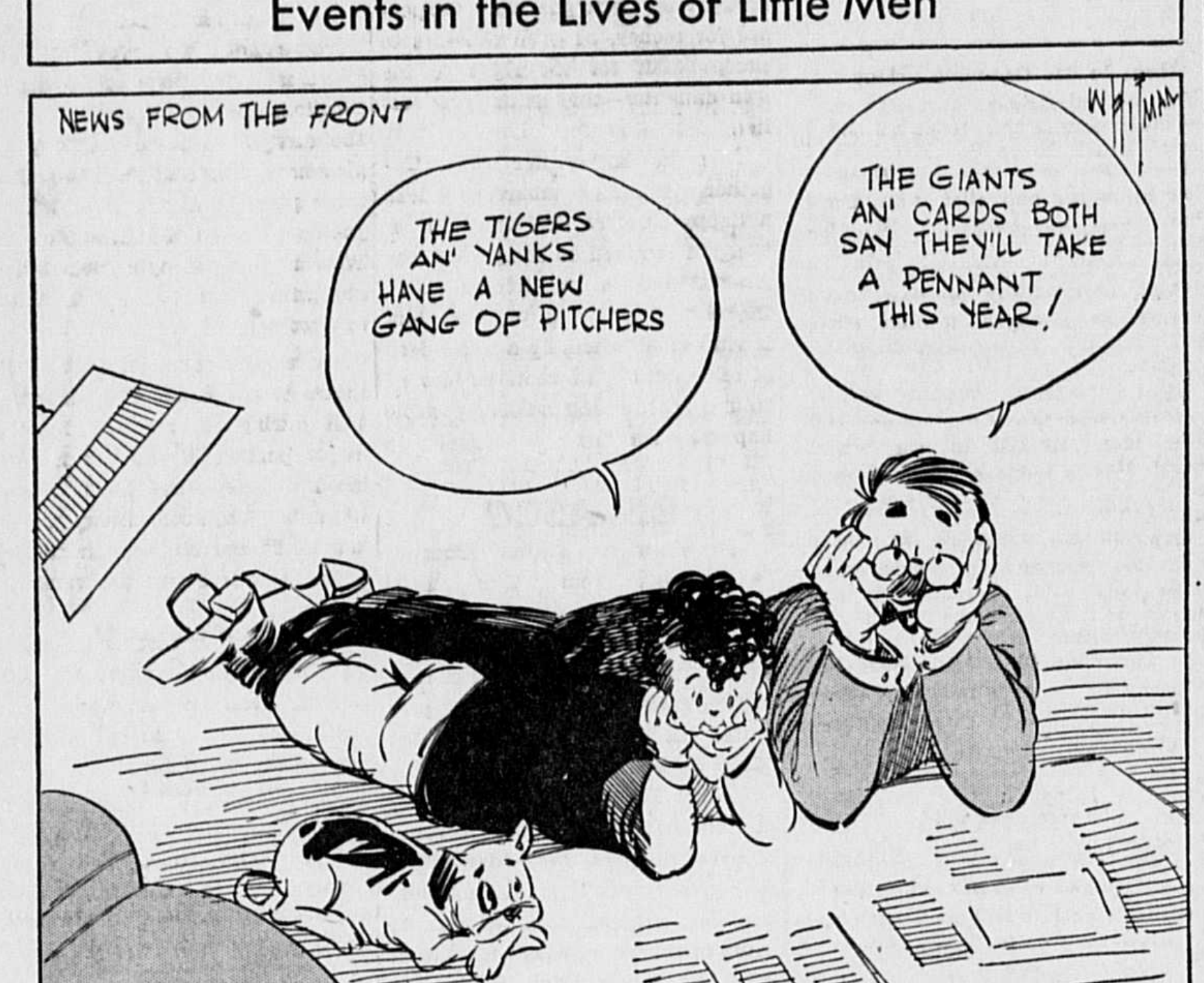
