF THAN A LOT OF COUPLES WHO WANTED TO GET MARRIED AND DIDN'T.



BUT IF WE GOT MARRIED, YOU'D HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR JOB WITH THE DOCTORS. AND WHEN I LEFT FOR THE ARMY THAT'S WHEN YOU'D REALLY NEED IT.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME, HONEY. I'D FIND ANOTHER.

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I'VE HAD TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. IT ISN'T AS IF I WAS GREEN LIKE I WAS LAST YEAR.

BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE A JOB WHERE YOU'D HAVE TO WORK A LOT HARDER WITH LONGER HOURS.



WHAT OF IT? I'M WILLING TO DO ALL THAT.

LISTEN HERE. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE NOOGING YOU, BUT YOU BATTER DOWN EVERY OBJECTION I RAISE. HOSSY, I THINK YOU ARE AFTER MY MONEY!

LISTEN, NINA! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY. LET'S GO TO THE COURTHOUSE, GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE, AND GET IT OVER WITH.

MY, BUT YOU'RE IMPETUOUS, SKEEDY! DON'T RUSH ME RIGHT OFF MY FEET.



3-9

WE'VE DONE A LOT OF TALKING. I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ACTION.

I FEEL THE SAME WAY. IT WOULD CERTAINLY DO AWAY WITH A LOT OF FLUSS AND BOTNER.



IT WILL SAVE YOUR FOLKS AND MY FOLKS A LOT OF TROUBLE AND EXPENSE, TOO.

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE GLAD WE WENT AHEAD AND DID IT.



AND WE'LL HAVE THE FUN OF WALKING IN AND TELLING THEM.

BOY, WILL THEY BE SURPRISED! AND THEY'LL BE AS HAPPY ABOUT IT AS WE ARE!



THERE'S THE COURTHOUSE, NINA. WE'LL GET OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE, GO TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND IT WILL BE ALL OVER.

YOU KNOW, SKEEZIX, AS WE HAVE BEEN WALKING ALONG, I'VE BEEN THINKING.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING COLD FEET?

I DON'T KNOW. BOTH YOUR FOLKS AND MINE HAVE BEEN AWFULLY GOOD TO US. DO YOU THINK WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING BY THEM?

I DON'T KNOW WHY NOT. I'LL BET THEY'LL BE GLAD THEY DON'T HAVE TO FUSS AND FRET ABOUT IT.

BUT IF WE DON'T TAKE THEM INTO OUR CONFIDENCE, IT MIGHT HURT THEM TERRIBLY.

IF THEY WERE AGAINST US, I'D DO IT IN A MINUTE. BUT AS LONG AS THEY'RE FOR US, I THINK WE'D BETTER WAIT.

LOOKS LIKE THE DEBATE IS GOING TO THE NEGATIVE TEAM ON POINTS.



YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT IT, NINA. SO WHEN YOU GET HOME YOU TELL THE NEWS TO UNCLE MALT, AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM, AS WELL AS TO YOUR FOLKS.

I WILL, SKEEZY. AND I THINK I'LL BE GLAD WE TOOK THEM INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AND DIDN'T GET MARRIED ON THE QUIET.



AND BE SURE TO TELL THEM TO KEEP IT DARK. WE DON'T WANT TO SPRING IT ON THE POPULACE YET.

I'LL SWEAR THEM ALL TO SECRECY. NOW, DON'T WORK TOO HARD, DARLING, WITH YOUR NIGHT SCHOOL WORK AND EVERYTHING.



I WON'T. AND DON'T YOU! AND WRITE ME HOW THEY TAKE IT AT HOME, HONEY!

YOU WRITE, TOO, AND I'LL EXPECT TO SEE YOU THE FIRST MOMENT YOU GET A CHANCE. BE GOOD!

YES, FATHER AND MOTHER, I HAD A GOOD TIME IN DETROPOLIS. BUT I WAS BUSY. SKEEZIX AND I ARE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED VERY SOON.

MARRIED! THIS IS A BIT SUDDEN. ISN'T IT, NINA?

IT HAS TO BE SUDDEN, OR BE POSTPONED FOR AGES. I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T ANY OBJECTION TO SKEEZIX. WE'VE DECIDED IT IS BEST.

SKEEZIX IS A FINE UPSTANDING BOY, AND YOUNG FOLKS MUST GET MARRIED WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG FOLKS. BUT WHEN IT'S MY DAUGHTER, I'VE GOT TO GET USED TO THE IDEA.

WE MIGHT WAIT A LITTLE WHILE IF SKEEZIX WASN'T SUBJECT TO ARMY CALL. BUT HE IS.

I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL, NINA!

IF IT'S TO BE, WE MUST MAKE OUR PLANS FOR IT. BUT YOU YOUNGSTERS MUST GIVE US A LITTLE TIME.





BY GOLLY, NINA, THAT'S GOOD NEWS! I'M FOR YOU KIDS ALL THE WAY. WE MUST SPRING IT ON PHYLLIS.

SKEEZIX WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU APPROVE. UNCLE MALT.



THERE, YOU ARE, MONEY. TELL PHYLLIS THE NEWS.

AUNTIE BLOSSOM, SKEEZIX AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED RIGHT AWAY.

MARRIED! RIGHT AWAY? WELL THAT IS NEWS, NINA.




I AM HAPPY WITH YOU, DEAR. NOW WE MUST START PLANNING IMMEDIATELY. THERE IS LOTS TO BE DONE. HAVE YOU CHOSEN YOUR BRIDESMAIDS?

NO, BUT YOU SEE—




YOU MUST, AND I HOPE SKEEZIX HAS NAMED HIS BEST MAN. JUDY WILL MAKE A PERFECTLY DARLING FLOWER GIRL. WE MUST GET THE INVITATIONS ENGRAVED IMMEDIATELY.


BUT, AUNTIE BLOSSOM, WE WON'T HAVE TIME FOR ALL OF THAT. AND PLEASE DON'T BREATHE IT TO ANYBODY.



I HOPE UNCLE WALT AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM APPROVE OF NINA AND ME GETTING MARRIED IMMEDIATELY. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR NINA TO TELL THEM, THAN FOR ME TO WRITE OR TELEPHONE.



MAYBE I WAS TOO HASTY, WANTING TO DO IT FIRST AND TELL THE FOLKS AFTERWARDS. I'D REALLY WANT UNCLE WALT TO KNOW. HE'S BEEN SUCH A PEACH ALL THESE YEARS. I'M GLAD I DIDN'T LET HIM DOWN.



IF WE REALLY MUST HAVE THE WEDDING AT HOME, I COULD FLY THERE OVER THE WEEK END AND BRING NINA BACK WITH ME. WHAT I'D RATHER DO IS HAVE HER COME HERE AGAIN AND DO IT QUICKLY AND QUIETLY

GASOLINE ALLEY—

NINA, IF YOU HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED MARRYING SKEEZIX, EVEN THOUGH HE MAY BE AWAY FROM YOU FOR PERHAPS YEARS WE IVLL GO AHEAD WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS.

I HAVE, FATHER.



I WILL SEE REV. SOMBER RIGHT AWAY. OF COURSE, WE WILL WANT THE WEDDING IN THE LITTLE CHURCH AT THE CROSSROADS WHERE YOU HAVE COME ALL YOUR LIFE.

THAT WOULD SATISFY ME, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD TALK WITH AUNTIE PHYLLIS BLOSSOM, FIRST. SHE WANTS IT IN THE BIG LAKEWOOD CHURCH IN TOWN. IT MIGHT HURT HER FEELINGS.



IT IS NOT MRS. WALLETS WEDDING AND SHE CANNOT DICTATE WHERE AND BY WHOM MY DAUGHTER IS TO BE MARRIED.

NEITHER SKEEZIX NOR I WANT A BIG WEDDING, FATHER. BUT I THINK WE SHOULD AT LEAST DISCUSS IT WITH HER.



TODAY IS THE BIG DAY, SKEEZIX. YOU'LL SOON KNOW WHETHER YOUR LUCKY NUMBER IS LUCKY OR NOT.

YES, IT'S THE BIG LOTTERY, BOUNCE. WELL, I'M NOT WORRYING. I'M READY WHEN THEY WANT ME.

WE'LL HAVE TO JUMP IN AND CLEAN UP THE MESS. AND WE CAN DO IT.

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN MAKING SOME OF THE MACHINES IT TAKES TO DO THE JOB. NOW, WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO USE THEM.

THE ONLY THING—I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO FINISH MY NIGHT SCHOOL COURSE.

SO WOULD I, BOUNCE, AND I'M ALL SET TO GET MARRIED. BUT PERSONAL THINGS LIKE THAT CAN'T INTERFERE ANY MORE.



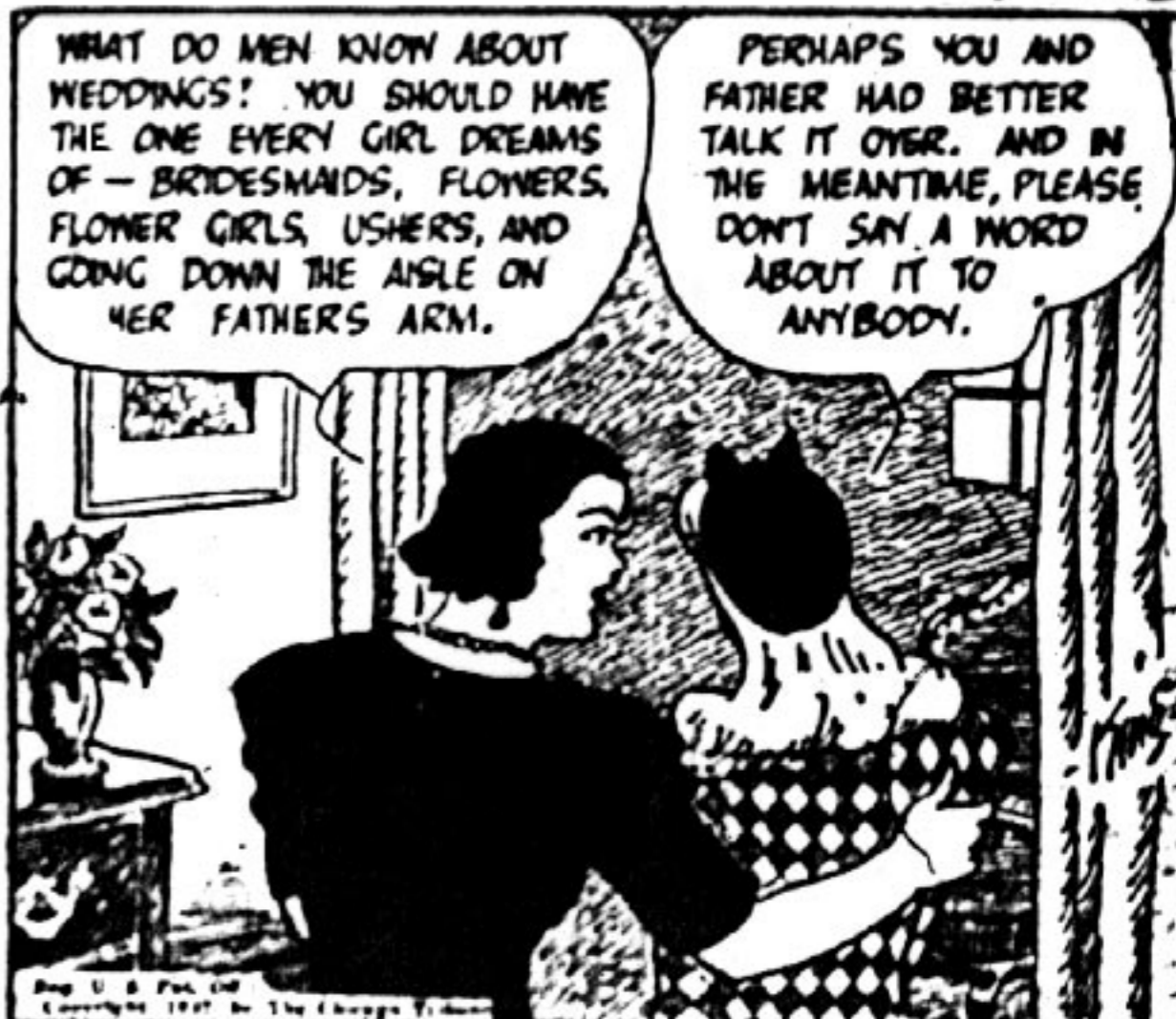
EVERYTHING IS GOING NICELY, NINA. I HAVE ARRANGED WITH DR. GUNT OF LAKEWOOD CHURCH AND THERE ARE THREE DAYS ON WHICH THE CHURCH AND DR. GUNT ARE AVAILABLE. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CHOICE.

BUT, AUNTIE BLOSSOM, WE CAN'T CHOOSE! SKEEZIX DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHEN HE CAN COME. BESIDES, HE DOESN'T WANT A BIG CHURCH WEDDING.



MEN NEVER DO, NINA, BUT YOU CAN BRING HIM AROUND TO THAT. THE WOMEN USUALLY GET OUR WAY. IT'S ONLY ONCE THAT YOU HAVE A CHANCE FOR A REALLY GORGEOUS WEDDING, AND YOU SHOULD HAVE THE SORT OF A ONE YOU WANT.

I DON'T WANT A BIG ONE, EITHER. I'D RATHER HAVE A FAMILY ONE AT MY HOUSE. BUT FATHER HAS HIS MIND SET ON ITS BEING AT OUR OWN LITTLE COUNTRY CHURCH.



WHAT DO MEN KNOW ABOUT WEDDINGS? YOU SHOULD HAVE THE ONE EVERY GIRL DREAMS OF—BRIDESMAIDS, FLOWERS, FLOWER GIRLS, USHERS, AND GOING DOWN THE AISLE ON HER FATHER'S ARM.

PERHAPS YOU AND FATHER HAD BETTER TALK IT OVER. AND IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE DON'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYBODY.



WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, UNCLE WALT? AUNTIE BLOSSOM WANTS A BIG CHURCH WEDDING, FATHER WANTS IT IN OUR COUNTRY CHURCH, SKEEZIX WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE IT BEFORE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, AND I DON'T WANT TO DISPLEASE ANYBODY.

THAT IS A SITUATION, NINA! PERSONALLY, I'M IN FAVOR OF YOU TWO KIDS DECIDING WHAT YOU WANT AND DOING IT.



OF COURSE, WHAT WE REALLY WANT IS MORE LIKE WHAT FATHER PLANS ON, BUT I DON'T WANT TO HURT AUNTIE BLOSSOM. SHE IS FOND OF SKEEZIX, TOO.

YOU LEAVE IT TO ME. I'LL TALK WITH HER. I'LL SHOW HER WHERE SHE'S WRONG.



THAT'S SWEET OF YOU, UNCLE WALT. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PEACH AND YOU STILL ARE.

IF IT'S IN CHURCH, I'LL WASH BEHIND MY EARS AND BE THERE. IF IT'S BEFORE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, I'LL BE ON HAND AT 2 AM — IN A BATHROBE, IF NECESSARY.



AN' IT'S GOIN' TO BE WHITE WITH A LOT OF LACE. I'M GOIN' TO BE A FLOWER GIRL, AUNT EMILY.

FLOWER GIRL? WHERE, AND WHEN, JUDY?

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AT A WEDDING. BUT IT'S A SECRET. MOMMY AN' NINA DONT WANT ME TO BREATHE A WORD.

ISN'T THAT INTERESTING!



I WOULDNT TELL A SOUL BUT YOU, HAZEL. BUT IT LOOKS AS IF SKEEZIX AND NINA ARE TO GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY.

YOU DONT SAY.



KEEP IT DARK, AMY, AND DONT MENTION IT, NOT EVEN TO BILL, BUT SKEEZIX AND NINA ARE GETTING MARRIED.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

IT'S GRAND THAT SKEEZIX AND NINA WANT TO GET MARRIED, PHYLLIS, AND IF THEY WANT TO DO IT EASIDY AND QUIETLY, I'M FOR THEM.

A MAN HAS NO INSTINCT FOR THOSE THINGS. IT IS THE ONE CHANCE IN A LIFETIME THAT A GIRL HAS TO BE THE CENTER OF A BIG, BEAUTIFUL CEREMONY.

WELL, IF THEY DON'T CARE FOR THAT SORT OF THING, THAT'S UP TO THEM.

WALT, YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING TO NINA! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A PROPER WEDDING TO START A YOUNG COUPLE OFF IN LIFE, SOCIALLY. ANYTHING ELSE TAKES THE DIGNITY OUT OF MARRIAGE.

BUT, PHYLLIS, IT'S THEIR WEDDING. AND THEY'RE NOT CHILDREN ANY MORE.

YOUNGSTERS OF THEIR AGE LACK MATURE JUDGMENT AND NEED GUIDANCE. I WANT THEM TO HAVE MEMORIES TO CHERISH, LATER ON.

SKEEZIX, I HAD TO TALK TO YOU! I'VE TOLD AUNTIE BLOSSOM YOU DON'T WANT A BIG, ELABORATE WEDDING, BUT SHE HAS HER HEART SET ON IT. FATHER WANTS IT IN OUR COUNTRY CHURCH.



I STILL THINK THE BEST WAY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO GET MARRIED WHILE YOU WERE HERE, AND THEN DROP IN AND SURPRISE THEM.



I'M TRYING TO GET THEM TOGETHER, BUT FATHER IS VERY DETERMINED, AND AUNTIE BLOSSOM IS CONVINCED HER WAY IS RIGHT.



WELL, SUPPOSE WE HAVE A WEDDING AND INVITE THEM, INSTEAD OF THEIR HAVING A WEDDING AND INVITING US.



PHYLIS, WE CAN'T JUST GO AHEAD ON WEDDING PLANS WITHOUT CONSULTING MR. AND MRS. CLOCK.

BUT, WALT, WE MUST HAVE ALL THE DETAILS WORKED OUT AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS MADE BEFORE WE CONSULT THEM.



GREAT GUNS! HOW MUCH MORE ARRANGING CAN YOU DO? YOU'VE BEEN AT IT FOR DAYS.

THAT'S JUST LIKE A MAN! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW COMPLICATED A WEDDING IS.



BESIDES, OUR KIDS DON'T NEED A BIG WEDDING. I'M GOING TO SEE THAT THEY HAVE THE THINGS THEY NEED TO START OUT IN LIFE WITH.

NEVERTHELESS, YOU MUST REMEMBER, WALT, THAT WE'VE BEEN GIVING WEDDING PRESENTS FOR YEARS.



WE DROVE OUT TO TALK OVER THE PREPARATIONS FOR NINA'S AND SKEEZIX'S WEDDING, MR. CLOCK.

YES, 'WE HAVE TRIED TO SAVE YOU SOME OF THE BOTHER IN MAKING PLANS. WE WANT TO SHOW YOU OUR ARRANGEMENTS.

I WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THEM, MRS. WALLET.



I HAVE CONSULTED WITH DR. GLINT OF LAKEWOOD CHURCH. WE CAN HAVE THE USE OF THEIR FACILITIES, WHICH YOU KNOW ARE VERY ADEQUATE AND BEAUTIFUL.

BUT, MRS. WALLET, NINA AND I PREFER TO HAVE THE CEREMONY PERFORMED AT OUR CROSSROADS CHURCH BY REV. SOMBER, AND WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS THERE



SENTIMENT NO DOUBT PLAYS A BIG PART WITH YOU BOTH, BUT I AM SURE I CAN WIN NINA OVER TO THE ADVANTAGES OF A MORE ELABORATE WEDDING. SUCH AS NINA'S AND SKEEZIX'S FRIENDS WOULD NATURALLY EXPECT.

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR ADVANTAGES. OUR LITTLE CHURCH IS LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE CLOSE FRIENDS OF BOTH OF THEM. WE ARE HUMBLE PEOPLE AND WE DON'T LIKE POMP AND DISPLAY.





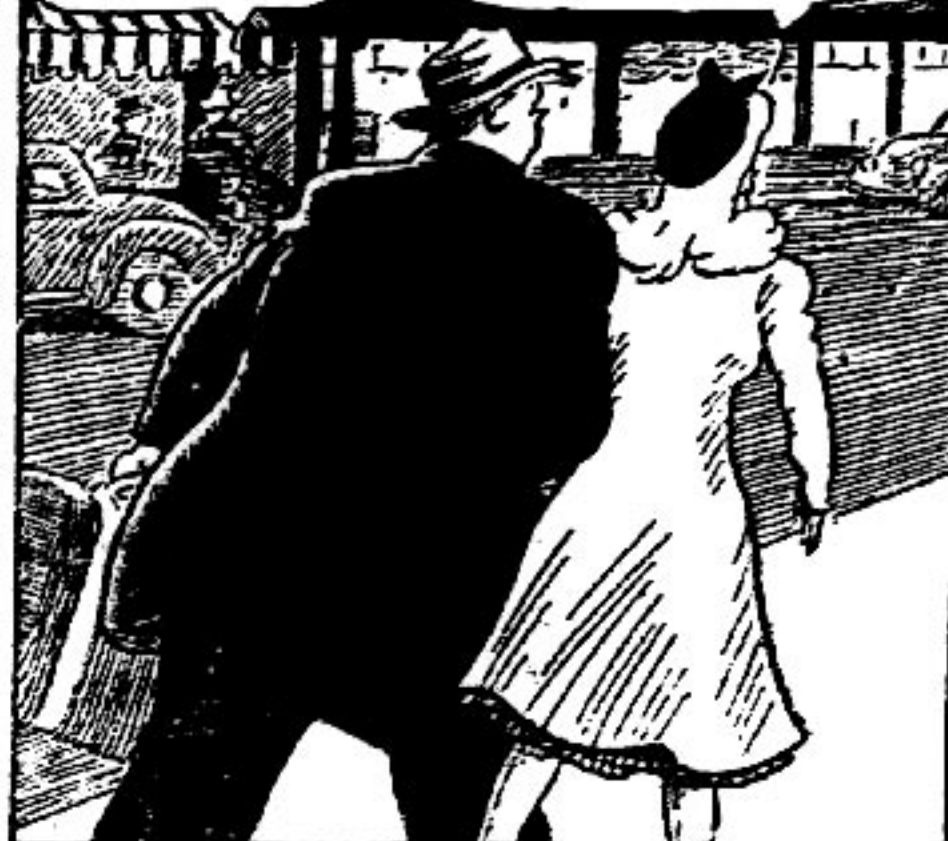
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED, UNCLE WALT! I JUST GOT THIS MESSAGE.

"HOLD EVERYTHING. STOP WEDDING PLANS. WILL CALL YOU IF I HAVE TIME. LOVE AS ALWAYS, SKEEZIX."



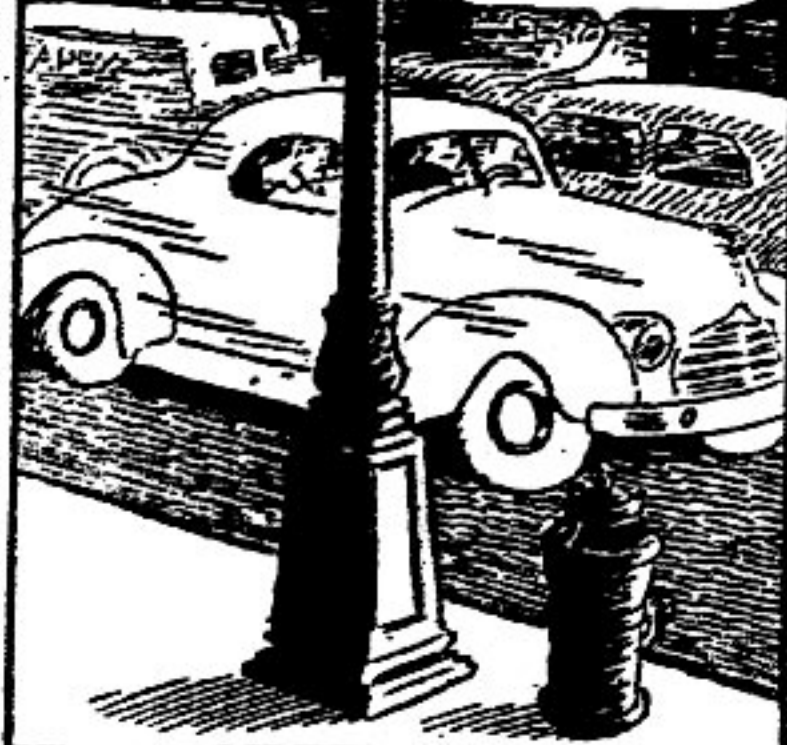
HOP IN MY CAR AND I'LL RUSH YOU TO THE AIRPORT.

I WOULDN'T GO IF IT WASN'T FOR THE LAST SENTENCE. BUT I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT.



SKEEZIX WOULDN'T WIRE LIKE THAT UNLESS HE HAD TO. IT'S GHASTLY.

WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED, I'M SURE HE IS AS ACUTELY DISAPPOINTED AS YOU ARE.



LET ME HEAR FROM YOU AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY, NINA.

I WILL. I KNOW HE'S AS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS HE IS TO ME.



I TRIED TO PHONE YOU, NINA DARLING, BUT YOU HAD LEFT YOUR OFFICE VERY SUDDENLY.

I STARTED FOR DETROPOLIS IMMEDIATELY. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS WRONG.



MY FIRM IS SENDING ME WITH SOME OTHER TECHNICIANS TO OBSERVE AND SERVICE SOME OF OUR OWN WAR INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES IN ACTUAL USE.

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE AWAY, SKEEZIX?



I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA. AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING. IT IS ALL VERY SECRET.

THEN IT IS ONLY POSTPONING OUR PLANS, SWEETHEART. I WAS AFRAID IT WAS EVEN WORSE THAN THAT.





DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD, NINA. WE ALL MEET GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS SOONER OR LATER.

I KNOW, UNCLE WALT. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD TALK TO AND IT'S HELPED A LOT.



BUT I JUST HAD TO LET DOWN TO SOMEBODY.

THERE, THERE, HONEY, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.



OF COURSE IT WILL, UNCLE WALT. AND ALREADY THAT ARGUMENT HAS BEEN QUIETED ABOUT WHERE TO HAVE THE WEDDING.

IT CERTAINLY HAS.



MEANWHILE, SKEEZIX HAS CHANGED TO AN ARMY PLANE AND IS FLYING FARTHER AND FARTHER OVER CRISP MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND MONOTONOUS FOREST.

I THINK SKEEZIX'S COMPANY WAS VERY INCONSIDERATE IN SENDING HIM WAY OFF SOMEWHERE JUST WHEN HE WAS READY TO GET MARRIED AND THE WEDDING PLANS ALL MADE.



THEY COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE GIVEN HIM A FEW DAYS' VACATION NOW. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME OF A PERSON'S LIFE, AND WHAT ARE A FEW DAYS FOR ONE MAN TO A BIG FIRM LIKE HUMBLE & CO.?



A FEW DAYS FOR ONE MAN MEAN A LOT MORE THAN YOU KNOW TO A COMPANY WHICH IS STRAINING EVERY MUSCLE AND NERVE TO DO A JOB. WE ARE AT WAR, PHYLLIS, AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE ALL GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, REGARDLESS OF PERSONAL INCONVENIENCE.





I HAVE HEARD INDIRECTLY, MISS CLOCK, THAT YOU ARE INTENDING TO BE MARRIED, AND THEN, ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, THAT YOU ARE NOT TO BE MARRIED.

BOTH RUMORS ARE CORRECT, DR. FLAX.



I'M SURE THAT YOU WOULD NOT PLAN TO LEAVE US WITHOUT GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND ANOTHER GIRL FOR YOUR PLACE.

NO, DOCTOR. I HAD PLANNED TO KEEP MY POSITION HERE IN EITHER EVENT. BUT MY WEDDING HAS BEEN POSTPONED.



WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU. I'M GLAD WE WON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER OFFICE GIRL.



SINGLE OR MARRIED, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE ME ON YOUR HANDS, DOCTOR FLAX.



MISS CLOCK, I'M MIGHTY SORRY THINGS HAD TO HAPPEN AS THEY DID THE OTHER DAY— THE TELEGRAM AND ALL.

THEN YOU KNOW, DR. MEACER?



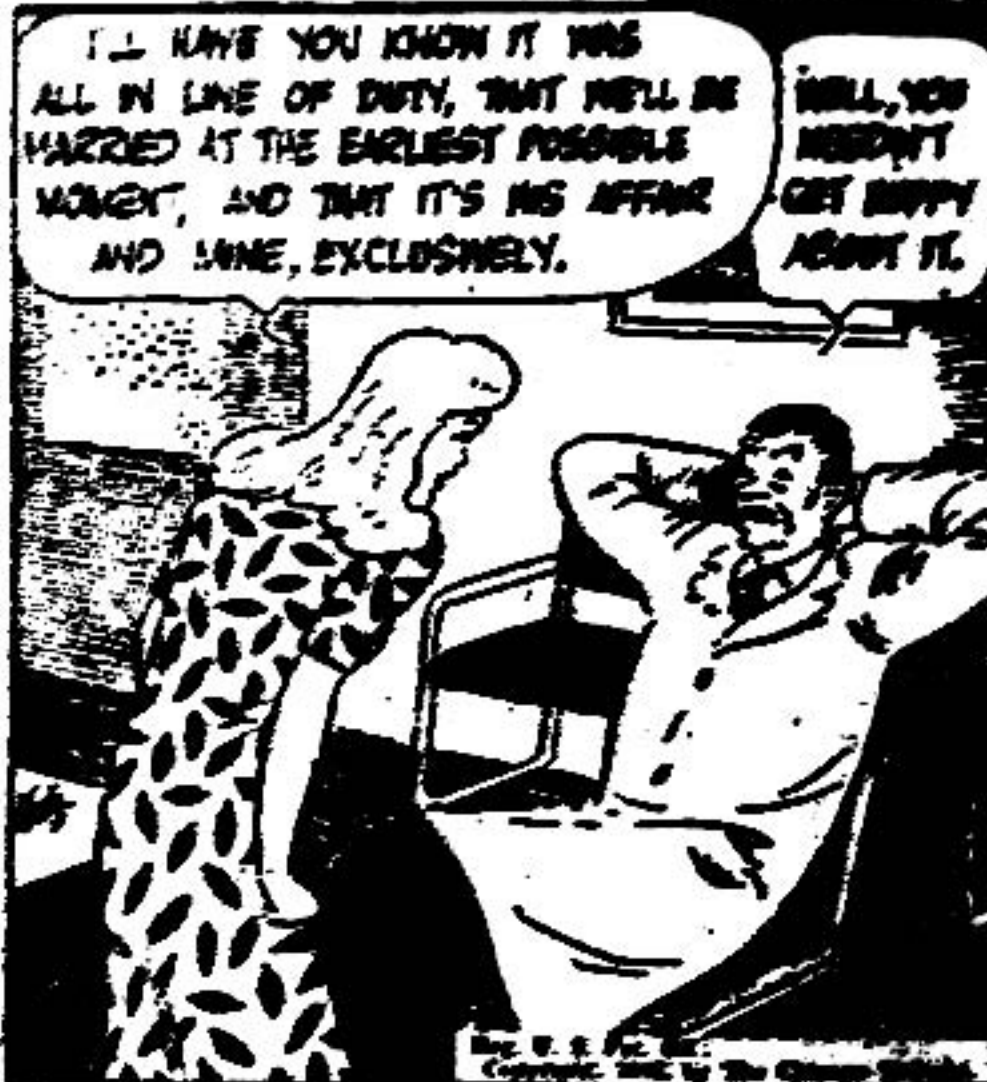
YES. WHEN YOU LEFT THE ROOM, SO TERRIBLY UPSET, I COULDN'T HELP LOOKING AT THE MIRE YOU LEFT BEHIND HERE ON YOUR DESK.

OH!



A BIRD WHO WOULD HAD YOU A BRUSH-OFF LIKE THAT—

A BRUSH-OFF? WHO SAID IT WAS A BRUSH-OFF?



I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW IT WAS ALL IN LINE OF DUTY, THAT WE'LL BE MARRIED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND THAT IT'S HIS AFFAIR AND MINE, EXCLUSIVELY.

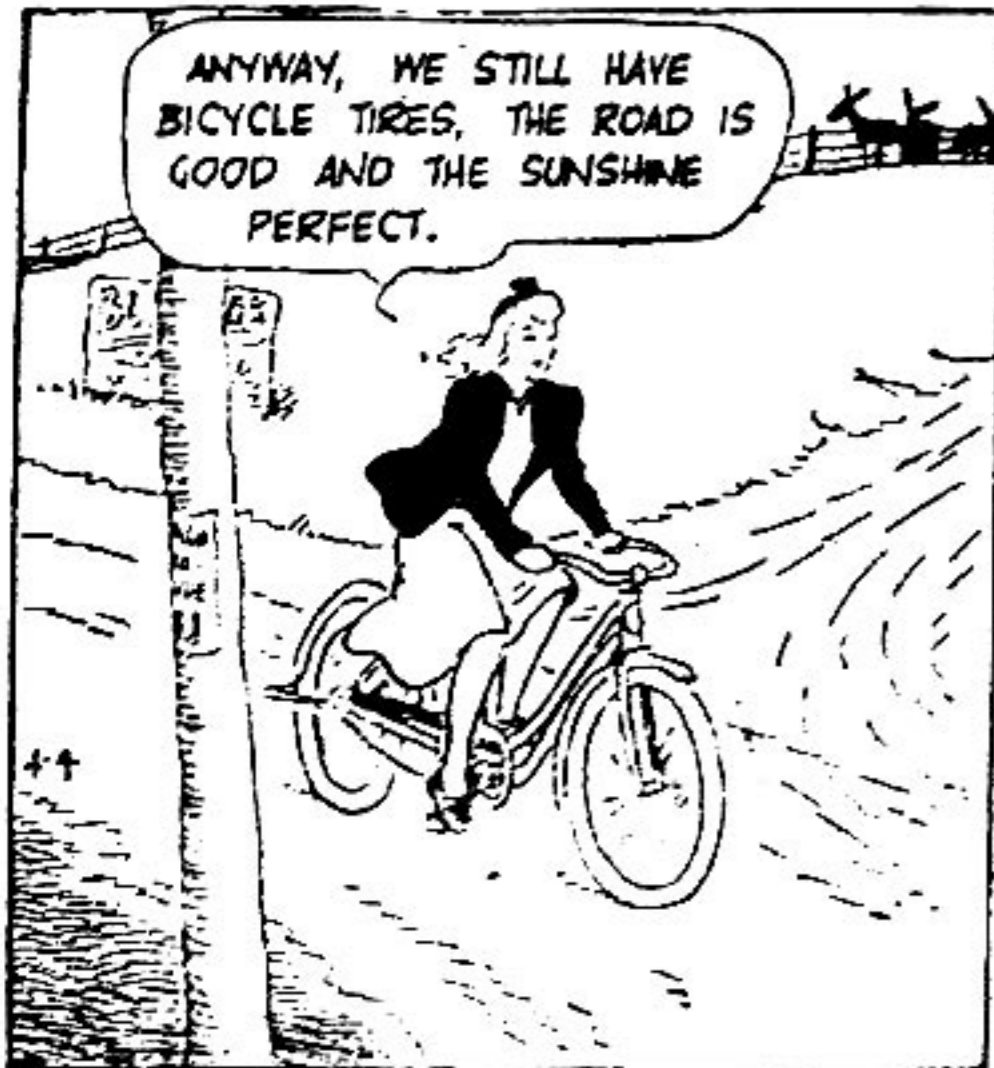
WELL, YOU NEEDN'T GET HAPPY ABOUT IT.

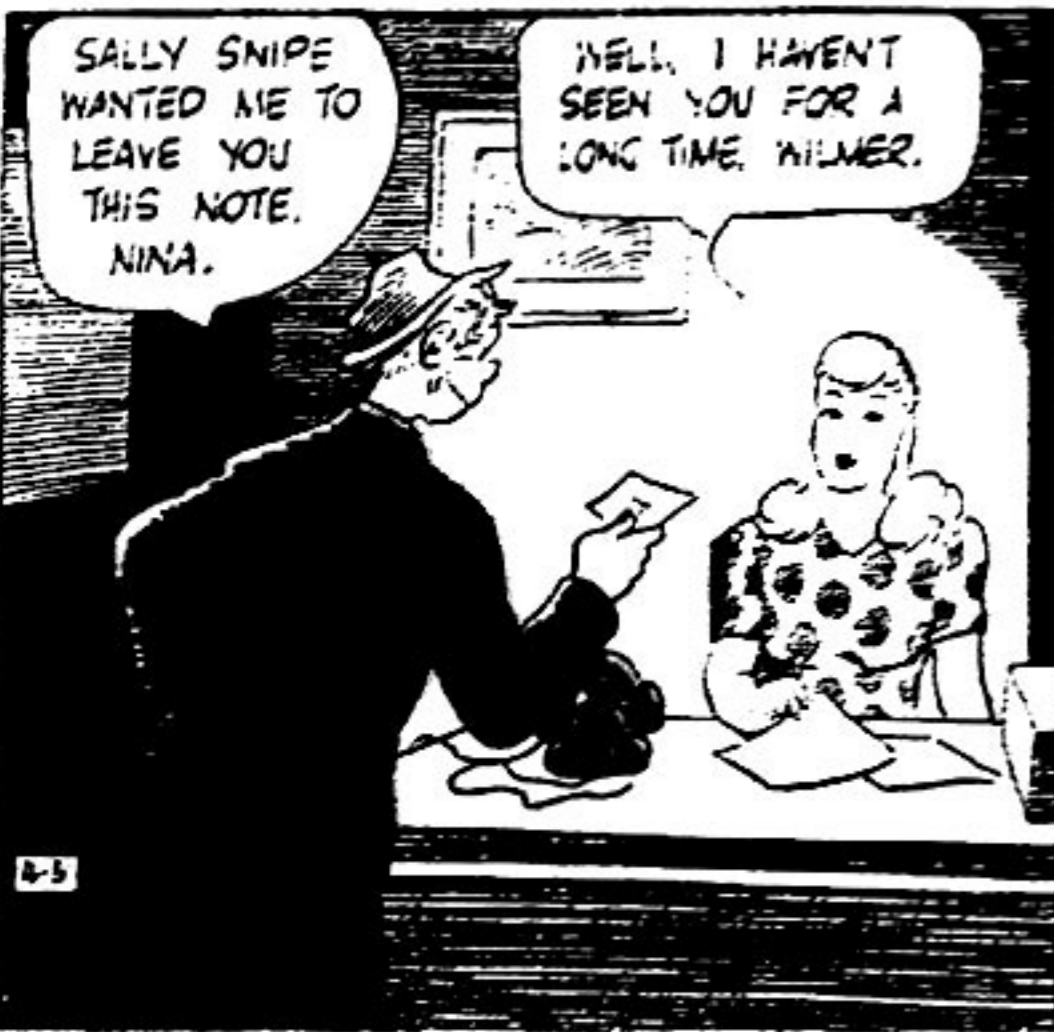
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SPOKEN TO DR. MEAGER AS I DID YESTERDAY. HE'S ONE OF MY EMPLOYERS. BUT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED SKEEZIX'S SUDDEN GOING AWAY A BRUSH-OFF, EITHER!

IT WAS JUST AFTER I HAD HAD A NICE TALK WITH DR. FLAX, TOO. I'D HATE AWFULLY TO LOSE MY JOB.

HERE I AM, FRETTING ABOUT MY OWN LITTLE TROUBLES, AND NO TELLING WHAT IS HAPPENING TO SKEEZIX AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

I HOPE HE'S DOING WHAT HE LIKES TO DO AND THAT THINGS AREN'T TOO TOUGH. I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHICH DIRECTION TO SEND MY THOUGHTS.





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IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIFIC DISAPPOINTMENT TO HAVE TO POSTPONE YOUR WEDDING, NINA

IT WAS, SALLY, BUT WE MUST TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME THESE DAYS. IT WILL ALL WORK OUT.



I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG SKEEZIX WILL BE AWAY FROM YOU.

I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA. HOW ABOUT YOU AND TOPS?



YOU KNOW THAT TOPS WAS NEVER ANYTHING MORE THAN A FRIEND. BUT A YOUNG LIEUTENANT HAS BEEN VERY ATTENTIVE LATELY.

FINE, SALLY, YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED, TOO, ARE YOU?



NO, NINA. HE WANTS TO, BUT I DON'T THINK IT IS THE RIGHT THING NOW. I FEEL THAT HE SHOULDN'T ADD TO HIS DUTIES AND UNCERTAINTIES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HAVING A WIFE.

PERHAPS I SHOULD FEEL THAT WAY. BUT SKEEZIX WON'T LET ME.



MEANWHILE, SOME THOUSANDS
OF MILES AWAY—



HOW DOES
THAT NEW
SIGHT COMPARE
WITH THE OLD
ONE?

IT'S QUICKER TO GET INTO
ACTION, WALTER, AND THE RESULTS
ARE MORE ACCURATE WITH THE
NEWER MEN.



AND THE
BOYS LIKE
IT
BETTER.

I'M GETTING REPORTS ON
135 GUNS. SO FAR OUR
CLINOMETER IS WAY OUT
IN FRONT.



I THOUGHT I SAW YOU COME IN HERE, NINA.

YES, DR. MEACER?



I'M SORRY I SPOKE AS I DID ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND THE OTHER DAY. IT WAS REALLY BECAUSE I SYMPATHIZED WITH YOU.

I DON'T NEED YOUR SYMPATHY AND IT WAS ALL VERY UNCALLED-FOR.



I REALIZE IT NOW, AND IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT. YOUR APOLOGY IS ACCEPTED.



WE CAN BE GOOD FRIENDS. YOU MAY NEED ONE IF YOUR PRECIOUS HAPPENS TO BE AWAY A LONG TIME.

PERHAPS. BUT I'M NOT CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS YET.



HAVE YOU HEARD FROM YOUR BOY FRIEND, NINA?

NOT A WORD, ESTHER. WHAT DO YOU HEAR FROM YOUR MARINE?

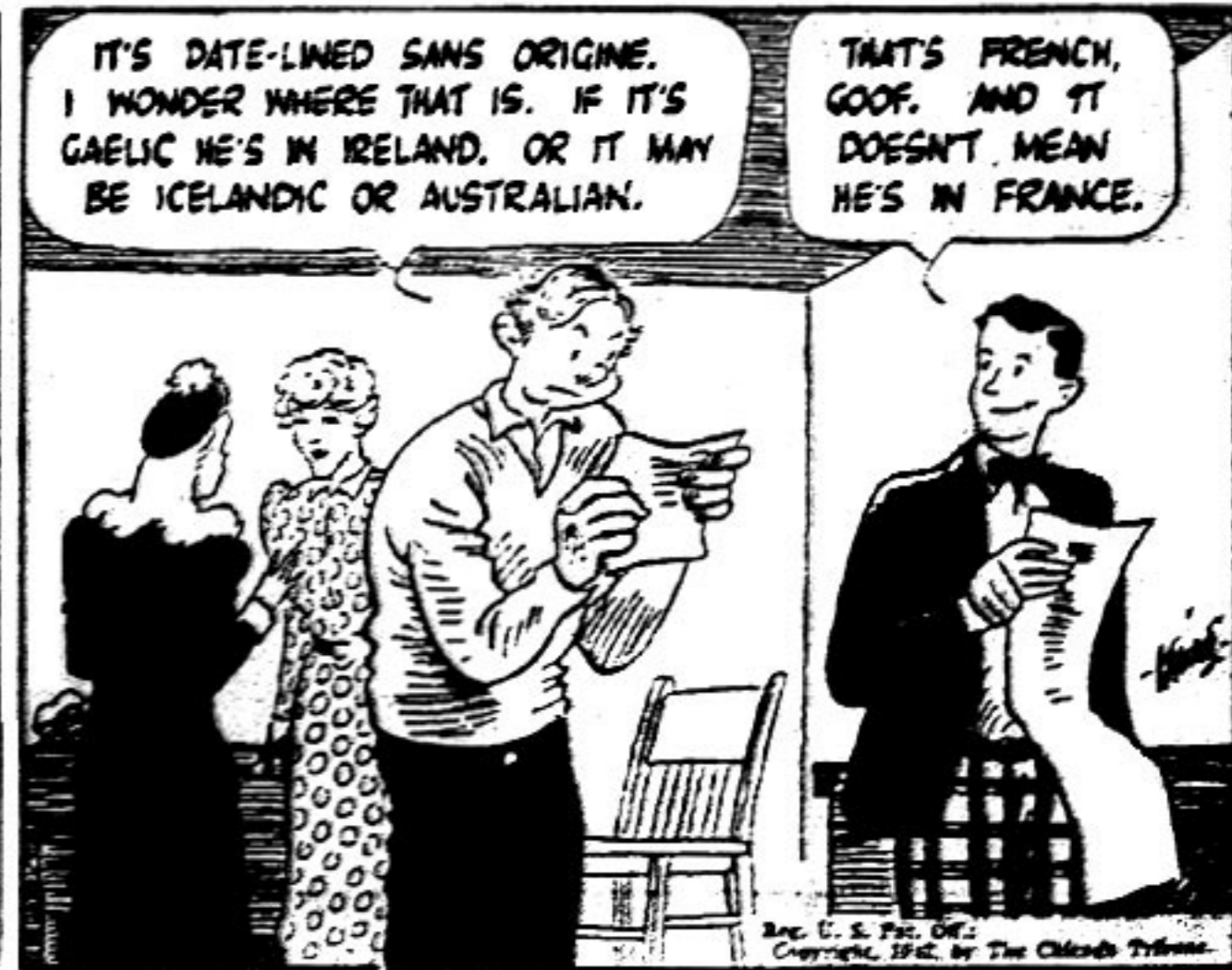
NOTHING AT ALL FOR SIX WEEKS. HE COULD BE HALF WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD FOR ALL I KNOW.

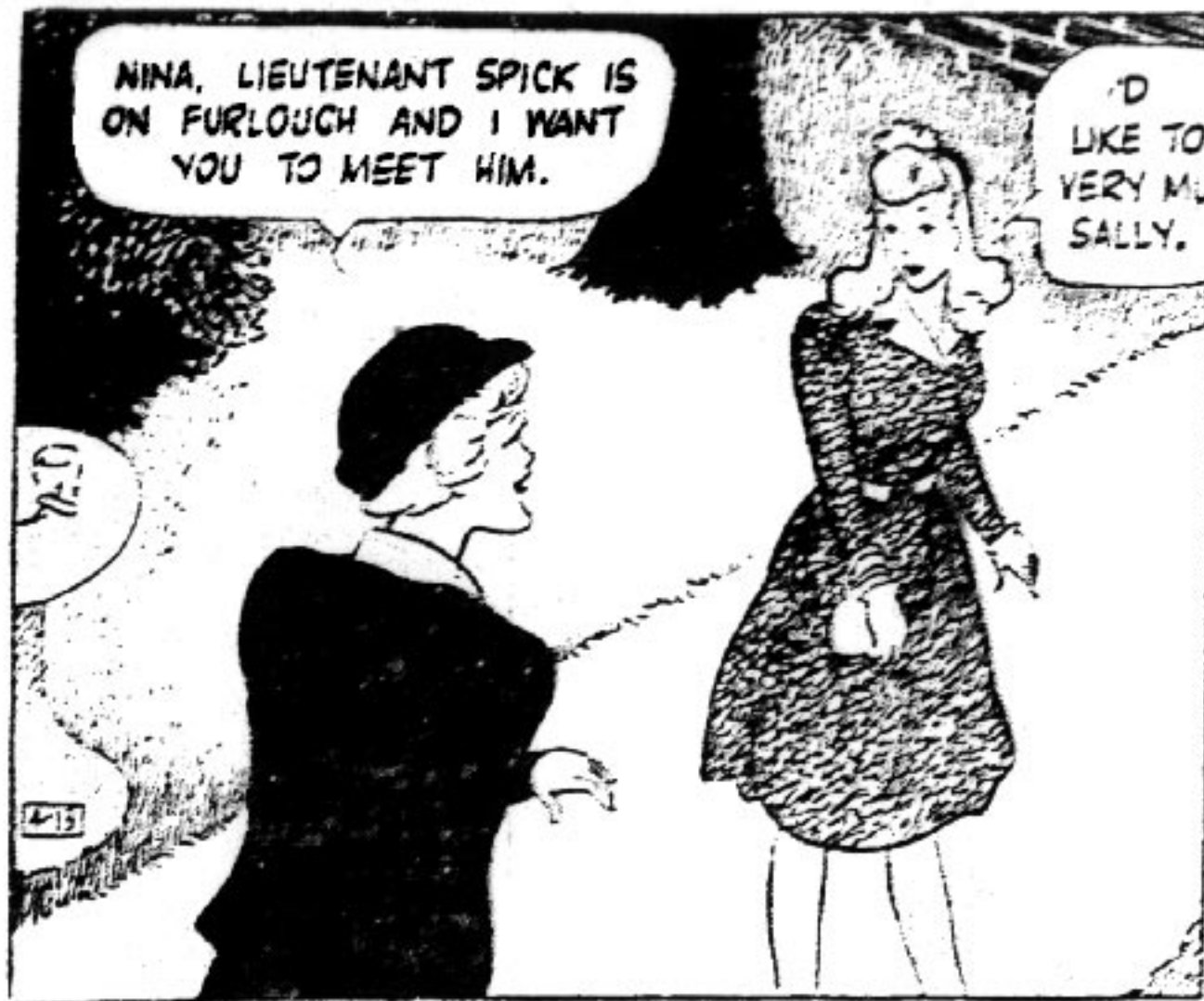
YOU MUST BE TERRIBLY WORRIED ALL THE TIME.



YES, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. HIS JOB IS TO BE WHERE THERE IS TROUBLE. I MAY GET TO THE FRONT MYSELF BEFORE LONG.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING SO FAST I CAN'T MAKE ANY PLANS. RIGHT NOW I'M JUST WAITING.





NINA, LIEUTENANT SPICK IS ON FURLOUGH AND I WANT YOU TO MEET HIM.

I'D LIKE TO VERY MUCH, SALLY.



SUPPOSE WE GET TOGETHER AFTER WORK TOMORROW. HE'S REALLY QUITE NICE. ANYTHING MORE FROM SKEEZIX?

NOTHING, EXCEPT THAT HE SENT THE COMPANY A REPORT. SO HE MUST BE ALL RIGHT.

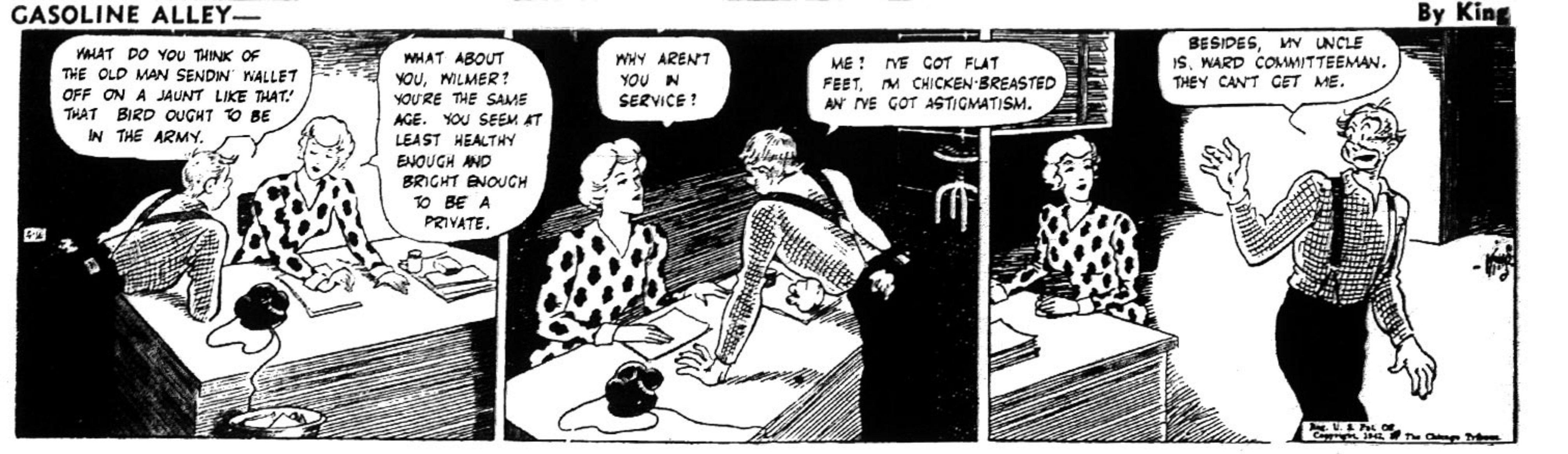


HE MIGHT ABOUT AS WELL BE IN THE ARMY. HE'S SHIFTED AROUND LIKE MY LIEUTENANT IS.

YES, AND THE CHANCES ARE IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.







WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE OLD MAN SENDIN' WALLETT OFF ON A JAUNT LIKE THAT! THAT BIRD OUGHT TO BE IN THE ARMY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, WILMER? YOU'RE THE SAME AGE. YOU SEEM AT LEAST HEALTHY ENOUGH AND BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BE A PRIVATE.

WHY AREN'T YOU IN SERVICE?

ME? I'VE GOT FLAT FEET, I'M CHICKEN-BREADED AN' I'VE GOT ASTIGMATISM.

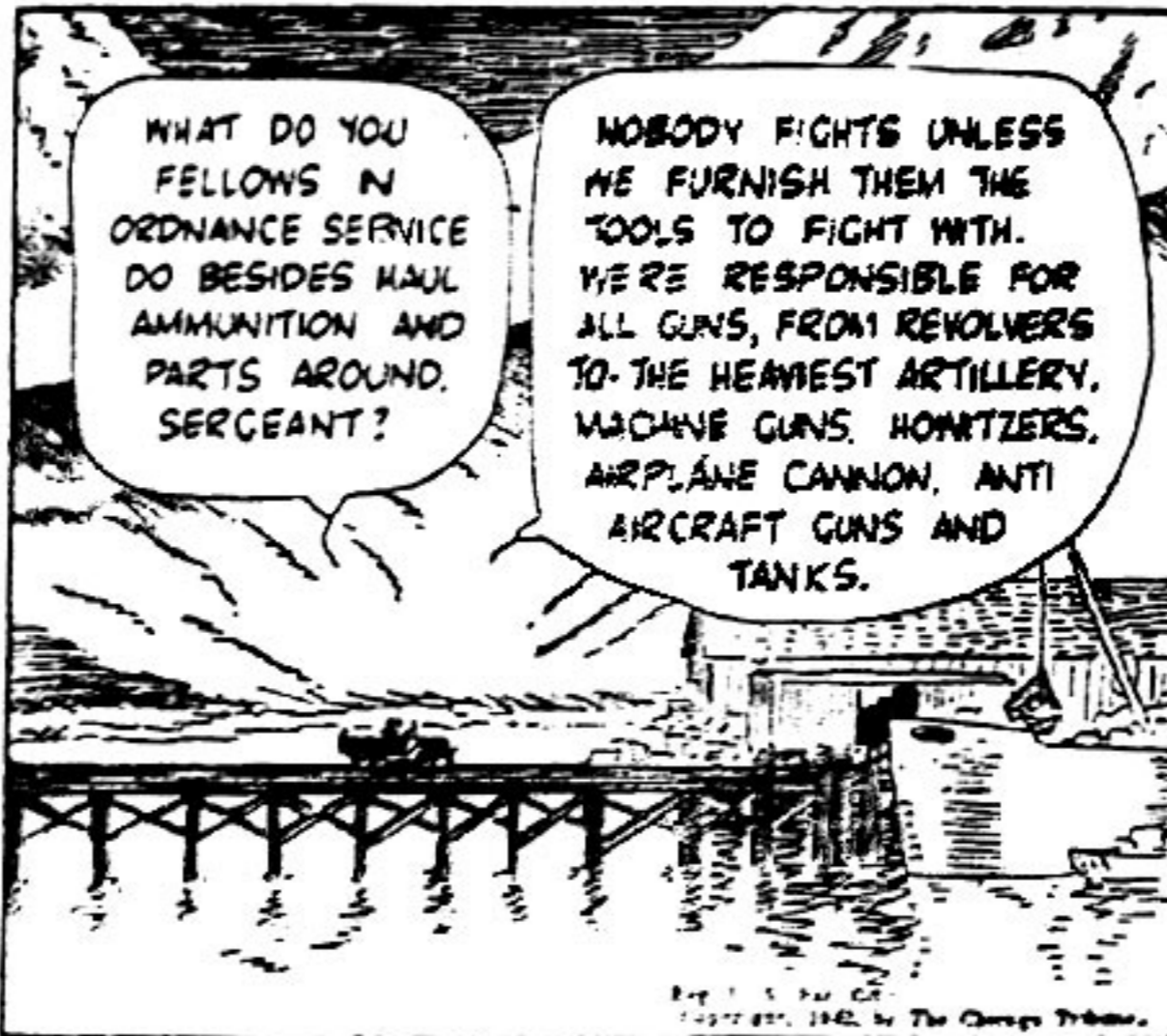
BESIDES, MY UNCLE IS WARD COMMITTEEMAN. THEY CAN'T GET ME.



AND SOME THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY.

WALLET, GO WITH SERGEANT WELTER TO THE DOCK AND BRING A BOX OF SPARE PARTS FOR THE 37-MILLIMETER FIRE CONTROL MECHANISM.

YES, MR. HARP, CHECKED THEM IN THIS MORNING



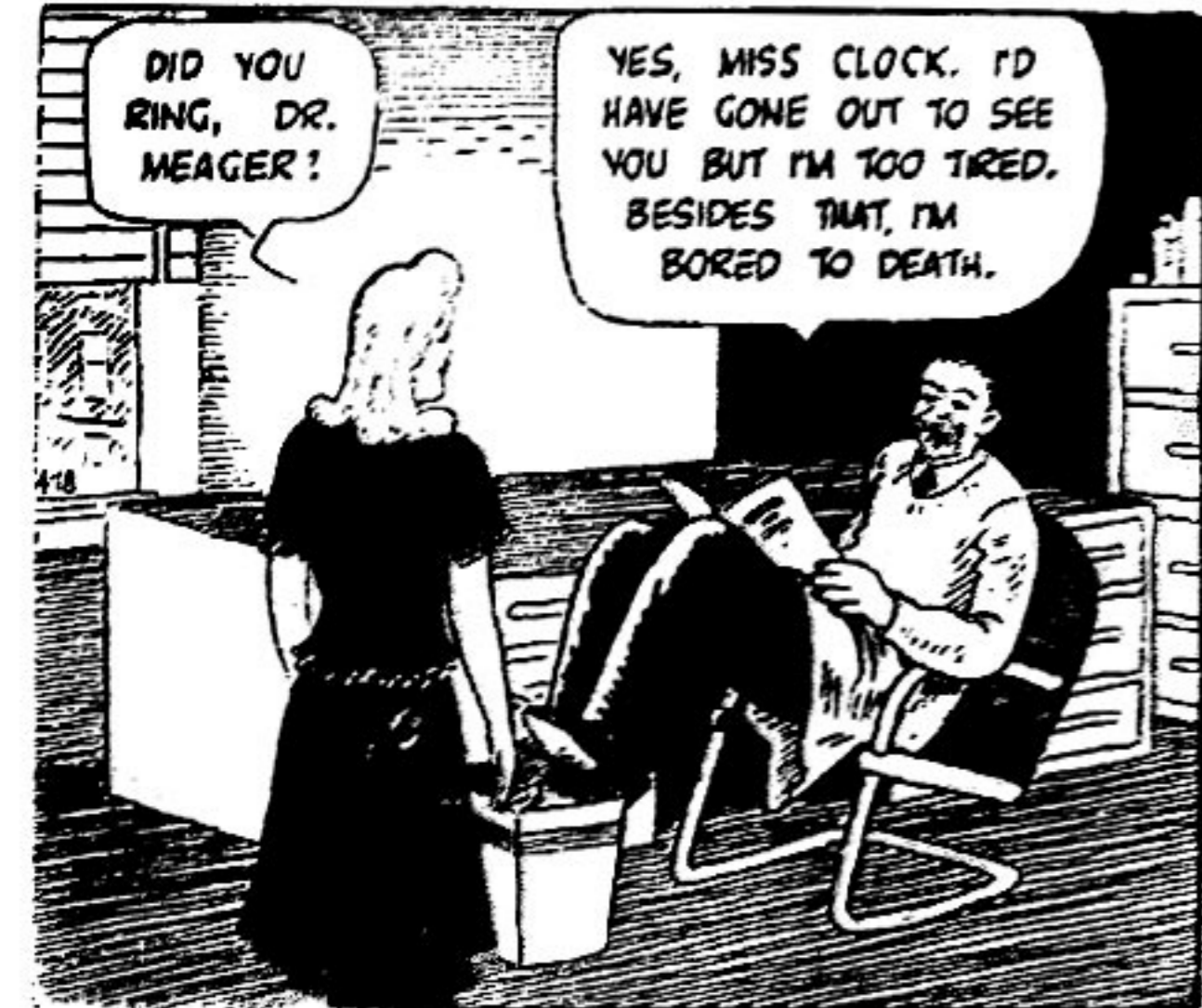
WHAT DO YOU FELLOWS IN ORDNANCE SERVICE DO BESIDES HAUL AMMUNITION AND PARTS AROUND, SERGEANT?

NOBODY FIGHTS UNLESS WE FURNISH THEM THE TOOLS TO FIGHT WITH. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL GUNS, FROM REVOLVERS TO THE HEAVIEST ARTILLERY, MACHINE GUNS, HOWITZERS, AIRPLANE CANNON, ANTI AIRCRAFT GUNS AND TANKS.



ALSO AMMUNITION FOR THEM ALL. PROCUREMENT, MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION, WE KEEP BUSY.

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THERE'S A LOT MORE TO WAR THAN JUST FIGHTING.



DID YOU RING, DR. MEAGER?

YES, MISS CLOCK. I'D HAVE GONE OUT TO SEE YOU BUT I'M TOO TIRED. BESIDES THAT, I'M BORED TO DEATH.



I WANTED TO ASK YOU—WILL YOU ATTEND A MOVIE WITH ME TONIGHT?

OH! YOU WANT SOMEONE TO SHARE YOUR BOREDOM WITH YOU.



THAT ISN'T A NICE WAY TO PUT IT. I'M SURE YOU COULD CURE IT. YOU SHOULD DO THAT MUCH FOR THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

I'M SORRY, DR. MEAGER, BUT THINK OF THE RISK TO ME. INSTEAD OF CURING IT I MIGHT FIND IT CONTAGIOUS.



SALLY, THERE'S A MILITARY MAN WAITIN' FOR YOU DOWN IN FRONT.

THERE IS, WILMER? GEE, THANKS!



HI, SALLY! I SURPRISED YOU, DIDN'T I!

YOU, TOPS?



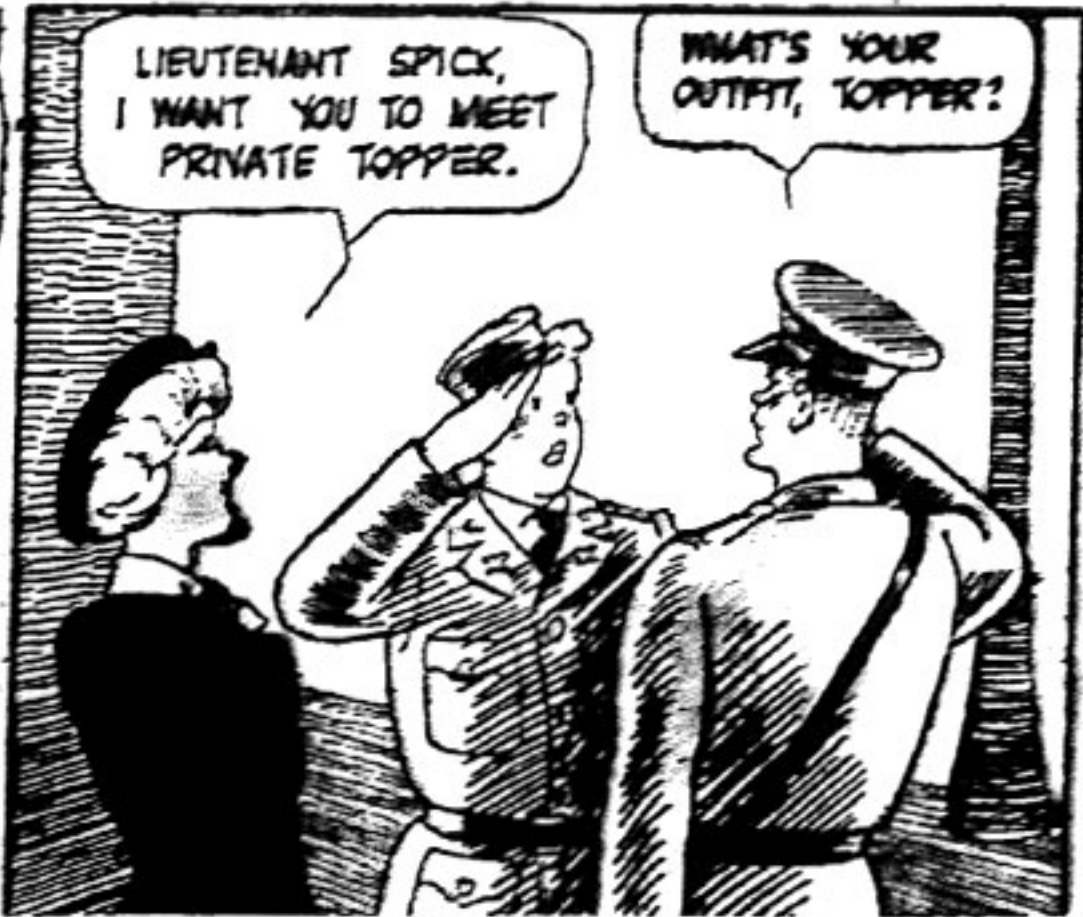
WHY SO GLUM? WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

OF COURSE I AM, TOPS.



YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE BURSTIN' WITH JOY AFTER ME BEIN' AWAY FOR WEEKS!

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, YOU COME ON ALONG WITH US.





CHEER UP, SOLDIER. THINGS CAN'T BE AS BAD AS YOU LOOK.

I'M LONESOME. A SHAVE-TAIL CUT IN ON MY GAL.

422



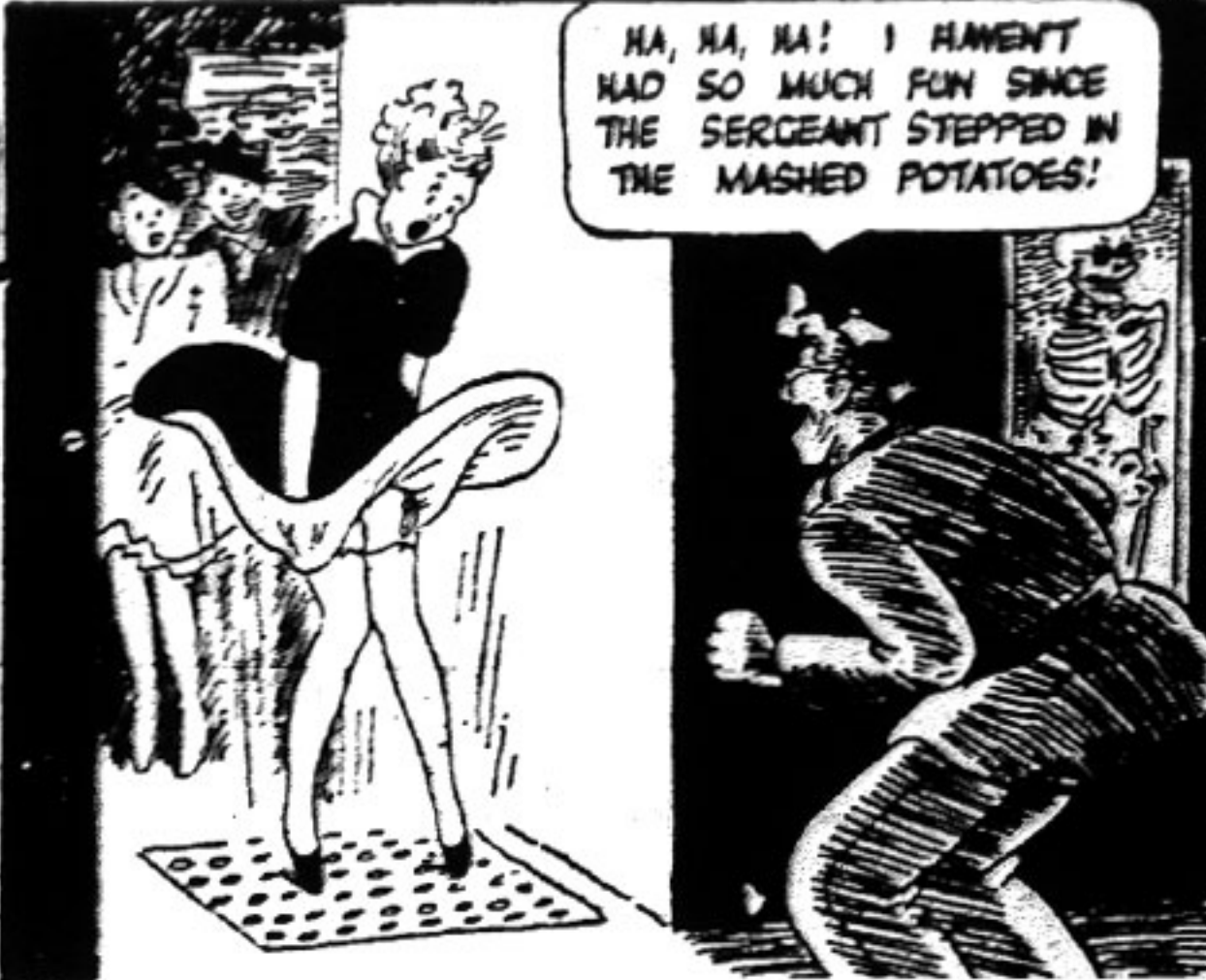
THAT'S TERRIBLE. YOU SOLDIERS HAVE A TOUGH ENOUGH TIME WITHOUT SOME DAME TOSSIN' YOU OVER.

YOU'RE REALLY SORRY FOR ME?



OF COURSE I AM. BUT YOU'LL FORGET IT ALL SOON. CHEER UP.

I COULD FORGET A LOT WITH YOU. HOW ABOUT A LITTLE DATE?



HA, HA, HA! I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN SINCE THE SERGEANT STEPPED IN THE MASHED POTATOES!



CAN I MEET YOU AFTER WORK AN' WEEP ON YOUR SHOULDER A FEW MINUTES? OKE, I'LL BE THERE.



I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY, NINA, THAT SALLY WASN'T SO ANXIOUS TO SEE ME. SHE'S ALL REPPED UP ABOUT THAT LIEUTENANT.

ARE YOU CARRYING A TORCH FOR HER, TOPS?



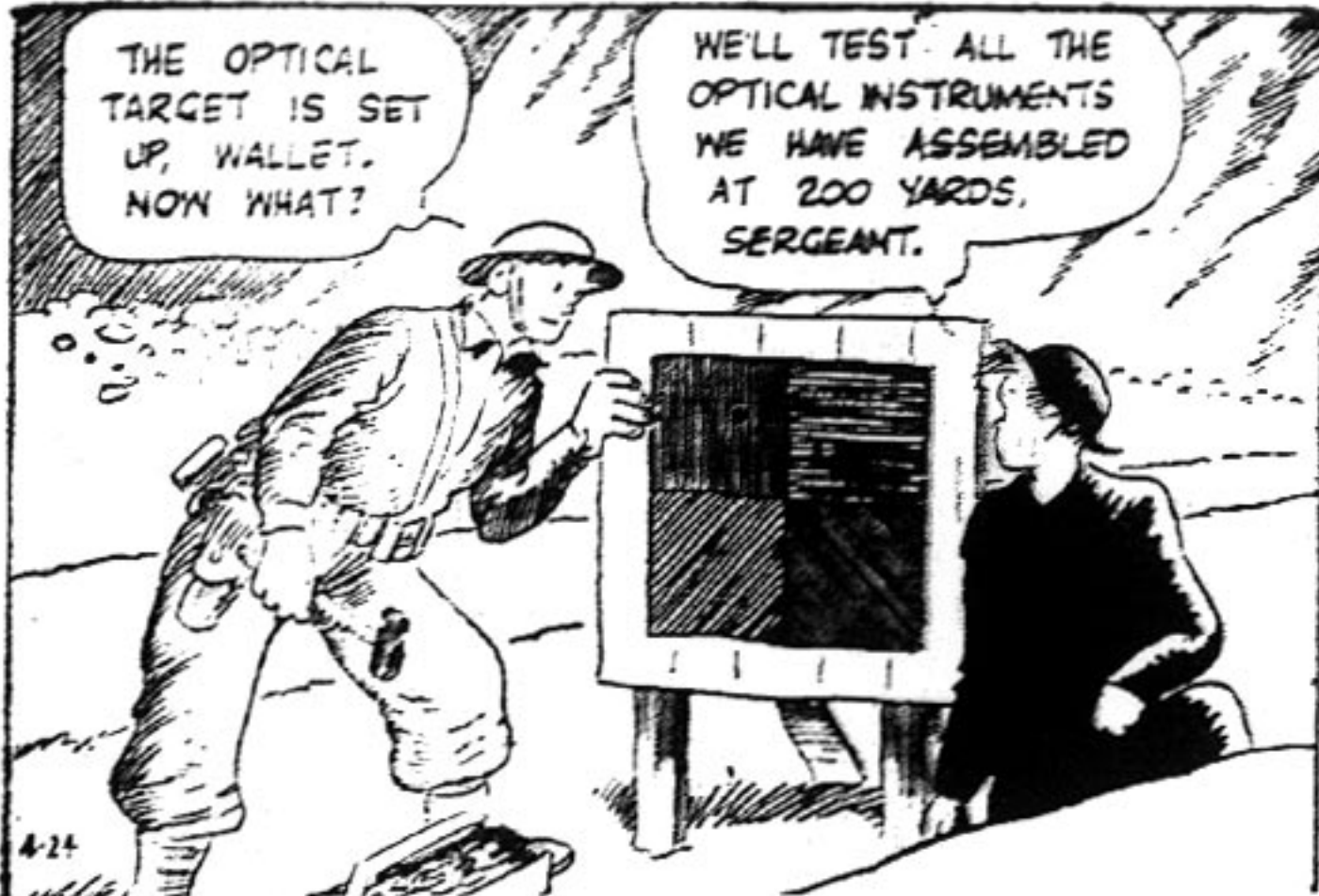
A TORCH? WELL, I'VE FOUND A NIFTY LITTLE RED-HEAD THAT I'M TAKIN' AROUND, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

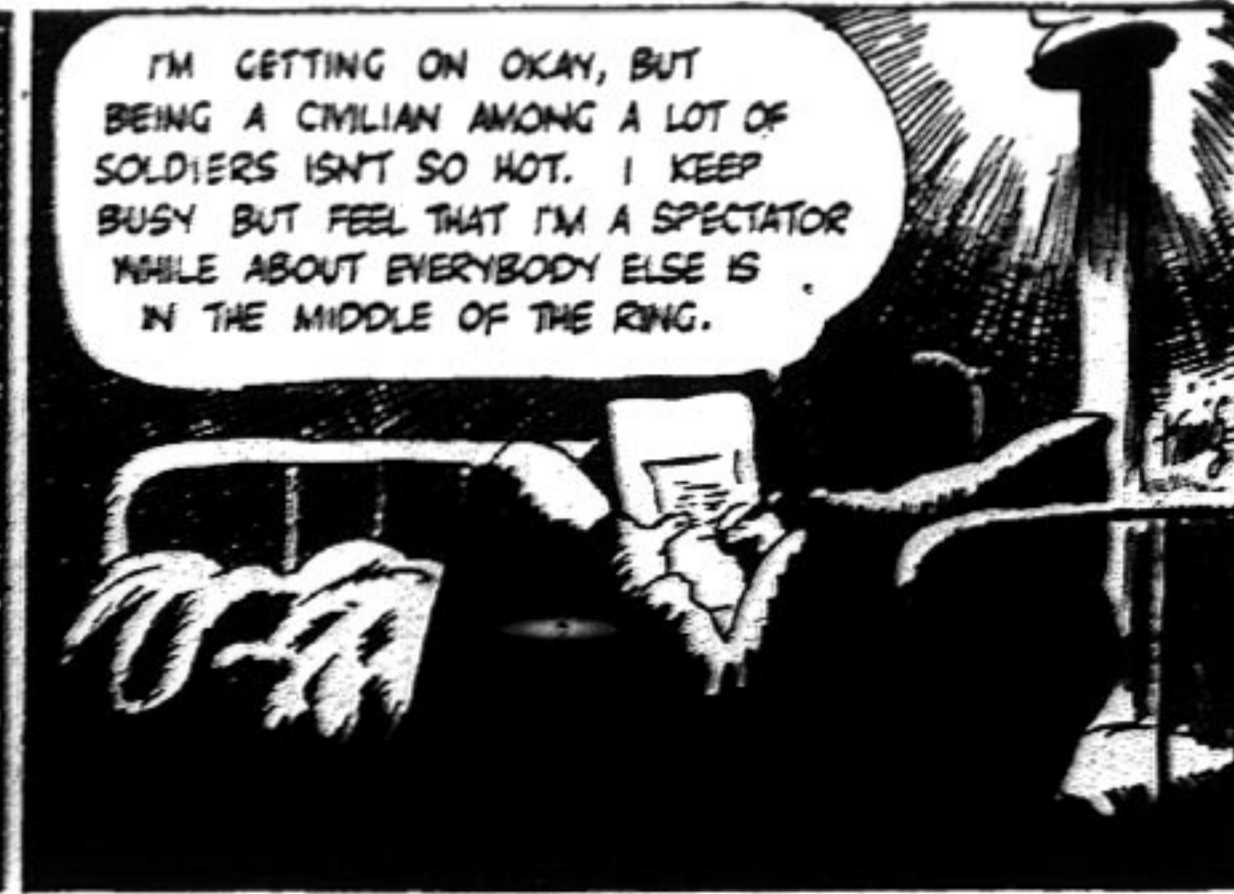
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING.

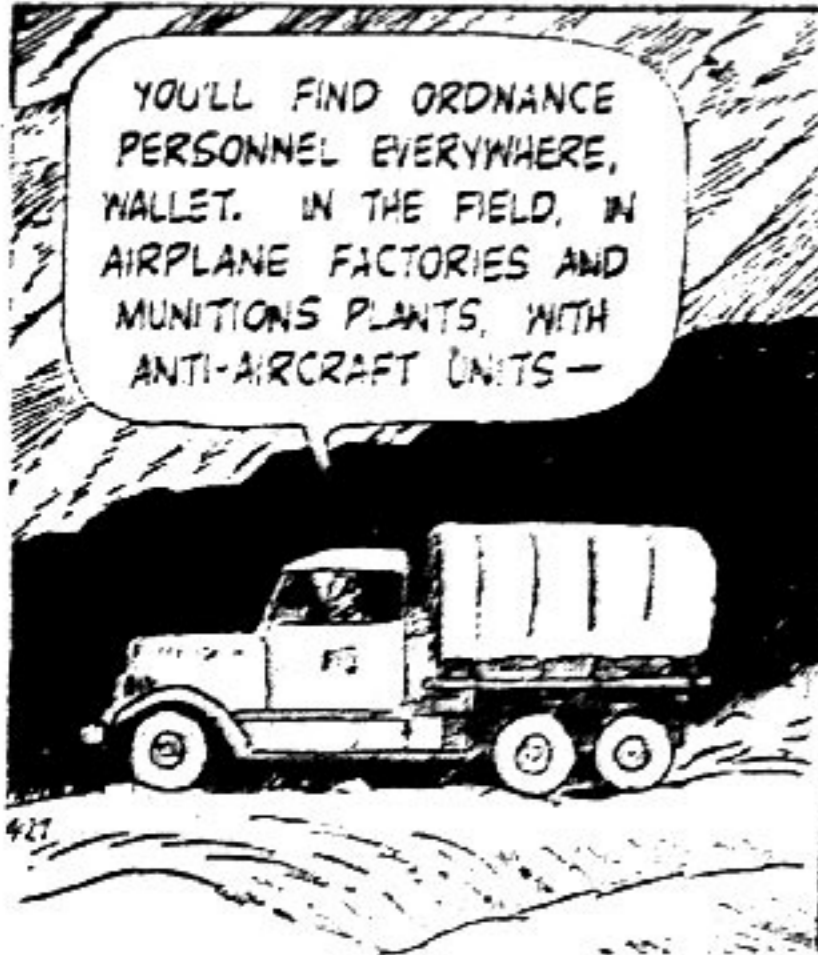


I'LL SAY! SHE'S SO KEEN THAT I CAN'T STAY MAD AT THAT LOONIE THAT CUT ME OUT.

THAT'S FINE, I THINK YOU'RE AFTER MY CONGRATULATIONS INSTEAD OF MY SYMPATHY, TOPS.







YOU'LL FIND ORDNANCE PERSONNEL EVERYWHERE, WALLEY. IN THE FIELD, IN AIRPLANE FACTORIES AND MUNITIONS PLANTS, WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS—



INTO THE DITCH WITH YOU! THOSE ARE ENEMY PLANES.



BOY! THAT ONE WAS RIGHT ON TOP OF US!

YES—ABOUT 300 YARDS AWAY.



— WITH TANK OUTFITS AND COAST DEFENSE, ENGINEERS, INSTRUCTORS, INSPECTORS, TECHNICIANS, MECHANICS. WE EVEN HAVE OUR OWN SECRET SERVICE.

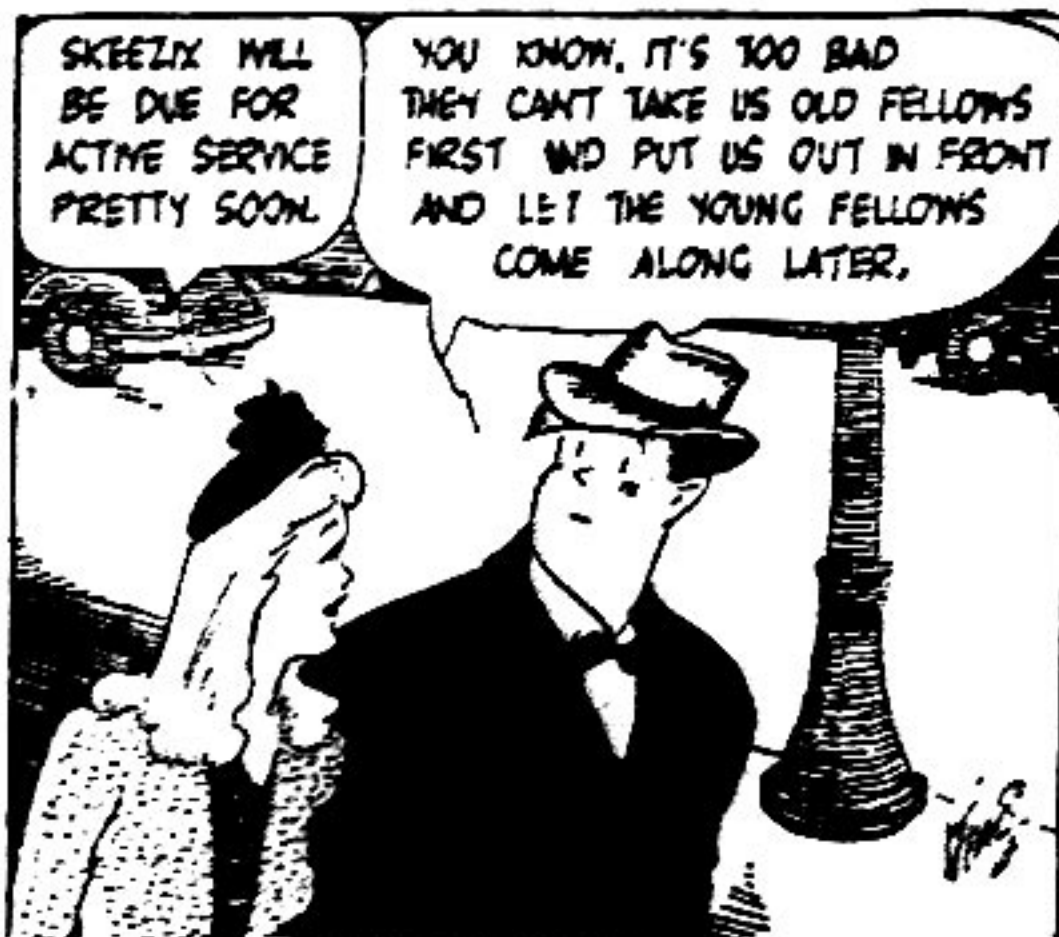


HELLO, UNCLE WALT! ARE YOU BUYING MORE SEEDS FOR YOUR VICTORY GARDEN?

I AM, NINA. YOU KNOW, I'M TAKING IT PRETTY SERIOUSLY.



I'M NOT AFRAID I WON'T GET ENOUGH TO EAT, BUT I BELIEVE WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP WIN THE WAR.



SKEEZYX WILL BE DUE FOR ACTIVE SERVICE PRETTY SOON.

YOU KNOW, IT'S TOO BAD THEY CAN'T TAKE US OLD FELLOWS FIRST AND PUT US OUT IN FRONT AND LET THE YOUNG FELLOWS COME ALONG LATER.



YOU COULDN'T TAKE IT, UNCLE WALT.

THAT'S JUST IT. WE'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY. THESE SNAPPY YOUNGSTERS KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING AND COULDN'T WAIT FOR US.

ARE YOU STILL AROUND,
BOUNCE? I THOUGHT YOU'D
BE IN THE ARMY.

I'LL BE GOING
SHORTLY. HOW
ABOUT YOU, WILMER?

I WON'T
HAVE TO GO.
I'VE GOT
DEFECTS.

EVERYBODY IS WISE TO
THAT. BUT THE REQUIREMENTS
HAVE BEEN LOWERED, YOU
KNOW.

HOW DO
YOU MEAN?

FLAT FEET OR A
FLAT HEAD DON'T
KEEP YOU OUT.

730
MMA, I FINALLY GOT A LETTER FROM MY MARINE—HEAVILY CENSORED. HE'S IN AUSTRALIA.

MY, THE CENSOR DID CUT OUT A LOT!

HE'S BEEN IN ACTION ELEVEN TIMES. AND HE STILL SAYS HE'S "RARIN' TO GO"

THAT'S GRAND, ESTHER.

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS FROM AUSTRALIA?

THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE BACK THE CENSOR DIDN'T BLACK OUT.



HE IS? HAVE YOU HAD A DOCTOR FOR HIM, MOTHER? I'LL GET ONE AND COME RIGHT AWAY.

DR. FLAX IS AT THE HOSPITAL ON AN O.B. DR. BIGHT IS ON A CALL. I'LL SEE IF I CAN GET SKEEZIX'S DOC OVER AT GASOLINE ALLEY.

FRANKLY, DR. MEAGER, I'VE TRIED THREE DOCTORS AND THEY ARE ALL OUT. MY FATHER HAS BEEN TAKEN VERY SICK. I'M GOING THERE AND I NEED A DOCTOR. WILL YOU GO?

CERTAINLY, MISS CLOCK.

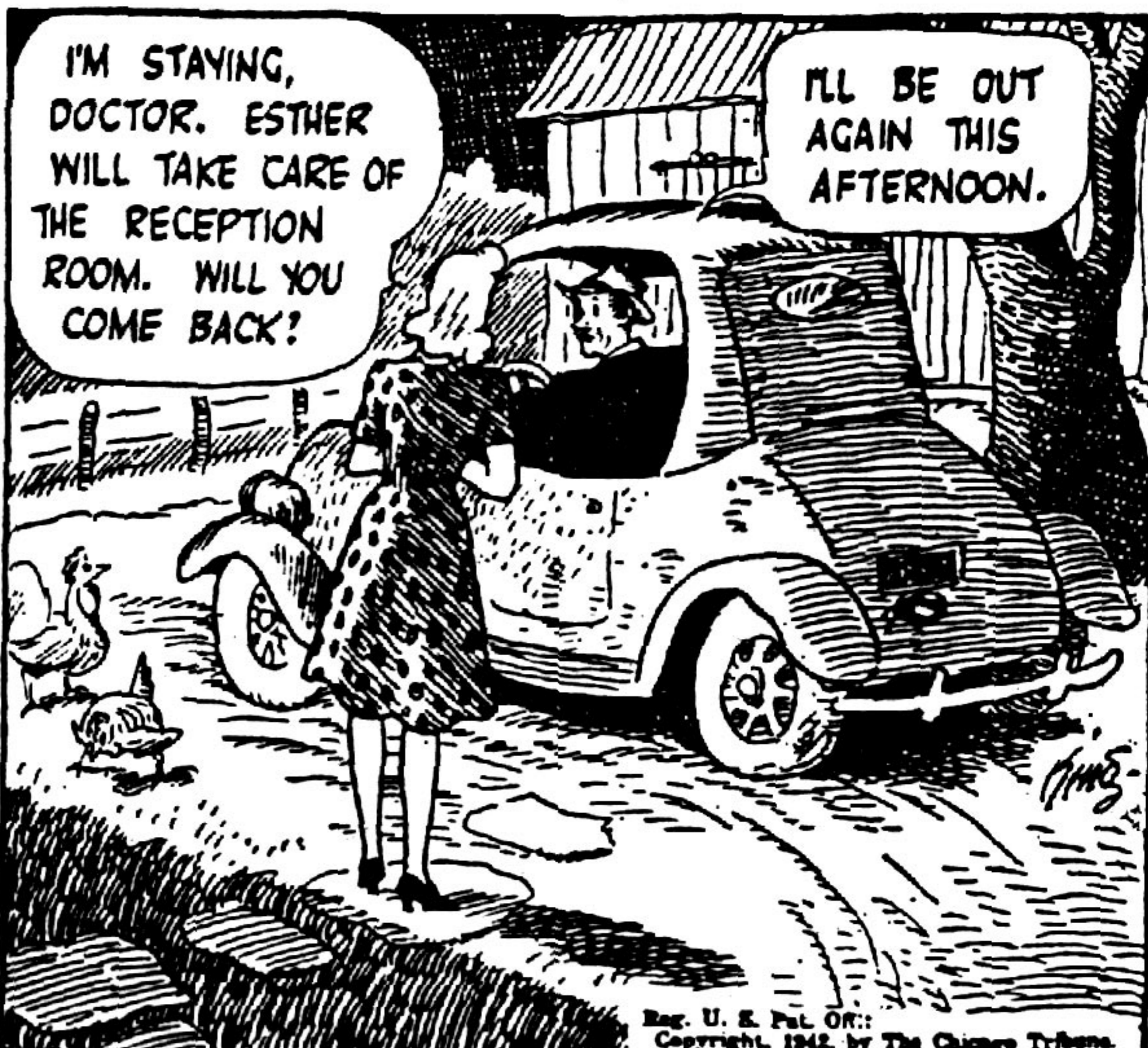
HURRY AS FAST AS YOU CAN, DOCTOR.

I AM. BUT MY OL' LIZZY ISN'T USED TO BEING CALLED INTO SERVICE SO SUDDENLY.



HOW IS HE, DR. MEAGER?

HE MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE REST AND QUIET, MISS CLOCK. I HAVE LEFT CAPSULES TO BE GIVEN EVERY TWO HOURS. SEE THAT HE IS KEPT WARM.



I'M STAYING, DOCTOR. ESTHER WILL TAKE CARE OF THE RECEPTION ROOM. WILL YOU COME BACK?

I'LL BE OUT AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.

YOU JUST LIE QUIETLY AND REST, FATHER. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

NO, DAUGHTER, BUT I MUST GET UP.

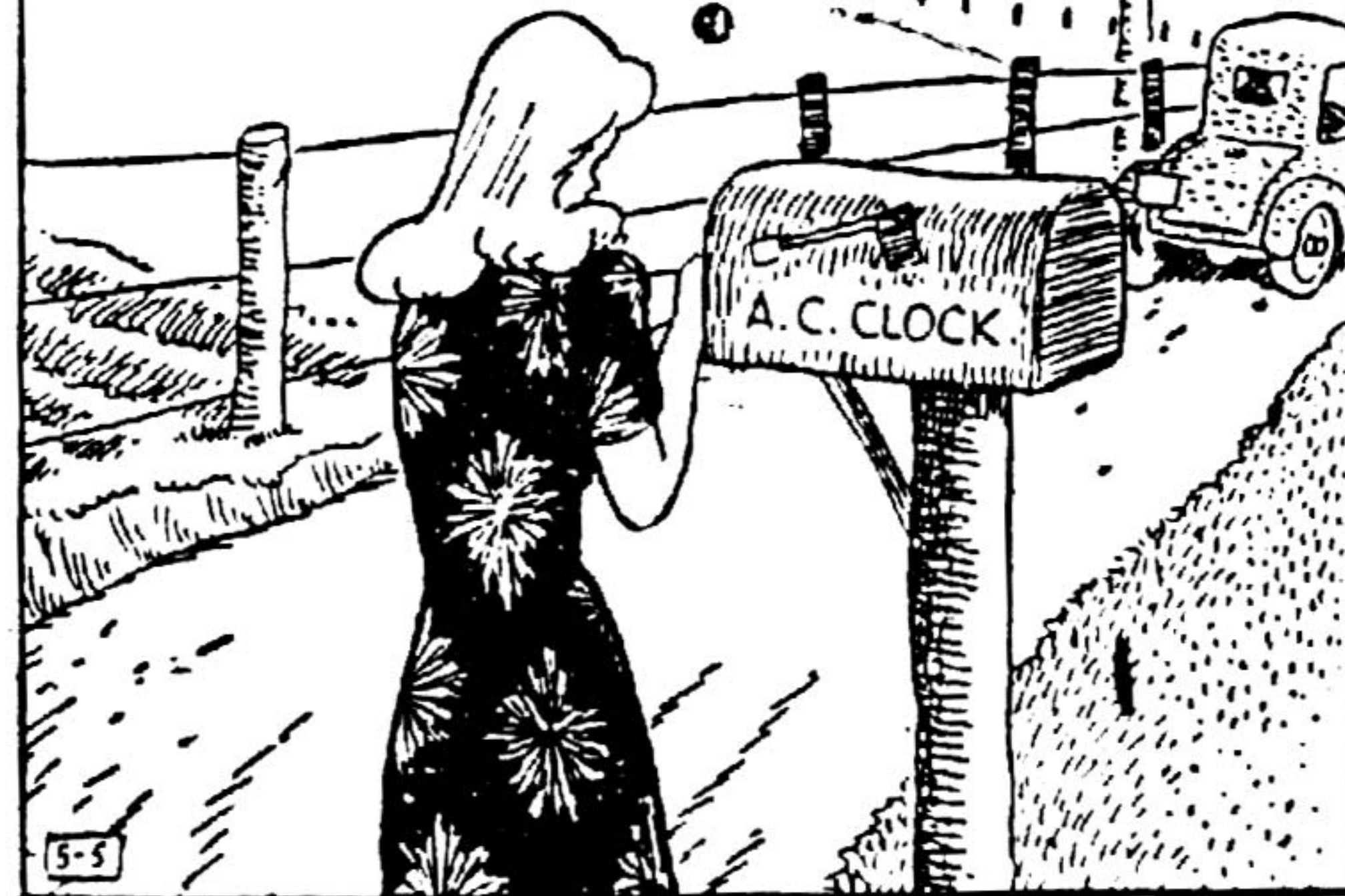
DON'T YOU WORRY, FATHER. EVERYTHING IS BEING TAKEN CARE OF.

IT IS SPRING AND THERE IS LOTS OF FARM WORK TO BE DONE. I MUST BE AT IT.

THERE ISN'T A CHANCE. DR. MEAGER SAID YOU MUST STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE. CHARLIE AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

BUT YOU HAVE YOUR WORK TO DO, NINA. AND CHARLIE CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE WITHOUT MY TELLING HIM HOW.

I DON'T EVEN DARE
HOPE FOR ONE.



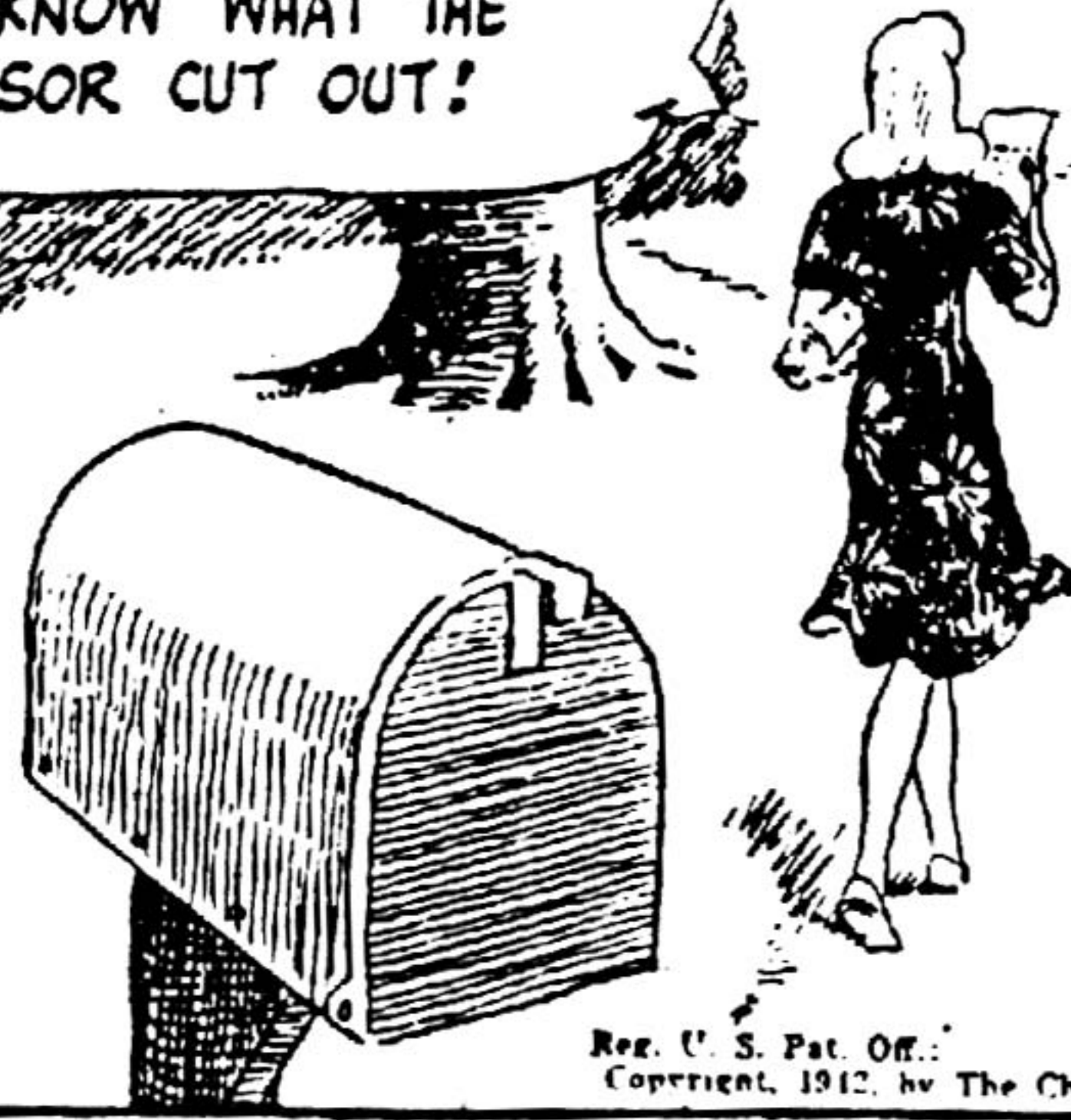
BUT I GOT IT — A
LETTER FROM SKEEZIX!
THAT'S GRAND!

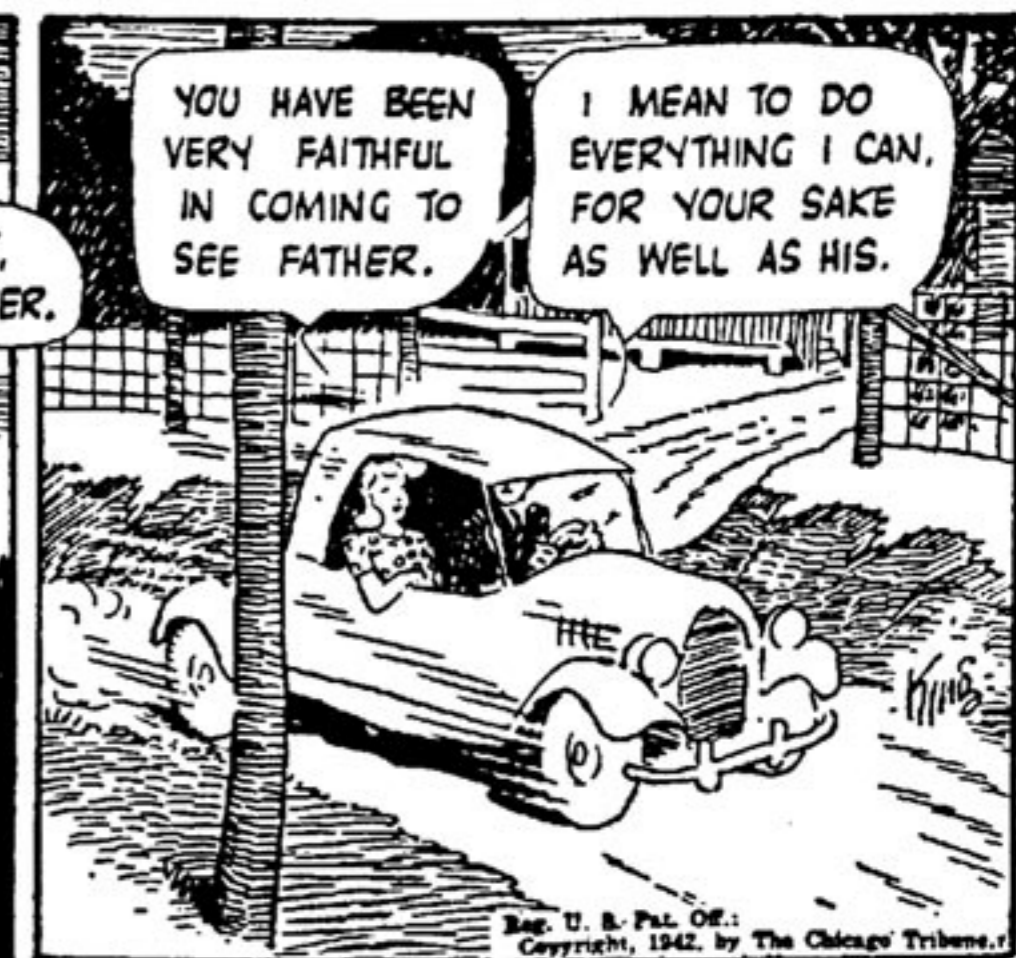
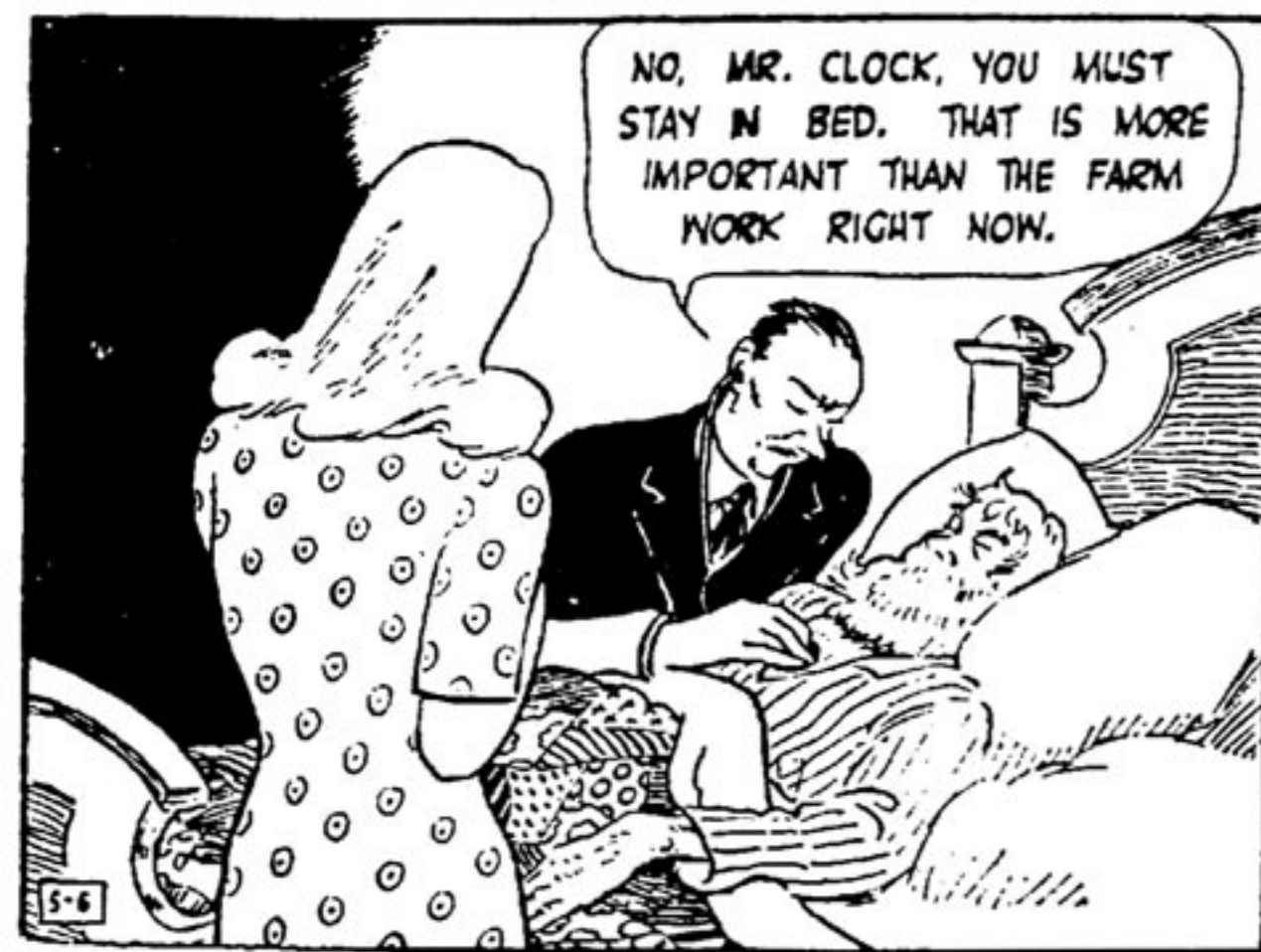


"WE █████ █████ █████ TODAY.
I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU AND MISS YOU TERRIBLY.
BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD IF I ENLIST AND
BARGE IN TO HELP CLEAN UP THIS MESS."



THAT'S A SWELL
LETTER, SKEEZIX HONEY.
BUT I'D CERTAINLY LIKE
TO KNOW WHAT THE
CENSOR CUT OUT!





DR. FLAX,
I EXPECTED TO
BE BACK AT
WORK BEFORE
NOW BUT
FATHER IS STILL
VERY ILL.

WE ARE
GETTING ALONG,
MISS CLOCK,
AFTER A
FASHION.

AS THINGS ARE ON THE
FARM, IT WILL BE
NECESSARY FOR ME TO
BE AWAY STILL LONGER.

MISS ESTHER HAS
HELPED US A LOT AND
WE HAVE ANOTHER
TEMPORARY RECEPTIONIST
COMING TOMORROW.

I'M AWFULLY GLAD, DR. FLAX.
I WANT TO KEEP MY JOB BUT
I REALIZE YOU CAN'T HOLD IT
FOR ME INDEFINITELY.

YOU GO BACK AND DO YOUR
DUTY TO YOUR FATHER AND
WE WILL HELP YOU ALL
WE CAN.

WHY, CHARLIE,
I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE
PLANTING CORN
BY THIS TIME.

WELL, MISS NINA, TO PLANT CORN I
HAD TO GET THE FIELD MARKED. AN' TO
GET IT MARKED I HAD TO FIX THE MARKER,
AND FIRST I HAD TO FIND IT. IT WAS
UP IN THE BARN WITH
GUNNY SACKS ON IT.

YOU FINISHED
DISK-HARROWING
THE NORTH FORTY
YESTERDAY,
DIDN'T YOU?

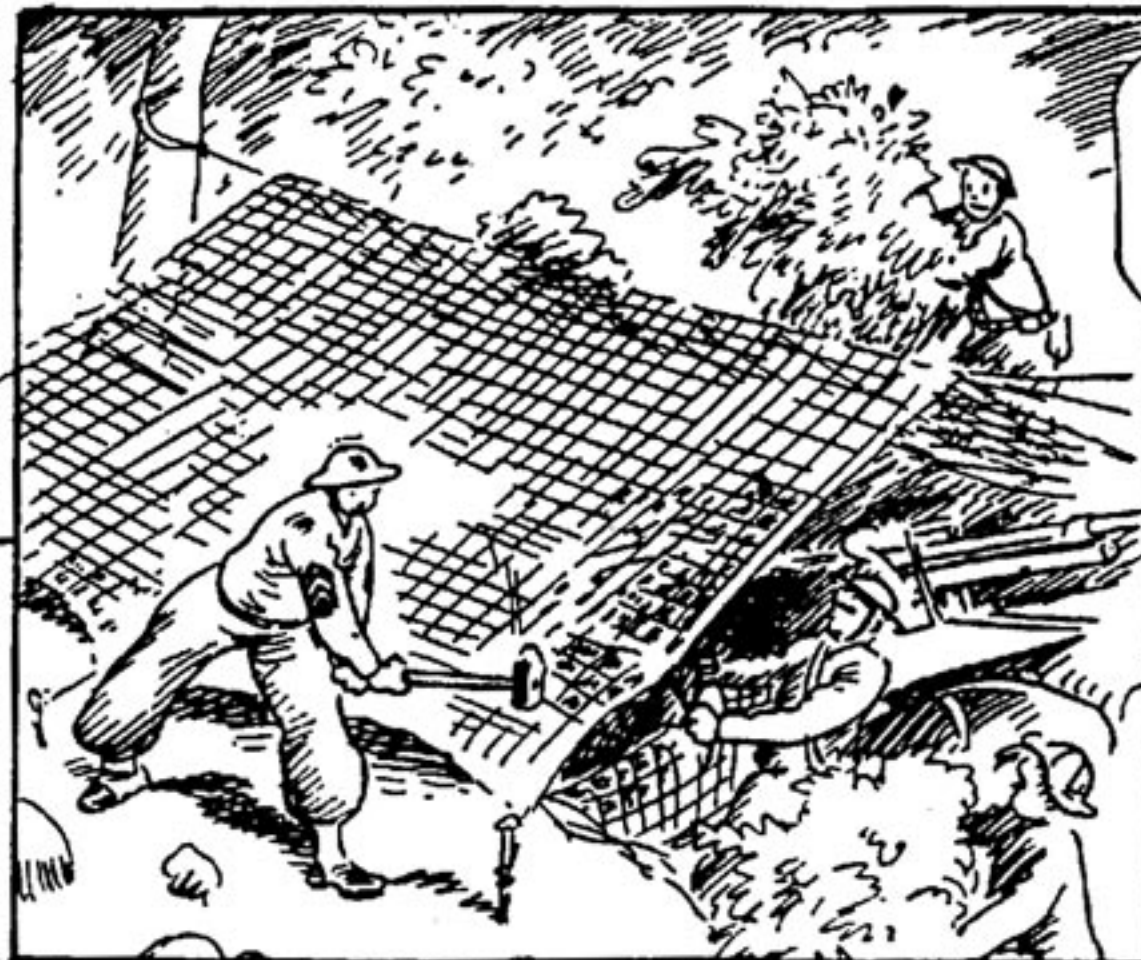
YES, MA'AM. IT'S ALL
DISKED AN' DRUG. BUT THE
CATTLE STOMPED SOME OF
IT DOWN GETTIN' ACROSS TO
THE CLOVER PATCH.

HOW COULD THE
CATTLE GET IN THERE?
DID SOMEONE LEAVE
THE GATE OPEN?

NO'M. THE FENCE WAS
DOWN AT THE FUR END.
I WAS JUST FIXIN' TO
GET TO IT AN' GET IT
PATCHED UP.

HOW DO YOU
LIKE OUR SWAMP
BUGGY, WALLET?

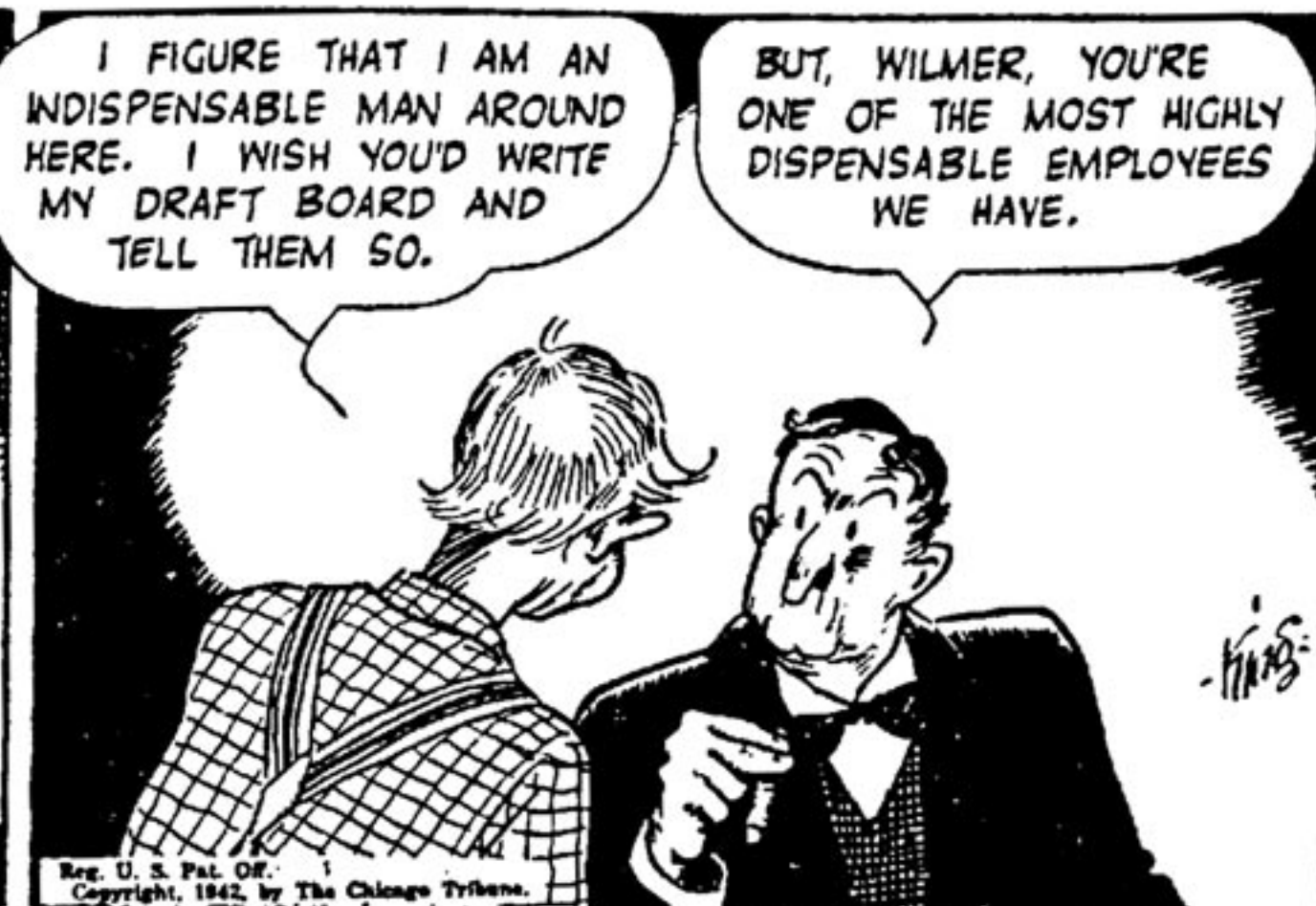
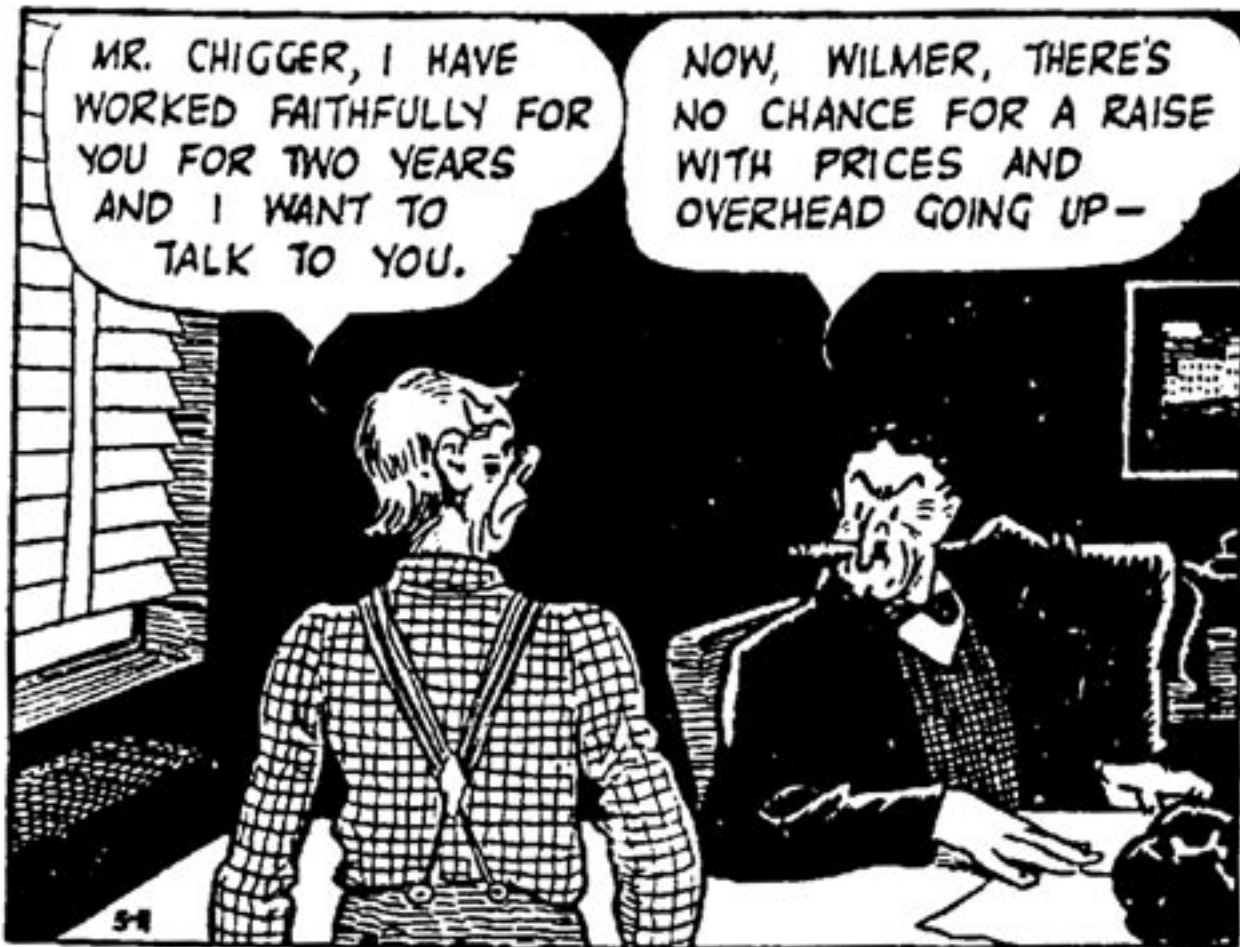
OKAY, BUT I'D
SUGGEST YOU ORDNANCE
FELLOWS PUT SOME
SPRINGS ON IT.



THERE
SHE IS,
PUT TO
BED.

GOLLY! EVEN FROM
HERE I WOULDN'T SUSPECT
SHE WAS THERE.

SKEEZIX



HOW DO YOU LIKE THE FEEL OF THAT M1 RIFLE, WALLET?

IT'S A HONEY. I GET A BIG KICK OUT OF A FINE PIECE OF MECHANISM.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN GET ALL THOSE PARTS BACK, SERGEANT?

WE'D BETTER BE! IN THE ORDNANCE SERVICE WE MUST BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN, REPAIR AND ASSEMBLE ALL THE DIFFERENT SMALL ARMS, MACHINE GUNS AND ARTILLERY USED IN THE FIELD.

GEE; THAT'S THE SORT OF THING I'D LIKE. I'M GOOFY ABOUT MECHANICAL THINGS.

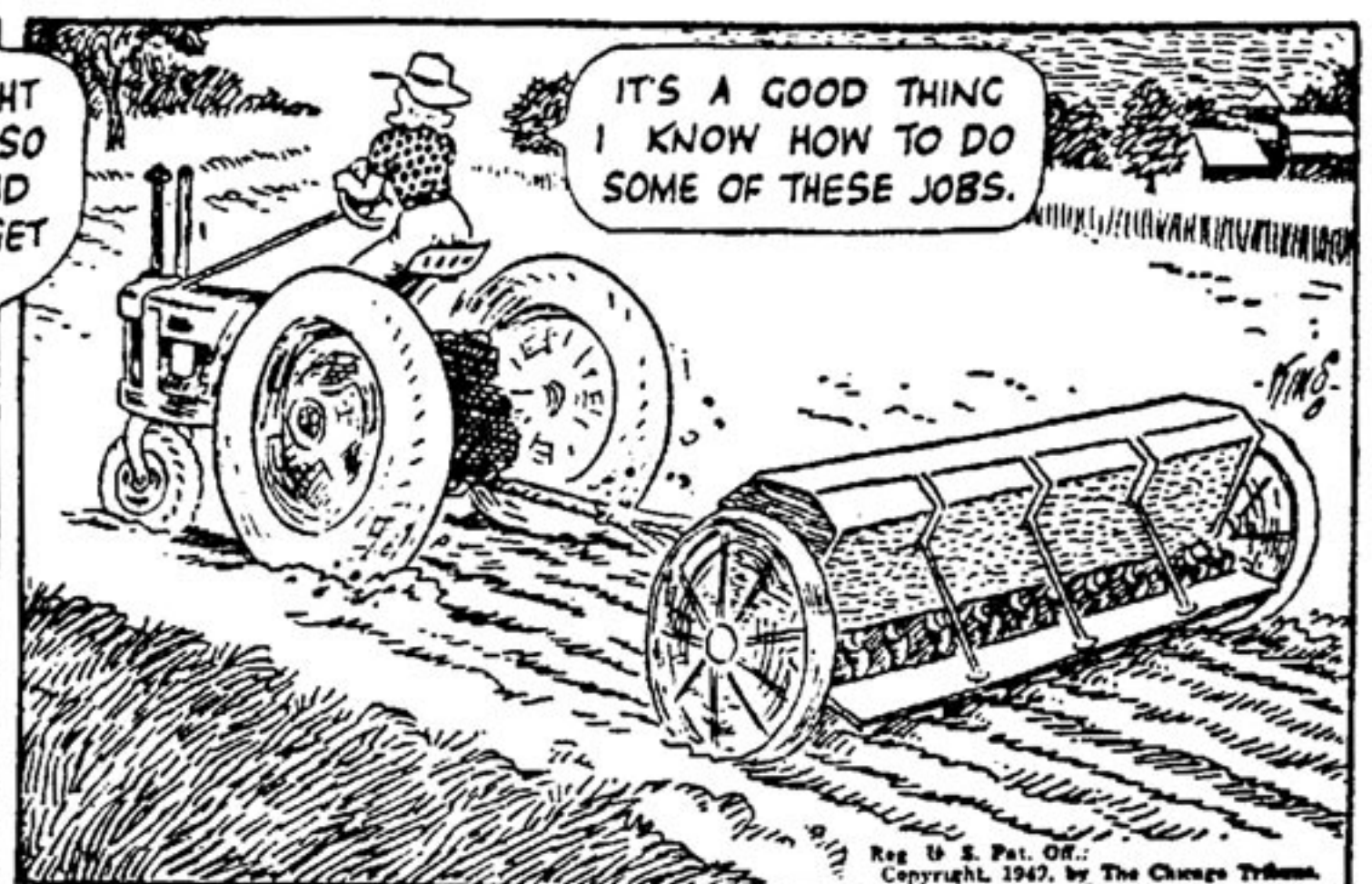
I THINK YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS, WALLET. LOOK, THIS IS THE SAFETY. I STONE IT OFF TO GET RID OF THAT SLIGHT BURR. EVERY WEAPON MUST WORK PERFECTLY.



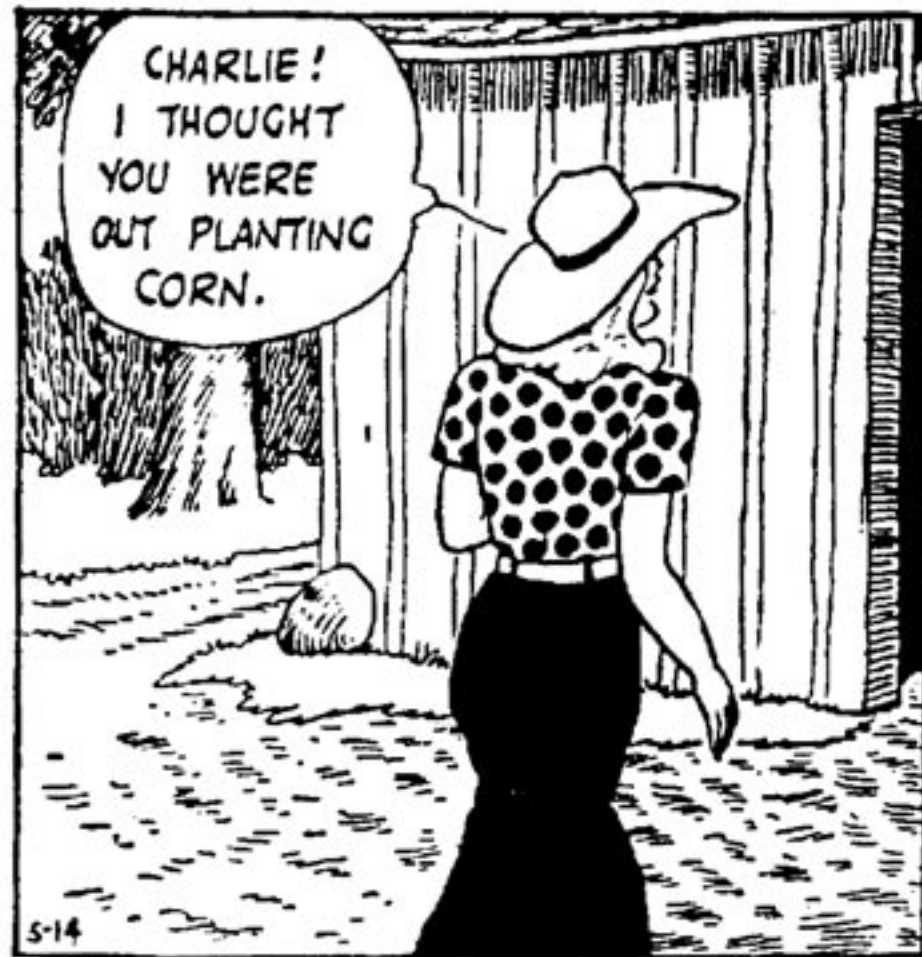
WITH FATHER SICK
IN BED THERE ARE
PLENTY OF THINGS
PILING UP TO BE
DONE.



CHARLIE IS ALL RIGHT
BUT IT TAKES HIM SO
LONG TO GET AROUND
TO GET READY TO GET
STARTED.



IT'S A GOOD THING
I KNOW HOW TO DO
SOME OF THESE JOBS.



I WAS OUT PLANTING
POTATOES ALL LAST NIGHT,
DOCTOR. I'M ALL TIRED OUT.
THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER.

FATHER SAYS
SUCH STRANGE
THINGS, DR. MEAGER.
HE THINKS THE HAY
IS IN THE BARN
AND THE OATS
CUT AND SHOCKED.

I WOULDN'T WORRY, NINA.
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN
THROUGH A SERIOUS CRISIS
AND IS STILL SOMEWHAT
DELIRIOUS.

ANYWAY, I'M MORE
GRATEFUL TO YOU THAN
I CAN SAY.

YOU KNOW
I'D DO ANYTHING
IN MY POWER
FOR YOU, NINA.

SKEEZIX



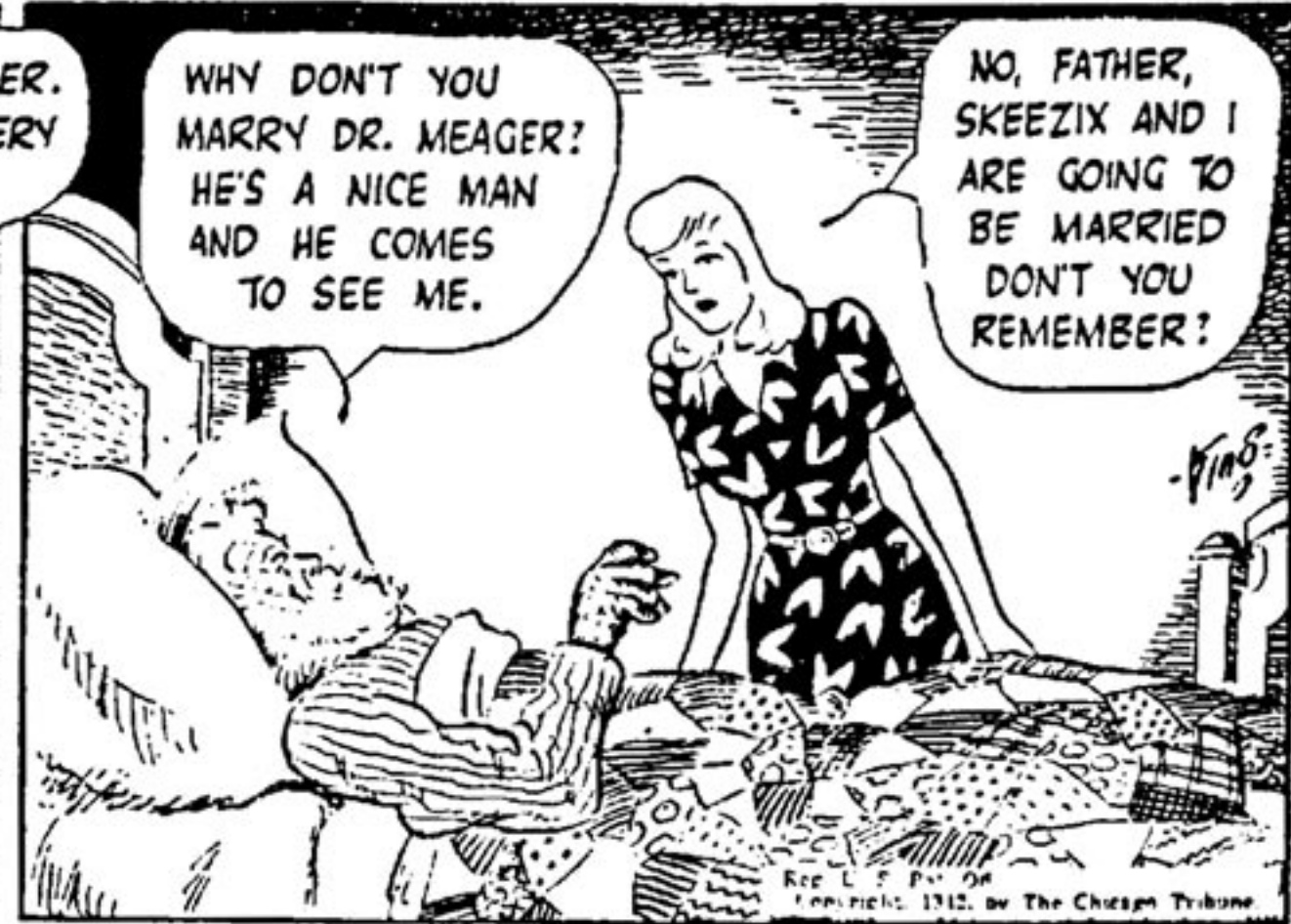
WHERE IS SKEEZIX,
NINA? WHY DOESN'T
HE COME AND SEE ME?

SKEEZIX IS THOUSANDS
OF MILES AWAY, FATHER.
HE WOULD COME IF
HE COULD.



THAT DOCTOR, NOW.
WHAT IS HIS NAME? HE
IS A NICE MAN. HE
COMES TO SEE ME.

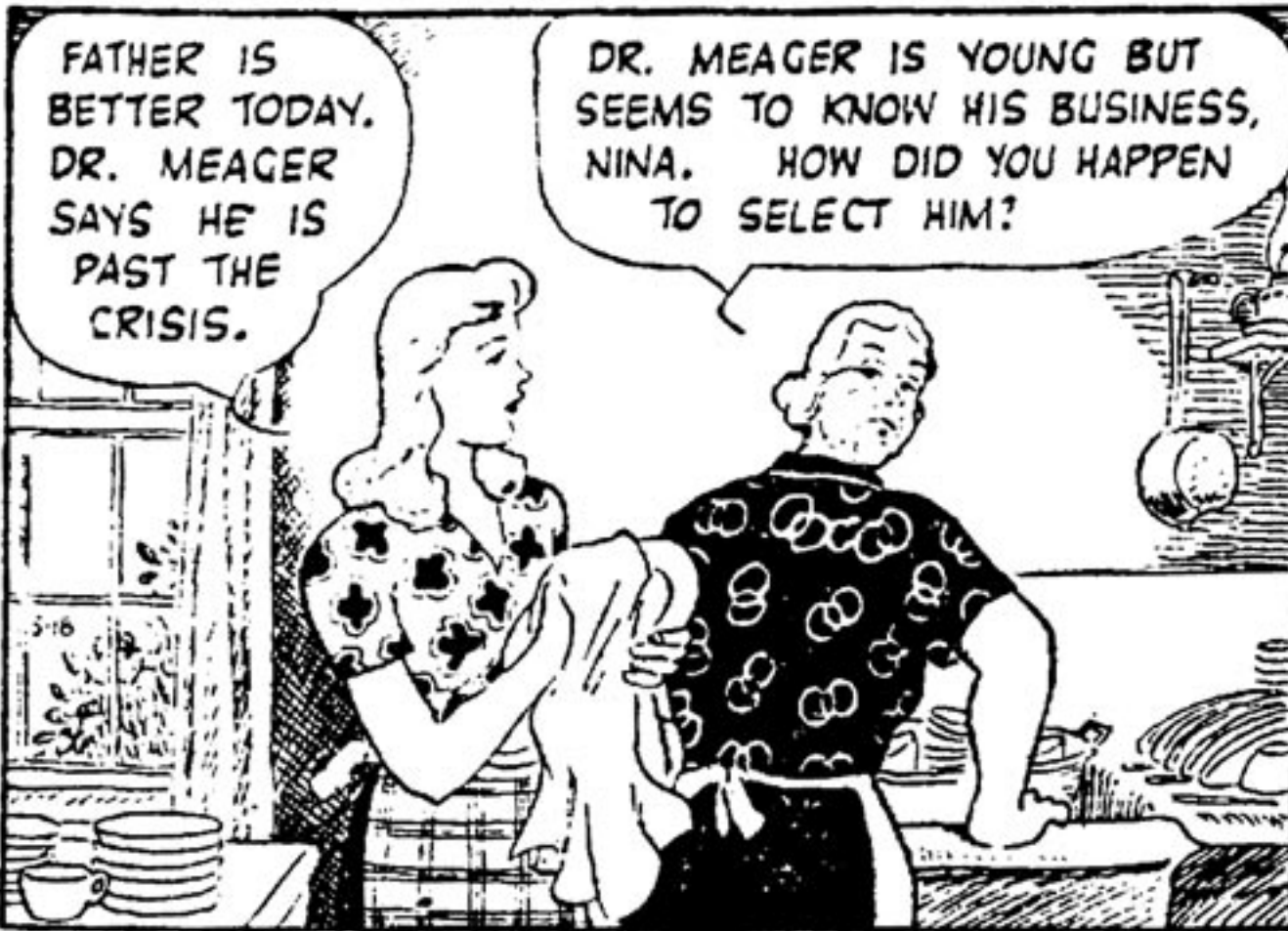
DR. MEAGER.
HE IS VERY
NICE.

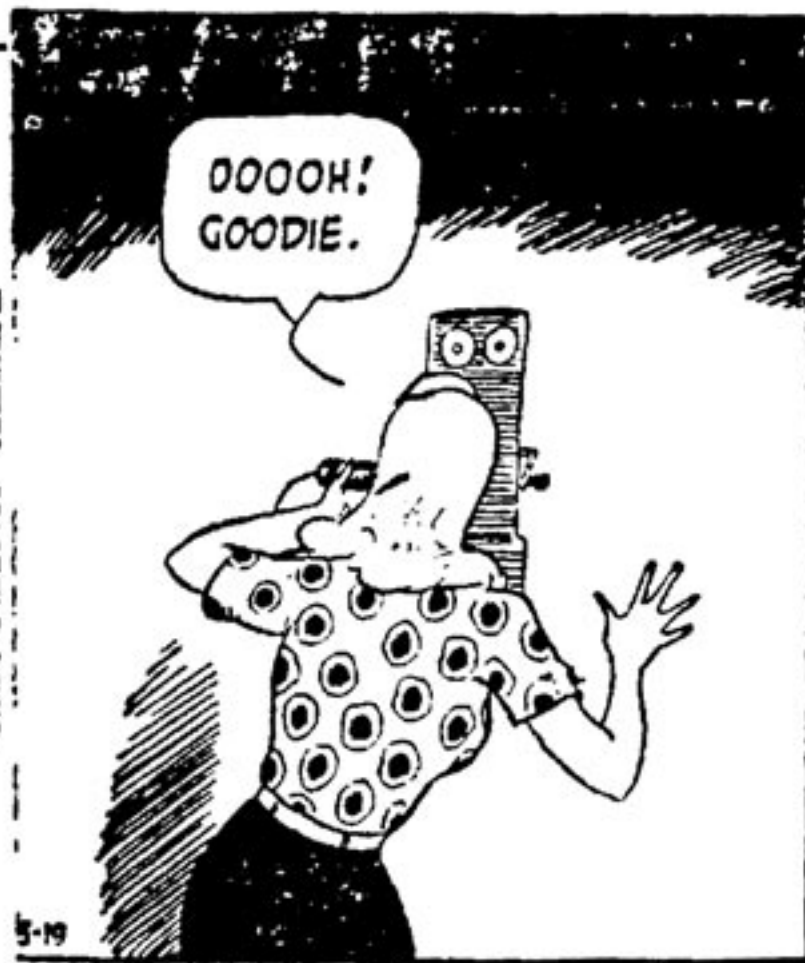


WHY DON'T YOU
MARRY DR. MEAGER?
HE'S A NICE MAN
AND HE COMES
TO SEE ME.

NO, FATHER,
SKEEZIX AND I
ARE GOING TO
BE MARRIED
DON'T YOU
REMEMBER?

SKEEZIX







SKEEZIX IS GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE COMES AND FINDS OUT HOW UPSET EVERYTHING IS.



THERE JUST ISN'T A CHANCE OF A WEDDING UNTIL SOME OF THESE TROUBLES AND DIFFICULTIES ARE OVER. THEY ARE TOO IMPORTANT.



I HATE TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIM, FOR I KNOW HIS HEART HAS BEEN SET ON GETTING MARRIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SKEEZIX



HI, SALLY!
STILL HOLDING
THE FORT?
I'M GLAD
OF THAT.

SKEEZIX! IT'S GRAND
TO SEE YOU BACK
AGAIN.



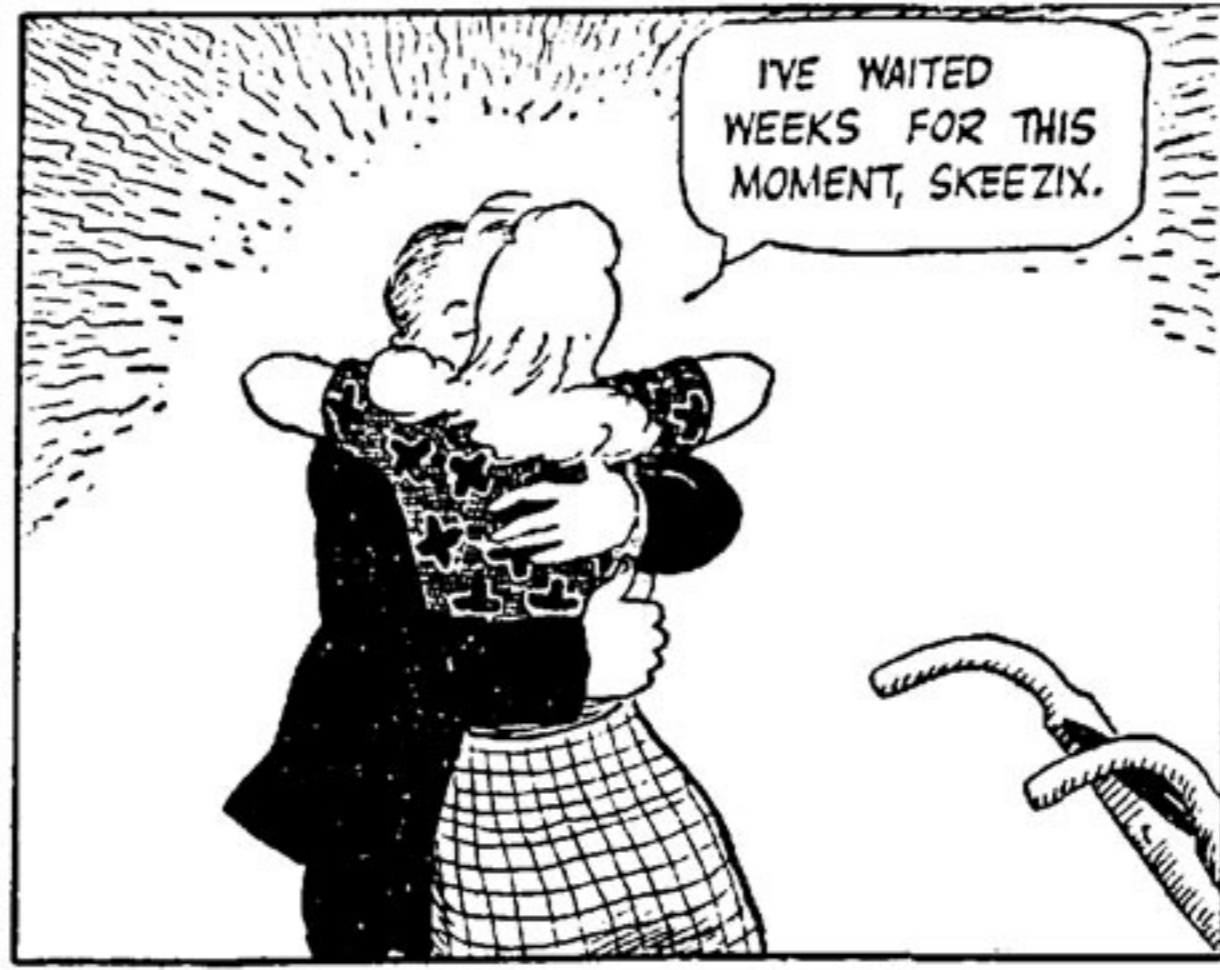
WHAT HAVE
YOU HEARD FROM
NINA? I'M GOING
TO SEE HER
THIS WEEK
END.

I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE
HAVING THAT WEDDING THAT
HAS BEEN POSTPONED
FOR SO LONG.



I'M AFRAID NINA WILL BE
TERRIBLY DISAPPOINTED BUT THERE'S
SO MUCH UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT
I'LL BE DOING THAT I DON'T THINK
GETTING MARRIED IS THE PROPER
THING.

THAT'S TOO
BAD, BUT
DON'T WORRY.
IT WILL ALL
WORK OUT.



DON'T MOVE! THAT'S PERFECT, NINA.

I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME IN FEMININE CLOTHES AT LEAST ONCE, SKEEZIX.



I'LL BET WE ARE BOTH THINKING OF THE SAME THING. BUT YOU KNOW—

YOU MEAN GETTING MARRIED? I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT. BUT IT'S THIS WAY—



LET ME TELL YOU FIRST—IT'S LIKE THIS—THINGS WITH ME ARE AWFULLY UPSET AND I DON'T THINK IT CAN BE RIGHT AWAY.

I'VE HATED TO TELL YOU, NINA, BUT EVERYTHING IS THAT WAY WITH ME TOO.



YOU MEAN THAT YOU WON'T FEEL BADLY IF WE DO POSTPONE IT AGAIN?

I'LL FEEL BADLY ENOUGH BUT IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF THAT'S WHAT WE'LL HAVE TO DO.



SKEEZIX

WHENEVER THEY WANT ME, I'M READY TO GO, UNCLE WALT. DO YOU THINK I OUGHT TO ENLIST?

THAT IS A QUESTION FOR YOU ALONE TO DECIDE, SKEEZIX.



AND WHAT IS YOUR ANGLE ON NINA AND ME GETTING MARRIED BEFORE I GO?

THERE ARE TWO OF YOU TO DECIDE THAT ONE.



WE BOTH THINK IT BEST TO PUT IT OFF UNTIL A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME.

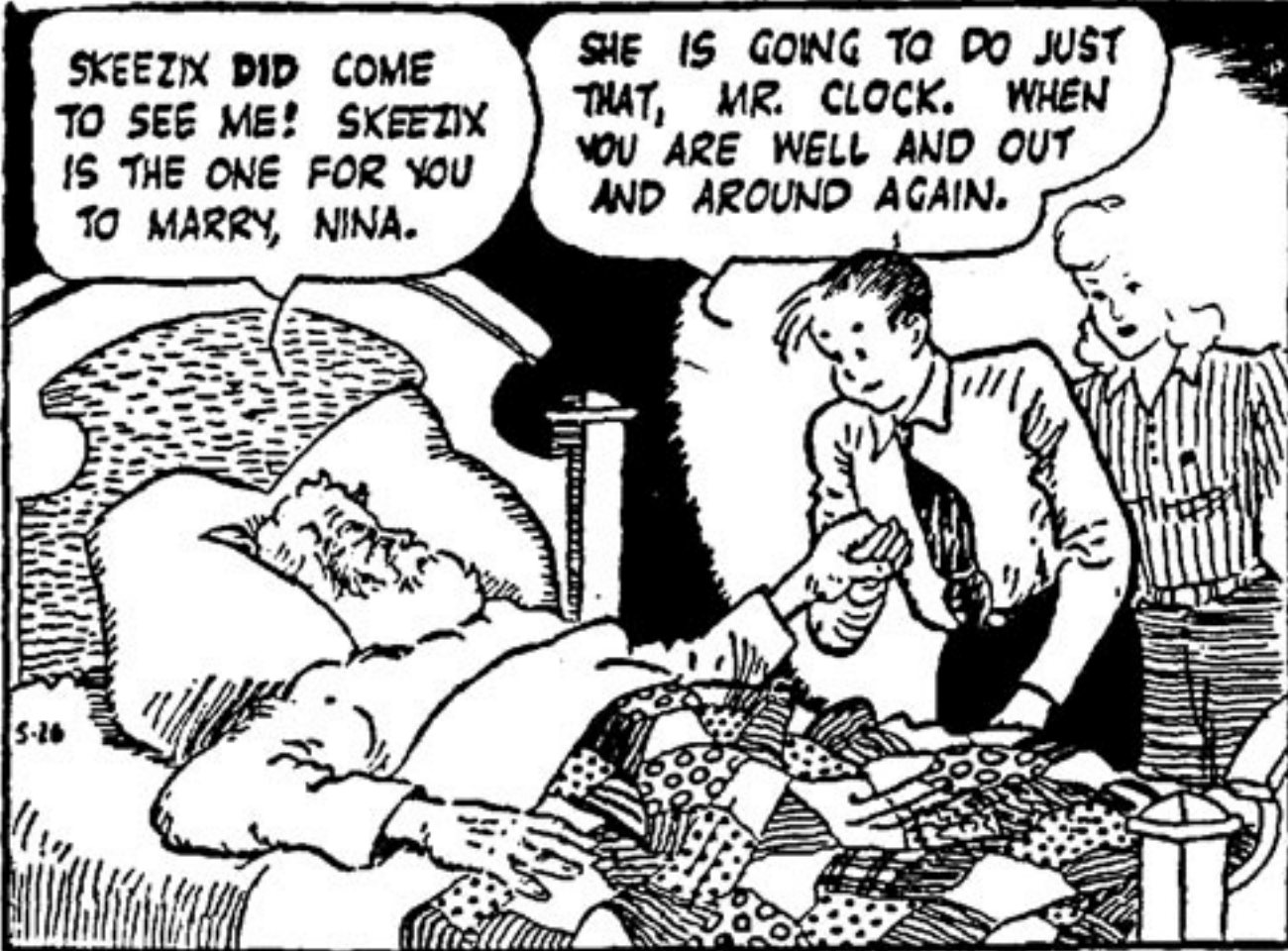
THAT IS THE DECISION I THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE. AND I THINK YOU ARE WISE.



OUR HEARTS SAY DO IT NOW, BUT OUR HEADS SAY WAIT.

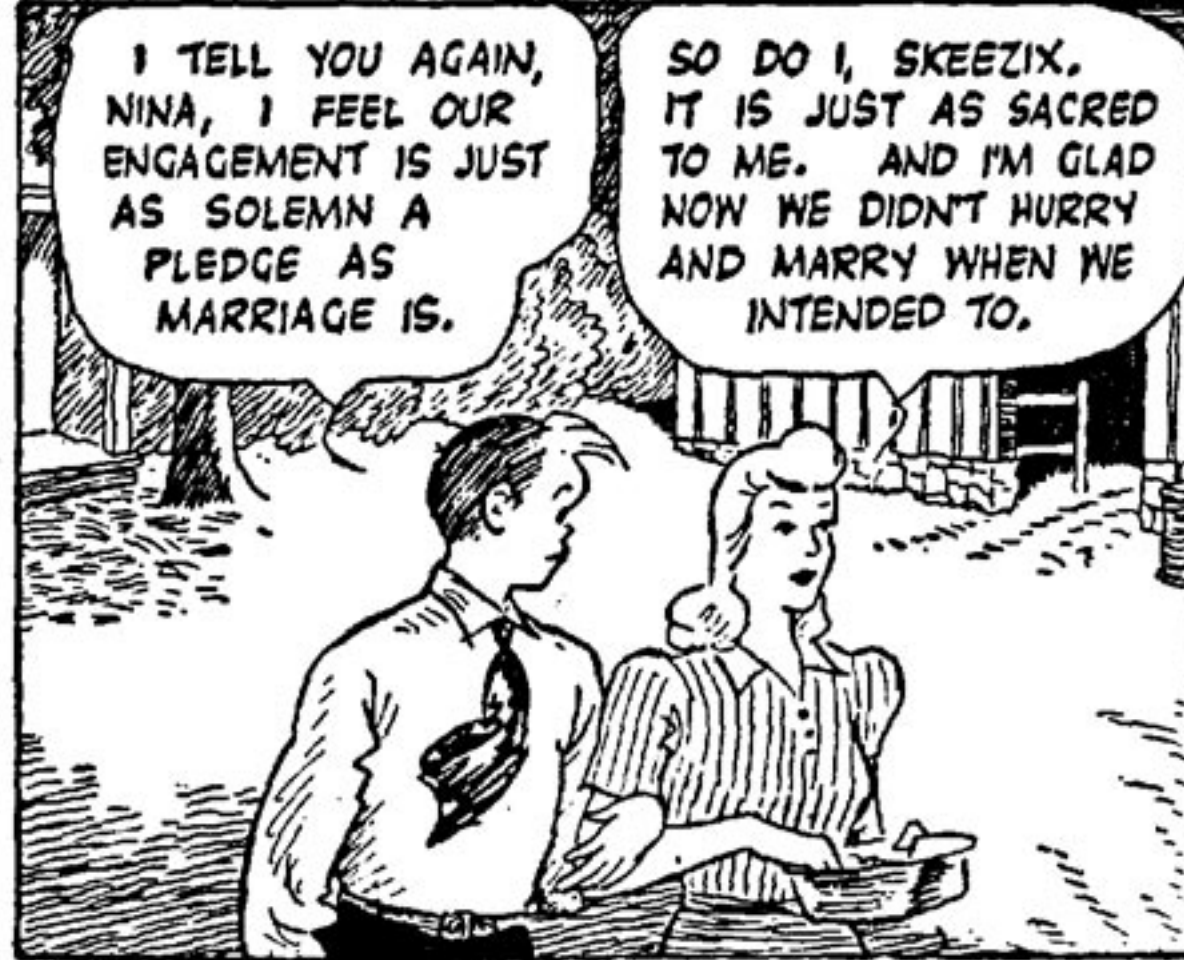
OUR HEADS ARE USUALLY THE CONSERVATIVES. OUR HEARTS ARE THE RADICALS — THEY'RE QUITE TO THE LEFT, YOU KNOW.





SKEEZIX DID COME TO SEE ME! SKEEZIX IS THE ONE FOR YOU TO MARRY, NINA.

SHE IS GOING TO DO JUST THAT, MR. CLOCK. WHEN YOU ARE WELL AND OUT AND AROUND AGAIN.



I TELL YOU AGAIN, NINA, I FEEL OUR ENGAGEMENT IS JUST AS SOLEMN A PLEDGE AS MARRIAGE IS.

SO DO I, SKEEZIX. IT IS JUST AS SACRED TO ME. AND I'M GLAD NOW WE DIDN'T HURRY AND MARRY WHEN WE INTENDED TO.



I WROTE YOU THAT I MIGHT ENLIST. I WOULD RIGHT NOW EXCEPT MY BOSS AT THE PLANT IS DEPENDING A LOT ON ME.

I HAD EVEN HOPED YOU WOULD ENLIST, DARLING. I WANT YOU TO DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST.

SKEEZIX





I DIDN'T MENTION TO SKEEZIX ONE BIG REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO GET MARRIED NOW. SUPPOSE FATHER DOESN'T GET WELL—OR NOT WELL ENOUGH TO WORK THE FARM ANY MORE.



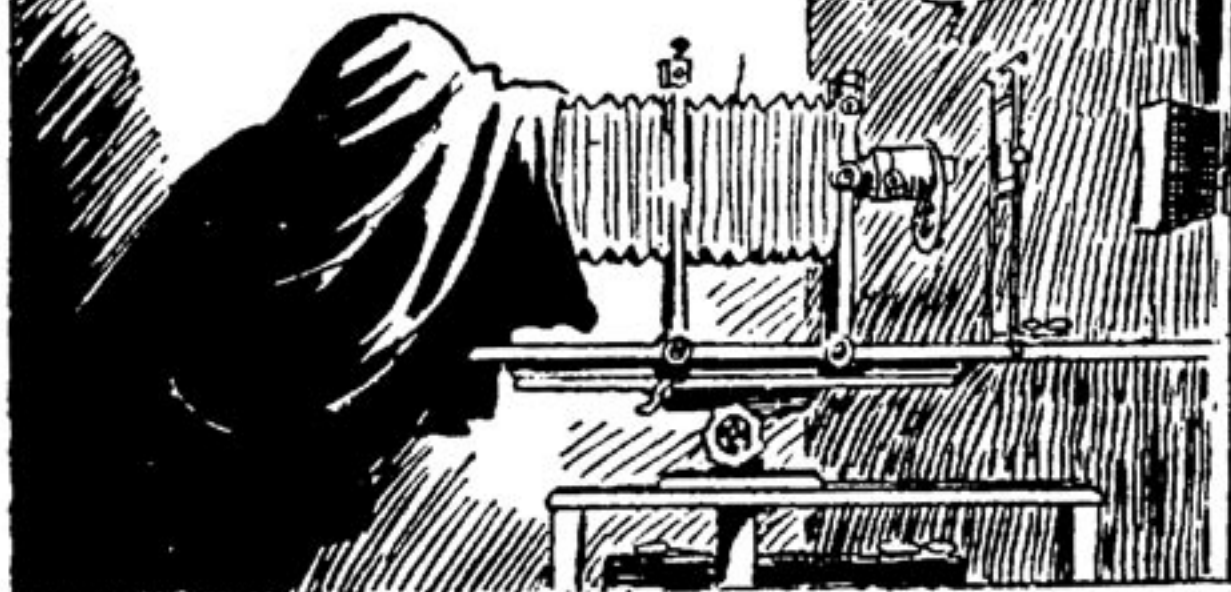
I COULD BE SELF-SUPPORTING, BUT MY SALARY IN TOWN WOULDN'T TAKE CARE OF THE FOLKS TOO. I'D HAVE TO STAY ON THE FARM AND DO MY BEST TO MAKE IT GO.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
Copyright 1938 by F. W. ...



WITH SKEEZIX IN SERVICE, HE'D FEEL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF US. HE'LL HAVE ENOUGH ON HIS MIND WITHOUT THAT.

I WANT TO GET MARRIED WHEN I CAN FULLY SUPPORT A WIFE. HERE'S AN ANGLE I DIDN'T MENTION TO NINA.



IF WE WERE MARRIED AND I WAS AWAY A LONG TIME — PERHAPS YEARS — UNCLE WALT COULDN'T HELP FEELING A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NINA AND HER FOLKS.



I COULDN'T STAND THAT. HE HAS DONE ENOUGH FOR ME — FOR 21 YEARS! HIS BUSINESS IS PRACTICALLY CUT IN HALF AND HE HAS HAD ENOUGH OF A FAMILY TO LOOK AFTER.



I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR NINA THE SAME AS IF WE WERE MARRIED. BUT SHE'LL BE FREER AND SO WILL UNCLE WALT.



MR. HARP
WANTS YOU TO
CHECK THESE
SPECIFICATIONS,
LIEUT. SNAP.

SHEETS R1062 TO
R 1130, NEW AUTOMATIC
LATHES FOR TURNING
STEEL CORES FOR
.50-CALIBER BULLETS.
I WILL START
IMMEDIATELY.

I SEE MEN IN ORDNANCE
DOING SO MANY DIFFERENT
THINGS. IN ALASKA THEY WERE
HAULING AMMUNITION, FIXING
RECOIL MECHANISMS, TESTING
FIELD GLASSES AND BUILDING
TRAVELING MACHINE SHOPS.

THOSE
ARE A
FEW OF
OUR DUTIES,
WALLET.

AND
YOU
WORK IN
FACTORIES,
TOO.

YES, WE
DESIGN WEAPONS
AND MACHINES,
INSPECT, AND
HELP SPEED
PRODUCTION.

I THINK I'D
LIKE IT IN
YOUR BRANCH
OF THE
SERVICE.


WE'RE PRETTY
PARTICULAR, WALLET.
BUT FROM WHAT I'VE
SEEN OF YOU AROUND
HERE I THINK YOU
COULD MAKE IT.

SKEEZIX





A RAISE!
THAT ALWAYS
MEANS A RAISE
IN SPIRITS AS
WELL AS IN
FINANCES.




IT REMOVES
ONE OBSTACLE
TO GETTING
MARRIED —
AND IT USED
TO BE A
BIG ONE.



BUT SO MUCH
BIGGER ONES
HAVE ARISEN
SINCE THEN
THAT IT IS
UNIMPORTANT
NOW.

WASTE
RECYCLING
CITY



IT WOULD HAVE IMPROVED
THINGS A LOT FOR US.
BUT WHETHER OR NOT
THAT MAKES IT BETTER
TO THINK ABOUT,
I DON'T KNOW.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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GASOLINE ALLEY—EMERGENCY REPAIR

HOW'S YOUR PAW THIS MORNIN', MISS NINA?

HE'S BETTER, CHARLIE. BUT THE WORK IS UP TO YOU AND ME. HAVE YOU CULTIVATED THE GARDEN PATCH?

I'M JUST AIMIN' TO. I HAD TO MEND THE HAME ON OL' PRINCE'S COLLAR FIRST. AN' TO MEND THAT I HAD TO TAKE THE WIRE OFF THE CULTIVATOR HANDLE.

THEN YOU'RE READY TO START?

WELL, I WOULD BE BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE SHED AN' FIND SOME WIRE TO FIX THE CULTIVATOR HANDLE.

WELL. SEE IF YOU CANT FIND A PIECE OF WIRE THAT ISN'T WORKING.

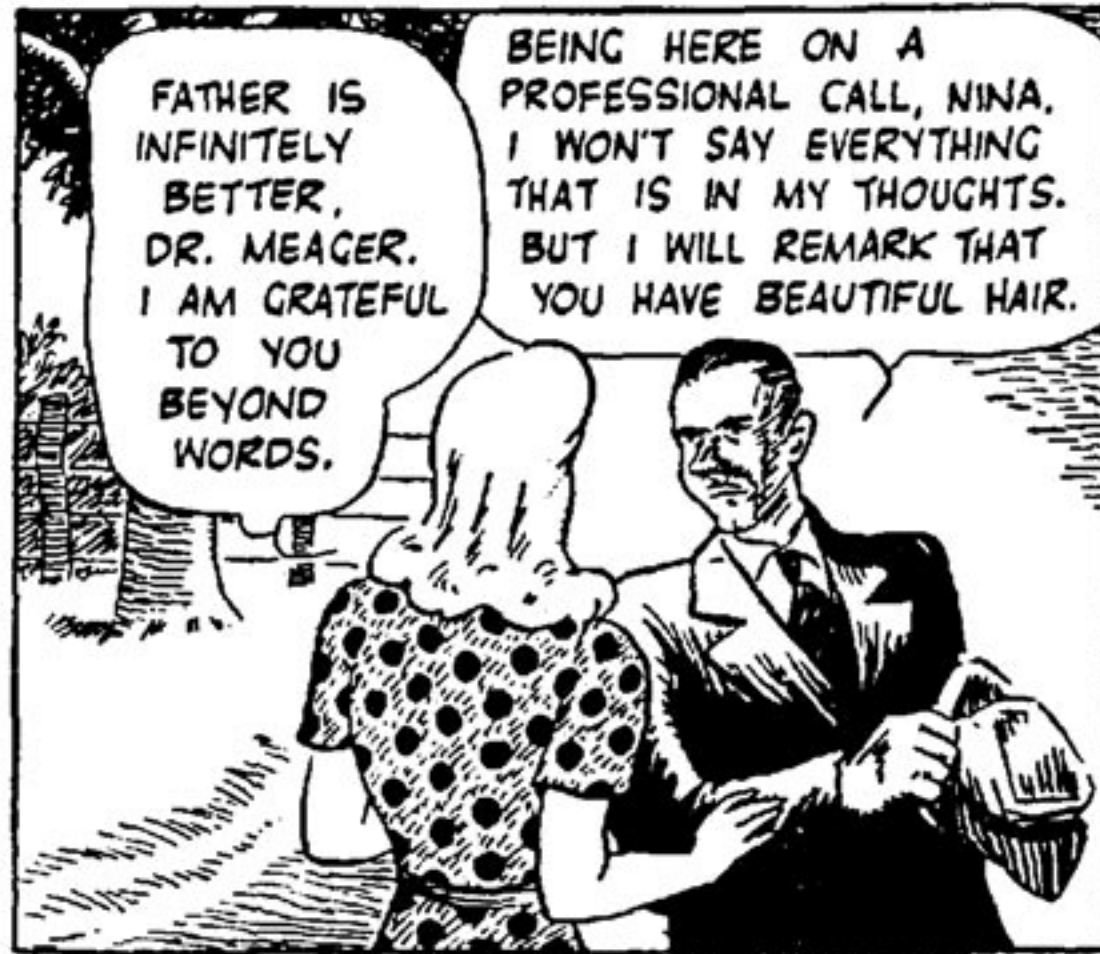
I'M FEELING GOOD AGAIN, DOCTOR, AND THERE'S LOTS OF SPRING WORK TO BE DONE.

YOU ARE MUCH BETTER, MR. CLOCK, BUT YOU MUST NOT BE IN ANY HURRY TO WORK.



FATHER IS INFINITELY BETTER, DR. MEAGER. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU BEYOND WORDS.

BEING HERE ON A PROFESSIONAL CALL, NINA, I WON'T SAY EVERYTHING THAT IS IN MY THOUGHTS. BUT I WILL REMARK THAT YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL HAIR.



TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT IT, DOCTOR. IF I CAN EVER SPEND AN HOUR IN TOWN, IT'S COMING OFF.

DON'T! THAT WOULD BE ABSOLUTE VANDALISM.



I'M STUDYING AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING NOW, SKEEZIX. IT WILL COME IN HANDY, WHATEVER BRANCH I GET INTO.

WHEN I MAKE THE ORDNANCE SERVICE I'LL BE LEARNING ALL ABOUT JEEPS AND TANKS, MYSELF, BOUNCE.

THERE'S ONE OF OUR SCOUT CARS. IT'S NO BEAUTY BUT IT CAN TAKE IT.

BEAUTY IS AS BEAUTY DOES THESE DAYS.

I'M LEARNING ALL ABOUT DESIGN AND ASSEMBLING OF ALL ARMY FOUR AND SIX-WHEEL DRIVE UNITS.

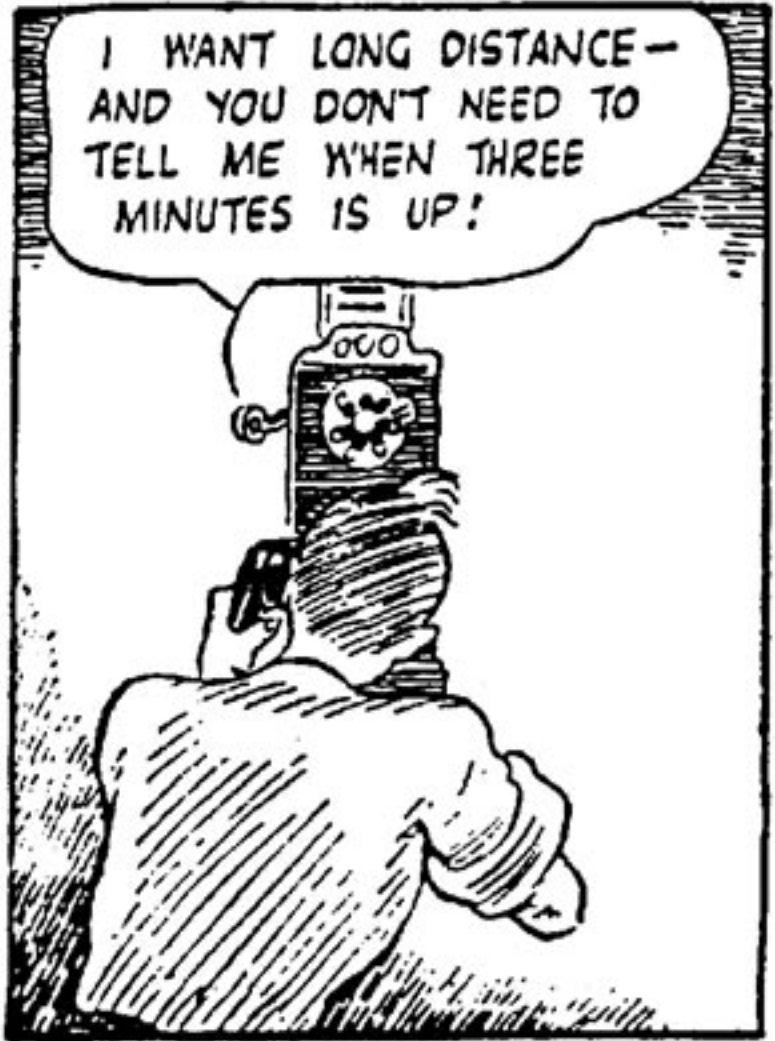
I'LL HAVE TO KNOW ALL ABOUT INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL OF THEM, TOO.

GASOLINE ALLEY—FLASH

MY RAISE CAME THROUGH!
IT'S THE BIGGEST PAY
I EVER HAD. I'VE GOT
TO CELEBRATE.



I WANT LONG DISTANCE—
AND YOU DON'T NEED TO
TELL ME WHEN THREE
MINUTES IS UP!



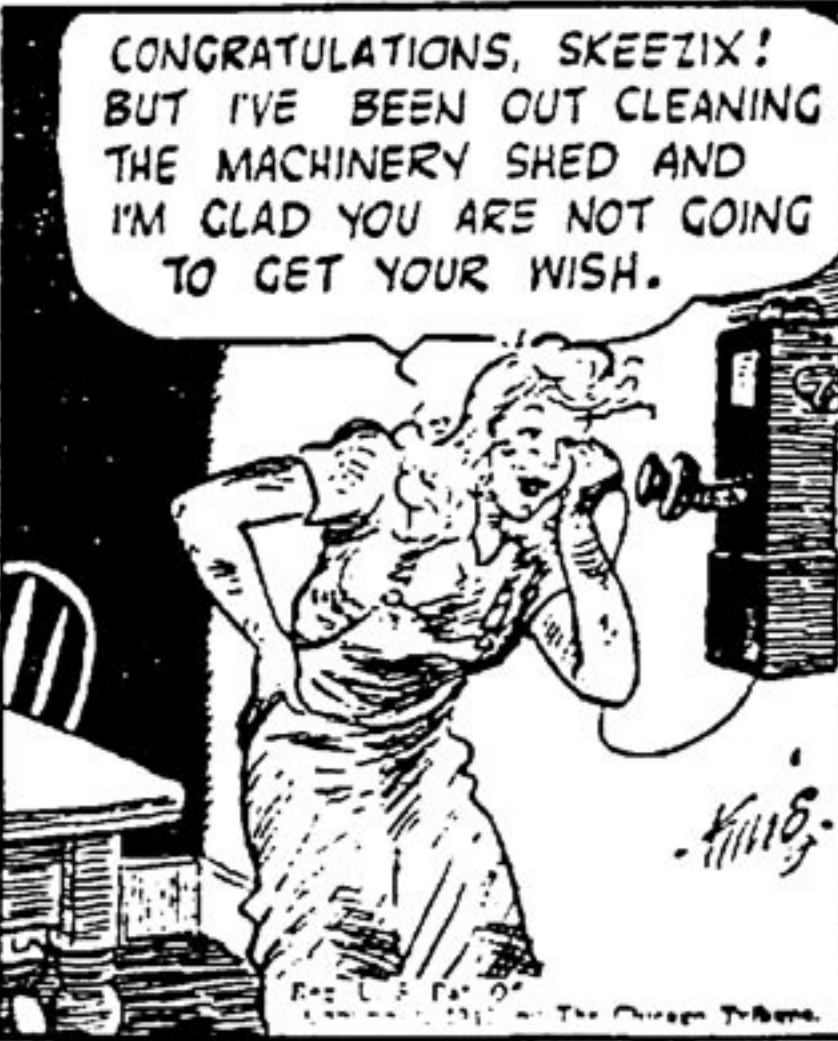
NINA, IT'S SKEEZIX!
I'VE GOT MY RAISE.
I ONLY WISH YOU WERE
HERE SO WE COULD
CUT LOOSE!

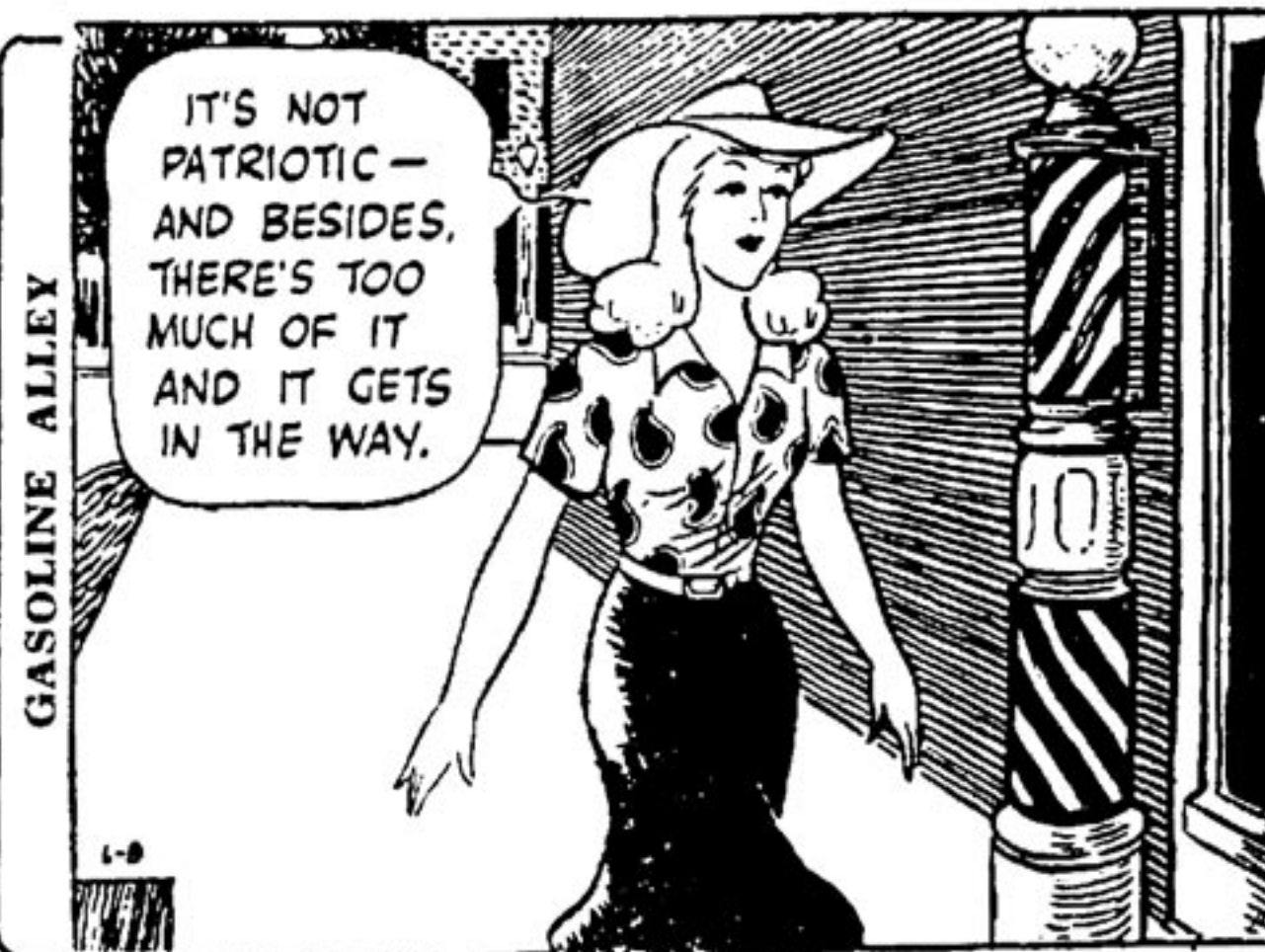


BUT MONEY ISN'T
EVERYTHING, BECAUSE
WHAT I'D RATHER DO
THAN ANYTHING ELSE
IN THE WORLD IS TO
SEE YOU RIGHT NOW.




CONGRATULATIONS, SKEEZIX!
BUT I'VE BEEN OUT CLEANING
THE MACHINERY SHED AND
I'M GLAD YOU ARE NOT GOING
TO GET YOUR WISH.






IT'S NOT PATRIOTIC — AND BESIDES, THERE'S TOO MUCH OF IT AND IT GETS IN THE WAY.



CUT IT BACK TO THREE INCHES, HENRY.

YOU MUST SAVE THEM. THEY WILL COME IN HANDY.



HOW IS THAT, MISS NINA?

I FEEL SORT OF NAKED BUT IT IS MUCH BETTER.

I'M PLANNING TO GO INTO THE ARMY, MRS. PORTIER. IN THAT CASE I WON'T NEED MY ROOM.

I'LL BE SORRY TO LOSE YOU, MR. WALLET.

TWO OF MY BOYS FROM HERE ARE IN THE NAVY, THREE IN THE ARMY AND ONE IN THE AIR CORPS.

I'LL BE SORRY TO LEAVE YOU, TOO.

IT'S LIFE, I GUESS. AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

NOT WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE, WE WOULDN'T.

I WISH YOU LOTS OF GOOD LUCK.

THANKS, BUT I'M NOT GOING JUST YET. I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE ARMY BY NOW, SKEEZIX.

NOT YET, WILMER. HOW ABOUT YOU?

MY UNCLE'S GOT A SWELL DRAG AN' HE'S DOIN' WHAT HE CAN FOR ME.

SO EVERYTHINGS ALL RIGHT?

THAT'S JUST IT. I'M NOT SO SURE.

YOU'RE INDISPENSABLE HERE. YOU TOLD ME SO YOURSELF.

BUT CHIGGER WON'T TELL 'EM SO.

DON'T YOU WORRY A BIT. YOU'LL BE JUST AS INDISPENSABLE IN THE ARMY AND THEY'LL APPRECIATE IT MORE.

NINA! YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'RE IN TOWN? I'LL BE THROUGH WORK IN 15 MINUTES!

BOY, THIS IS A SWELL SURPRISE! HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?

FATHER IS WELL ENOUGH SO THAT I COULD LEAVE MOTHER WITH HIM. SO I FLEW.

HONEY, YOU'VE HAD YOUR HAIR CUT!

I HAD TO, SKEEZIX. IT WAS GETTING IMPOSSIBLE.

YOU'VE HAD YOURS CUT, TOO! I CAN TELL BY YOUR SHOES.

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO ENLIST RIGHT AWAY, NINA. I'D RATHER BE IN IT THAN WAIT TO BE CALLED.

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE ONLY WAITED BECAUSE OF YOUR JOB.



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

AS FAR AS I'M ABLE TO SEE, I'LL BE RUNNING THE FARM FOR QUITE SOME TIME.



ANYWAY, SWEET, I'LL GET A FURLOUGH AND SEE YOU BEFORE TOO LONG.

I'LL LIVE FOR THAT, DARLING, BUT MEANWHILE I'LL WORK HARD AND BE PROUD OF YOU.



PAY DAY TODAY,
NINA. WE'RE GOING
TO A RITZY
PLACE.

DO YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD,
SKEEZIX?

HAVE
EVERYTHING YOU
WANT. THERE'S
NO TELLING WHEN
WE CAN DO
THIS AGAIN.

I THOUGHT THERE
WOULD BE LOTS
TO SAY, HONEY,
BUT I CAN'T
THINK OF IT NOW.

I CAN'T
EITHER,
DARLING.
LET'S
JUST BE
QUIET.

SKEEZIX



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SKEEZIX



SKEEZIX

NOW THAT YOUR ENLISTMENT RECORD HAS BEEN FILED OUT HERE YOU ARE TO BE FINGERPRINTED AT THE POLICE IDENTIFICATION BUREAU.

YES, SIR.

I'VE NEVER HAD THIS DONE BEFORE.

THAT'S JUST WHAT THIS IS FOR -- TO SHOW WHETHER YOU HAVE OR NOT.

NO RECORD.


NOW FLATTEN OUT FOR AN X-RAY OF THE CHEST.

U.S. PAT. OFF.
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NOW I'LL TAKE A
SMALL SAMPLE THAT
YOU'LL NEVER MISS.

FINGER-
PRINTED
AGAIN?



YES. THE ARMY MUST
HAVE A COMPLETE
RECORD, ALSO.



DO THE DRAFTEES
GET ALL THIS
ATTENTION, TOO?

YES, AND AFTER THE
COMPLETE PHYSICAL WE
KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.

SKEEZIX



WE'LL BE MISSING YOU AROUND HERE, SKEEZIX.

THANKS, MR. HARP. I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU.



TAKE CARE OF THINGS, SALLY

I WILL, SKEEZIX. AND DON'T LET ANY SERGEANT TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.



IF THEY GIVE YOU A PARACHUTE, DROP IN ON US!

SO LONG, WILMER.



I'M ALL SET, NINA. LEAVING FOR THE RECEPTION CENTER TONIGHT. I'LL SEE YOU AS SOON AS I GET A FURLOUGH. I'M CALLING THE FOLKS RIGHT AFTER I SAY GOODBYE TO YOU.



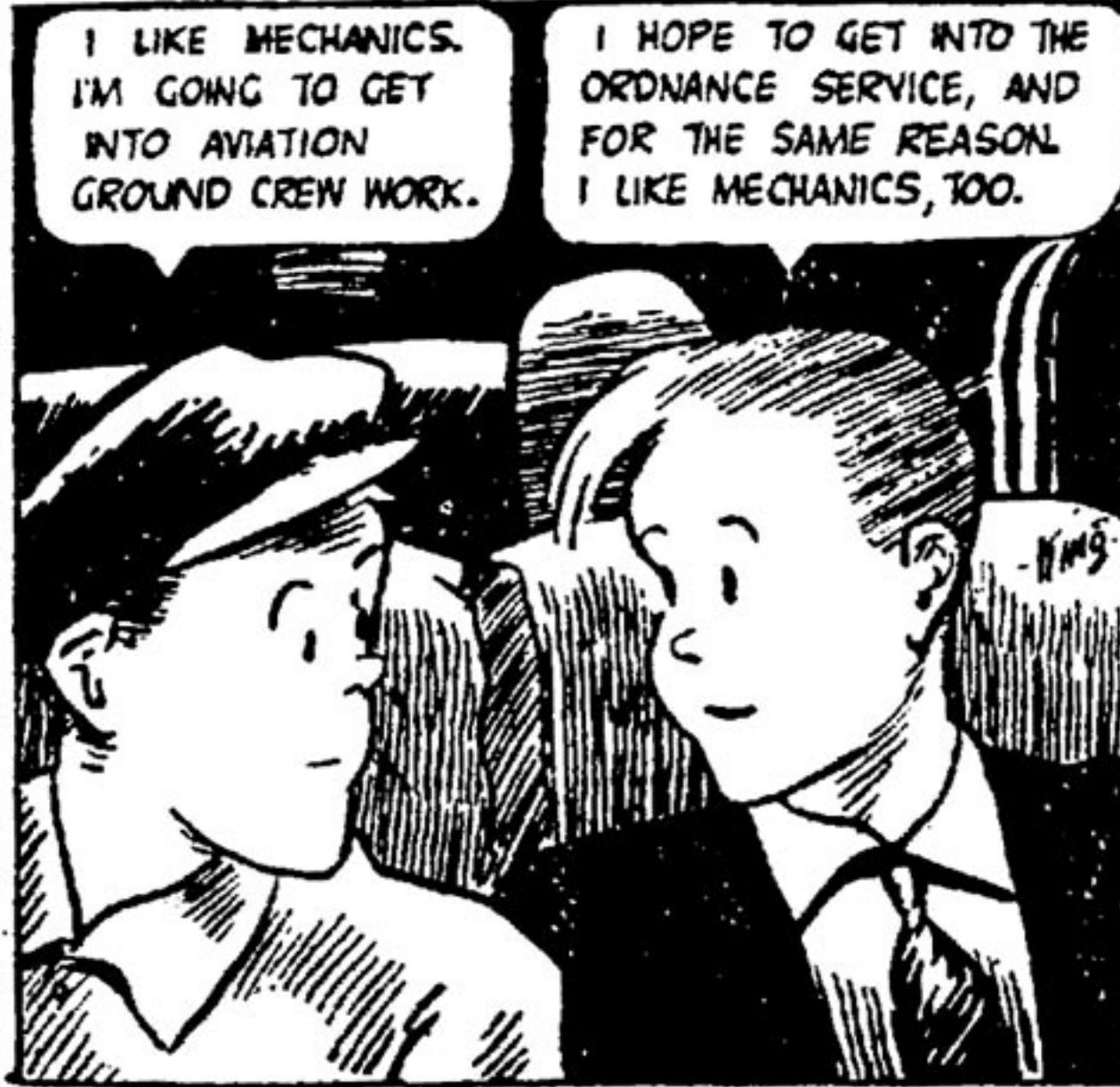
King
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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SKEEZIX



I'M CATCHIN' THAT 8:20 BUS. I'M DUE AT THE ARMY RECEPTION CENTER IN THE MORNING.

THAT'S JUST WHERE I'M BOUND FOR.



I LIKE MECHANICS. I'M GOING TO GET INTO AVIATION GROUND CREW WORK.

I HOPE TO GET INTO THE ORDNANCE SERVICE, AND FOR THE SAME REASON I LIKE MECHANICS, TOO.



WHAT DO THEY DO WITH US AT THE RECEPTION CENTER?

THAT'S WHERE THEY SORT US OUT— INTO AVIATION GROUND WORK, ORDNANCE, OR WHEREVER WE FIT THE BEST.

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SKEEZIX



ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF COMPANY.

THE FIRST ARMY MEAL IS MIGHTY GOOD.



YES, AND THE BEST OF IT IS, IT STANDS UP.



YES, SIR, I'VE DONE NEWSPAPER WORK BUT RECENTLY I'VE BEEN IN MECHANICAL RESEARCH WORK.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN YOUR PRESENT POSITION?

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WE REALLY GIVE YOU
A FIT IN A UNIFORM
NOWADAYS, WALLET.

SWELL..

THE PAILS OF
SAND WEIGH THE
SAME AS THE
EQUIPMENT
YOU'LL CARRY.

THIS OUGHT TO LAST
ME FOR THE DURATION.

SURE, IT WILL
ALL GO IN IF
YOU PACK IT
RIGHT.

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SKEEZIX



NOW FOR YOUR TYPHOID SHOTS, MEN.



AND BACK ON THE FARM:



I WONDER WHERE SKEEZIX IS TODAY AND WHAT HE'S DOING. I WISH I WERE A MAN. I'D LIKE TO BE IN IT.

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WHAT'S THAT YOU HAVE THERE, CHARLIE?

IT JUST DROPPED OFF THE WINDMILL BUT SHE'S STILL RUNNIN' SO IT CAN'T BE IMPORTANT.

SO SKEEZIX MADE
IT AND HAS BEEN
CHOSEN BY THE
ORDNANCE DEPT.

JUST WHAT HE'S
BEEN HOPING FOR
FOR MONTHS!



I MUST HURRY
OVER AND
TELL NINA.



SKEEZIX HAS MADE THE
ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, NINA!
ISN'T THAT GRAND?

IT'S FINE,
UNCLE WALT!
I'M DELIGHTED
TO HEAR IT.



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UNCLE WALT'S A GOOD SOUL,
AND THERE WAS NO USE TELLING
HIM I HAD A WIRE, TOO, AND
KNEW ABOUT IT.



SKEEZIX



SKEEZIX

BOY. THAT'S
A MONEY!

TREAT IT RIGHT, SKEEZIX.
IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR
BUDDY FOR QUITE SOME
TIME.

GET IT FLAT. YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO'S GOING
TO SLEEP ON IT.

THAT'S BETTER.
YOU'LL LEARN.
THEY ALL DO.

YES,
SIR.

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7-1



HOW DID YOU GET BY AT INSPECTION, SKEEZIX?

I GOT CALLED FOR HAVING MY TOOTHPOWDER BOX OUT OF PLACE.



OH, WELL, YOU COULD HAVE DONE WORSE.

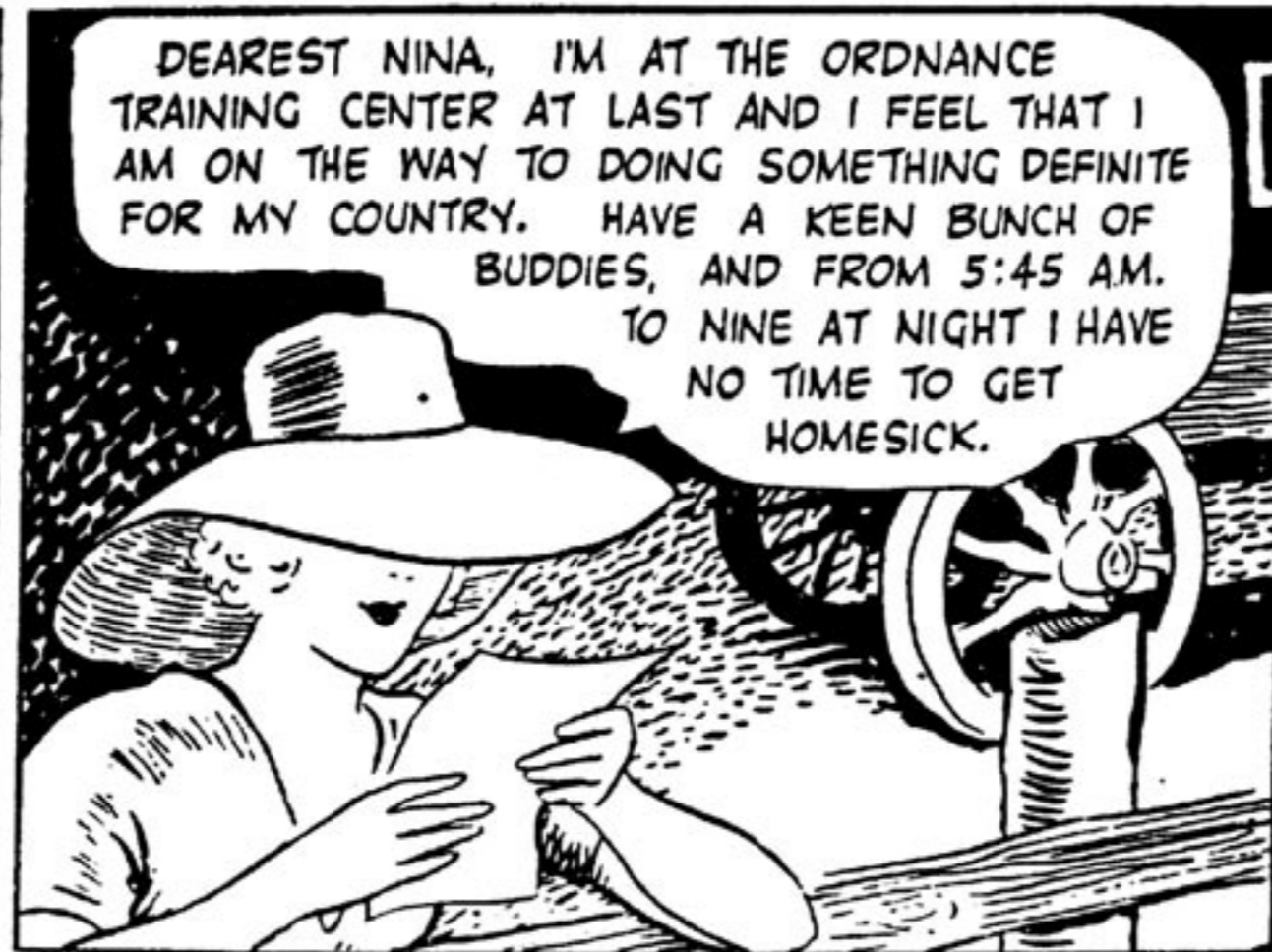
YES. THEY DON'T COURT-MARTIAL YOU FOR THAT.

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THE MAIL MAN STOPPED. I WONDER IF I DARE TO HOPE THAT I'LL BE SURPRISED.

7-2



DEAREST NINA, I'M AT THE ORDNANCE TRAINING CENTER AT LAST AND I FEEL THAT I AM ON THE WAY TO DOING SOMETHING DEFINITE FOR MY COUNTRY. HAVE A KEEN BUNCH OF BUDDIES, AND FROM 5:45 A.M. TO NINE AT NIGHT I HAVE NO TIME TO GET HOMESICK.



SKEEZIX WILL GET TECHNICAL TRAINING WHICH WILL FIT RIGHT INTO WHAT HE HAS BEEN DOING. I'D LIKE TO BE IN THE WOMEN'S AUXILLIARY ARMY, BUT I SUPPOSE MY JOB IS ALL CUT OUT FOR ME RIGHT HERE.

SKEEZIX



SKEEZIX IS GETTING THE SAME ROUTINE IN THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT THAT EVERY SOLDIER GETS—DRILL AND INSTRUCTION, INSPECTION AND KP.

HE'LL LEARN TO TAKE IT AND LATER ON THEY'LL TEACH HIM HOW TO GIVE IT.

I WAS IN THE NAVY IN THE LAST WAR, YOU KNOW, AVERY. A SUB LAUNCHED A TORPEDO AT OUR DESTROYER AT 1300 YARDS AND—

BLEW OFF THE TAIL OF YOUR BOAT AND YOU WERE RESCUED BY A TRAWLER. I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT IT, WALT.

WE OUGHTN'T TO LET THESE YOUNGSTERS GET AWAY WITH IT, AVERY. WE OUGHT TO BE IN IT OURSELVES. WE'RE NOT TOO OLD. I FEEL JUST AS YOUNG AS I EVER DID.

OH, YEAH? WHAT ABOUT THAT CRICK IN YOUR BACK? YOU CAN'T CLIMB SIX STEPS WITHOUT PUFFING. YOU OUGHT TO BE THANKFUL YOU'RE STILL AN AIR RAID WARDEN.

SKEEZIX

THEY DON'T WASTE ANY TIME, UNCLE WALT. FIRST CALL IS AT 5:45. AND THERE'S PLENTY TO DO BEFORE OUR 6:30 BREAKFAST. WE DO A GOOD JOB THERE AS IT HAS TO LAST TILL NOON.



7-6

IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ORDNANCE WORK, AUNTIE BLOSSOM, BUT YOU OUGHT TO SEE ME MAKE MY BED, SWEEP AND MOP AND TIDY UP. EVEN WASH DISHES. HAVEN'T PEELED POTATOES YET BUT I'LL BE PROMOTED TO THAT SOON.



YOU KNOW, DOC, IT'S A LOT OF SATISFACTION TO HAVE A BOY IN THE SERVICE. I REALLY FEEL I AM MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD WINNING THE WAR.



I SHOULDN'T FEEL THAT WAY, OF COURSE. IT IS SKEEZIX WHO IS MAKING ALL THE SACRIFICES. BUT JUST THE SAME, I'M MUCH MORE A PART OF WHAT'S GOING ON.



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SKEEZIX

IT LOOKS FINE TO SEE YOU SITTING UP AGAIN, MR. CLOCK.

I'M GLAD TO BE ABLE TO LOOK OUT OVER MY FARM, DR. MEAGER.

YOUR FATHER HAS MADE A REMARKABLE RECOVERY, NINA.

AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR IT, DOCTOR.

AND AS FOR YOU, YOU MUST GET SOME MORE HELP. YOU ARE OVERWORKING! ONE PATIENT HERE IS ENOUGH.

I'M ALL RIGHT. I NEVER FELT BETTER. I'M EXPECTING TO WORK HARD FOR THE DURATION.

SKEEZIX

RIGHT OBLIQUE-MARCH!

YOU LOOK
A BIT MOIST,
BUZZARD.

ON THE OUTSIDE, YES.
ON THE INSIDE MY BONES
RATTLE, SKEEZIX.

THEY TELL US WE'LL GET
USED TO IT. DO YOU
THINK THEY'RE SPOOFING US?

I DON'T MIND DRILLIN'
BUT WHY DIDN'T SOMEBODY
TELL ME THE DAYS IN
THE ARMY ARE SO
GOLDARN LONG?

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UNCLE IKE, I'VE GOT TO HAVE HELP WITH THE HAYING. I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW ANYBODY I COULD GET.

NINA, THE OLD ONES THAT ARE ANY GOOD ARE WORKING. THEN THERE ARE THE YOUNG SQUIRTS. OF COURSE, THERE'S NOTHING IN BETWEEN.



WELL, IF YOU KNOW A YOUNG SPROUT WHO'D BE MORE OF A HELP THAN A HINDRANCE, SEND HIM OUT TO SEE ME.

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, NINA. BUT THE CROP HAS BEEN KIND OF PICKED OVER.



HELLO. BEAUTIFUL!
ARE YOU
WANTIN' A MAN
HERE?

I WAS. BUT THEY TOLD
ME ALL I COULD GET WAS A
YOUNG SQUIRT. DID UNCLE
IKE SEND YOU OVER?



WELL, I LIKE THAT!
YES, HE DID. I CAN
MAKE THE GRADE,
ALL RIGHT.

YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT.
HAYING IS A MAN-SIZE
JOB. LET'S SEE
YOUR HANDS.



YOU'VE GOT CALLOUSES, ALL
RIGHT. I PAY \$2 A DAY
AND MEALS. IF THAT'S ALL
RIGHT I'LL TRY YOU OUT.

OKIE-DOKIE. I'M
NOW A HAY-SHAKER
AND A STUMP-JUMPER.



YOU'RE KIND OF DREAMY TODAY, BUZZARD. GOT A GIRL BACK HOME?

SURE I HAVE, SKEEZIX. ANYWAY, I HAD AT LAST REPORTS. HOW ABOUT YOU?

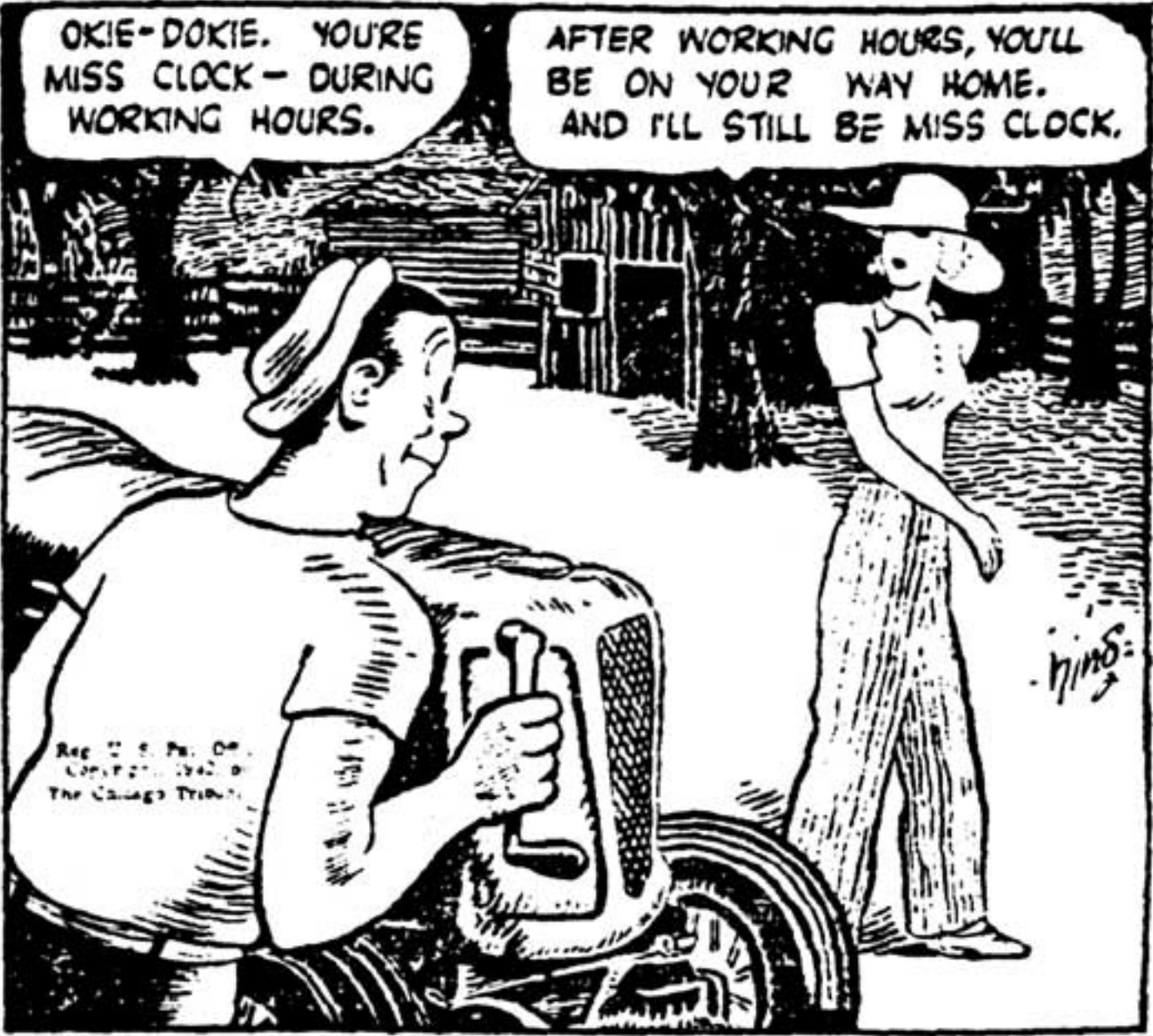
I'VE STILL GOT ONE. I HAD A LETTER TODAY SO I'M ALL SET FOR A FEW DAYS.

LISTEN! LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S DOIN'!

JAM SESSION.

LITTLE BO PEEP HAS LOST HER JEEP

SKEEZIX



SKEEZIX



I WOULDN'T STAND THAT FRESH KID AROUND A MINUTE IF IT WERENT SO HARD TO GET HELP. BUT THE WORK MUST BE DONE.



TIME OUT FOR A COUPLE OF GURGLS. YOU ALLOW THAT TO YOUR SLAVE, DONT YOU, MISS CLOCK?

YOU ARE MERELY MY HIRED MAN, SNIFWOOD.



JUST THE SAME, I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR SLAVE. YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE MOST BNCHANTING—

PERSONALITIES. ARE OUT. WE SETTLED THAT YESTERDAY.



AT LEAST I CAN TALK ABOUT MY FORMER BOSSES, CANT I? UP TO THE TIME I CAME HERE I NEVER IN MY LIFE HAD ONE I WAS WILLING TO KISS.

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MORE TOUGH LUCK!
I HAD TO PUT SNIPWOOD
HOEWING CORN WHILE
I GO TO THE STORE
FOR A MOWER
PART.



1-15

OH, MR. BRACKISH!
HAVE YOU GOT A
LETTER FOR ME?

I HAVE THAT,
NINA. WAIT TILL
I DIG IT OUT.



"AND GEE, NINA, IT'S SWELL!
I CAN WRITE AS OFTEN AS I
WANT TO. ALL I DO IS PUT
'FREE' UP IN THE CORNER IN
PLACE OF A STAMP.

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I'M OUT OF QUARANTINE
NOW AND CAN WANDER SOME.
WRITE ME SOON AND
PUT ON A STAMP!"



EVEN FARM WORK HAS
TO SLOW DOWN
OCCASIONALLY FOR OTHER
IMPORTANT THINGS.



IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME SINCE I
BAKED A CAKE.



BUT I'M PRETTY CERTAIN
THIS ONE WILL GET BY.

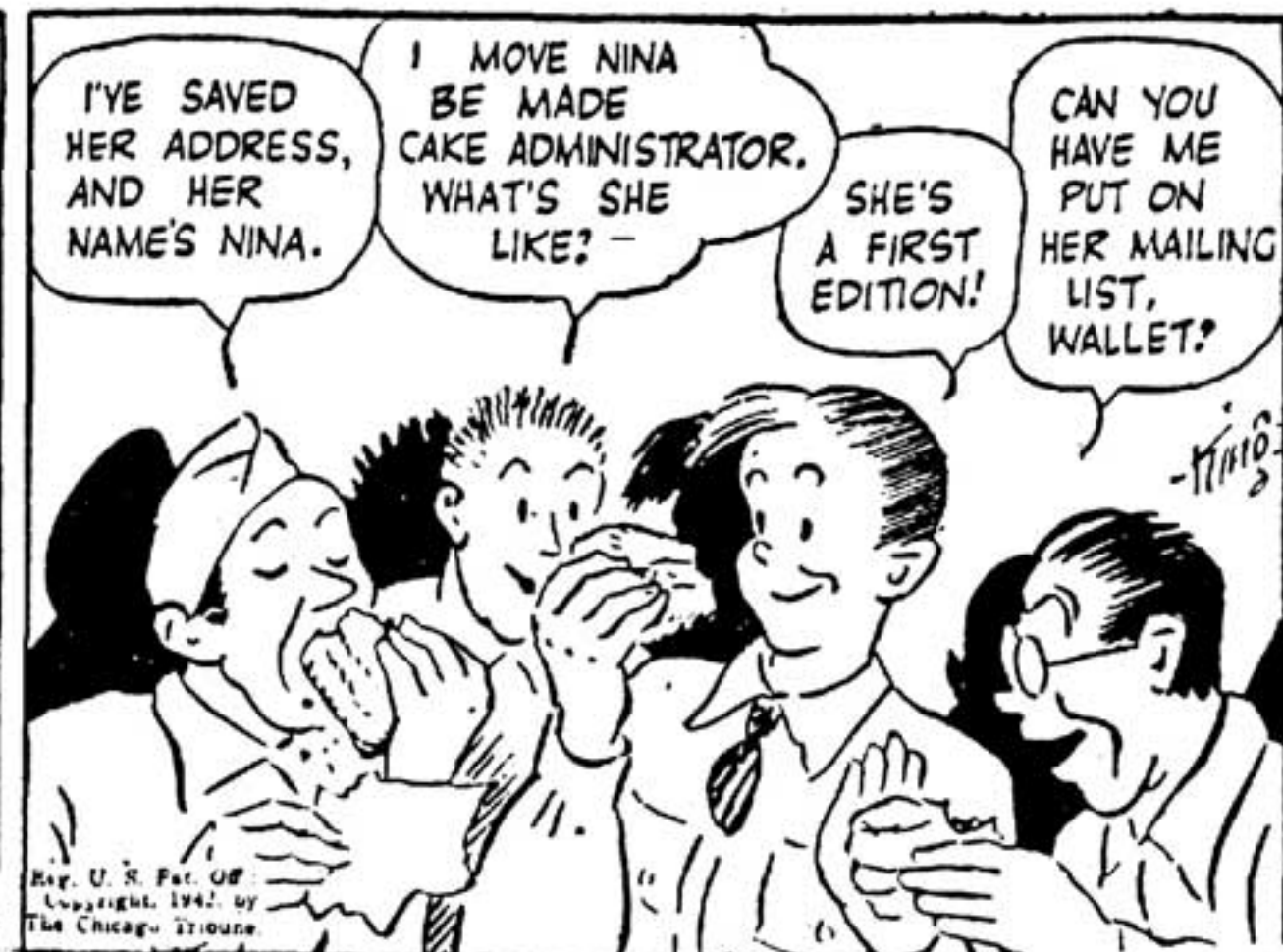


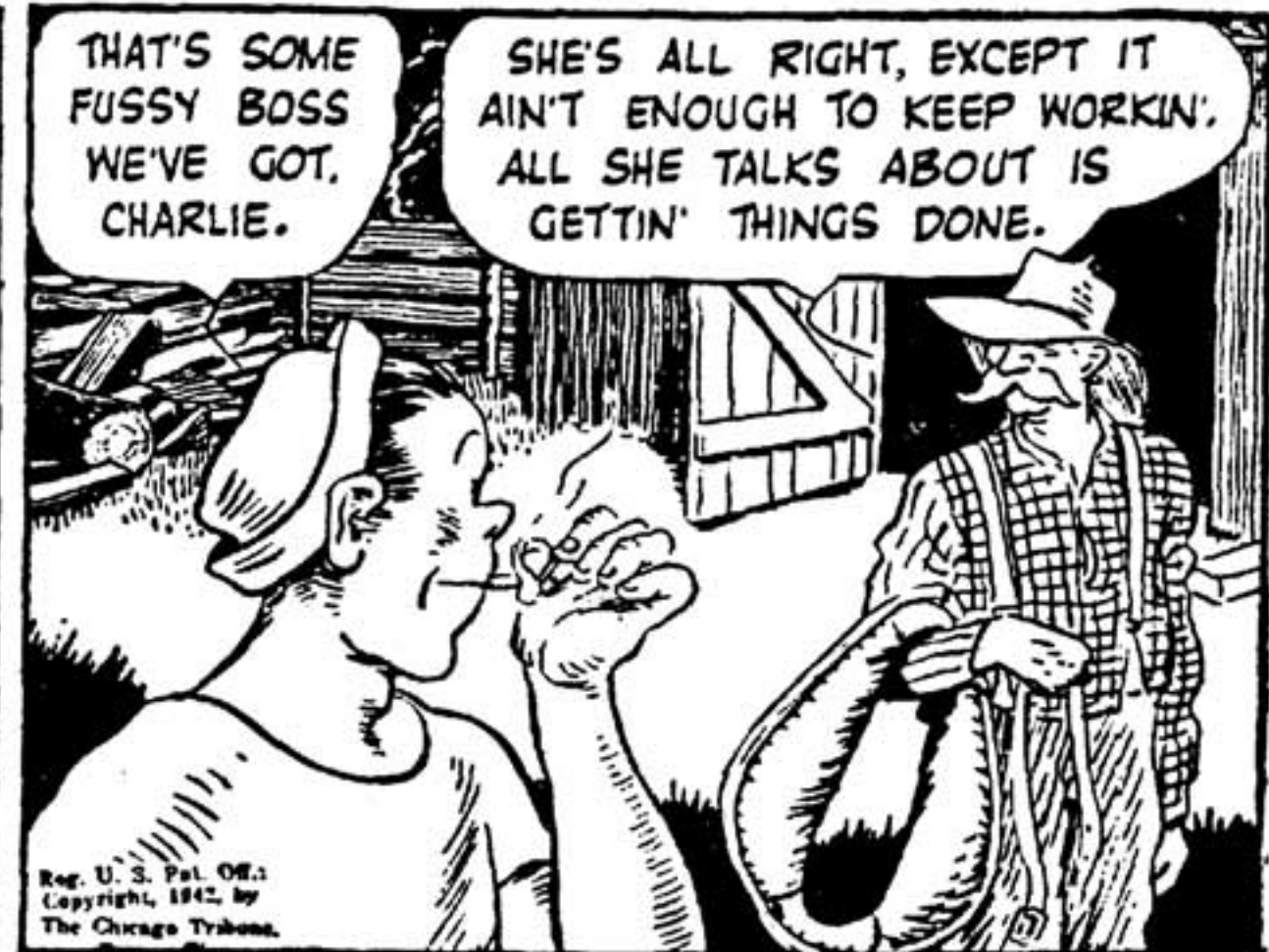
AND BELIEVE
ME, I'M GOING
TO SIT HERE AND
WATCH IT UNTIL
MR. BRACKISH
COMES ALONG
AND PICKS IT UP!

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SKEEZIX

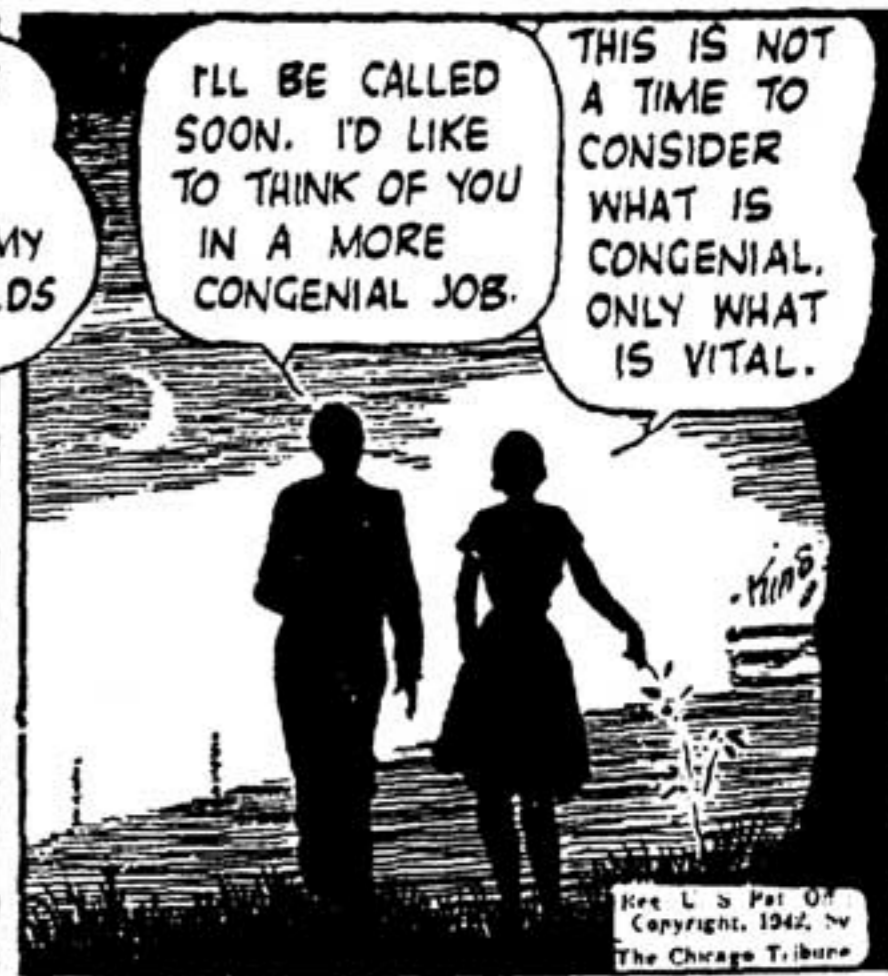
SKEEZIX, AT THE ORDNANCE TRAINING CENTER, RUNS THE OBSTACLE COURSE.



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SKEEZIX





HI, COOK!
HERE'S A BUNCH
OF YES-MEN.

I'LL SAY!



WHAT'S THAT
YOU'VE GOT THERE,
WALLET? IT'S A
GOOEY MESS!

HAVE YOU BEEN
INTO THE
GARBAGE CAN
AGAIN?

I NEVER
MISS
A BET.



WELL, THEY'VE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING WITH
WHAT ACCUMULATES
AROUND A KITCHEN.

I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT IT LOOKS
LIKE TO ME —

GO AHEAD, YOU
EGGS. YOU CAN'T
FAZE ANYBODY
WHO'S BEEN TO
BOARDING
SCHOOL.

LOOKS LIKE RAIN, SNIP.
WE'LL GET IN ALL THE
HAY WE CAN.

I CAN GET
IT UP THERE
IF YOU CAN
FLATTEN IT
OUT.

HERE'S ONE
MORE LOAD THAT'S
GOIN' IN SAFE.

RUN AHEAD
AND OPEN THE
BARN DOOR.

THIS IS A LOT
OF TROUBLE JUST
TO OBLIGE HORSES
AND COWS.

JUST REMEMBER
WE'RE DOING IT SO
HORSES AND COWS
AND YOU AND I
CAN EAT!

SKEEZIX

BLESS HER HEART,
SHE CERTAINLY MAY!

MOTHER, SALLY SNIPE, FROM
THE OFFICE WHERE SKEEZIX
WORKED, IS GOING TO SPEND
HER VACATION HERE ON
THE FARM.

THAT'S
FINE,
NINA.

I INVITED HER LAST
SPRING AND SHE WANTS
TO KNOW IF IT IS
CONVENIENT.

WHY NOT?
WE HAVE
A SPARE
BEDROOM.

SHE SAYS SHE'LL WASH
DISHES, WORK IN THE
FIELD, OR WHAT
HAVE YOU?

YOU LIKED
HER, NINA,
AND WE'LL
ALL ENJOY
HER.

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SKEEZIX



HOW ARE YOU MAKIN' OUT WITH OUR BOSS, CHARLIE? I GET TIRED OF HAVIN' A WOMAN TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

I'M USED TO IT, SNIP. YOU SEE, I WAS MARRIED FOR 30 YEARS.

7-20



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE GOOD-LOOKIN' DAMES, BUT THIS ONE IS HARD TO CRACK.

I'VE QUIT FIGHTIN' EM, SNIP.



I DON'T HAVE TO WORK HERE. I CAN GET ANOTHER JOB ANY TIME.

MAYBE SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOIN. YOU SEEM TO BE STICKIN' AROUND.

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DEAR NINA: I WAS ON THE RIFLE RANGE TODAY. A CORPORAL WAS INSTRUCTING ME. I DIDN'T DO SO BAD, CONSIDERING.



"THAT ONE WAS 'WAY HIGH", HE SAID. "POWDER MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CARTRIDGE," I EXPLAINED.



I TOOK ANOTHER CHANCE. "WAY TO THE RIGHT. WHAT'S WRONG?" "I PICKED UP MY RIFLE BY THE BARREL. I MUST HAVE BENT IT," I REPORTED.



"THAT ONE NICKED THE OTHER EDGE OF THE TARGET, HOW COME?" "I HAD IT RIGHT ON THE BLACK SPOT. THEY SHIFTED THE TARGET."



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"RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BULLSEYE. WHAT'S YOUR ALIBI FOR THAT!" "I CORRECTED FOR THAT CROOKED GUN BARREL AND I FIGURED THE WIND WOULD CHANGE BEFORE THE BULLET HIT."



CHARLIE IS RUNNING THE BINDER. YOU AND I WILL SHOCK THE OATS, SNIP.

CHARLIE GETS THE BEST OF IT. YOU CANT DO THIS JOB SITTIN' DOWN.



YOU KNOW, MARTHA, IT'S SATISFYING TO SEE THE FARM WORK GOING ON ALTHOUGH I CANT EVEN TURN A HAND.

YOU BE PATIENT, THOMAS. WE ARE MIGHTY FORTUNATE.



I'VE HEARD ABOUT FARMERS' DAUGHTERS BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE WORKIN' FOR ONE.

WELL, NEXT YEAR, WHEN YOU ARE WORKING FOR A TOP SERGEANT, YOU MAY NOT THINK IT WAS SO BAD.



SKEEZIX

TOSS YOUR BIKE IN THE TRUCK, SNIP. I'M DRIVING TO THE CORNERS TONIGHT AND I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT THAT FAR.

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. YOU LOOK VERY DEVASTATING TONIGHT, BOSS.

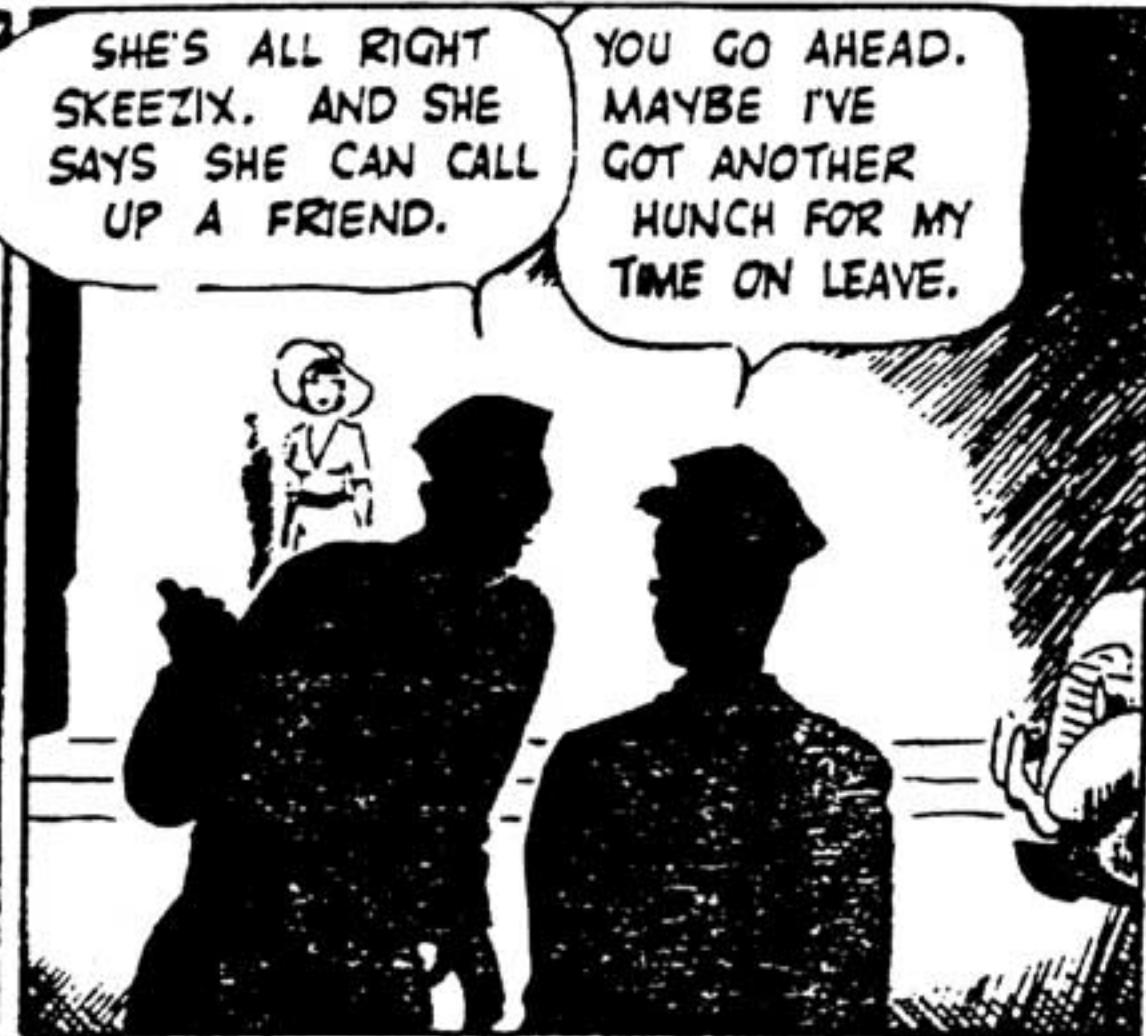
TUT-TUT! REMEMBER THE RULES.

LISTEN, PAL. YOU AN' I HAVE GOT A LOT IN COMMON BESIDES PIC REMEDIES AN' HAYSTACKS. LET'S PARK A WHILE AN' TALK THINGS OVER.

NOT A BAD IDEA, TAKIN' A BICYCLE ALONG. THEN IF YOU HAVE TO WALK HOME YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK HOME.

The Chicago Tribune
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GASOLINE ALLEY—THE TIME AND THE PLACE



SKEEZIX



GASOLINE ALLEY—THE ONCE OVER

I KNOW YOU ARE BUSY, NINA. AND I CAME HERE TO WORK, NOT TO LOAF.

JUST THE SAME, SALLY, WE HAVE TO GO ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION FIRST.

THIS SEEMS SO GOOD AFTER SO MANY MONTHS IN A STUFFY OFFICE!

I HAVE A LOT TO BE GRATEFUL FOR.

OF COURSE, WE ARE BOTH CARRYING ON THE WAR EFFORT TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

YES, NINA, BUT MY PART SEEMS SO INDIRECT, WHILE YOU CAN SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS.

GASOLINE ALLEY—THIS TOPSY TURVY WORLD

SNIP IS BACK, MISS NINA, MA'AM. HE WANTS TO GO TO WORK AN' SAYS HE'LL BEHAVE.

I'D RATHER TELL HIM TO SCRAM. BUT WE MUST HAVE SOMEBODY.

HE SAYS HE'S SORRY.

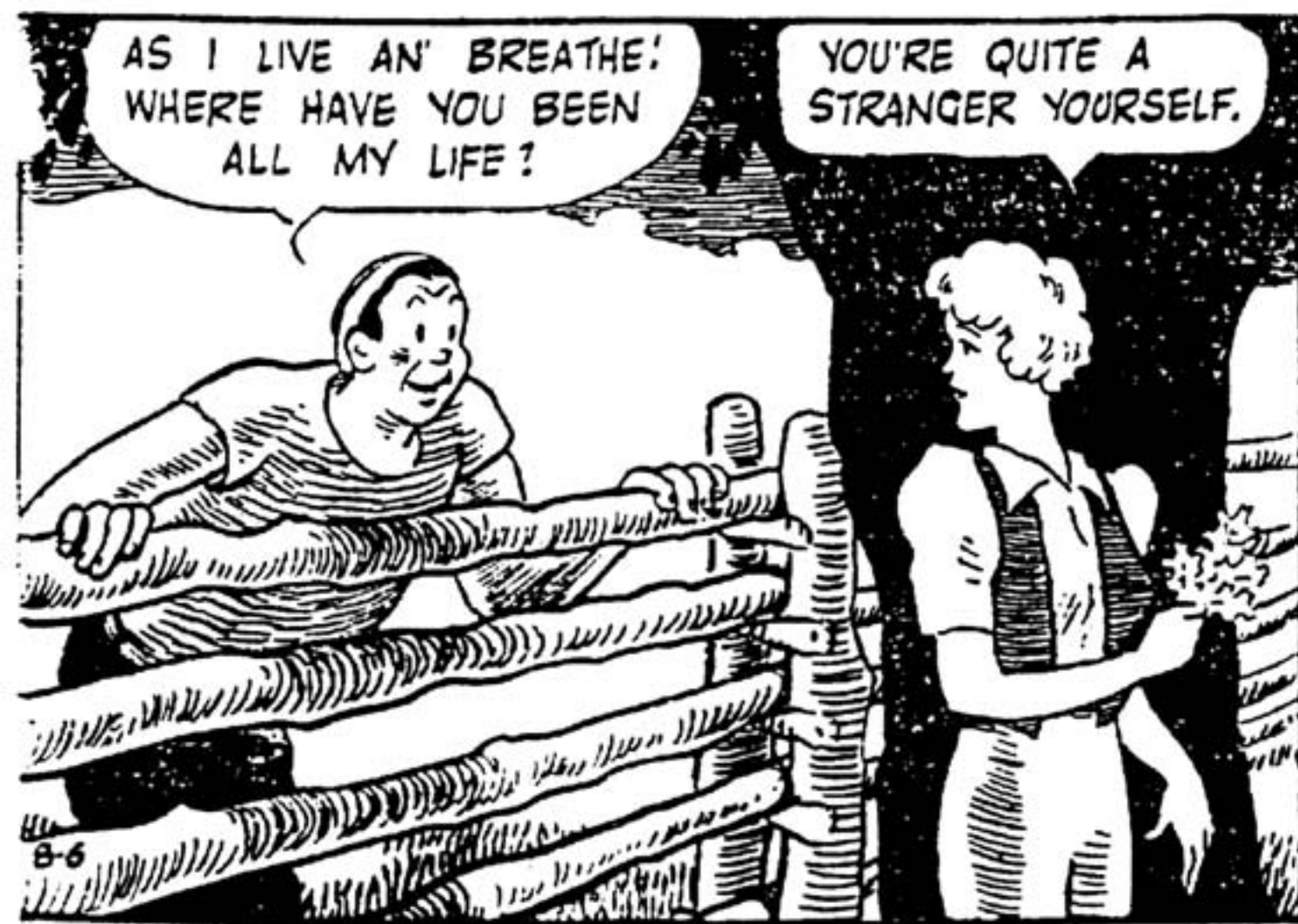
ALL RIGHT. AND TELL HIM I'LL SEE THAT HE BEHAVES.

MISS SNIPE, THIS IS CHARLIE, ONE OF MY HELPERS AROUND HERE.

ER-PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MA'AM.

WOMEN IN PANTS! I JEST CAN'T GET USED TO IT.

GASOLINE ALLEY—MOVIN' TIME



GASOLINE ALLEY—SELF STARTER

I HAVE TO KEEP SNIP, SALLY, BECAUSE HELP IS SO HARD TO GET. HE'S AWFULLY FRESH.

HE HAS GOOD LINES, NINA.

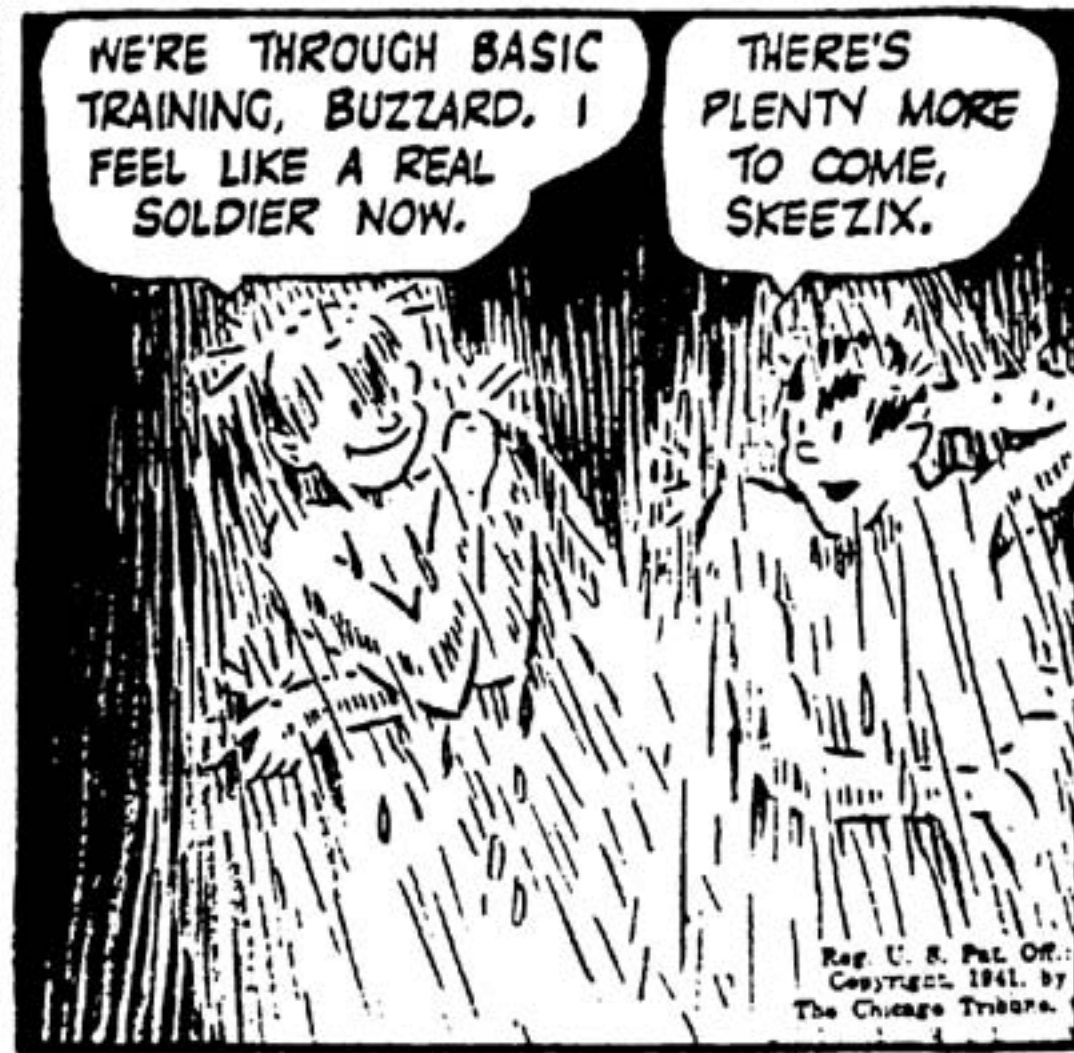
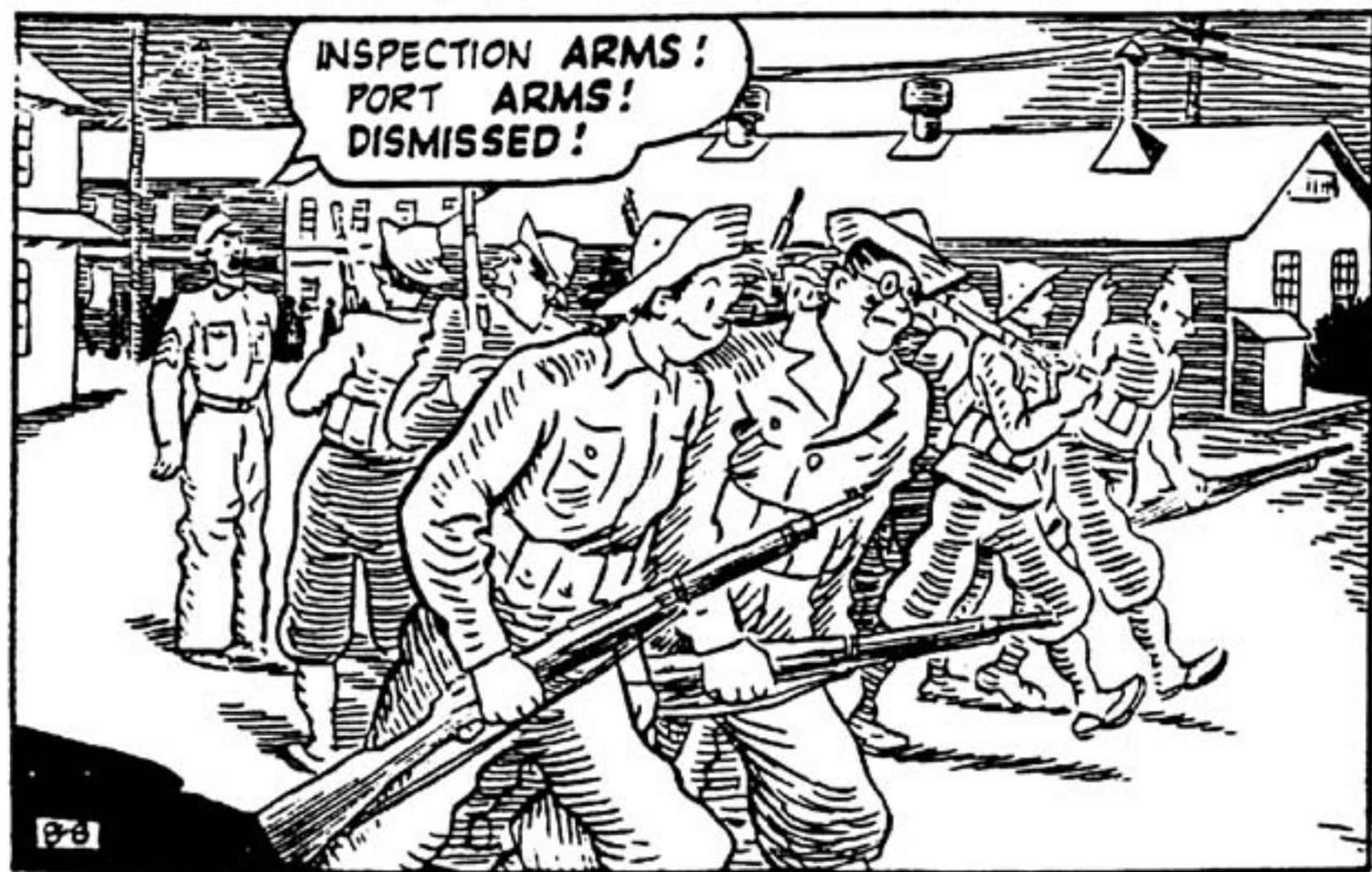
ANYWAY, HE HAS A GOOD LINE. HE'S SOMETHING OF A NUISANCE.

I THINK HE'S CUTER THAN CHARLIE.

HOWDY, MISS CLOCK, AND HOW'S MY OLD-TIME PAL THIS MORNING?

OH, SO YOU TWO HAVE MET BEFORE?

YES, SNIP WAS INTRODUCED YESTERDAY. HE TOOK CARE OF THAT FORMALITY HIMSELF.



SKEEZIX

SALLY SAID SHE CAME
HERE TO WORK, AND SHE'S
DOING IT. AND SNIP
SEEMS TO HAVE MADE
A KILLING.

PUT 'EM UP HERE
WHERE THEY BELONG,
YOU BIG CORILLA

HANDLE
THAT THING
LIKE A PITCHFORK,
SNIPE, NOT A
DESSERT SPOON.

I SURE SYMPATHIZE
WITH YOUR WIFE, IF
YOU EVER MANAGE
TO GET ONE.

GET ONE?
APPLICANTS ARE
AROUND ME THREE
DEEP ON SATURDAY
NIGHT.

BUT I DON'T
WANT ONE AND
I WOULDN'T
HAVE ONE.

THAT'LL MAKE
SOME WOMAN
HAPPY.

SKEEZIX



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GASOLINE ALLEY—CONTRACT NOT AWARDED

LISTEN, BIG BOY, DON'T YOU EVER TIP YOUR HAT TO A LADY?

THAT'S ONE LUXURY ALL WOMEN IN MY CIRCLE OF ADMIRERS WHO WEAR PANTS HAVE HAD TO GIVE UP FOR THE DURATION.



SNIP SEEMS TO HAVE MADE A HIT, SALLY.

WELL, NINA, I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SNIP AND CHARLIE FOR MY SUMMER ROMANCE.



HOW ABOUT YOUR LIEUTENANT? I HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD.

OH, THAT SORT OF FLATTENED OUT! WE DECIDED NOT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.



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IT'S DIFFERENT WITH YOU AND SKEEZIX. YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT. I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND, BUT YOU CAN BE CERTAIN IT WON'T BE SNIP!



GASOLINE ALLEY—HAPPY LANDING

YES, I'M
GETTIN'
AROUND
SOME,
DOCTOR.

I'M GLAD TO SEE
THAT, MR. CLOCK.
YOUR DAUGHTER
NINA AROUND?

IT'S DR. MEAGER!
I WANT YOU TO
MEET MISS SNIPE,
AN OLD FRIEND.

NINA HAS
TOLD ME
ALL ABOUT
YOU,
DR. MEAGER.

NOT ALL,
I HOPE.
NINA WOULD
BE MORE
CHARITABLE
THAN THAT.

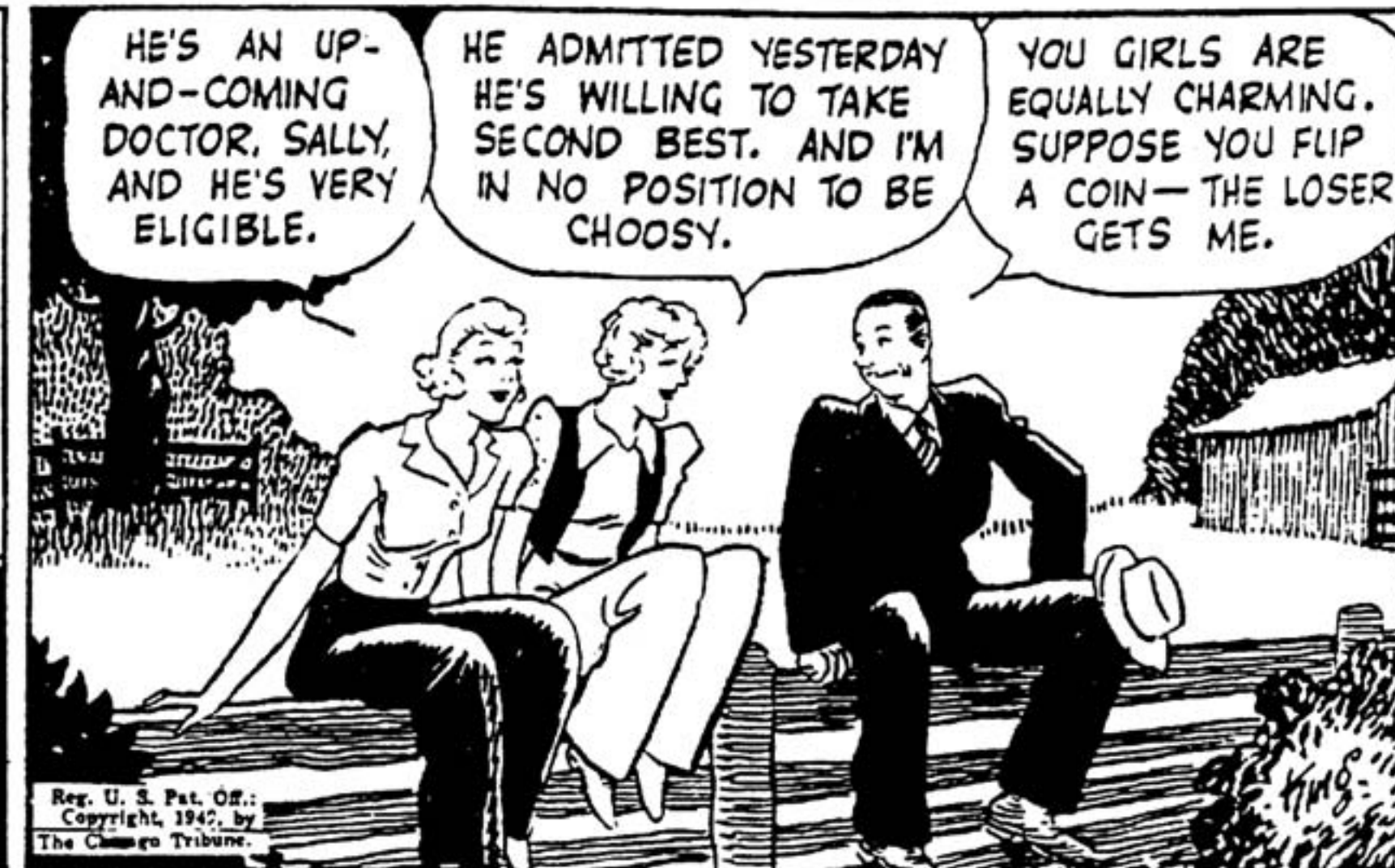
NINA HAS A BOY FRIEND
BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO
GET HER TO TOSS HIM
OVER IN FAVOR OF ME.
I HAVE NO SCRUPLES
WHATEVER.

SHE'S COLD AND
UNRESPONSIVE.
I HOPE YOU
AREN'T LIKE THAT.

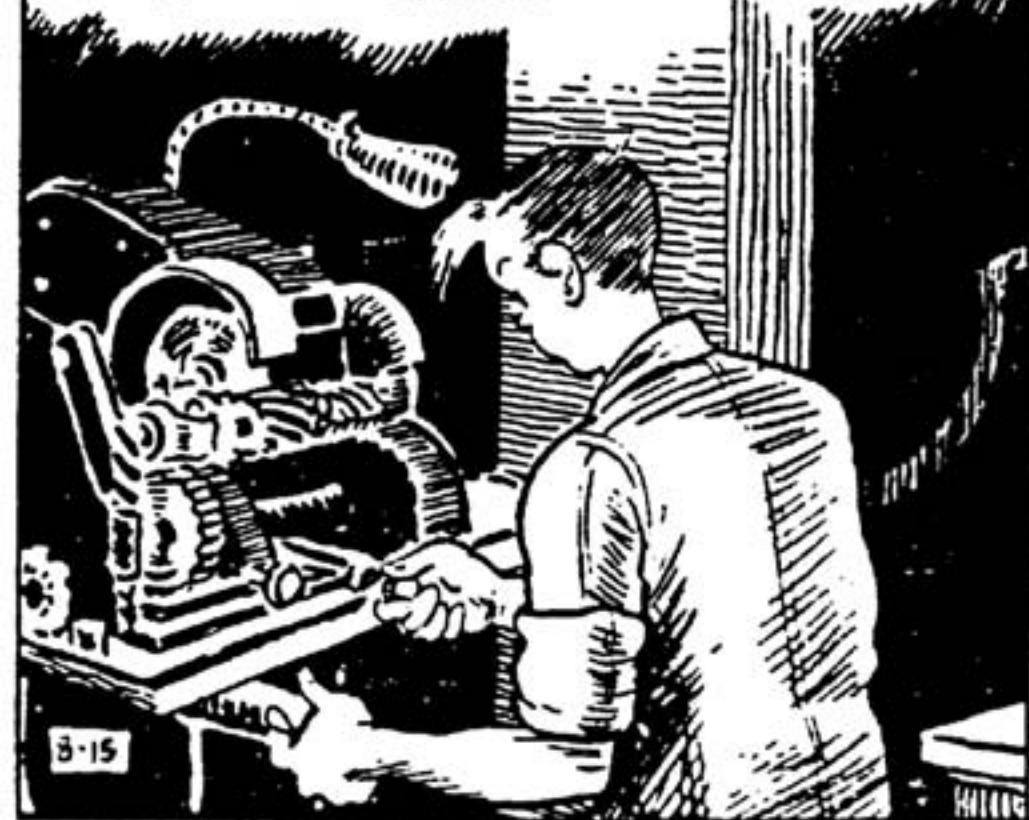
OK, NO!
ANYBODY
WILL DO
WITH ME,
TOO!

MINGO

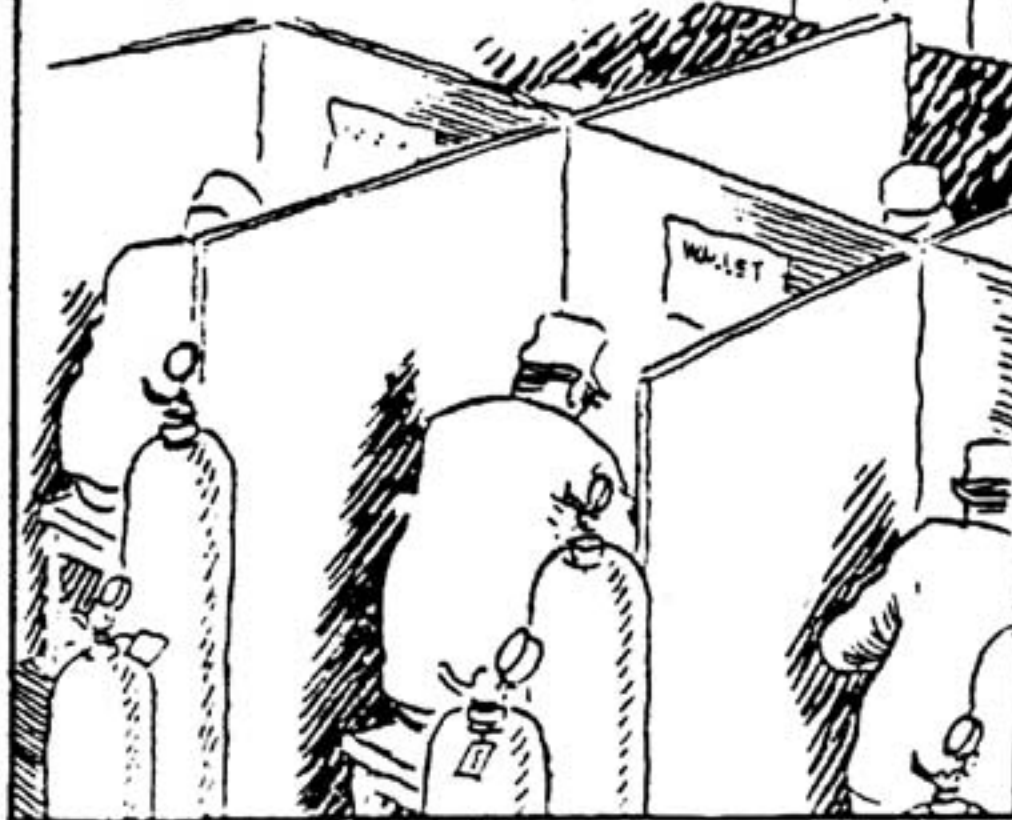
GASOLINE ALLEY—GOING, GOING!



NINA DEAR: YESTERDAY I WORKED
IN THE CLASS FOR MACHINISTS. WE'RE
REALLY IN TECHNICAL TRAINING NOW
AND IT'S SWELL.



IN OUR WELDING CLASS EACH OF US
HAS HIS OWN LITTLE SHOP WITH
HIS OWN TOOLS. IT'S SOMETHING
I'VE WANTED TO LEARN.



WE HAVE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION, TOO. AND
DO OUR INSTRUCTORS KNOW THEIR STUFF! A
KNOWLEDGE OF WELDING WILL ALWAYS COME IN
HANDY.



BUT THE BEST PART OF THE DAY IS
THE EVENING WHEN I CAN SETTLE
DOWN AND WRITE YOU A LETTER.
WRITE ME SOON. LOTS OF LOVE,
SKEEZIX.

ORDNANCE TRAINING
CENTER.



SKEEZIX



THAT DOESN'T LOOK HARD, SNIP. I'LL BET I COULD DO IT.

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW IF YOU SAY SO, SALLY.



JUST DOUBLE UP YOUR FIST, TOP FINGER FIRST.



LIKE THIS?



SALLY, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSED ME! NO AMATEUR DID THAT!

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SKEEZIX



GASOLINE ALLEY—AN ALARM

DEAR NINA: I HAD A SWELL TIME AT THE CANTEN LAST NIGHT. THERE WAS THE CUTEST LITTLE DARK HAIRRED GIRL THERE AND I GOT ACQUAINTED WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE AT ALL.



SHE WAS THE ONLY GIRL I DANCED WITH ALL EVENING AND, BOY, CAN SHE DANCE! SHE NEVER SEEMS TO GET TIRED.



WE DID FIND TIME TO SIT A FEW OF THEM OUT OVER ON THE SOFA, AND SHE'S GOOD AT THAT, TOO.

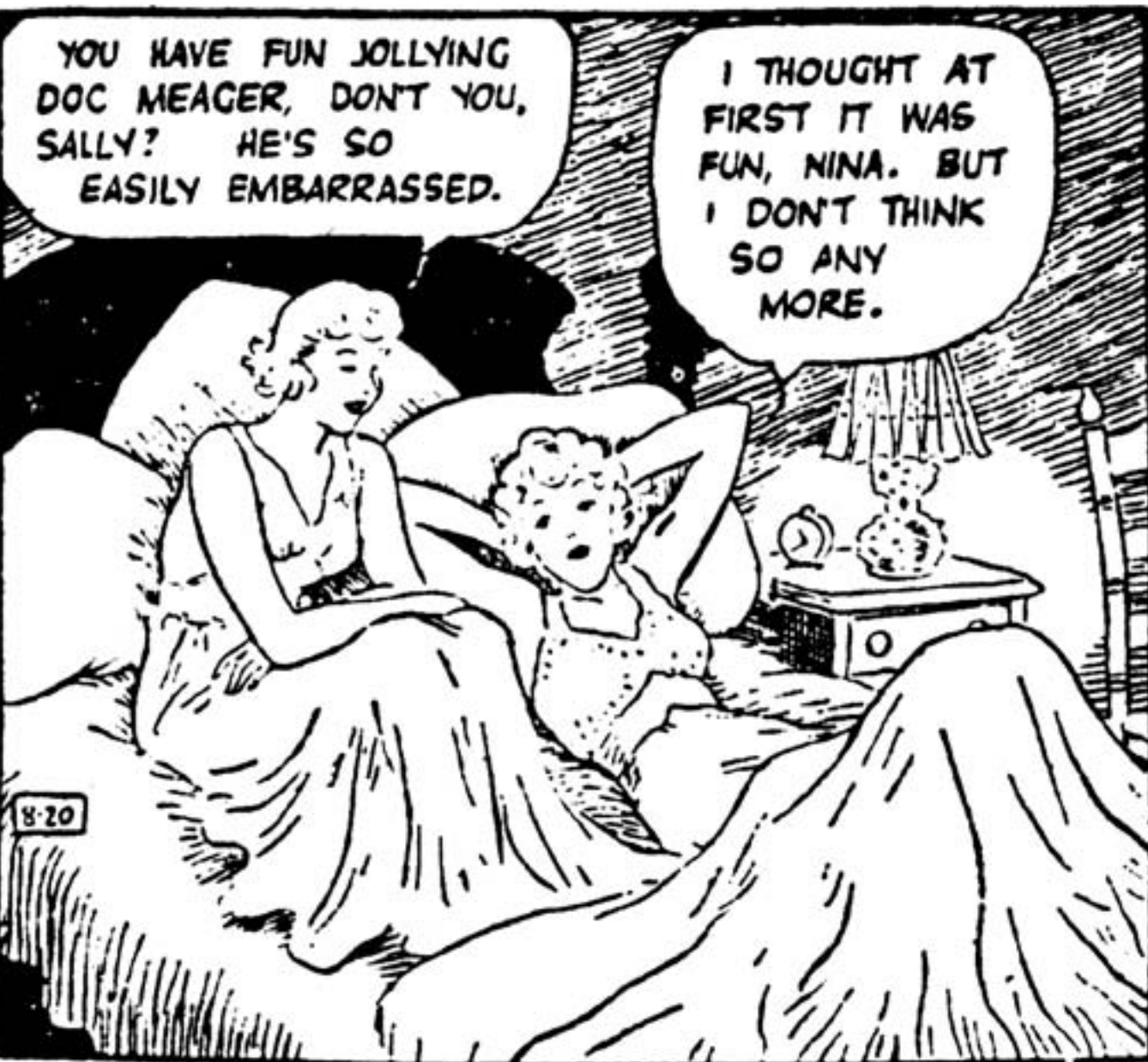


THEN I TOOK HER AS FAR AS THE GATE IN THE MOONLIGHT, AND WE STOOD THERE AND TALKED FOR A LONG TIME.



AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN BETTER IF THERE HAD BEEN, SAY SIX FELLOWS TO ONE GIRL, INSTEAD OF ELEVEN. LOVE AS ALWAYS, SKEEZIX





YOU HAVE FUN JOLLYING DOC MEAGER, DON'T YOU, SALLY? HE'S SO EASILY EMBARRASSED.

I THOUGHT AT FIRST IT WAS FUN, NINA. BUT I DON'T THINK SO ANY MORE.

8-20



YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'VE FALLEN FOR HIM?

PERHAPS NOT. BUT I LIKE HIM A LOT. I DON'T JOLLY HIM LIKE I DID. HE'S SENSITIVE AND EASILY HURT.



HE'S GOT MORE THAN YOU SEE ON THE SURFACE, NINA. HE'S SINCERE AND GENTLE AND I THINK HE LIKES ME.

YOU CAME OUT HERE TO THE COUNTRY TO MAKE HAY, SALLY, AND YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MAKING HAY!

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SKEEZIX

YOU'RE NINA'S GUEST. PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T TAKE UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

SHE'S GLAD OF A LITTLE PRIVACY, DR. MEAGER. BESIDES, SHE IS WRITING TO SKEEZIX AND CAN'T BE BOTHERED.

IT'S BEEN GRAND HAVING YOU HERE, SALLY. YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU SALLY.

NOT AT ALL, DOCTOR, IF YOU'LL LET ME CALL YOU DOC.

YOU MAY CALL ME WILFRED IF YOU LIKE. YOUR VACATION IS AWFULLY NEAR BEING OVER.

IT IS, BUT I'VE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME. AND I'M GLAD YOU HAPPENED ALONG.

IT HAS MEANT MORE TO ME THAN YOU KNOW. I WANT YOU TO LET ME WRITE TO YOU.

I WARN YOU, WILFRED, IF YOU DO, I'LL ANSWER.

SKEEZIX



SATURDAY NIGHT IS SHOPPING NIGHT, SALLY, AND THE SOCIAL CLIMAX OF THE WEEK.

THIS IS THE WAY I'D LIKE TO SPEND MY SATURDAY NIGHTS, NINA.

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IT'S BEEN A GRAND VACATION AND I HATE TO LEAVE.

YOU DON'T LIVE SO FAR AWAY AND YOU'LL BE BACK. DOC'S AT THIS END OF THE LINE.

SKEEZIX



IS THAT THE SORT OF
A WELCOME I GET WHEN
I'M BACK FROM MY
VACATION, WILMER?

VACATION,
HECK!

NOW,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



EVERYTHING! MY DRAFT
BOARD WON'T LISTEN TO
REASON AN' I'M HOOKED,
SALLY!



AN' JUST AS I THOUGHT
I HAD EVERYTHING
FIXED, TOO!



BUT YOU WAIT AN' SEE!
WITHOUT ME THIS PLACE WILL
GO TO POT JUST LIKE I TOLD
THEM IT WOULD!

GASOLINE ALLEY—RANK PRIVATES

CHARLIE! THAT ISN'T THE WAY TO CUT THAT CORN FOR ENSILAGE.

IT'S THE WAY MISS NINA SAYS TO DO IT.

SHE DOES, DOES SHE? WHO IS THE BOSS AROUND HERE?

ARE YOU ASKIN' THAT QUESTION TOO, MR. CLOCK?

IT'S ACTED LIKE MISS NINA HAS BEEN IT, LATELY.

WELL, CHARLIE, BETWEEN YOU AND ME IT LOOKS AS IF WE BOTH ARE TAKING ORDERS NOWADAYS.

GASOLINE ALLEY—LIVING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE RILEY



I DON'T SEE WHAT THIS SORT OF TRAINING HAS TO DO WITH FIXIN' FIELD GLASSES AND PRECISION LATHE WORK, SKEEZIX.

EVERYBODY FIGHTS IN THIS MAN'S WAR, BUZZARD.



DID YOU EXPECT TO GET INTO THIS WHEN YOU SIGNED UP FOR ORDNANCE?

I DID FORGET THAT IT MIGHT RAIN.



ANYWAY, IT MAKES A GUY APPRECIATE BEING COMFORTABLE AND COZY IN A PUP TENT.

SURE! JUST LIKE BEIN' AT HOME ON AN INNER SPRING MATTRESS.

SKEEZIX



CHARLIE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE WAR NEWS?

MIGHT BE BETTER, MR. CLOCK, MIGHT BE WORSE.

5-27



YOU KNOW, DOWN IN CUBA IN '98 IT WAS A REAL SIGHT TO SEE TEDDY RIDING AROUND ON HORSE-BACK.

FAR AS I GOT WAS TO TAMPA.



I HATE TO BREAK UP THIS LITTLE VISIT, BUT YOU KNOW, CHARLIE, WE'VE GOT TO GET THOSE POLES CUT UP INTO FENCE POSTS.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO
SALLY, MISS CLOCK?
I HAVEN'T SEEN
HER AROUND.

OH, YOU MEAN
MISS SNIPE! SHE
WENT BACK HOME.

YOU KNOW, I WAS
GETTIN' BY SWELL WITH
HER UNTIL THAT
PILL POLISHER
CAME ALONG.

YOU MEAN THE
DOCTOR, I SUPPOSE.
THAT'S JUST YOUR
HARD LUCK, SNIP.

SHE DROPPED
ME LIKE A HOT
POTATO. WHAT'S
HE GOT THAT I
HAVEN'T GOT?

A NUMBER OF THINGS.
BUT PROBABLY THE MOST
IMPORTANT IS MISS
SALLY SNIPE.

SALLY SNIPE AND DR. MEAGER SEEMED TO HIT IT OFF PRETTY WELL, NINA.

THEY DID, MOTHER. THEY DIDN'T WASTE MUCH TIME.

DR. MEAGER IS VERY NICE AND SHE COULD DO WORSE.

SHE COULD, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE SHE INTENDS TO.

FROM WHERE I SIT, IT LOOKS AS IF BOTH PARTIES ARE ALL READY TO SIGN.

I'M GLAD, NINA, THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE A DOCTOR'S WIFE.

THAT MAKES IT UNANIMOUS, MOTHER—INCLUDING DR. MEAGER.

SKEEZIX



I DON'T SEE YOU IN TOWN AS OFTEN AS I USED TO, NINA.

NO, AUNTIE BLOSSOM. BUT I HAD TO COME IN FOR SOME BINDER KNIVES.

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE HEARD THAT SKEEZIX IS IN CADRE SCHOOL NOW.

WHAT IS CADRE SCHOOL?

THAT'S THE SCHOOL FOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS. HE WAS KEEPING IT A SECRET BUT COULDN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER.

I'LL PROBABLY HAVE A LETTER WHEN I GET HOME.

I SAW NINA ON THE STREET. SHE SAYS SKEEZIX IS IN CADRE SCHOOL.

GOOD FOR HIM! THEY'RE CHOSEN FOR THAT. I'M GLAD HE MADE IT.

SKEEZIX

WALT, WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM SKEEZIX ABOUT HIS BEING IN CADRE SCHOOL, AND NINA KNEW IT YESTERDAY. I THINK HE SHOULD WRITE US FIRST.

HE'LL WRITE, PHYLLIS. GIVE HIM TIME.

BUT HE'S BEEN THE SAME AS OUR OWN CHILD FOR 21 YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'D DO IF HE WERE OUR VERY OWN CHILD? EXACTLY THE SAME AS HE IS DOING NOW.

OF COURSE, WE'D LIKE TO BE FIRST IN HIS THOUGHTS. BUT IT IS AGAINST HUMAN NATURE. HIS GIRL HAS FIRST PLACE AND IT'S RIGHTLY SO.

THINK BACK TO THAT TIME IN YOUR LIFE. YOU FELT A DUTY TOWARD YOUR PARENTS. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS GETTING IN THE WAY OF WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO.

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, WALT. I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUR NEWS FROM NINA.

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BACK AT ABERDEEN TRAINING CENTER, SKEEZIX DOES HIS TRICK AT GUARD DUTY.

9-3

WHO GOES THERE?

JUST A SOLDIER OF THE POST— AND IT'S YOUR BUDDY, BUZZARD, IF YOU MUST KNOW.

ADVANCE AND BE RECOGNIZED.

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT WE'VE MESSED TOGETHER, BUNKED TOGETHER, BLED AND DIED TOGETHER ALL THESE WEEKS AND YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OLD PAL?

PASS, SOLDIER OF THE POST.

OKAY, BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S NICE TO STAND ON SUCH FORMALITY WITH AN OLD MESSMATE, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT OWES YOU FOUR BUCKS?



WHAT TIME DO YOU COME TO WORK, YOUNG MAN, AND WHAT TIME DO YOU GO HOME?

I COME AT EIGHT AND GO HOME AT SIX, MR. CLOCK.

YOU DO! WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE I STARTED IN AT 4:30 IN THE MORNING AND FINISHED THE CHORES AROUND NINE O'CLOCK AT NIGHT.

THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

YES, AND THE CHORES CAME AROUND SUNDAY MORNING AND SUNDAY NIGHT JUST THE SAME. I GOT \$9 A MONTH. I RECKON YOU GET MORE THAN THAT.

YES, SNIPWOOD GETS MORE THAN THAT, FATHER, SO YOU'D BETTER LET HIM GO TO WORK.

SO I HAD. BUT YOU YOUNG SQUIRTS NOWADAYS GET ALL THE BEST OF IT.

I OUGHT
TO BE DUE
FOR A LETTER
TODAY.

PRIVATE
WM. J. SNOOD.

I DIDN'T GET ONE
FROM NINA BUT HERE'S
ONE FROM SALLY SNIPE!

"AS FOR NINA, SHE'S GETTING ON
FINE AT THE FARM. SHE HAS SNIP
WORKING THERE AND HE'S YOUNG AND
HANDSOME BUT SO FRESH SHE HAS
TO KEEP HOLDING HIM DOWN."

"OF COURSE HE HASN'T
GOT ANYWHERE WITH HER. AND
I'M SURE HE WON'T. YOU'RE
STILL HER A-I-A PRIORITY.
SO DON'T WORRY."

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IT MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL -



NINA SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM A HIRED HAND SHE HAS WORKING FOR HER, EVEN IF HE IS YOUNG AND HANDSOME!



BOY, IF I WAS THERE I WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT! AND, BELIEVE ME, I'M A LOT TOUGHER EGG THAN I WAS WHEN I LEFT.



I'D TAKE CARE OF THE SITUATION IN A HURRY. I'D KNOCK HIS BLOCK OFF!

-Kings-

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, MISS CLOCK, BUT I THINK YOU HAVE LOVELY HAIR.

WE ARE LEAVING PERSONALITIES OUT OF THIS, YOU'LL REMEMBER, SNIPWOOD.

ANYWAY, I LIKE THE COLOR OF YOUR OVERALLS. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

THAT IS PERMISSIBLE.

AND I'M CRAZY ABOUT THE SHAPE OF THEM!

YOU GO AHEAD AND FIX THAT CHICKEN HOUSE AND DON'T LET ME HEAR ANOTHER CRACK OUT OF YOU THIS MORNING!

"AND I SAY
FIRE HIM
AT ONCE!"

AHA! ANOTHER FREE LETTER
FROM THE BOY FRIEND. GIVE
HIM MY LOVE AND AFFECTION
WHEN YOU WRITE.

IF YOU
KNEW WHAT
WAS IN THIS
LETTER YOU
WOULDN'T BE
SO FLIPPANT.

OH, HE'S HEARD
ABOUT ME, HAS HE!
AND I'M A TOPIC
OF CONVERSATION!

A VERY
INCONSEQUENTIAL
ONE, SNIP!

SO YOU'VE TOLD HIM
ABOUT ME AND HE'S
JEALOUS! AM I
CLAIRVOYANT? YES!

YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY
ABSURD!

King

UNCLE IKE, I'VE COME TO SEE IF YOU DON'T KNOW OF SOMEONE I COULD GET FOR THE FARM IN SNIPWOOD'S PLACE.

SO HE TURNED OUT LAZY AND NO-ACCOUNT LIKE THE REST OF THEM, NINA?



NO. HE WORKS VERY WELL BUT HE IS SO FRESH I CAN'T STAND HIM.

I WISH I COULD SUGGEST SOMEBODY ELSE. BUT EVERYBODY IS WORKING SOMEWHERE. YOU'D BETTER TRY TO GET ALONG WITH HIM. CAN'T YOU SLAP HIM DOWN?



I'VE TRIED IT EVERY WAY EXCEPT WITH THE FLAT OF MY HAND. THAT MAY BE NEXT.

YOU MAY HAVE TO TAKE SOME SASS, BUT I'D ADVISE YOU TO KEEP HIM WORKING. THERE ARE TOO MANY MUNITIONS PLANTS WANTING HELPERS.



THEY'RE COMIN' OVER THICKER ALL THE TIME, AN' I'M GLAD TO SEE 'EM, CHARLIE.

YEP. THAT'S A DOUGLAS A-20-A.

DOUGLAS NOTHIN'! THAT'S A MARTIN B-26. I'VE GOT A PICTURE OF ONE.

A B-26 HASN'T GOT STRAIGHT LEADIN' EDGES TO THE WINGS, MR. CLOCK.

JUST THE SAME A B-26 HAS TWO MOTORS AND A HIGH FIN JUST LIKE THAT.

I'VE GOT HALF A BUCK THAT SAYS IT'S AN A-20-A

I'M NOT A BETTING MAN BUT LOOK HERE, CHARLIE. HERE'S A PICTURE OF IT.

YES! BUT WHERE DOES IT SAY IT'S A B-26? IT DON'T!

SKEEZIX



THE ONLY FUN
YOU GET OUT OF
THRESHIN', BOYS,
IS AT MEALTIME
PITCH IN!

I'VE GOT AN
APPETITE LIKE
A HORSE,
MR. CLOCK.

THEN WHAT DID YOU
COME IN FOR?
THERE WAS PLENTY
OATS OUTSIDE.

WHERE'D
THEM
BISCUITS
GO?

CHUCK, HERE
STUFFED HIS
POCKETS
WITH 'EM.

I DID NOT!
WHAT I
TOOK
I ET.

YOU'RE A SWELL
COOK. WILL YOU
MARRY ME,
MISS CLOCK?

MOTHER
DID THE
COOKING.
ASK
HER.

WE NEED A WOUNDED COMRADE TO PRACTICE PUTTING A GAS MASK ON, SKEEZIX

SH!



9-16



SO SORRY.



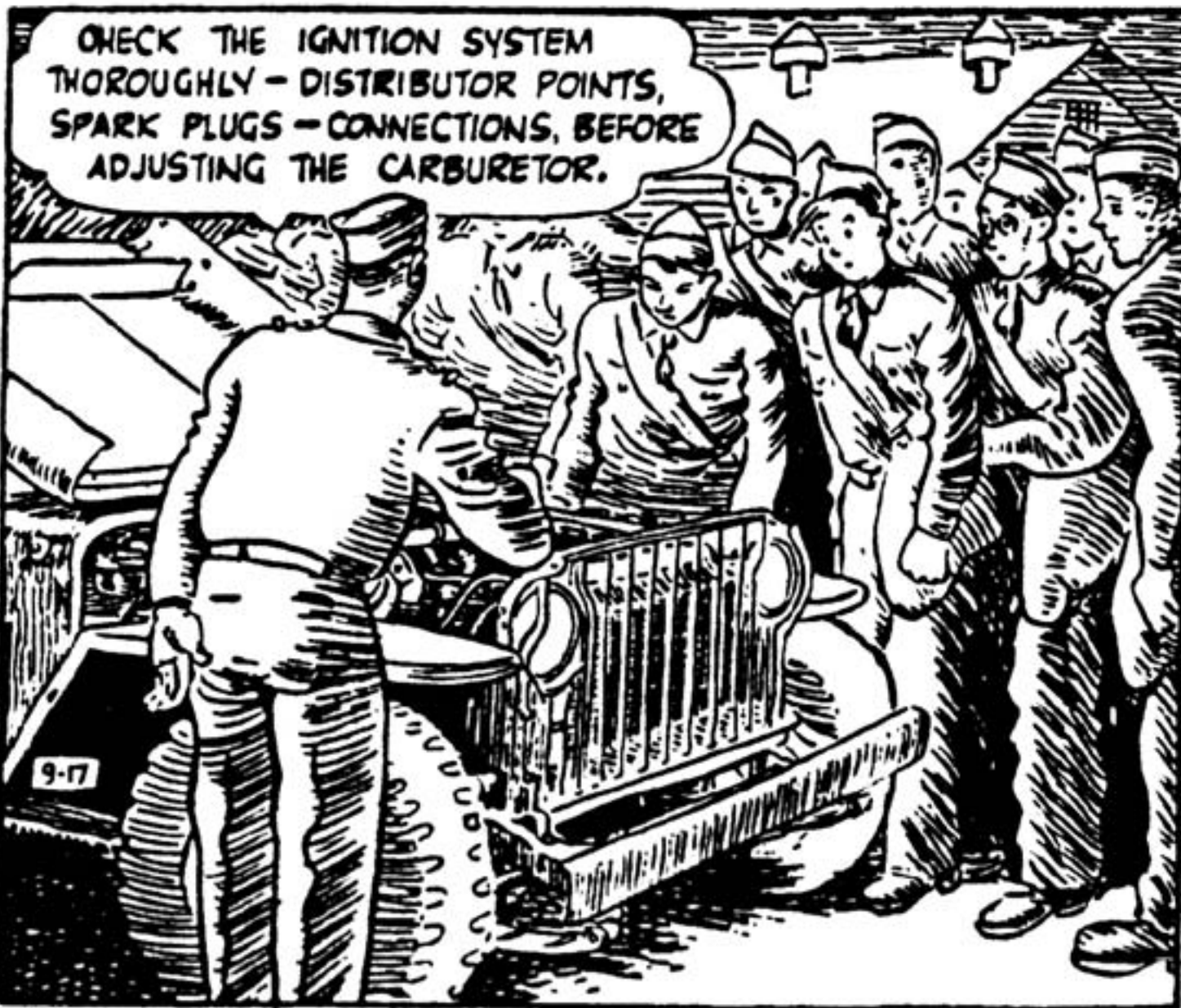
WE HAD TO HAVE SOMEBODY.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BUT HOW DO I GET RID OF THIS CIGARETTE?

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SKEEZIX

CHECK THE IGNITION SYSTEM THOROUGHLY - DISTRIBUTOR POINTS, SPARK PLUGS - CONNECTIONS, BEFORE ADJUSTING THE CARBURETOR.



TROUBLE, BUZZARD!

I'LL SAY, SKEEZIX!



YOU'VE HAD INSTRUCTION. WHY DON'T YOU FIX IT?

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING FOR 'EM WHEN THEY'RE AILING, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN THEY'RE DEAD!



-King-
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TO KEEP FROM BEING A CASUALTY, EACH MAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THEM.

POISONOUS PLANTS.



9-18

HOW ARE YOU ON YOUR BOTANY, BUZZARD?



I'M FINE - IF THE SAMPLES ARE PINNED UP ON A BOARD.



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NINA! JUST THE PERSON I WANTED TO SEE. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO COME BACK WITH US?

NOT YET, DR. FLAX. THINGS ARE AS BUSY ON THE FARM AS EVER, SO I HAVE TO CARRY ON.

RACHEL, WHO WAS FILLING YOUR PLACE, ENLISTED AND IS NOW IN AUSTRALIA. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PLANS.

YOU KNEW THAT SKEEZIX AND I WANTED TO BE MARRIED. IT WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE HE ENLISTED.

MEANWHILE, I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP THE WAR EFFORT AND I FEEL THAT I CAN DO IT BETTER BY PRODUCING FOOD THAN IN ANY OTHER WAY.

I STARTED IN, NINA, TO CONVINCING YOU THAT YOU OUGHT TO COME TO OUR TOWN AND TAKE YOUR OLD JOB BACK. BUT YOU HAD ME LICKED RIGHT FROM THE START.

I HOPE TO BEGIN AGAIN, SOMETIME, RIGHT WHERE I LEFT OFF - BUT NOT NOW.



HOW NICE, DR. MEAGER!
I WAS JUST TALKING
WITH DR. FLAX. HE'D
LIKE TO HAVE ME
COME BACK.

THE WAY
YOU'RE GOING,
NINA, I KNOW
THERE ISN'T
A CHANCE.

ALL RIGHT, OUT
WITH IT! HOW ARE
YOU AND SALLY
SNIPE GETTING ON?

I WAS HOPING YOU'D
ASK ME THAT. I'VE BEEN
GETTING A LETTER A WEEK
AND I THINK SHE IS THE
MOST WONDERFUL GIRL
I EVER MET.

CAREFUL,
DOC! THOSE
ARE MARRYING
WORDS.

HAVE TO FACE THE FACTS.
BOTH MATRIMONY AND THE DRAFT
ARE CLOSING IN ON ME. IT'S A
DOUBLE THREAT. ALL I'M
WONDERING IS WHICH ONE WILL
GET ME FIRST.

SORRY I CAN'T GIVE YOU MORE NOTICE, MISS CLOCK, BUT I ENLISTED IN THE NAVY LAST NIGHT AND I CAN'T WORK FOR YOU ANY MORE.

WELL, IT'S PRETTY SUDDEN, SNIP, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CONGRATULATIONS!



WHEN DO YOU GO?

I HAVE UNTIL TOMORROW TO GET MY THINGS IN SHAPE AND THEN I'M OFF TO SOME PLACE THAT'S A MILITARY SECRET FROM BOTH OF US.



I HAD A HUNCH TO DO THIS BEFORE BUT WHEN WE GOT THE THRESHING DONE I COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

I'M PROUD OF YOU, SNIP, AND I WISH YOU ALL THE LUCK IN THE WORLD!



WE'VE HAD GOOD CROPS AND PRICES BUT I'LL HAVE TO TURN MOST OF OUR PROFIT RIGHT BACK INTO THE FARM.



IN FACT, WHEN THE BILLS ARE ALL PAID THE CASH THAT WE'LL HAVE TO GET ALONG ON WILL BE PRETTY SLIM. IT IS GOING TO TAKE SOME CLOSE FIGURING.



WHATEVER HAPPENS, FATHER MUST NEVER KNOW THAT WE ARE NOT SAILING SMOOTHLY AND STEPPING HIGH.



NOW THAT SNIP HAS GONE, I AM GOING TO TRY TO GET ALONG WITHOUT ANY OTHER HELP. THE GRAIN IS IN AND CHARLIE AND I CAN MANAGE FOR A WHILE, ANYWAY.





CHARLIE, NOW THAT SNIP HAS GONE, YOU AND I WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS BY OURSELVES.

WE DID IT BEFORE, MISS NINA, AN' WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.



WE DON'T NEED TO GET ANYBODY IN SNIP'S PLACE, NINA. I CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT. OF COURSE, I CAN'T DO THE HARD FIELD WORK YET. BUT CHARLIE CAN DO IT.



AND I'M NOT UP TO DOING THE CHORES OR RUNNING THE TRACTOR OR HITCHIN' UP THE TEAM, BUT I CAN FEED THE CHICKENS AND SEE THAT THE WATERING TROUGH IS FULL.

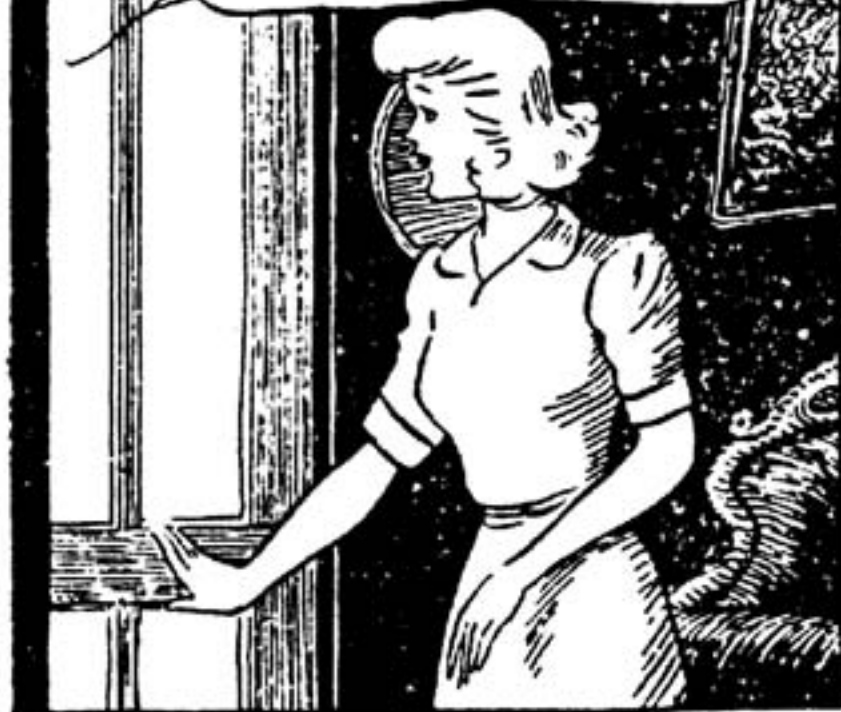
THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS TELLING CHARLIE, FATHER, THAT NOW THE THREE OF US CAN CARRY ON VERY NICELY.



ISN'T THAT TOO BAD! IT MUST HAVE BEEN ONLY A DREAM!



YOU HAVE A PHONE, MISS CLOCK. WILL YOU PERMIT US TO LOCATE AN AIRPLANE WATCHERS' STATION HERE?



I DON'T KNOW. THAT WILL MEAN PEOPLE HANGING AROUND THE HOUSE AND USING THE PHONE ALL THE TIME, WON'T IT?



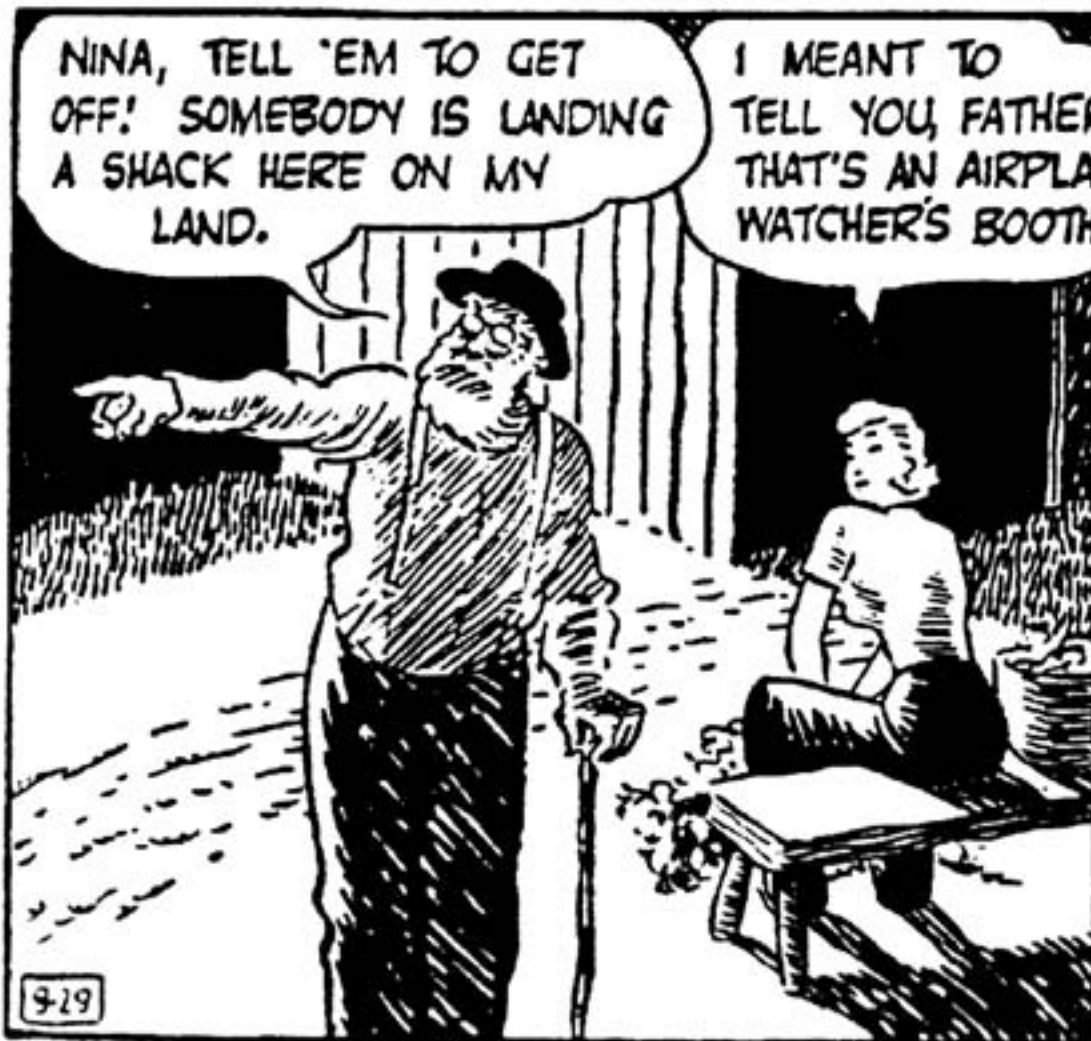
NOT AT ALL. WE PUT IN A BOOTH AWAY FROM THE HOUSE WITH A PHONE CONNECTION.

THESE STATIONS MUST BE PUT IN SOMEWHERE AND YOU WOULD BE DOING A REAL SERVICE.



WELL, SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY —

GASOLINE ALLEY—EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW





DEAR NINA: I HAVE FINISHED MY 13 WEEKS ORDNANCE TRAINING BUT I AM HELD OVER A MONTH FOR SPECIAL INSTRUCTION. I WILL HAVE A LOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY INTENSIVE TECHNICAL WORK IN SMALL ARMS.



THIS INCLUDES EVERYTHING UP TO 37 MILLIMETER. I WAS HOPING FOR A THREE DAY PASS BUT THAT'S OUT FOR NOW. I'LL MAKE IT LATER.



I'M SORRY FOR YOUR SAKE I'M NOT IN A MORE SPECTACULAR SERVICE, LIKE THE AIR FORCE OR MARINES, BUT WHEREVER THEY ARE THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME OF US AND WE ARE IMPORTANT TOO.



I INCLOSE A PICTURE. PERHAPS YOU WILL NOTE A CHANGE—SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T SHOW IN MY LAST PHOTOGRAPH—AND IT'S NOT A MUSTACHE!



I WONDER WHO WE DRAW AS A PLANE SPOTTER TODAY.

OH, YOU DO, DO YOU? I'M THE ANSWER, NINA. I JUST HOOKED A DIPPER OF WATER.

UNCLE WALT! I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU IN THIS JOB.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER TOWN. I'M DOING MY BIT ON THE 8 TO 12 SHIFT FRIDAYS.

I 'MUST WRITE SKEEZIX ABOUT IT. BY THE WAY, I GOT A PICTURE OF HIM AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HE HAD?

CORPORAL'S STRIPES! AND THAT ISN'T A SHREWD GUESS. HE SENT US A PICTURE, TOO.

HE'S IMPROVING. IT'S SORT OF EMBARRASSING TO HAVE THE NEWS FIRST ALL THE TIME.

THERE'S A NEW MAN WATCHING PLANES. I'M GOIN' OVER AN' VISIT WITH HIM.

DON'T BOTHER HIM FATHER. HE'S ON A JOB.

I'M GLAD THEY PUT THIS STATION HERE. IT GIVES A FELLOW SOMEBODY TO VISIT WITH. YOU'RE ON THE 4-TO-8 SHIFT AREN'T YOU?

YEP.

I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY PLANES LATELY. THEY JUST REPORTED ONE THIS MORNING. YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANY YET, HAVE YOU?

NOPE.

YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A RADIO. I'D WANT ONE. IT MUST GET SORT OF TIRESOME SITTING OUT HERE ALONE.

YEP.

YOU DIDN'T STAY LONG, FATHER. HOW DID YOU GET ALONG?

WE WERE TRADING SMALL TALK AND I GOT THE WORST OF THE DEAL.

I THINK IT'S A
BI-MOTORED BOMBER
AT ABOUT A
THOUSAND FEET.

NO, MOM, THAT'S A
CURTIS P-40-D, A
FIGHTER. YOU CAN
TELL BY THE WING
PATTERN AN' THE
LONG NOSE AN'
THE SOUND.

ALL RIGHT.
I'LL HURRY AN'
REPORT IT.

AN' MAKE IT 6000
FEET, INSTEAD OF
A THOUSAND, AN'
QUARTER OF A MILE
SOUTH.

I SEE YOU
BRING YOUR
LITTLE BOY
ALONG TO
KEEP YOU
COMPANY,
MRS. GASP.

YES, OLIVER,
HELPS ME TO
RECOGNIZE THE
PLANES, NINA

AN' BOY,
IS SHE
DUMB!

DID YOU JUST REPORT THAT FIGHTER PLANE, MR. PEEPS?

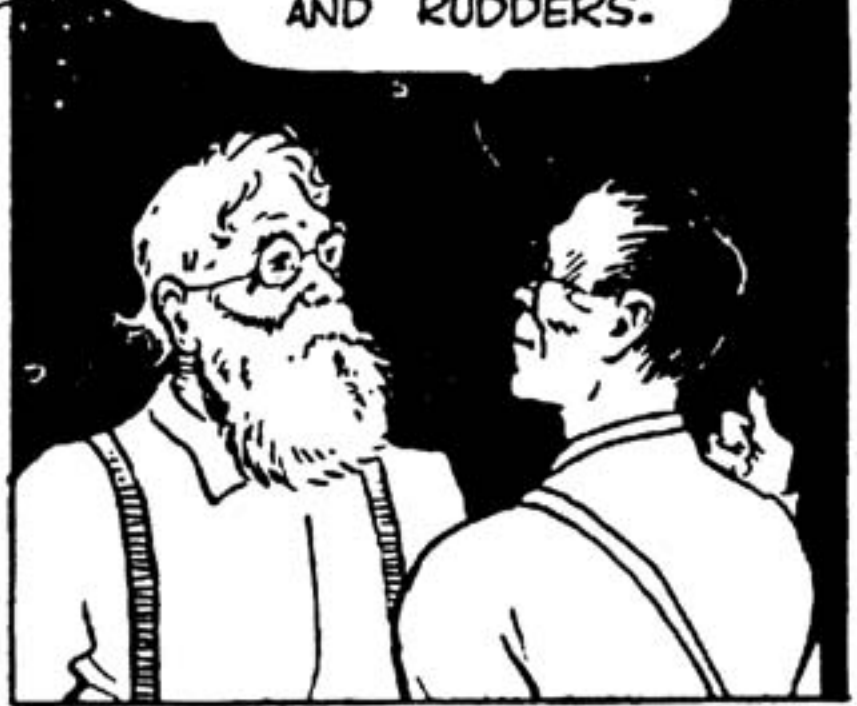
IT WAS A MARTIN 187, MR. CLOCK, A TWIN-ENGINE MEDIUM BOMBER. IT HAD WINGS TAPERED ON BOTH EDGES TO ROUNDED TIPS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN B-25 HAS TAPERED WING EDGES, BUT HAS A LONGER TRANSPARENT NOSE AND TWIN FINS AND RUDDERS.

THE DOUGLAS A-20-A, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS STRAIGHT LEADING EDGES WITH TRAILING EDGES SWEEPED FORWARD AND TAIL PLANE WITH A PRONOUNCED DIHEDRAL.

A REPUBLIC P-43 HAS LEADING WING EDGES ALMOST STRAIGHT BUT IT IS A LOW-WING MONOPLANE WITH STUBBY NOSE AND TRIANGULAR FIN AND RUDDER.

OH!



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THMS

ARMY FLASH - CRANBERRY 27.
SINGLE PLANE LOW. SEEN
QUARTER MILE EAST, GOING
SOUTH



THERE WAS NOBODY
TO TAKE THE 8-TO-
MIDNIGHT TRICK TONIGHT.
I DON'T MIND DOING
IT MYSELF.



WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SKEEZIX
IS ON GUARD DUTY TONIGHT UNDER
THE SAME MOON! OR PERHAPS
HE'S JUST OUT IN THE MOONLIGHT
THINKING OF ME.



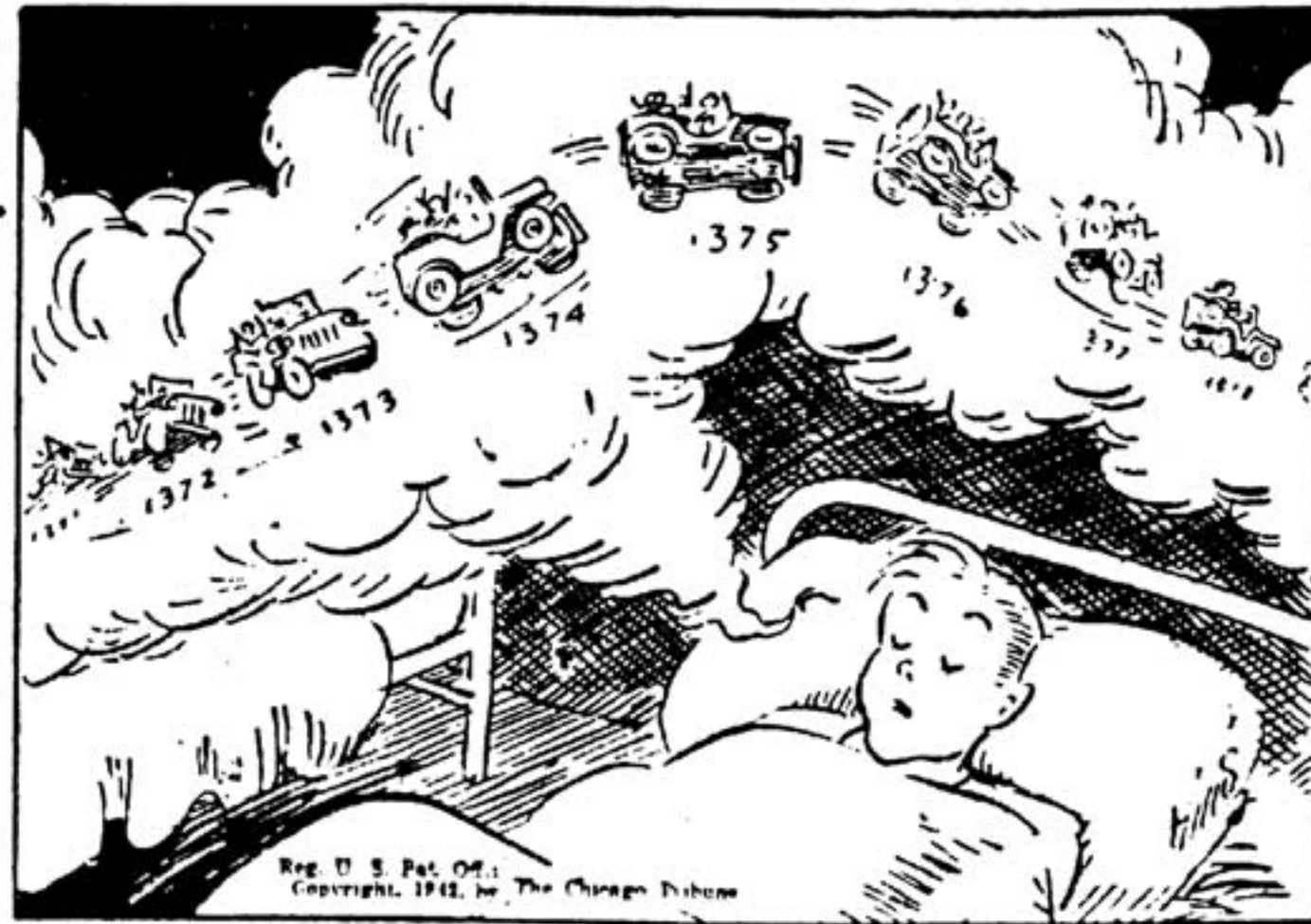
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WHAT'S MORE LIKELY IS
THAT HE'S BEING LULLED TO
SLEEP BY A CHORUS OF
SNORES FROM HIS BUDDIES.



Mills

AND
BACK
AT
ORD-
NANCE
TRAIN-
ING
CENTER





THERE'S WALLET.
I WAS GLAD TO
SEE HIM PUT A
CRIMP IN WEASEL
LAST NIGHT.

WEASEL ASKED
FOR IT. IT WAS
ALL A GAG BUT
IT BURNT HIM UP
JUST THE SAME.

HE THOUGHT
WALLET WAS
STILL THE SOFTIE
HE WAS WHEN
HE CAME.

AND WAS HIS
FACE RED WHEN
WALLET PLUNKED
HIM FLAT ON
HIS BACK!

WALLET WAS A
SHY, EASY-GOING
KID BUT THEY'VE
DONE THINGS TO
HIM HERE.

THERE'S
A REASON
THEY DON'T
PICK ON
HIM MUCH
ANY MORE.

WELL,
WE'RE ALL
OF US
PLENTY
TOUGH
NOW.

THAT'S WHAT WE THINK.
WE'LL FIND OUT FOR SURE
WHEN WE GET OUT INTO
THE FIELD.

OH, BOY, OH, BOY! LISTEN, BUZZARD. NINA'S COMING TO VISIT ME HERE! I'LL PUT HER UP AT THE HOSTESS HOUSE.

THAT'S OKE WITH ME, SKEEZIX.

A PASS EVERY OTHER NIGHT WHILE SHE'S HERE WON'T BE ENOUGH, BUZZARD. NOW IF YOU COULD—

SKEEZIX, I'D GIVE YOU MY GUN OR MY GIZZARD, BUT A PASS IS BEYOND PRICE.

I KNOW IT'S IS, PAL, SO IT'S NO USE OFFERING YOU A BUCK APIECE FOR YOURS.

IT ISN'T A MATTER OF MONEY. IT IS A SYMBOL OF THAT LIBERTY FOR WHICH WE ALL ARE FIGHTING! I COULDN'T THINK OF IT.

ALL RIGHT. TWO BUCKS.

IT'S A DEAL.



GOSH, NINA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT: RIGHT HERE WITH ME: EVERYTHING IS ALL ARRANGED FOR YOU AT THE HOSTESS HOUSE.



THAT'S FINE, SKEEZIX. ALL I WANT IS TO BE WITH YOU EVERY MINUTE I CAN.



AND THOSE STRIPES, DARLING? I'M CERTAINLY PROUD OF THEM!

AND WELL YOU MAY BE, MY DEAR. THEY ARE NOTHING TO BE SNEEZED AT!



YOU WON'T BE TRAVELING AROUND WITH A PRIVATE HEREAFTER. I AM A CORPORAL AND A NON-COM!

I NEVER CAN QUITE REMEMBER— IS A NON-COM A NONCOMBATANT OR A NONCOMPETENT?

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IT'S KEEN HERE IN THE MOONLIGHT, NINA. BUT THERE'S A DANCE AT THE SERVICE CLUB. THEY BRING IN A LOT OF GIRLS FROM TOWN FOR THE BOYS TO DANCE WITH. HOW ABOUT A DANCE?

GRAND
LET'S GO
IN.

AND THEY'RE PRETTY PARTICULAR. THERE ARE CHAPERONES AND NONE OF THE GIRLS CAN LEAVE THE BUILDING UNTIL THE DANCE IS OVER.

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE LUCKY. WE CAN HAVE MOONLIGHT, TOO.

NINA, I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SWELLEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. NOW I KNOW IT.

I WAS KEEPING IT A SECRET. HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

I'VE HEARD A HUNDRED FELLOWS DESCRIBE THEIR GIRLS AT HOME AND NOT ONE OF 'EM CAN HOLD A CANDLE TO YOU.

I'M NOT GOING TO START AN ARGUMENT RIGHT HERE, SO YOU GO RIGHT ON THINKING SO.

IT'S PERFECT
IN HERE, NINA, BUT
LET'S GO OUT INTO
THE MOONLIGHT WHERE
WE CAN BE ALONE.

YES. TWO'S
COMPANY,
60'S A
CROWD.

OH, NO
YOU DON'T,
SISTER!

BUT THIS ISN'T ONE OF
THE GIRLS IMPORTED
FOR THE DANCE. SHE
DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY
INSIDE THE BUILDING.

SAYS YOU!
NO GAL GETS
OUT OF THIS
PLACE WHILE
I'M ON THE JOB.

BUT THIS IS MY
GIRL FROM BACK
HOME. SHE'S
VISITING ME HERE.

I KNOW ALL
THE GAGS. HOW
MANY TIMES DO
YOU THINK I'VE
HEARD THAT ONE?

WELL,
HERE WE
ARE.

HE CANT
BOTHER US.
WE'LL JUST
DANCE AND
LIKE IT.



YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME NEARLY ENOUGH ABOUT YOURSELF. SKEEZIX.

WELL, I'M IN ARTILLERY MAINTENANCE. THAT'S BEEN MY TECHNICAL TRAINING.



AND THERE'S WHAT OUR OUTFIT LOOKED LIKE WHEN I ARRIVED.

NOW YOU FELLOWS HAVE PROBABLY MADE UP YOUR MINDS THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE. BUT YOU WILL. SOME OF YOU HAD A LITTLE DOUGH SAVED UP WHEN YOU LEFT HOME.



YOU'RE PROBABLY SHOOTING CRAPS AT A DOLLAR A CRACK. BEFORE YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOU'LL SHOOT FOR MATCHES—AND LIKE IT.

HE'S RIGHT. WE CHANGE.

THE WAY I'VE GOT IT FIGURED OUT, NINA DARLING, IS THAT THE SOONER I GET RIGHT IN AND HELP GET IT OVER WITH THE SOONER YOU AND I CAN GET MARRIED.

YES, SKEEZIX, WE HAVE THAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND PLAN FOR AND DREAM ABOUT. I'LL BE WAITING.

I KNOW YOU WILL. THAT'S WHY I'M WILLING TO FACE WHATEVER IS AHEAD WITHOUT ANY DOUBTS.



I'LL BE DOING ALL I CAN IN MY QUIETER WAY TO WIN THE WAR, TOO.

WHAT ABOUT THIS BIRD, SNIPWOOD? IT BURNED ME UP WHEN I HEARD HOW HE GOT FRESH WITH YOU.



THAT'S ALL TAKEN CARE OF. HE'S IN THE ARMY NOW. BUT HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU MAY BE OCEANS AWAY FOR MANY LONG MONTHS.

I SWEAR THAT NO AFRICAN CUTIE, NO ALASKAN ESKIMO FILLY NOR ANY SOLOMON ISLAND QUEEN WILL EVER MAKE ME WAYER IN MY DEVOTION.





UNCLE WALT:
HOW DID YOU
KNOW I WAS
COMING ON
THIS TRAIN?

SKEEZIX SAW
TO THAT, NINA.
TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR TRIP.

10-19



IT WAS MARVELOUS!
SKEEZIX IS WELL
AND TANNED. HE'S
MORE SELF-
RELIANT AND
HE'S DOING
WELL.

IS HE HAPPY
IN HIS WORK?



HE IS AND HE
IS PROUD OF ALL
THE DIFFERENT
THINGS HE'S
BEEN LEARNING.

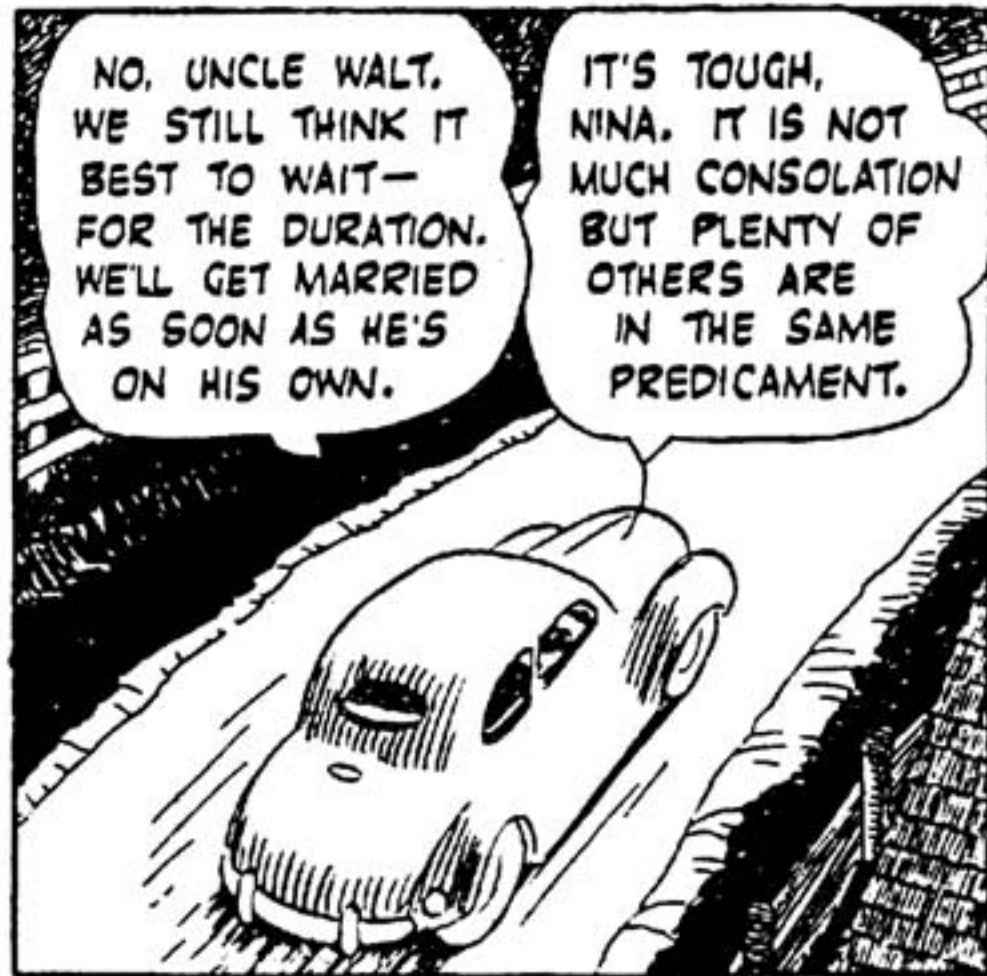
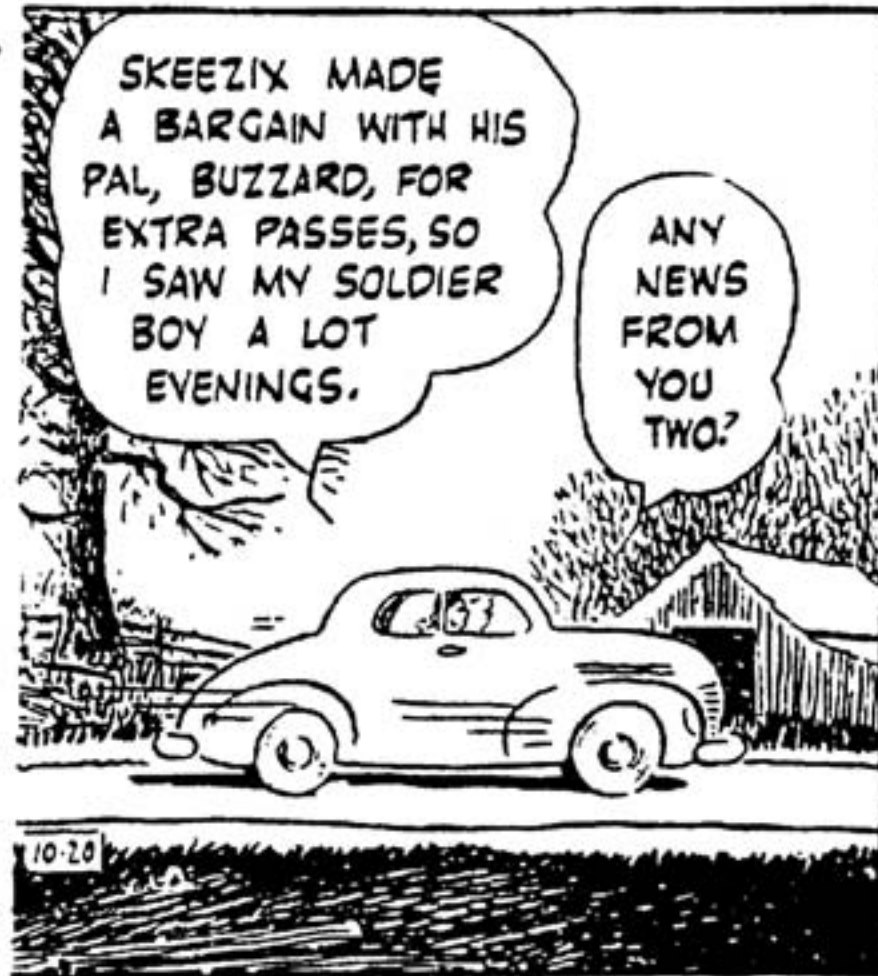
DID HE HAVE
ANY INFORMATION
ON WHEN HE
MIGHT BE SENT
INTO THE FIELD?



NOTHING DEFINITE,
BUT YOU KNOW
HOW THOSE
THINGS HAPPEN.

YES. HE WON'T
GET ANY NOTICE
AND WE WON'T
EITHER. SUCH
IS WAR!

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WHY, FATHER!
DOWN ON
YOUR BACK
AGAIN!

I HAVEN'T BEEN
FEELING MYSELF LATELY,
NINA. I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE BETTER
TO BE IN BED.

I HOPE
IT ISN'T
SERIOUS.

NO. JUST
AN UPSET
STUMMICK -
FROM MY OLD
MALARIA.

PA, YOU KNOW
IT ISN'T MALARIA.
IT WAS THOSE
CIGARS THAT
PLANE WATCHER
GAVE YOU.



FATHER, DID
YOU SMOKE
TOO MANY
CIGARS?

IT WASN'T THAT AT ALL.
MY MALARIA JUST HAPPENED
TO COME ON AFTER I'D
SMOKED A HALF A DOZEN.
IT WAS JUST A
COINCIDENCE!

HOW DID EVERYTHING GO WHILE I WAS AWAY, CHARLIE?

FINE, MISS NINA, FINE! ONLY BESSIE, THE COW, GOT HER LEG SCRATCHED.

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

SHE JUMPED OVER THE PARTITION INTO THE BOX STALL.

WHY ON EARTH SHOULD SHE DO THAT?

SHE WAS DODGIN' THE BOARDS AN' SPLINTERS AN' THE TRACTOR.

HOW DID THE TRACTOR EVER GET INTO THE BARN?

IT HAPPENED TO BE POINTED AT THE SIDE OF IT WHEN MY HAT HIT A LIMB WITH A HORNETS' NEST ON IT.

BUT COULDN'T YOU STEER CLEAR OF THE BARN?

NOM, THERE WASN'T NO REMOTE CONTROL ON THE TRACTOR AN' I WAS OVER TWO FENCES BEHIND THE CORNCRIB BY THEN.

YOU DONT MEAN YOU'RE GOIN' TO WRITE TO THAT GAL OF YOURS? SHE JUST LEFT HERE, SKEEZIX.

JUST LEFT? IT WAS SEVEN NIGHTS AGO, BUZZARD.

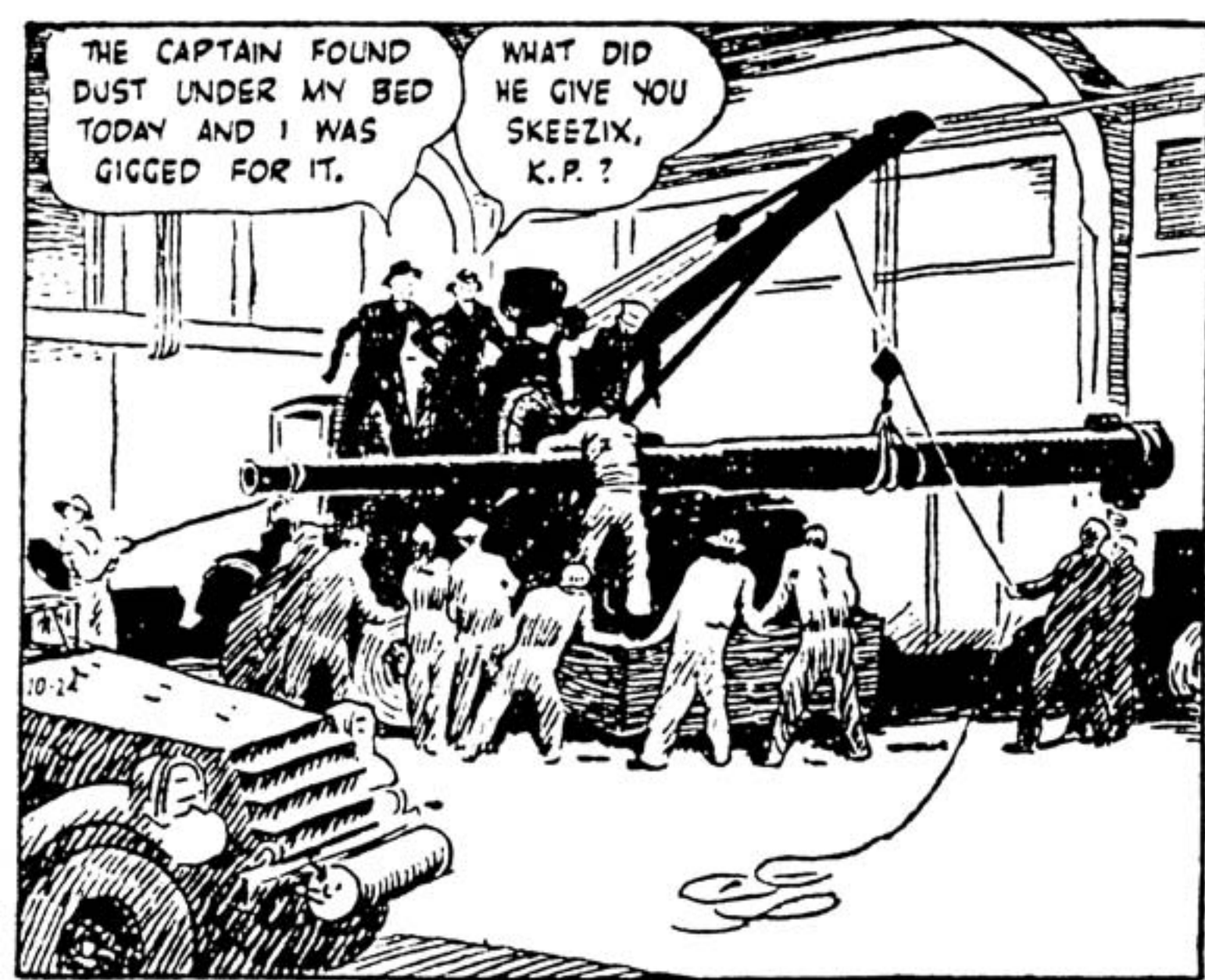
AW, COME ON OUT WITH ME TONIGHT. I'VE GOT A GIRL AND MAYBE SHE'S GOT A LONESOME FRIEND.

I WOULD BUT I'M ALL SET TO WRITE A LETTER.

WHAT GOOD IS A GIRL HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY? YOU KNOW, MINE WASHES MY SHIRTS AND SOCKS. IT SAVES A LOT ON LAUNDRY BILLS. NIX ON THIS REMOTE CONTROL STUFF!

MINE WILL DO THAT FOR ME TOO, SOMETIME, BUT I'M WILLING TO WAIT.

A GIRL THAT'LL WASH YOUR SOCKS NOW IS WORTH TWO THAT WILL DO IT IN THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE WHEN YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANY SOCKS.



OUT HERE AGAIN SO SOON LOOKIN' FOR A LETTER FROM THAT SOLDIER BOY, NINA? YOU JUST GOT ONE SATURDAY.

THEY CAN'T COME TOO OFTEN, MR. DUKE.



10-26

YOU KNOW HOMER SPLINTER'S BOY WHO WENT INTO THE NAVY IN JANUARY. HE BLEW UP ON HIS FOLKS THE OTHER DAY. THEY HADN'T HAD A LINE FROM HIM ALL THESE MONTHS.

THAT'S TERRIBLE!



SKEEZIX IS GOOD ABOUT WRITING, AS PERHAPS YOU'VE NOTICED.

YES, AND I HOPE YOU DO MORE THAN YOUR SHARE. THE BOYS NEED LETTERS.



HE GETS TWO A WEEK AND SOMETIMES AN EXTRA ONE.

KEEP IT UP. I WAS OVERSEAS '17 TO '19 AN' I KNOW WHAT IT DOES FOR 'EM.



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WHY FATHER! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU DO THAT FOR SOME TIME.

I TOLD YOU IT WAS MY MALARIA THAT WAS AILING ME. NOW I'VE GOT IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM.

CHARLIE, I WANT YOU TO LOOK ALL OVER THE FARM FOR SCRAP. IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE, BUT I'M SURE THERE'S MORE, AND YOU CAN FIND IT.

YOU SOUND LIKE YOUR OLD SELF AGAIN, FATHER.

YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB HERE, NINA. BUT I'M WELL ENOUGH AGAIN SO I CAN LOOK AFTER THINGS FROM NOW ON.

THAT'S GRAND IF IT'S TRUE. FATHER! BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE OVER ANY JOB LIKE THIS SO SUDDENLY. LET'S SEE HOW IT ALL WORKS OUT.

WELL, SKEEZIX HAS JUST ABOUT FINISHED HIS TRAINING. NINA. WE SHOULD BE GETTING SOME NEWS SOON.

I'M DREADING IT BUT IT HAS TO COME.

IT IS TOUGH ON BOTH OF US. HOWEVER, IT IS NORMAL FOR FATHER AND SON TO BE SEPARATED. IT IS NOT SO NORMAL FOR SWEETHEARTS.

I ADMIT IT'S HARD TO TAKE.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE TIMING WHEN YOUR ROMANCE FALLS RIGHT INTO THIS PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TURBULENCE AND WAR. BUT IT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT.

I KNOW YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MEET THE SITUATION. AND I AM PROUD OF HOW YOU HAVE MET IT SO FAR.

UNCLE WALT, YOU'RE AN OLD DEAR! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.

I FEEL IN MY BONES THERE'S SOMETHING DOING AROUND HERE, SKEEZIX.

I GET IT TOO, BUZZARD.



CORPORAL WALLET, YOU ARE TO REPORT TO THE C.O. IMMEDIATELY.

GOLLY, I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS!



CORPORAL WALLET, YOUR TRAINING IS FINISHED. YOU ARE NOW A QUALIFIED ARTILLERY MAINTENANCE MAN. AFTER A FIVE-DAY FURLOUGH YOU WILL REPORT AT PORT OF EMBARKATION.



YOU MAY TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT THEREAFTER YOUR ADDRESS WILL BE ORDNANCE MEDIUM MAINTENANCE, 62A, ARMY POST OFFICE, NEW YORK. CONGRATULATIONS, WALLET.

THANK YOU, SIR.



I'VE GOT MY ORDERS, BUZZARD: I GET A FIVE-DAY FURLOUGH AND THEN I'M TO REPORT TO PORT OF EMBARKATION.

GOSH, SKEEZIX, THAT'S SWELL! I HOPE I GET MINE FOR THE SAME ASSIGNMENT.

BY THE WAY, BUZZARD, THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER OF \$3.50. COULD YOU MANAGE TO CLEAN THAT UP?

GEE, THIS IS SHORT NOTICE! I'M FLAT BROKE. LEAVE ME YOUR A. P. O. ADDRESS AND I'LL SEND IT TO YOU.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, HUTCH. I'M LEAVING AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE MY CAMERA BACK.

OH-OH! YOU KNOW WHAT? I LENT IT TO MY GIRL AN' I WON'T SEE HER UNTIL A WEEK FROM SUNDAY.

SARGE, HOW ABOUT THAT SAFETY RAZOR I LET YOU TAKE FOR YOUR TRIP?

HECK! I LEFT THAT UP IN VERMONT. BUT YOU WON'T NEED IT ANYWAY WHERE YOU'RE GOING — DOWN AMONG THE BUSHMEN OR UP WITH THE ESKIMOS.

IT'LL BE GREAT TO GET OUT AND GET INTO ACTION. I ONLY HOPE THE MOST OF THE FELLOWS HERE GO ALONG.

YES. THAT'S THE TOUGH PART OF IT—BREAKING UP THE OLD GANG.

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, LONG DISTANCE. LET ME KNOW WHEN MY THREE MINUTES IS UP.

I'M SO TICKLED, NINA! I'LL HAVE FIVE WHOLE DAYS THERE BEFORE I HAVE TO REPORT AT THE PORT OF EMBARKATION!

HEY! YOUR THREE MINUTES IS UP!



SKEEZIX, WASN'T IT CONSIDERATE AND SWELL OF AUNTIE BLOSSOM AND UNCLE WALT TO INVITE ME TO STAY WITH THEM WHILE YOU'RE HERE?

AND WASN'T IT KEEN OF THEM, NINA, TO HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT SOMEWHERE ELSE TODAY!

THEY KNEW THEY WOULDN'T SEE MUCH OF YOU IF I WAS OUT ON THE FARM.

DARLING, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY ME?

GOSH, IF THIS IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT WE'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME WHEN WE ARE MARRIED, LEAD ME TO IT!

SUGAR, WHEN YOU'VE LICKED HITLER AND THE JAPS IT WILL BE LIKE THIS FOREVER!

YEP, JESSICA, BACK ON A SHORT FURLOUGH. CAN'T WE GET THE GANG TOGETHER?

THERE ISN'T ANY GANG, SKEEZIX! THEY'VE ALL GONE SOMEWHERE. GOOTCH IS HOME ON LEAVE. MAYBE WE CAN GET TOGETHER TONIGHT.

I'M TICKLED YOU'RE HERE, GOOTCH. WHERE IS EVERYBODY ELSE?

SPUD IS A PILOT IN NORTHERN IRELAND. WHIMPY IS IN THE MARINES AND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. TOPS IS A CORPORAL IN ALASKA. BRICK IS A FIRST LIEUTENANT IN PANAMA.

YES, AND TRIXIE'S IN THE W.A.A.C.S AND THALLY'S A WAR NURSE.

TOO BAD THEY'RE NOT ALL HERE.

YEP, BY NOT BEING HERE THEY'RE MISSING A WHOPPING BIG REUNION!

GO EASY, JESSICA. THOSE GOBS HAVE SWEETHEARTS IN EVERY PORT.

NOT ANY MORE, WE DON'T. BUT THE GIRLS AT HOME HAVE BOY FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HERE, SOLDIER,
YOU'RE USED
TO TAKING
ORDERS. PUT
THIS ONE ON!

OKAY, TOP
SERGEANT.

IT'S SWELL
TO DANCE
WITH YOU HERE,
NINA. NOBODY
CUTS IN ON
ME.

NOBODY IS
GOING TO CUT IN
ON YOU, DARLING -
NOT FOR THE
DURATION!

AND AFTER
THAT, MAY
I ASK?

I MEAN FOR OUR
DURATION. THAT'S ALL THE
REST OF OUR LIVES!

THIS IS SORT OF A BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY FOR YOU, SKEEZIX — HIKING AND EATING OUTDOORS.

I LOVE IT, NINA. BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO USE UNCLE WALT'S GAS. HE DOESN'T HAVE MORE THAN HE NEEDS.



THIS DOMESTIC STUFF GIVES ME A BIG YEN FOR THE TIME YOU AND I WILL BE MARRIED, HONEY.

WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER FURLOUGH?



HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS. BUT THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT DOES SEND MEN BACK FROM OVERSEAS TO REPORT AND INSTRUCT. I MIGHT BE LUCKY.

THAT'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT WHILE YOU'RE AWAY, DARLING.

AND I'LL BE DREAMING OF A LITTLE IVY-COVERED COTTAGE SOMEWHERE AND CONTENTMENT WITHOUT END, SOMETIME.

AND I'LL BE THINKING OF HELPING YOU COOK AND WASH DISHES — AND KEEPING THE IVY TRIMMED. (I HEAR IT'S A TERRIFIC CHORE).



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SON, IT'S A JOB YOU YOUNG FELLOWS HAVE TO DO. AND IT'S YOU YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE TO DO MOST OF THE LIVING IN THIS WORLD WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER. SO FINISH THE JOB THIS TIME.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, UNCLE WALT. AND I'M ANXIOUS TO START.


I'D SAVED UP SO MANY THINGS TO SAY TO YOU ON THIS LAST EVENING, SWEETHEART! BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO COME.

DON'T WORRY, DARLING. I'M SURE I KNOW THEM ALL.


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I HAD A GRAND TIME IN TOWN BUT THE FARM IS ALWAYS GOOD TO COME BACK TO!




AND IT DOES MY HEART GOOD TO SEE FATHER BUSY AS HE ALWAYS USED TO BE.



I'M VERY HAPPY, FATHER, TO SEE YOU GETTING AROUND AGAIN. IT'S LIKE OLD TIMES!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! I WAS A LONG WHILE COMING BACK.



JUST BE CAREFUL AND DON'T OVERDO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME ANY MORE. LOOK—I'M JUST AS YOUNG AS I USED TO BE!



WELL, HOW DID YOU GET ALONG ON THE 12 TO 4 SHIFT, AVERY?

THREE SINGLE BOMBERS ALL GOING SOUTH, WALT. IT'S KIND OF CHILLY. I DON'T BLAME 'EM.

I HAVEN'T BEEN SMOKING LATELY BUT I BROUGHT MY PIPE ALONG. IT SEEMS TO SHORTEN THE STRETCH A BIT.

I HOPE YOU GET SOME PLANES TO REPORT ON YOUR 4 TO 8 TRICK. YOU AT LEAST HEAR A HUMAN VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE.

THAT LITTLE POT-BELLIED STOVE IS A LIFE SAVER.

YOU'VE GOT TO FILL IT PRETTY OFTEN. IT HELPS TO KEEP YOU AWAKE.

THESE VIGILS ARE LONG AND LONESOME BUT IT'S SOMETHING WE OLDER FELLOWS CAN DO AND FEEL THAT WE'RE HELPING IN THE BIG PUSH.

HOW DID YOU GET ALONG WALT? THAT 4 TO 8 SHIFT IN THE MORNING IS ABOUT THE WORST ONE FOR YOU PLANE SPOTTERS.

I HAD A GOOD VIEW OF THE SUNRISE. MRS CLOCK.

YOU COME RIGHT IN AND HAVE SOME BREAKFAST. YOU LOOK HUNGRY.

I AM. I WANTED TO CATCH AND COOK THAT SCREECH OWL THAT WAS MAKING ALL THE RACKET OUT NEAR THE SHACK.

ANYWAY, HE KEEPS YOU AWAKE WALT.

OH, I DON'T NEED THE OWL. CHARLIE SNORES LOUD ENOUGH TO DO THAT.

MAYBE I DO SNORE, BUT I AIN'T NEVER CAUGHT MYSELF AT IT, YET.

YOU CAN'T CONVINCE CHARLIE IT'S ALL HEARSAY AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED.

THERE ISN'T SO MUCH TO DO ON THE FARM NOW, MOTHER. AND FATHER IS SO MUCH BETTER. I SOON CAN TAKE A JOB IN TOWN.

I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT, NINA. YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU THINK BEST.

I CAN HAVE MY JOB WITH THE DOCTORS AGAIN, BUT I WONDER IF THERE ISN'T SOME PLACE I CAN HELP MORE IN THE WAR EFFORT.

I KEEP TRACK OF THE WANT ADS AND I KNOW STENOGRAPHERS AND SECRETARIES ARE MUCH IN DEMAND.

YES, I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING A JOB. I JUST WANT TO KNOW YOU AND FATHER WILL GET ALONG ALL RIGHT.

WE WILL, NINA. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO MORE IN TOWN. WE APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING UP ALL YOU HAVE THIS YEAR FOR OUR SALES.

SKEEZIX HAS BEEN GONE A WEEK. HE MAY BE OUT ON THE OCEAN AT THIS MOMENT BOUND FOR SOME UNKNOWN PORT. THERES NO TELLING WHEN I'LL HEAR FROM HIM.



OH-OH!



OKAY, WOOD PUSSY! LIVE AND LET LIVE IS MY MOTTO.



WELL. SKEEZIX IS GETTING WHAT HE WANTED - TO BE IN THE SCRAP. I WANT TO GET NEARER TO IT, TOO.



WELL, NINA! I DON'T SEE YOU IN TOWN VERY OFTEN NOWADAYS. NO ATTRACTION HERE ANY MORE?

PARTLY THAT, DOC. SKEEZIX IS ON HIS WAY ABROAD. THIS TIME I'M SCOUTING. I WANT TO FIND OUT IF I CAN STILL GET A JOB.

THAT SHOULD BE A CINCH FOR A SMART EXPERIENCED GIRL LIKE YOU. YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE.

THANKS FOR THAT. I'M SURE I CAN GO BACK WITH MY DOCTORS BUT I'D LIKE TO GET SOMETHING CLOSER TO THE WAR EFFORT.

IF YOU LIKE I'LL PASS THE WORD AROUND. IT MIGHT LEAD TO SOMETHING.

I'D APPRECIATE IT, DOC. I'M OUT OF PRACTICE LOOKING FOR A JOB.



DR. MEAGER, IN A KEEN OFFICER'S UNIFORM! TELL ME ABOUT IT!

I'M IN. NINA, FIRST LIEUTENANT, MEDICAL CORPS. ATTACHED TO A HOSPITAL UNIT IN TRAINING.

11-17



DR. FLAX IS LOOKING FOR YOU. HE'S HEARD YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A JOB.

I'M JUST STARTING TO SCOUT AROUND. I WANT TO LOOK THE FIELD OVER BEFORE I GO TO WORK AGAIN.



I'LL PROBABLY SEE YOU AGAIN, DR. MEAGER.

SURE YOU WILL. I'LL BE AROUND THE REST OF THIS MONTH.



I BEG PARDON, MISS CLOCK. MY CARD. I AM OF THE FIRM OF GLEE, MCGOOD & GLEE, ATTORNEYS, AND WE WILL PAY A GOOD SALARY FOR AN OFFICE GIRL.

THANK YOU, MR. GLEE, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M JUST LOOKING.

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I JUST DROPPED IN TO SAY HELLO, UNCLE WALT. AND TELL YOU I'VE BEEN OFFERED MORE JOBS THAN I CAN SHAKE A STICK AT.

TURN THEM ALL DOWN, NINA. I CAN OFFER YOU ONE RIGHT HERE!

YES, SHE'S HERE. JUST A MINUTE.

THANKS, MR. BLISS. THAT'S A GENEROUS OFFER BUT I'M NOT READY TO START SO SOON.

AND I THANK YOU TOO, UNCLE WALT. BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ACCEPT.

I DON'T BLAME YOU. WE ARE FURNITURE MAKERS AND MAY FOLD UP ON SHORT NOTICE.

I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME TO LUNCH. AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE? WHY DON'T YOU STAY WITH US?

THAT IS A REAL PROPOSITION! BUT AUNTIE PHYLLIS WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.



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UNCLE WALT, ARE YOU SURE IT WON'T PUT AUNTIE PHYLLIS OUT TO BRING ME HOME TO LUNCH UNANNOUNCED?

I'M SURE, NINA. I PHONED HER TO FIND OUT.

I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOU, NINA. AND I HOPE WALT SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT TAKING A ROOM HERE WITH US WHEN YOU COME TO WORK.

HE DID, AUNTIE PHYLLIS. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH YOU.

YOU DON'T THINK I'D STICK MY NECK OUT BY INVITING YOU WITHOUT CONSULTING THE HOME OFFICE?

YOU DON'T MEAN BY THAT THAT YOU ARE NOT MASTER IN YOUR OWN HOUSE - THAT YOU'RE HENPECKED?

NOT AT ALL. I MEAN I'M A HUSBAND WHO HAS GONE THROUGH RIGOROUS TRAINING FOR SOME 18 YEARS AND HAS LEARNED SOME THINGS NOT TO DO.

A JOB, NINA? I'M WORKING AT THE RATION BOARD OFFICE AND I HEARD MR. TROLL SAY THIS MORNING THEY NEEDED ANOTHER SECRETARY.

THAT'S INTERESTING, JESSICA. DO YOU LIKE IT THERE?

IT'S SWELL. COME ON OVER AND TALK TO HIM. IT WON'T DO ANY HARM ANYWAY.

THAT WORK IS— REALLY A PART OF THE WAR EFFORT AND THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE.

UNTIL THIS SPRING I WORKED FOR DR. FLAX AND THE OTHER DOCTORS, MR. TROLL.

I KNOW YOU DID, MISS CLOCK. DO YOU WANT TO GIVE DR. FLAX AS A REFERENCE?

YES, I'M SURE HE'D BE WILLING. AND MR. WALT WALLET.

WE WILL DECIDE WHEN THE BOARD MEETS THE FIRST OF THE WEEK AND LET YOU KNOW.

I HAD NO IDEA I WOULD BE
IN SUCH DEMAND IN TOWN.
IT MAKES A FELLA FEEL GOOD.

REALLY, MOTHER, I WAS
QUITE SOUGHT AFTER. I
HAVE TWO OR THREE GOOD
PROSPECTS. IT WILL BE
ONE OF THOSE.

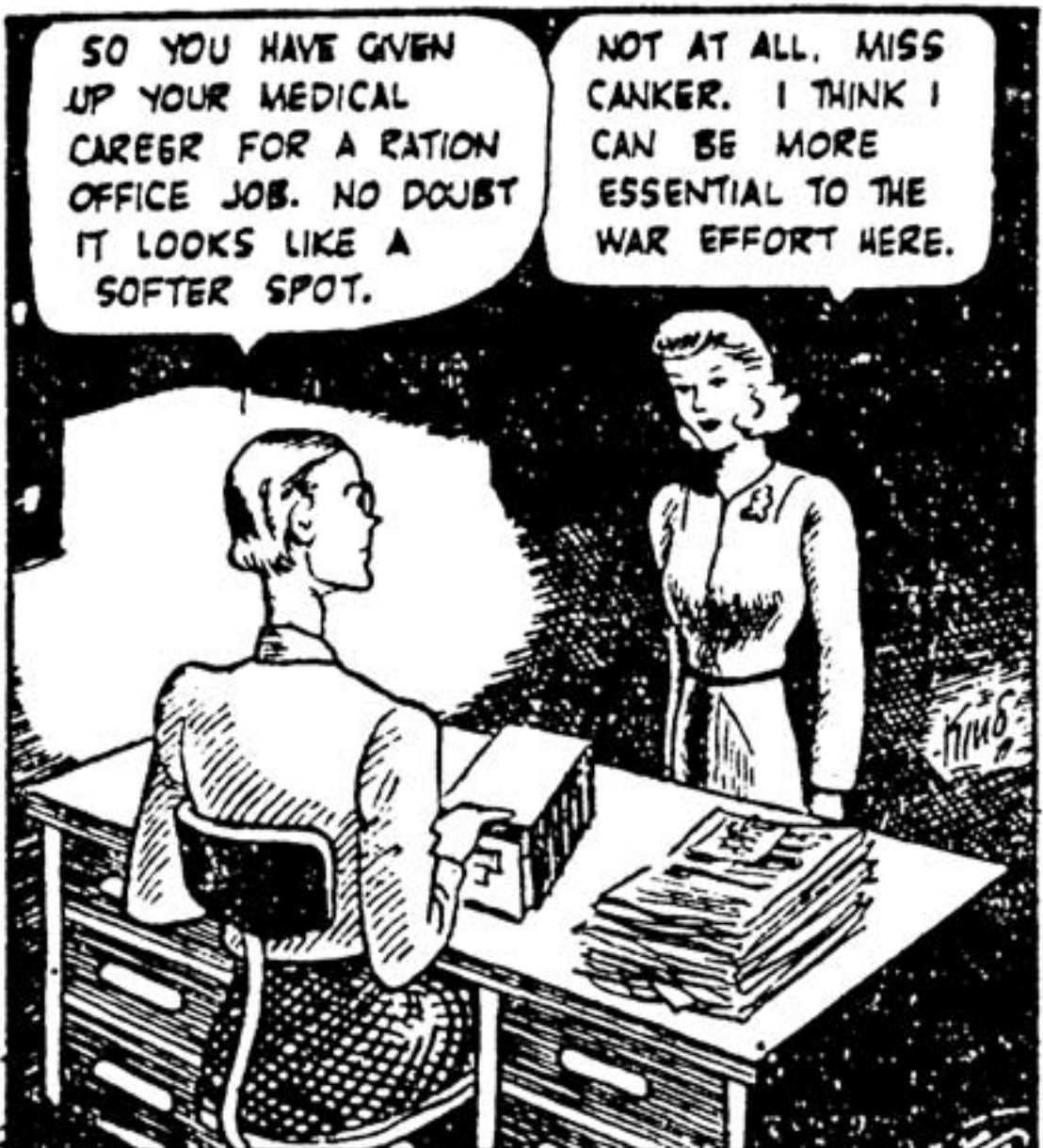
I DO
HOPE
YOU'LL
GET ONE
YOU'LL
LIKE.

HOW DID YOU
FOLKS GET ALONG?
AND IS FATHER
DOING ALL
RIGHT?

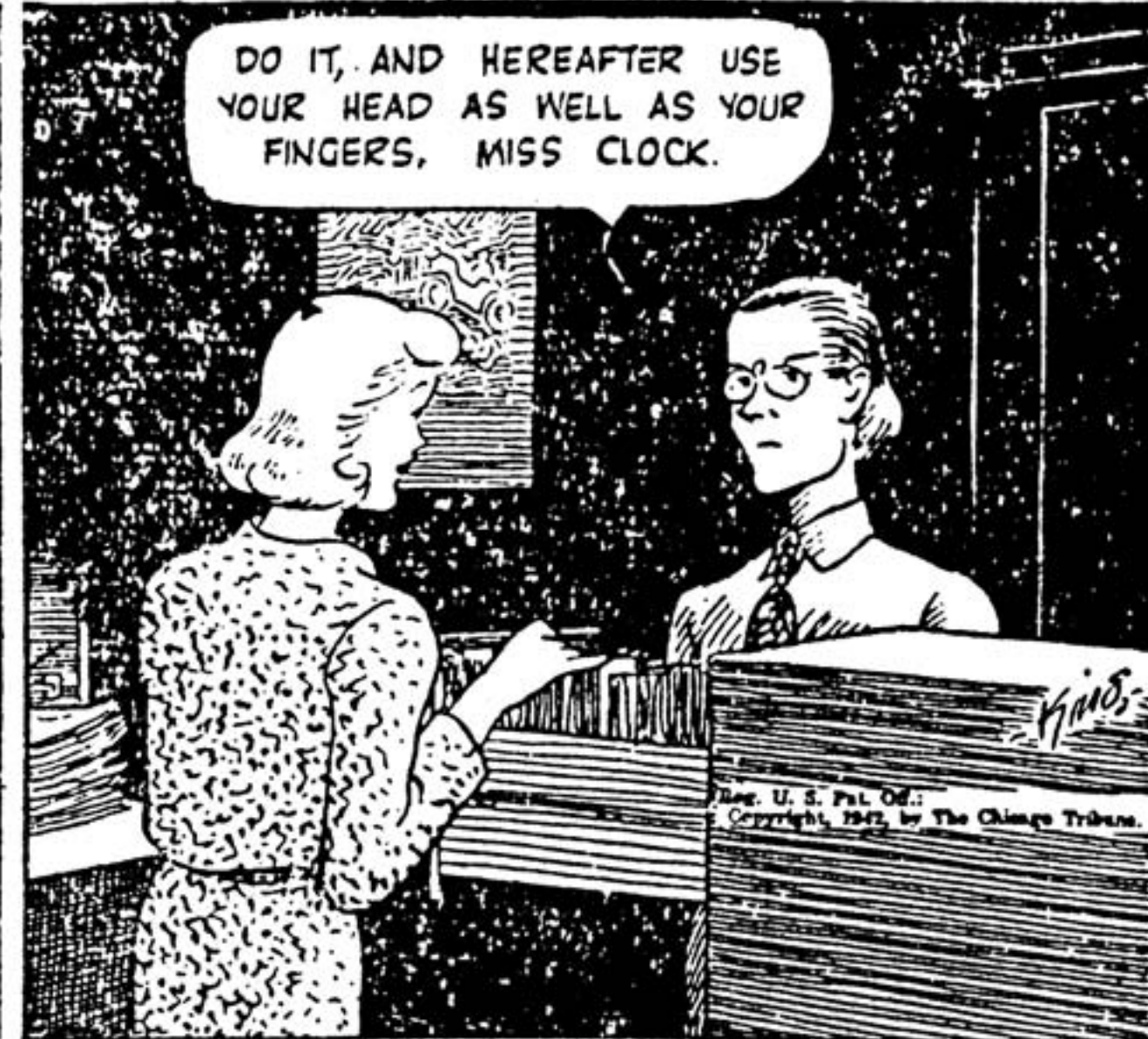
WE ARE ALL
RIGHT, BOTH OF
US. AND HE
ASTONISHES ME
WITH THE WAY
HE TAKES HOLD.

I'VE HAD
GOOD NEWS OF
YOU, FATHER.

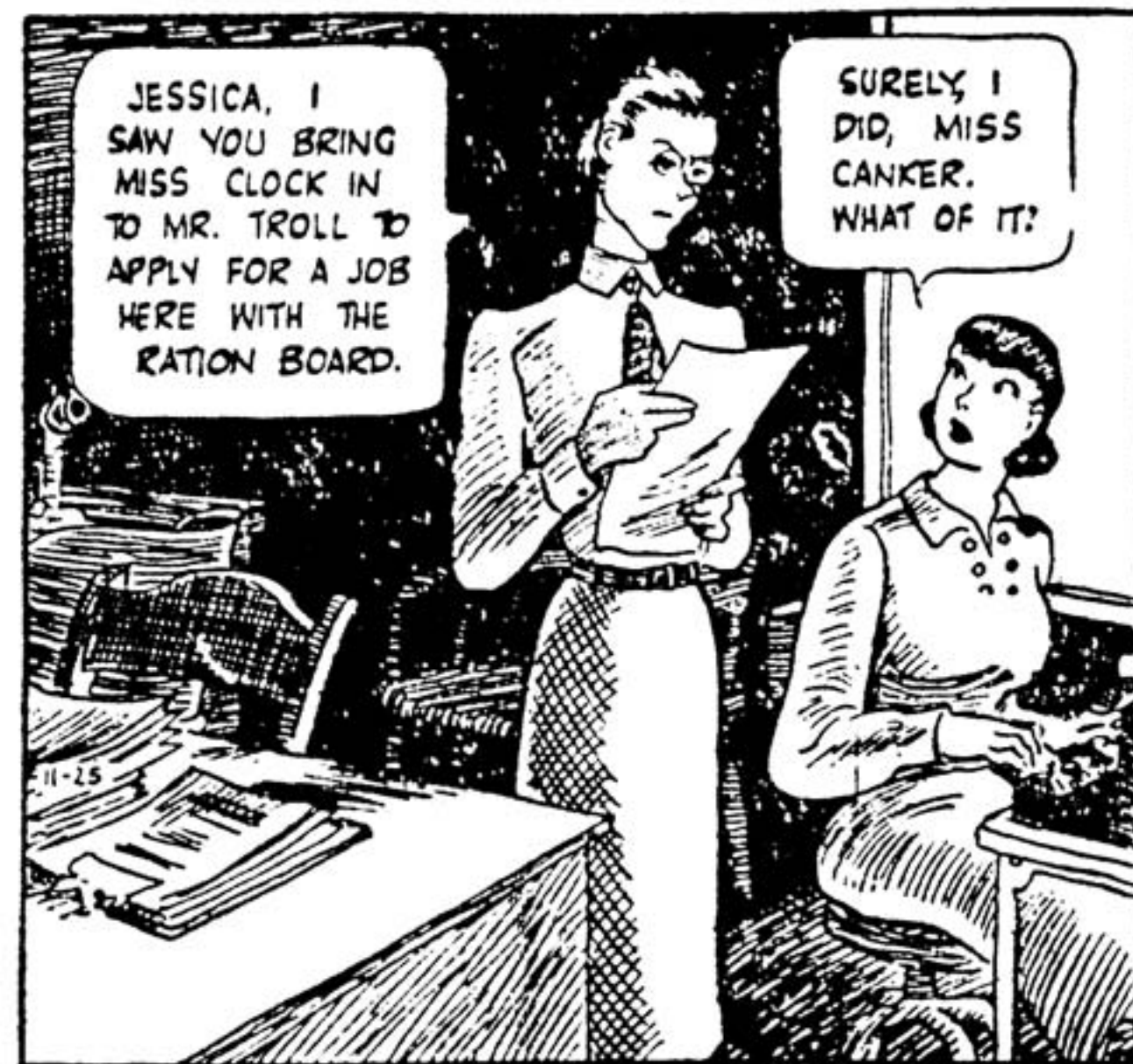
YES, NINA, I'M FINE. BUT
YOU'D THINK I WAS GETTING
OLD THE WAY MY JOINTS
CREAK WHEN I GET UP
OUT OF A CHAIR.



GASOLINE ALLEY—Application Filed



GASOLINE ALLEY—Application Filed



FOLKS, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO MAKE TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS. ONE, THAT WE HAVE A CARD SAYING THAT SKEEZIX HAS ARRIVED SAFELY AT A FOREIGN PORT.

AND THE OTHER, THAT NINA IS STAYING HERE IN TOWN WITH US AND WORKING AT THE RATION BOARD.

I'M HAPPY ABOUT BOTH, UNCLE WALT.

IT IS GRAND, NINA, THAT YOU ARE TO FILL THE CHAIR LEFT VACANT BY SKEEZIX.

AND MY HOPE IS THAT SKEEZIX IS AS COMFORTABLE AND HAPPY AS HE CAN BE SO FAR FROM YOU AND HIS FAMILY AND HOME.

AND I WANT TO OFFER A RESOLUTION—A RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE WALLETS FOR HAVING US IN TO WHAT LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE A SWELL DINNER.

YOU ARE TO PREPARE YOURSELF, MISS CLOCK, TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR THE RATIONED COMMODITIES. YOU WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER AN APPLICATION IS LEGITIMATE OR INFLATED.

I'LL TRY.

TO DO THAT, I'M GIVING YOU THESE BULLETINS WHICH CONTAIN ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS. YOU MUST STUDY THEM, ON YOUR OWN TIME, OF COURSE, AND FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH ALL OF THEM.

THANK YOU, MISS CANKER. I WILL.

I JUST GAVE YOUR PAL A BUSHEL OF BULLETINS COVERING EVERYTHING FROM TYPEWRITERS TO RUBBER BOOTS AND BICYCLES TO BROWN SUGAR. THAT WILL HOLD HER FOR A WHILE.

THAT'S A DIRTY TRICK. YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE HER ONE THING AT A TIME.

I CAN'T SEE HOW ANYBODY CAN LEARN EVERYTHING MISS CANKER GAVE ME YESTERDAY, JESSICA. THERE ARE DOZENS OF BULLETINS AND BOOKLETS ON SCORES OF SUBJECTS.

TAKE IT EASY, NINA. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEARN IT ALL AT ONCE.



BUT MISS CANKER IS SO INSISTENT AND SHE KEEPS CROWDING ME.

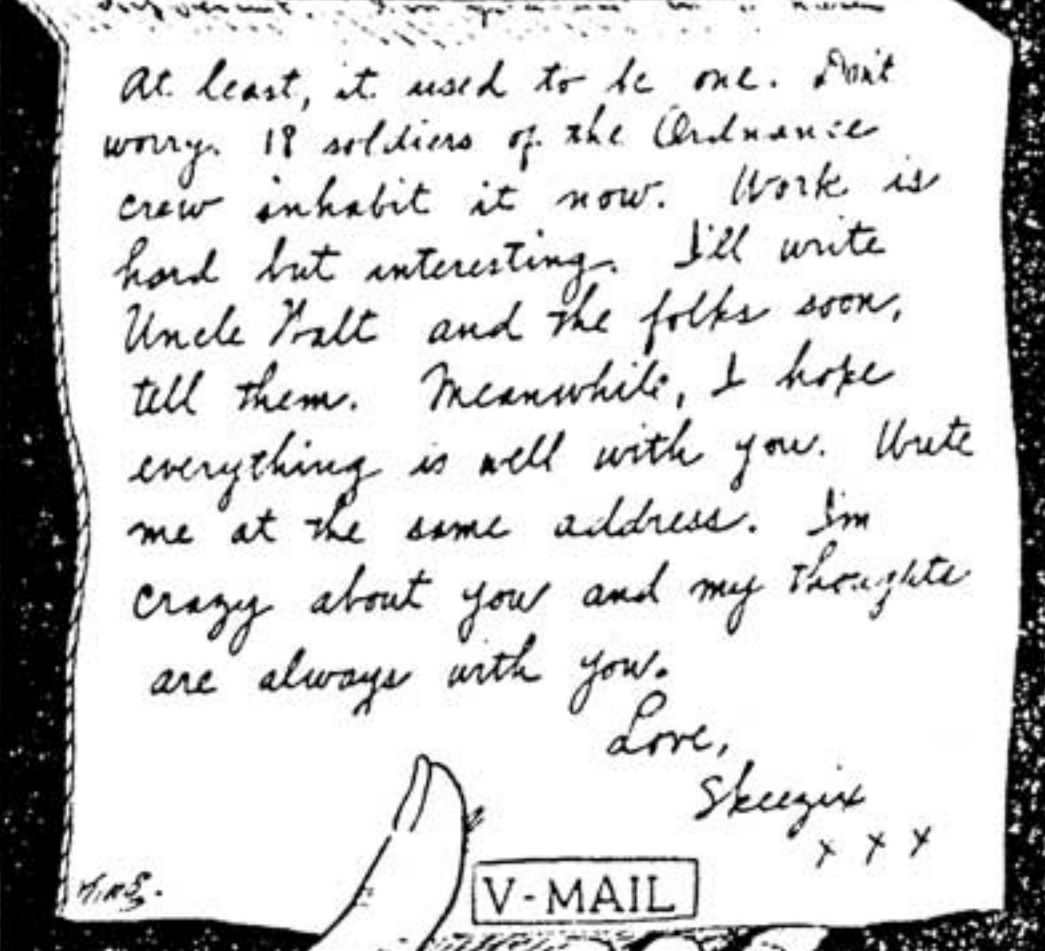
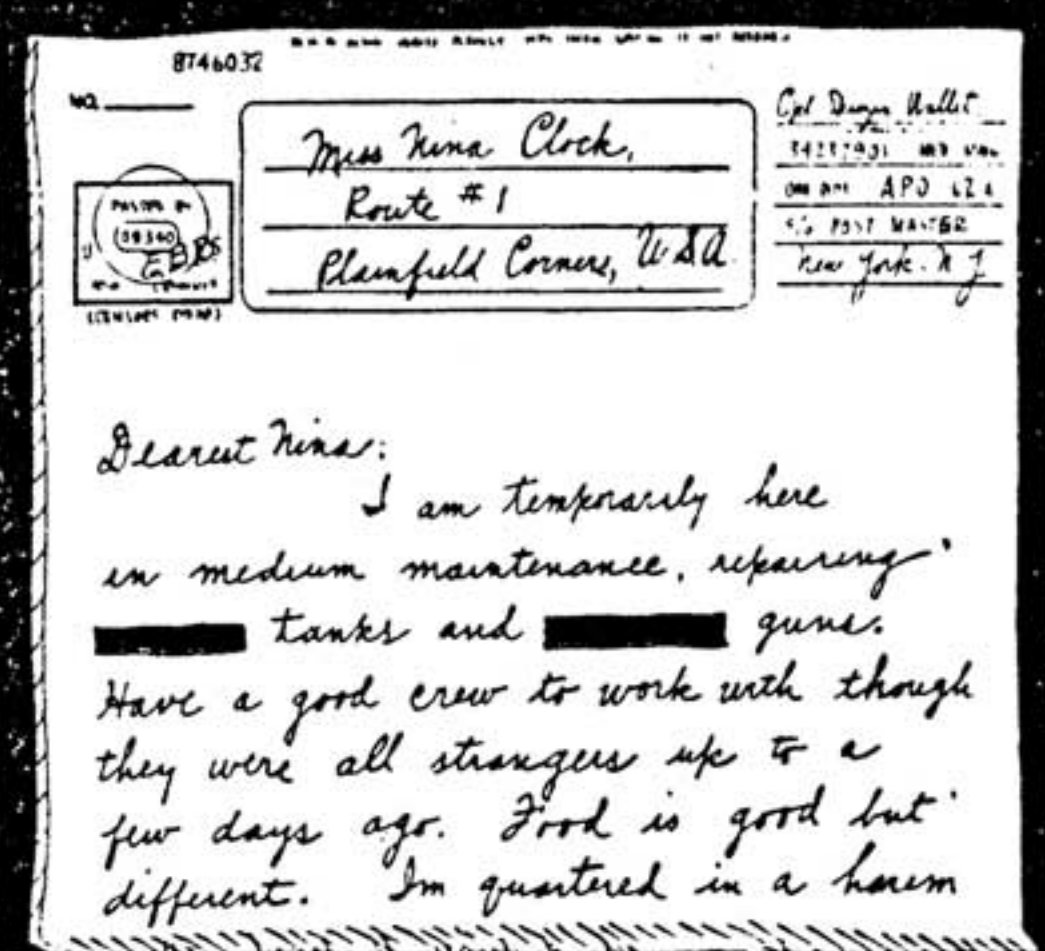
DON'T LET HER BOTHER YOU. SHE CAN'T FIRE YOU AND SHE KNOWS IT.



SHE SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST ME AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS.

SHE'S AN OLD CRAB. JUST DON'T LET HER PUSH YOU AROUND.





SERGEANT BLONEY, TAKE A MAN AND GO TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT STATION 262 FOR A BREECH REPAIR JOB. HERE ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTING THERE.

YES, SIR.

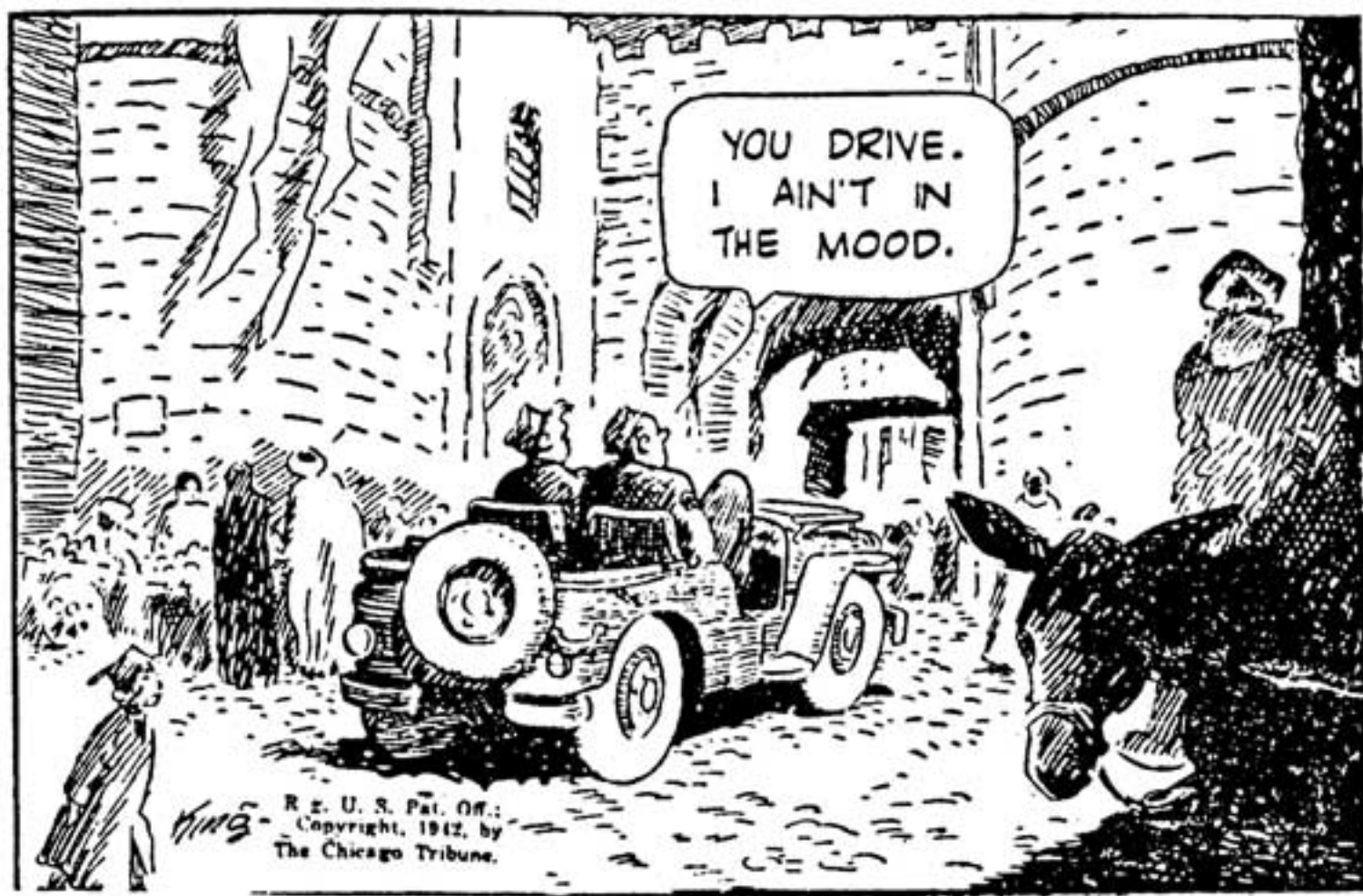


BRING YOUR TOOLS AN' COME ALONG, WALLET. IT'S A JOB.

OKAY, SERGEANT.



YOU DRIVE. I AIN'T IN THE MOOD.



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THESE YOKELS HAVE A GOOFY WAY OF WRITIN. WHICH DON'T HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY. BUT THEY DO USE GOOD OLD AMERICAN NUMBERS.

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SARGE THOSE GOOD OLD AMERICAN NUMBERS WERE BEING USED BY THESE ARABS SOME 2000 YEARS AGO.

THE HECK, YOU SAY! HOW DID THEY EVER GET 'EM BEFORE WE DID?

LISTEN, LILACS, I'VE GOT ORDERS TO FIX A GUN ON THE ROOF AN' YOU'RE SORT OF IN MY WAY.

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND SERGEANT. SHOW HIM YOUR CREDENTIALS.

RIGHT YOU ARE, CORPORAL WALLET.

THE OLD BIRD
DOWN AT THE
STREET ENTRANCE
WASN'T GOING TO
LET US UP HERE—
HE THOUGHT.

I'M GLAD YOU
DIDN'T HIT HIM,
SERGEANT. YOUR
CREDENTIALS
GOT YOU BY
ALL RIGHT.

I REALLY
DIDN'T THINK YOU
HAD ANY. WHAT
DID YOU SHOW
HIM?

IT WAS A
SIX MONTHS'
GUARANTEE ON A
PORTABLE RADIO
I HAD GIVEN
TO ME.

THE RADIO WAS NO
GOOD BUT THE GUARANTEE
WAS THE BERRIES!

ANYWAY, WE'RE
SOCIALY ACE-HIGH
FOR THE PRESENT.



OH, OH! LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HANGIN' AROUND SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE.



HEY! STOP!
HALT! WAIT!
WHOA!



LIVE AN' LEARN! NOW I KNOW WHY THE BALLOON TYPE NIGHTSHIRTS!



WELL, WE REPOSSESSED MOST OF THE LOOT, WALLET.

IT WAS LIKE SHAKING A CHRISTMAS TREE, SARGE.

WALLET, THIS JOB IN TOWN IS A CINCH. WHAT I WANT IS TO GET OUT TO THE FRONT WHERE THERE'S SOME ACTION.

THAT'S WHAT I CAME OVER HERE FOR, TOO, SERGEANT BLONEY.

ANYBODY CAN REPAIR TANKS IN A SHOP. I WANT TO GET OUT WHERE IT'S GOT TO BE DONE RIGHT NOW, OR ELSE!

I'M GOING TO ASK THE C.O. TO SEND MEN OUT. WE GET ALONG OKAY, YOU AND ME I'LL SAY A WORD FOR YOU, TOO, IF YOU LIKE.

THAT WOULD BE GREAT! I LIKE TO WORK WITH YOU.

OKAY. I'LL FRAME UP A GOOD REASON FOR HIM TO SHIP ME OUT. AN' I'LL TELL HIM I'VE GOT TO HAVE A CORPORAL THAT'S GOOD AT—WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT, ANYWAY?

YOU WANTED FRESH AIR, SERGEANT BLONEY. I WANT YOU TO TAKE TEN MEN OF THE ORDNANCE PERSONNEL, A MAINTENANCE UNIT, A SUPPLY TRUCK AND A JEEP. THIS IS A SECRET MISSION AND HERE IS WHAT YOU ARE TO DO.

BOY, THAT'S THE BERRIES!

YOU TWO, WALLET AND DIX, PACK YOUR SMELLIN' SALTS AN' PANTIE WAISTS. WE'RE GOIN' ON A PEARL HARBOR DAY PICNIC IN JUST TWO HOURS.

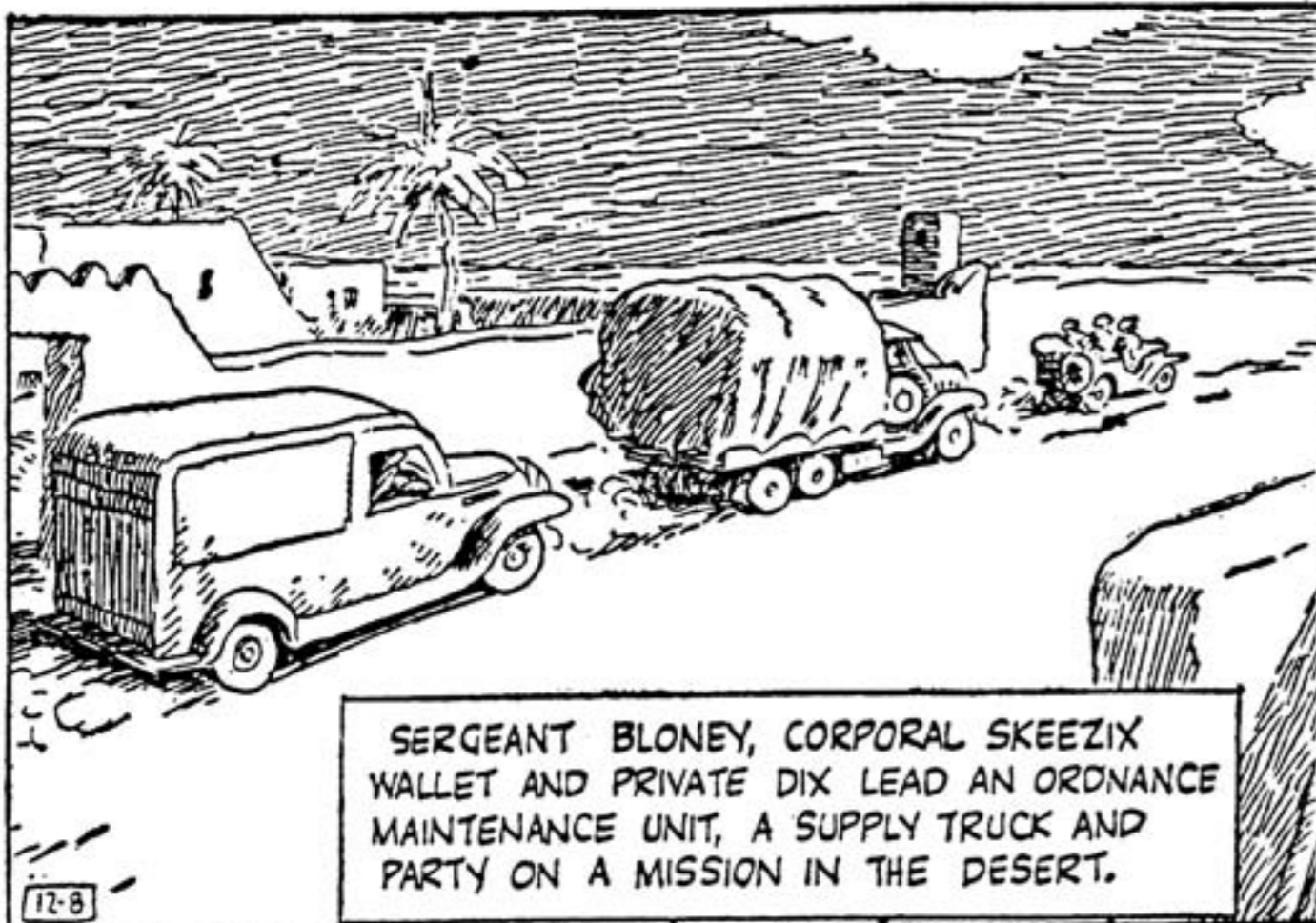
DID YOU PUT IT OVER, SARGE? ARE WE GOING TO SEE SOME ACTION?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE, DIXIE, BUT IT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN YEARNING FOR.

HERE TOO, WALLET. I WAS SCARED WE WERE FIXIN' TO STAY HERE RIGHT ON AN' NOT GET INTO ANY ACTION AT ALL.

7
DEC.
ORDNANCE
PEARL
HARBOR





SERGEANT BLONEY, CORPORAL SKEEZIX
WALLET AND PRIVATE DIX LEAD AN ORDNANCE
MAINTENANCE UNIT, A SUPPLY TRUCK AND
PARTY ON A MISSION IN THE DESERT.



WE'VE BEEN RIDIN' ALL
EVENIN', SERGEANT BLONEY,
AN' WE HAVEN'T RUN INTO
A SINGLE COKE STAND.

KEEP YOUR
SHIRT ON, DIXIE.
YOU AIN'T STARTED
TO DRY OUT
YET.

YES, SARGE,
I HOPE WE
RUN ONTO A
DRUGSTORE—
I FORGOT TO
PUT IN
RAZOR BLADES.

I'M TURNING IN, CORP WALLEY. IT'S YOUR FIRST WATCH. USE YOUR WHISTLE IF YOU NEED TO. DIX IS YOUR RELIEF. ROUT HIM OUT AT MIDNIGHT.

IT'S A DEAL, SERGEANT BLONEY

HALF THE WORLD AWAY THESE SAME STARS MAY BE HOVERING OVER THE FARM AND NINA. I HOPE SHE'S THINKING OF ME BEFORE SHE GOES TO SLEEP.

HECK, IT'S ONLY ABOUT ONE P.M. AT HOME! NO TIME TO BE SENTIMENTAL THERE.

THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING OVER AT THAT SWALE!



12-9

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King

I BLEW MY WHISTLE, SARGE, BECAUSE I SAW SOMETHING MOVING OVER AT THAT DRY WASH.

ALL RIGHT, WALLET, KEEP LOW AND GO TO THE LEFT, DIX, YOU GO TO THE RIGHT. I'LL TAKE THE MIDDLE.



I WAS ASKING FOR ACTION. LOOKS LIKE I WAS GETTING IT.



GOSH! THREE OF 'EM!



SERGEANT, I APOLOGIZE.

SKIP IT. IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN JUST A STRAY CAMEL.

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AN' I WAS HAVIN' SUCH A SWELL DREAM ABOUT FISH AN' HUSH-PUPPIES BACK IN MISS'IPPI.



Gasoline Alley

From Scrap to Scrap



THERE WAS PLENTY DOIN' HERE!
THIS IS AN ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE
MAN'S DREAM, WALLET.

NIGHTMARE,
I'D SAY.

AFTER THAT
SCRAP DRIVE
THE FOLKS AT
HOME ARE PUTTIN'
ON, WOULDN'T THIS
MAKE THEIR EYES
STICK OUT!

IT'S TOO BAD WE
CAN'T SEND 'EM
A FEW TONS.

WHERE DID OUR
TRUCKS GO, SARGE?
I DON'T SEE 'EM.

THEY'RE OFF IN THIS GENERAL
DIRECTION. WE TRAVEL FASTER
THAN THEY DO. WE'LL PICK 'EM
'EM UP SOON.

THIS IS THE DIRECTION OUR TRUCKS STARTED OFF IN.

THEY CAN'T BE FAR AWAY. THERE'S JUST NO PLACE FOR 'EM TO GO.

I THOUGHT I WAS FOLLOWING THEIR TRAIL, BUT IT JUST PETERED OUT.

DO THE DRIVERS KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOIN'?

NO, BUT THEY HAD FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTIN' THERE IN CASE WE GOT SEPARATED

CAN'T YOU SEE ANY SIGN OF THEM, SARGE?

NOT A TRACE. THOSE BIRDS ARE LOST!



THAT SUPPLY TRUCK AND MAINTENANCE UNIT SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR RIGHT ON THIS FLAT DESERT.

IT'S LIKE LOSIN' A BASS FIDDLE ON A DANCE FLOOR.



IF YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING, WALLET, WE'LL HAVE TO CIRCLE AND ZIG-ZAG TILL WE FIND A TRACK. WE CAN'T LEAVE 'EM.

THERE'S NOT A THING IN SIGHT SARGE.



THEY'VE GOT A COMPASS AN' WILL TAKE GENERAL DIRECTION, WON'T THEY?

THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD TROUBLE.

YES, AN' IF WE'D PULL IN AT OUR OBJECTIVE WITHOUT 'EM, WE WOULD BE OUT ON A LIMB!



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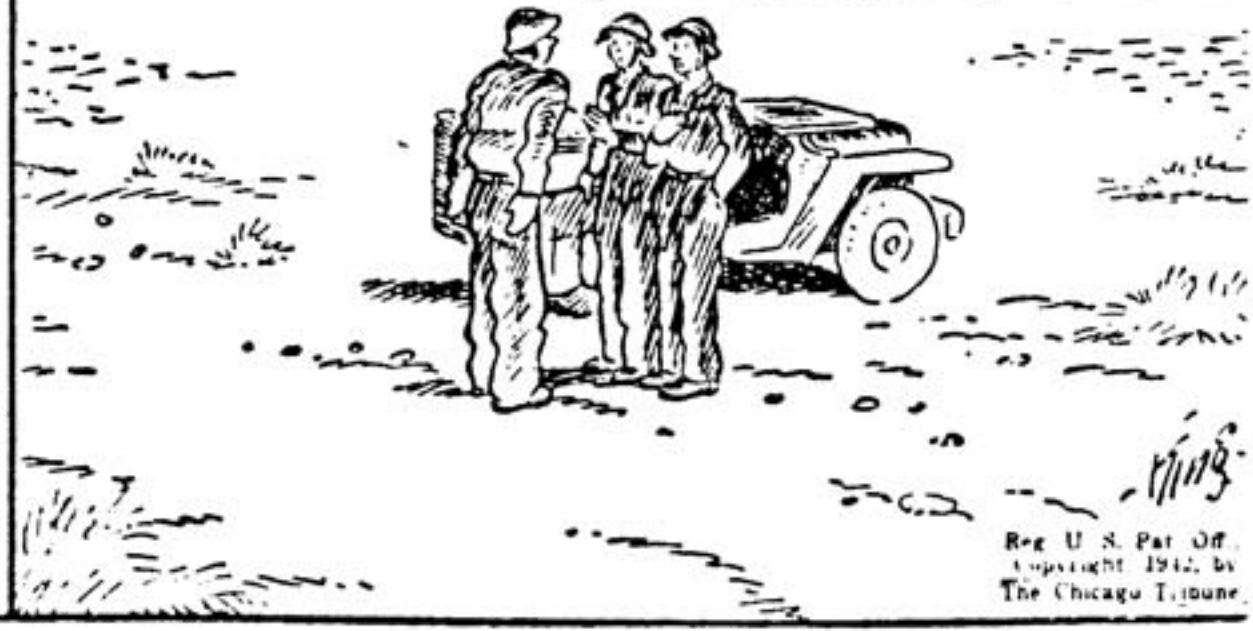
IT WAS ALL THOSE GOOFY DRIVERS' FAULT. WE WERE FOLLOWIN' THEM AN' STOPPED. BUT THEY WERE DUMB TO GO ON UNTIL WE COULDN'T SEE 'EM!



THEY DON'T KNOW THIS DESERT LIKE I DO. IT LOOKS LIKE A BILLIARD TABLE BUT IT'S GOT SAGS, WASHES AN' WADIS YOU COULD HIDE A CIRCUS TENT IN.



D'YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK, SARGE? MAYBE THEY AREN'T LOST— BUT WE ARE!



WE CAN'T BE LOST. WALLET. WE'VE GOT A MAP THAT SHOWS EVERYTHING—WHERE WE CAME FROM, WHERE WE'RE GOIN', AN' WE'VE GOT A COMPASS.

WE KNOW EVERYTHING, SERGEANT BLONEY, EXCEPT WHERE WE ARE.

WELL, IF WE'RE LOST, THERE'S JUST ONE THING TO DO—SEE WHAT PROVISIONS AND SUPPLIES WE'VE GOT.

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M RIGHT NOW FIXIN' TO DO, SERGEANT.

FIVE GALLONS OF WATER, TWO EXTRA FIVE GALLONS OF GAS AND WHAT THERE IS IN THE TANK, AND FOUR DAYS' RATIONS.

ALL RIGHT—HALF THE WATER FOR THE CAR. A PINT A DAY TO SWEAT ON. NOBODY WASHES OR SHAVES. HALF RATIONS FOR TWO DAYS, THEN LESS.

IN YOU GO, MEN. WE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE STANDIN' STILL.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COMPASS HANDY, SERGEANT? WE'D BETTER FOLLOW A STRAIGHT LINE.



12-17

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WHEN I WAS A KID, I WANTED TO GET LOST ON THE DESERT. NOW THAT I'VE DONE IT, I'D RATHER BE DOIN' SOMETHING ELSE.

LOOK! THERE'S BEEN A SCRAP HERE. WRECKED TRUCKS AN' GUNS AN' BARBED WIRE!

SOME GUN POSITION WAS BLOWN OFF THE MAP.



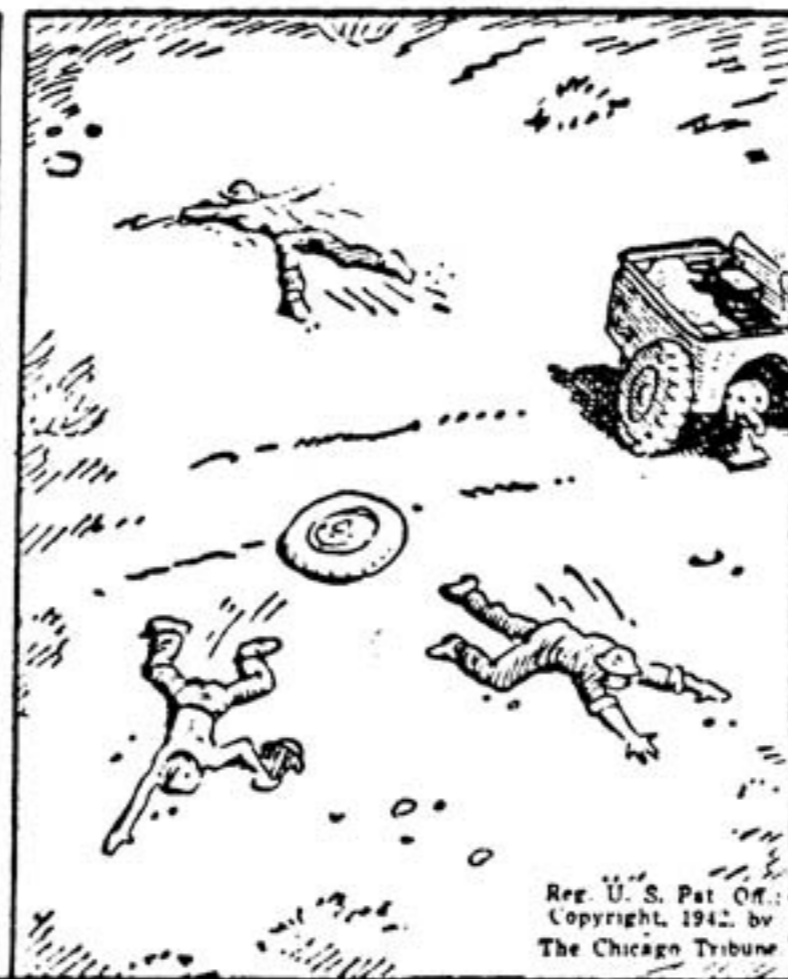
CAN YOU BEAT THAT? A PUNCTURE JUST BECAUSE SOME SO AN' SO OUTFIT HAS MESS'D UP A PERFECTLY GOOD DESERT WITH A LOT OF SHARP FRAGMENTS.



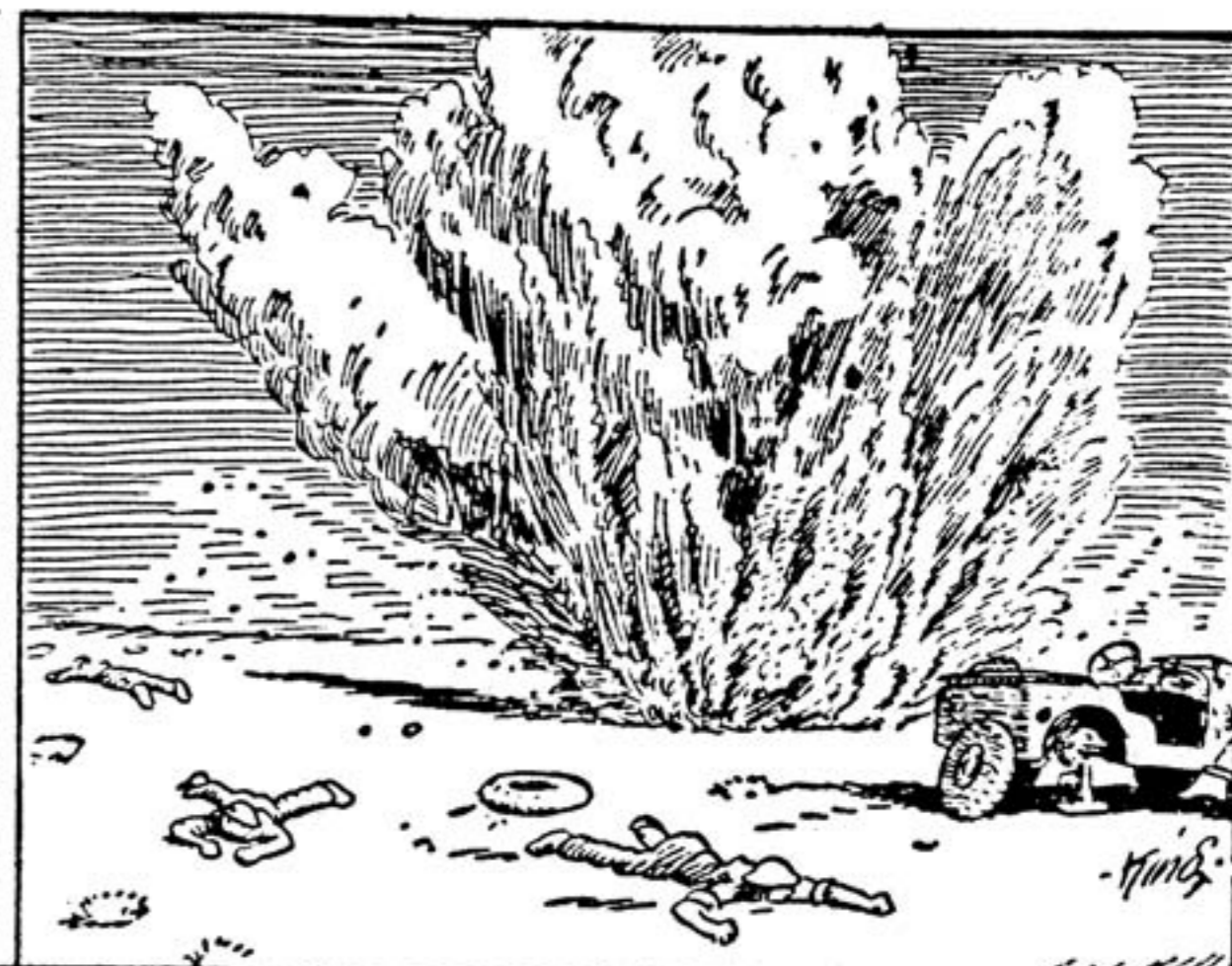
LOOK, SARGE! A PLANE! MAYBE OUR
OUTFIT GOT THROUGH AND REPORTED US
LOST AN' THEY'RE HUNTIN' FOR US.

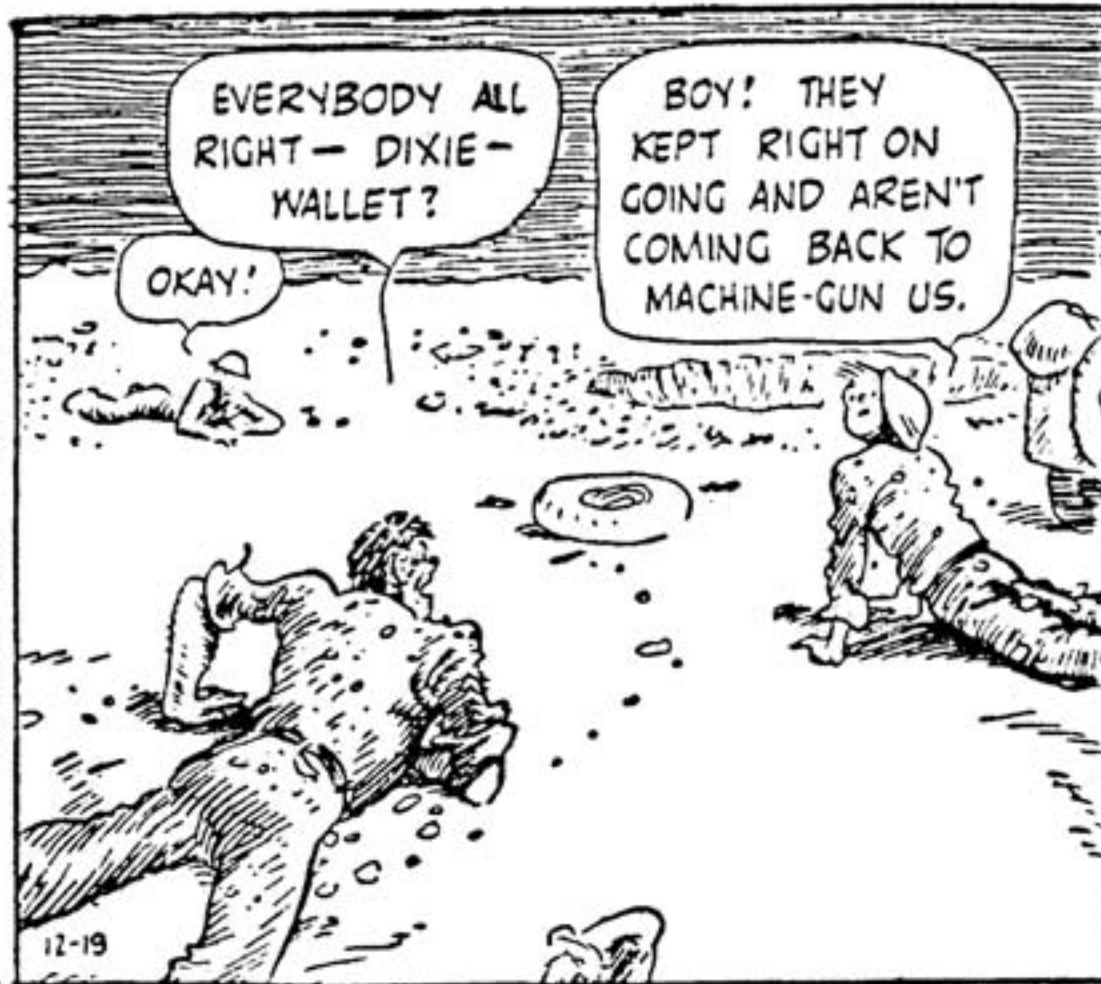


GET DOWN,
YOU GOOF! THAT'S
A GERMAN
HEINKEL!



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EVERYBODY ALL
RIGHT - DIXIE-
WALLET?

OKAY!

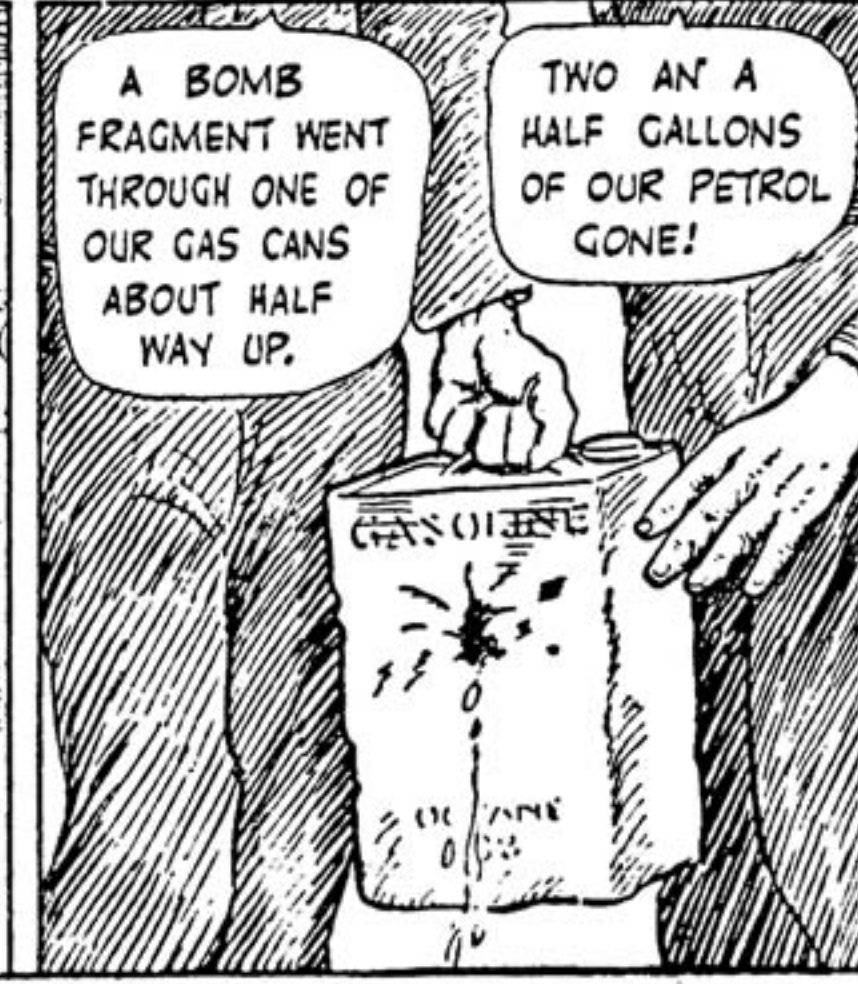
BOY! THEY
KEPT RIGHT ON
GOING AND AREN'T
COMING BACK TO
MACHINE-GUN US.



QUITE A
DIMPLE.

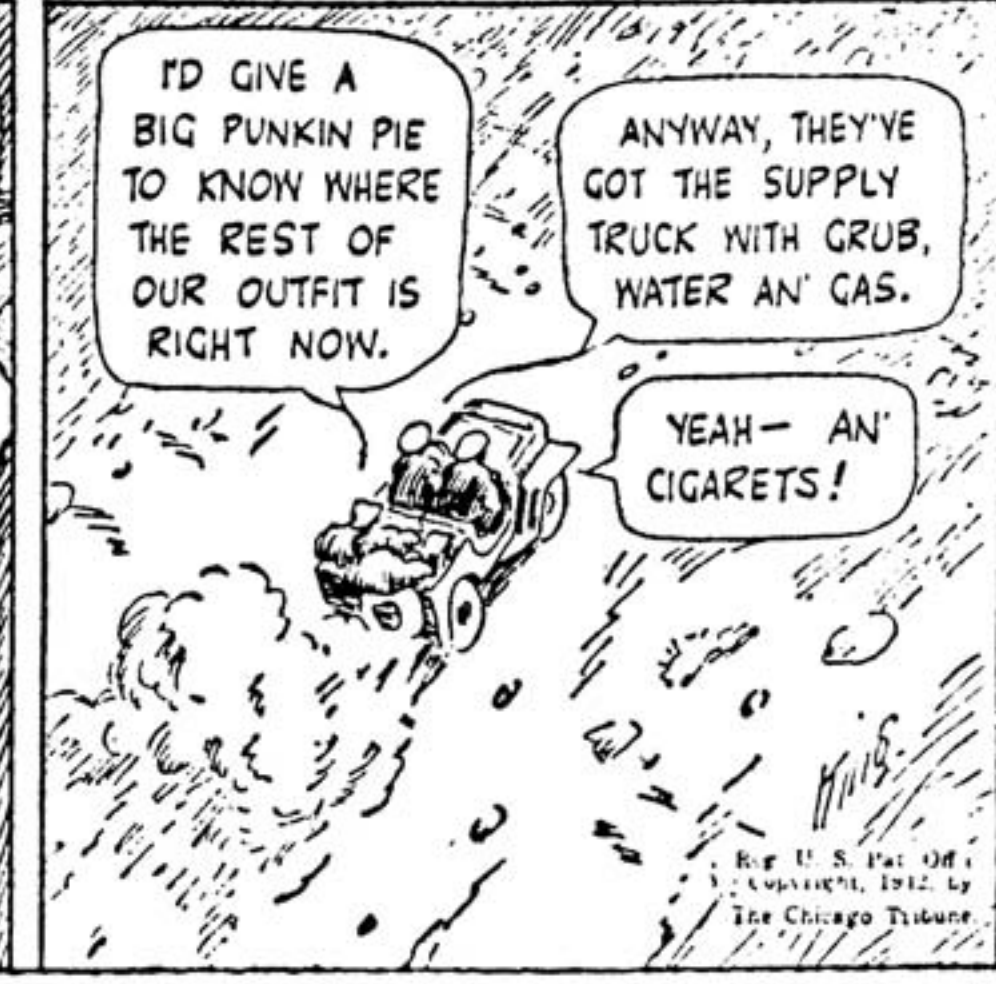
IT SURE WAS
A NEAR MISS.

HEY!



A BOMB
FRAGMENT WENT
THROUGH ONE OF
OUR GAS CANS
ABOUT HALF
WAY UP.

TWO AN' A
HALF GALLONS
OF OUR PETROL
GONE!



I'D GIVE A
BIG PUNKIN PIE
TO KNOW WHERE
THE REST OF
OUR OUTFIT IS
RIGHT NOW.

ANYWAY, THEY'VE
GOT THE SUPPLY
TRUCK WITH GRUB,
WATER AN' GAS.

YEAH - AN'
CIGARETS!

GO EASY, BOYS. THIS IS THE LAST CHOW! HEREAFTER, WE PULL UP OUR BELTS A NOTCH THREE TIMES A DAY.

AND WE'VE GOT TWO PINTS OF WATER FOR OURSELVES AN THE JEEP.

THE JEEP WONT WANT ANY. WE'RE ABOUT FRESH OUT OF GAS RIGHT NOW.



WELL, I'LL BE A SON OF A HOWITZER! IT'S AN' ABANDONED SUPPLY DUMP.



A MESS OF GERMAN HELMETS!

AN' DO YOU REALIZE WHAT'S IN THEM CANS? GASOLINE! BOY, CAN WE TRAVEL ALL OVER AFRICA!

YEAH! A MILLION MILES ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.



SO THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE RICH!

I'D TRADE A HUNDRED OF 'EM FOR A HAM SANDWICH.

AND THEY RATION THE STUFF BACK HOME!





THERE SITS ENOUGH GERMAN GAS TO RUN US FROM HERE TO GUADALCANAL.

AND OUR TONGUES HANGIN OUT FOR GRUB AN WATER!

AN' THEN THEY RUB IT IN WITH A HEAP OF GERMAN HELMETS!



LOOK, SERGEANT! A PLANE! AND THIS TIME IT'S ONE OF OURS!

RIGHT YOU ARE, DIXIE.

HE CAN'T LAND IN THIS HELL'S HALF ACRE AN' WE'VE GOT TO GET WORD TO HIM.

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DOUBLE TIME, FELLAS. HUSTLE ME SOME OF THOSE GAS CANS AN' HELMETS.

WHAT THE HECK, WALLET? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

HAND ME MORE CANS OF GAS! I'VE GOT PLENTY OF HELMETS.

HE SEES US AN' HE'S CIRCLIN' OVERHEAD! YOUR HUNCH IS OKAY, WALLET.

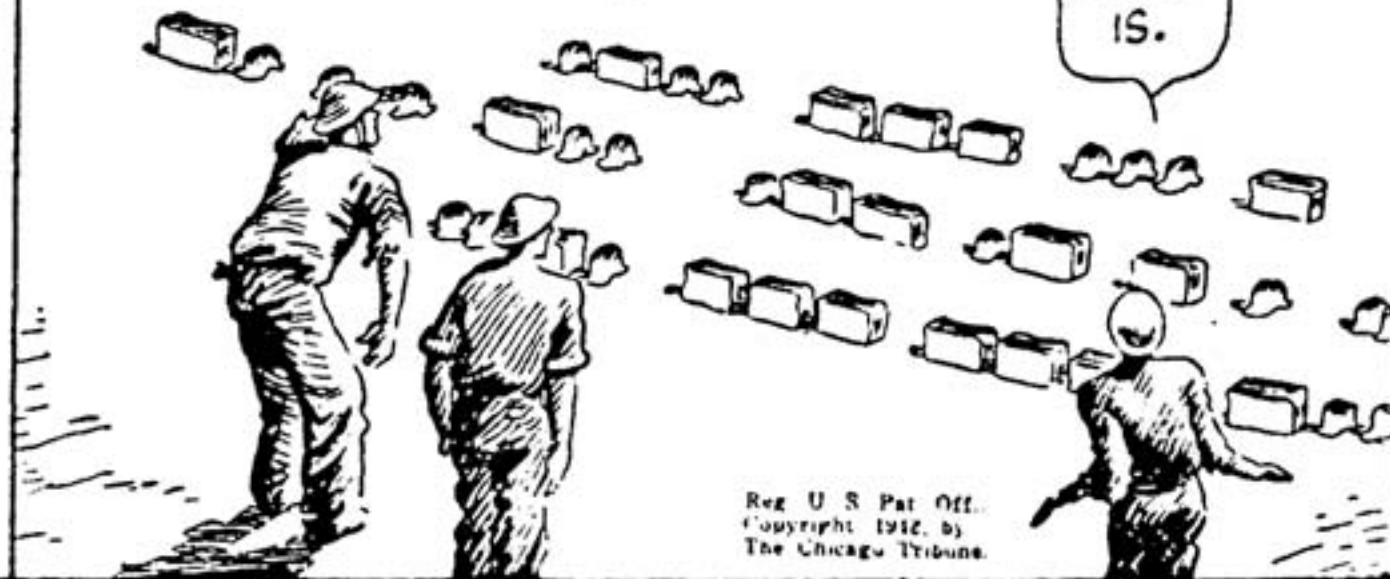
COMIN' UP.



HE DIPPED HIS WINGS AN' HEADED STRAIGHT NORTH.

HE'S PROBABLY TIPPIN' US OFF THAT'S THE WAY FOR US TO GO.

HE SURE IS.



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THAT'S OUR COURSE, MEN.

BUT WHY MESSIN' AROUND ABOUT GAS CANS AN' HELMETS? WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF THOSE.

THAT'S INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR, "LOST, NEED WATER, FOOD!"



UNCLE WALT, IT JUST ISN'T GOING TO BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SKEEZIX

IT'S THE FIRST CHRISTMAS EVE IN 21 YEARS, NINA, THAT HE AND I HAVEN'T BEEN TOGETHER



I'D GIVE A LOT TO KNOW THAT HE'S COMFORTABLE AND HAS THE CHRISTMAS BOX I SENT HIM.

IT'S TOUGH ON ALL OF US THIS YEAR, BUT WE HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING HE'S DOING HIS DUTY.

WE ARE PROUD THAT HE IS RIGHT WHERE HE IS!



HE AND HIS BUDDIES MAY BE HAVING A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF THEIR OWN - OR HE MIGHT BE LYING IN A FOX HOLE IN THE DESERT.



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IF SANTA CLAUS DON'T COME THROUGH WITH SOMETHING BY TOMORROW, WE'RE GOIN' TO BE ALL THE WAY OUT ON A LIMB.

SANTA COULD PACIFY ME WITH A NICE PLATE OF FRIED CHICKEN, I RECKON.

I'D SETTLE FOR A LONG DRINK OF WATER AND A LETTER FROM NINA, MY GIRL BACK HOME.

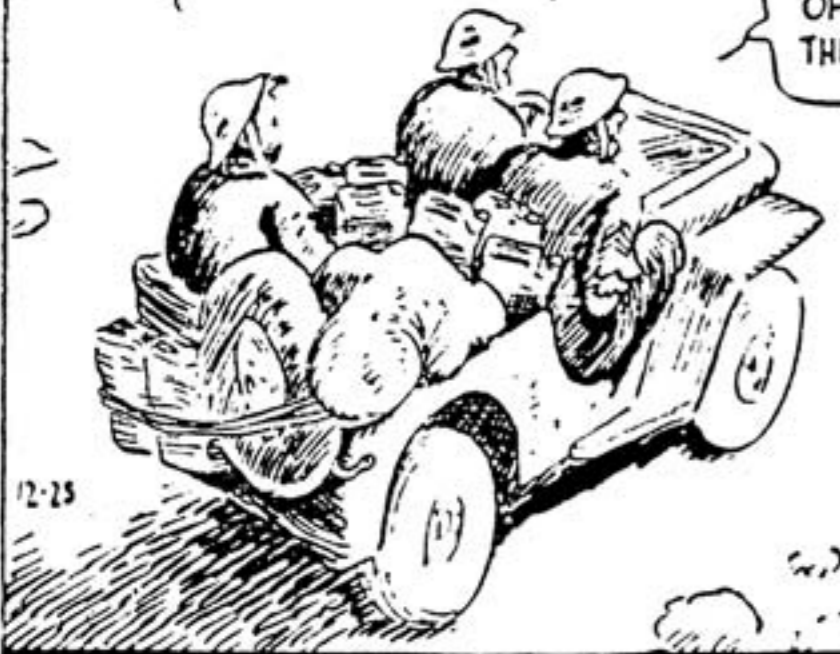


AND SOME 4000 MILES TO THE EAST-

WE'VE FOLLOWED THE LEAD THAT PLANE OF OURS GAVE US FOR A LOT OF MILES NOW.

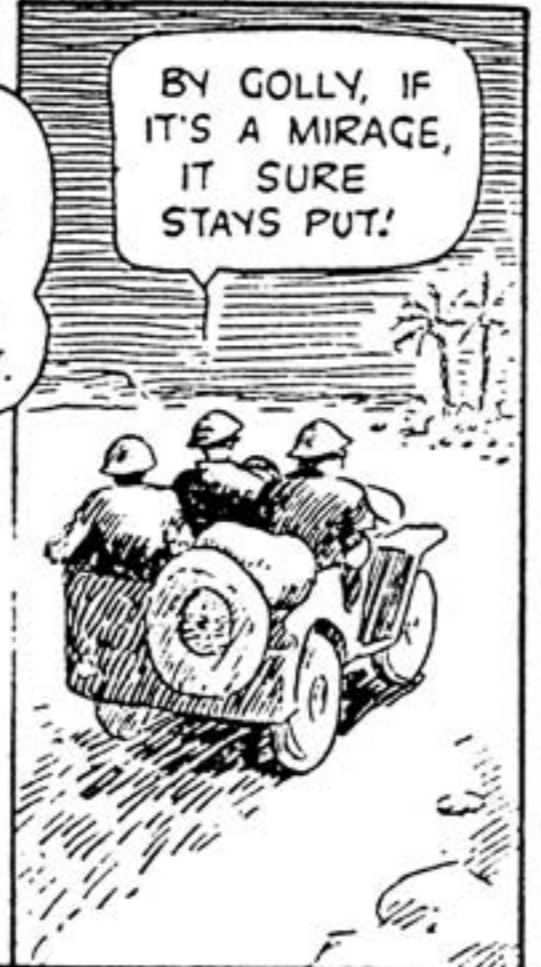
IS THAT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR OR DO I SEE A PALM TREE?

IT'S A MIRAGE. I'VE SEEN DOZENS OF 'EM ON THE DESERT.



12-25

BY GOLLY, IF IT'S A MIRAGE, IT SURE STAYS PUT!



IF IT'S A MIRAGE, I'LL EAT IT.

IT'S A WELL, AN' IT'S BEEN WRECKED- BUT THERE'S WATER IN IT.

IS IT WET, THAT'S ALL I ASK!



MERRY CHRISTMAS GUYS! SANTA SURE CAME ACROSS!

THIS IS THE BEST TOM AND JERRY I EVER GOT OUTSIDE OF.

FILL YOUR RADIATORS, PALS. HERE'S MUD IN YOUR EYE.



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GASOLINE ALLEY

WE'VE HAD ALL THE WATER WE CAN DRINK AND HAVE GOT PLENTY OF GASOLINE. BUT WE CAN'T LIVE ON THAT

LOOK: SOME DESERT ARABS! MAYBE WE COULD MAKE A DEAL.



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KEEP THE SHEIKS COVERED WHILE I SEE IF THEY'RE FRIENDLY.



NO, I CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT MY PISTOL BUT I'LL MAKE IT TWO TINS OF PETROL.

HOW ABOUT A SWELL PAIR OF SOCKS?



IT'S SOME KIND OF DATE AND CHEESE CONCOCTION— BUT, BOY, IT'S FOOD:

HOW'S THE CAMEL'S MILK, SARGE?

I KNEW IF YOU BIRDS GOT TO TRADIN' WITH THOSE ARABS, YOU'D LOSE YOUR SHIRTS!

HERE'S A BRAND NEW SHIRT.



GASOLINE ALLEY

MEANWHILE, THE SUPPLY TRUCK AND ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE UNIT, WHICH GOT SEPARATED FROM SERGEANT BLONEY, CORPORAL WALLET AND PRIVATE DIX IN THEIR JEEP, HAVE TRIED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT.

WE WAITED FOR THEM AS LONG AS WE DARED TO AND THEN BACK-TRACKED BUT NEVER FOUND A TRACE.

THEN WE HAD TO GO ON FOR FEAR THEY HAD BY-PASSED US. AT THAT, THEY MAY BE AHEAD, SERGEANT TWISTER.

WE MUST BE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO OUR OBJECTIVE AT SIDI GAZOOK.

THERE'S A BIG WADI BEYOND IT. WE CAN'T GET PAST THAT WITHOUT KNOWING IT.

THAT MUST BE IT! WE'RE GOING TO HIT IT RIGHT ON THE NOSE.

BUDDY, WHERE'LL I FIND THE COMMANDING OFFICER?

TAKE YOUR FIRST RIGHT AND YOU'LL SEE A SENTRY.



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MAJOR DEEP, SERGEANT TWISTER REPORTING WITH A SUPPLY TRUCK AND ORDNANCE MEDIUM MAINTENANCE UNIT. WE ARE UNDER ORDERS FROM CAPT. STERN

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, SERGEANT. YOU ARE OVERDUE.



WE GOT SEPARATED FROM SERGEANT BLONEY AND TWO MEN IN A JEEP AND SPENT SOME TIME TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT.

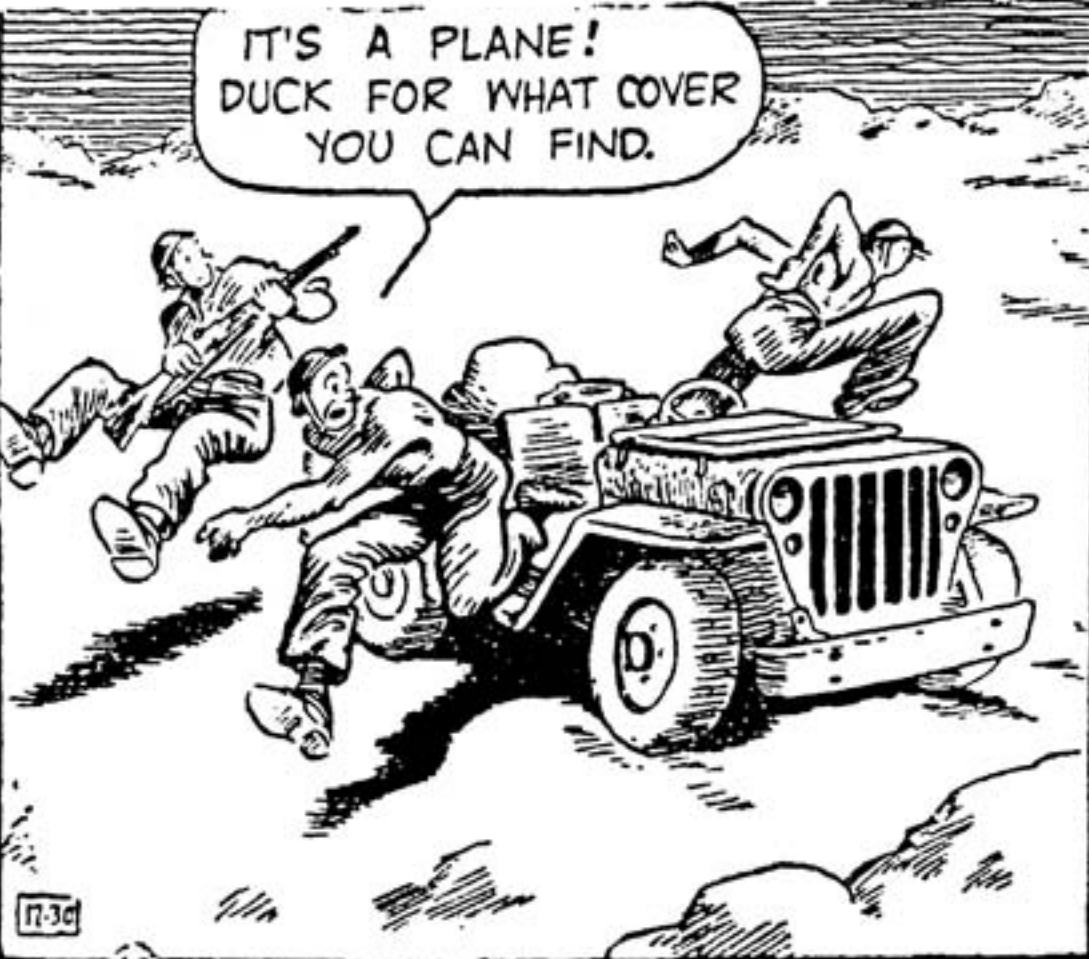
A SCOUT PLANE REPORTED THREE MEN IN A JEEP EAST OF THE EL JERA WATER HOLE - AND LOST.



WILL YOU REPORT OUR ARRIVAL TO CAPT. STERN?

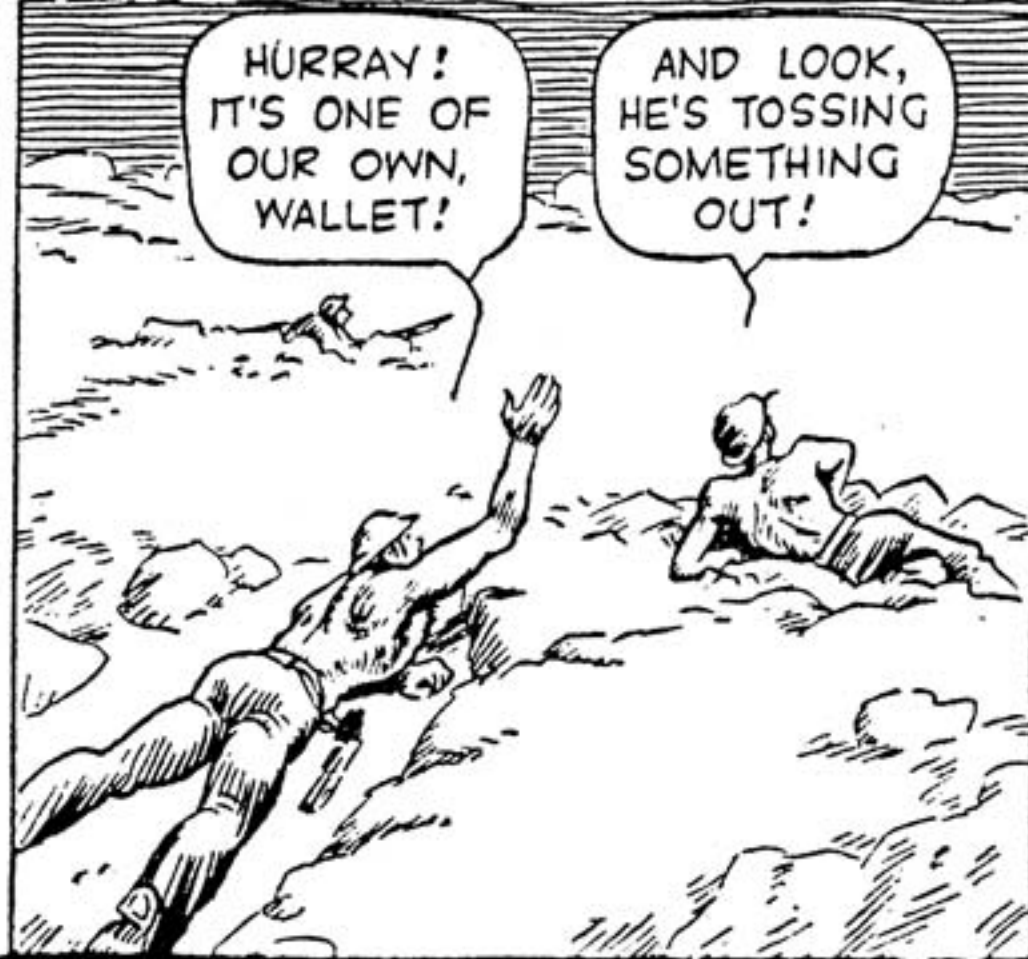
I WILL, SERGEANT, AND I WILL TRY TO SEND SUPPLIES AND DIRECTIONS TO THE THREE MISSING MEN.





IT'S A PLANE!
DUCK FOR WHAT COVER
YOU CAN FIND.

17-3c



HURRAY!
IT'S ONE OF
OUR OWN,
WALLET!

AND LOOK,
HE'S TOSSING
SOMETHING
OUT!



BOY! HONEST
TO GOODNESS
CHOW. WE CAN
HAVE A FEAST.

WE'RE ALL SET. THIS
IS A MAP AND
INSTRUCTIONS FOR
GETTING TO SIDI GAZOOK.

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CHOW DROPPED FROM HEAVEN IN A PARACHUTE! AN' CIGARETS! WHAT A NEW YEAR'S EVE.

AN' LOOK! THERE'S A LAKE OVER THERE!

LAKE MY EYE! THAT'S A MIRAGE.



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IT'S DISAPPOINTIN' WHEN YOU FIND A LAKE ISN'T A LAKE, BUT THE MOST DISAPPOINTIN' MIRAGE I EVER SAW WAS ON THIS DESERT ABOUT A YEAR AGO. OUR OUTFIT MADE CAMP AND OFF TO OUR RIGHT APPEARED A BEAUTIFUL MIRAGE OF PALM TREES LIGHTED BY THE LATE AFTERNOON SUN.



AS THE LIGHT BEGAN TO FAIL, OUT COMES A BEVY OF GORGEOUS DANCIN' GIRLS IN COLORED VEILS AND JEWELS. WE WATCH IT ALL WITH BULGIN' EYES, SCARED THAT THEY'LL FADE AWAY INTO THIN AIR. IT LASTS TILL DARK COMES ON, AN' WE TURN IN CUSSIN' OUR LUCK THAT IT WAS ONLY A MIRAGE.



WE BREAK CAMP NEXT MORNIN' HEAD RIGHT INTO THE SPOT WHERE THE MIRAGE WAS. AN' THERE SITS A GROVE OF SOLID PALM TREES THOUSAND DAINTY BAREFOOT TRACKS IN THE SAND, SOME BUSTED STRINGS OF BEADS AN' A LOT OF LIPSTICKED CIGARET BUTTS