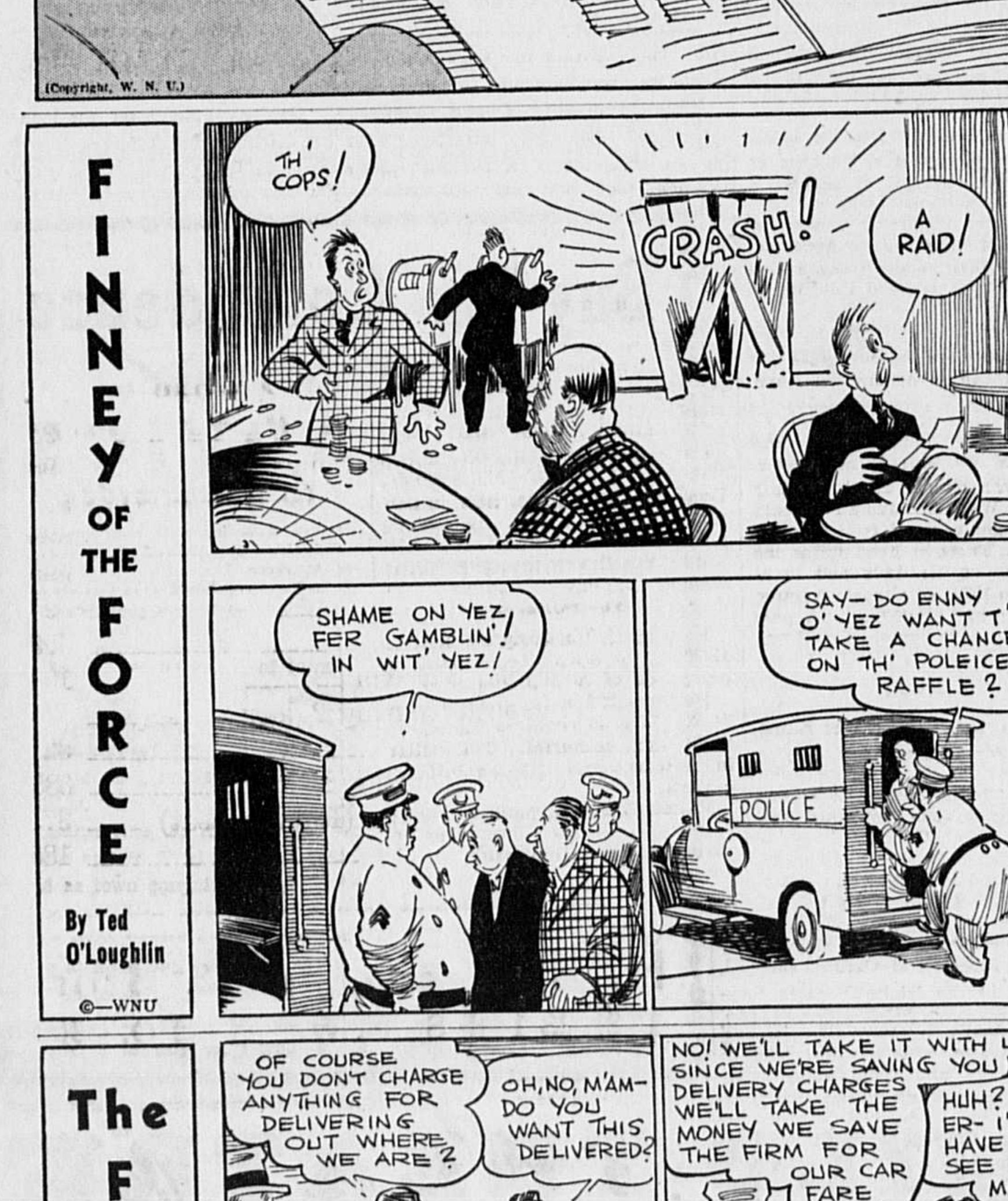
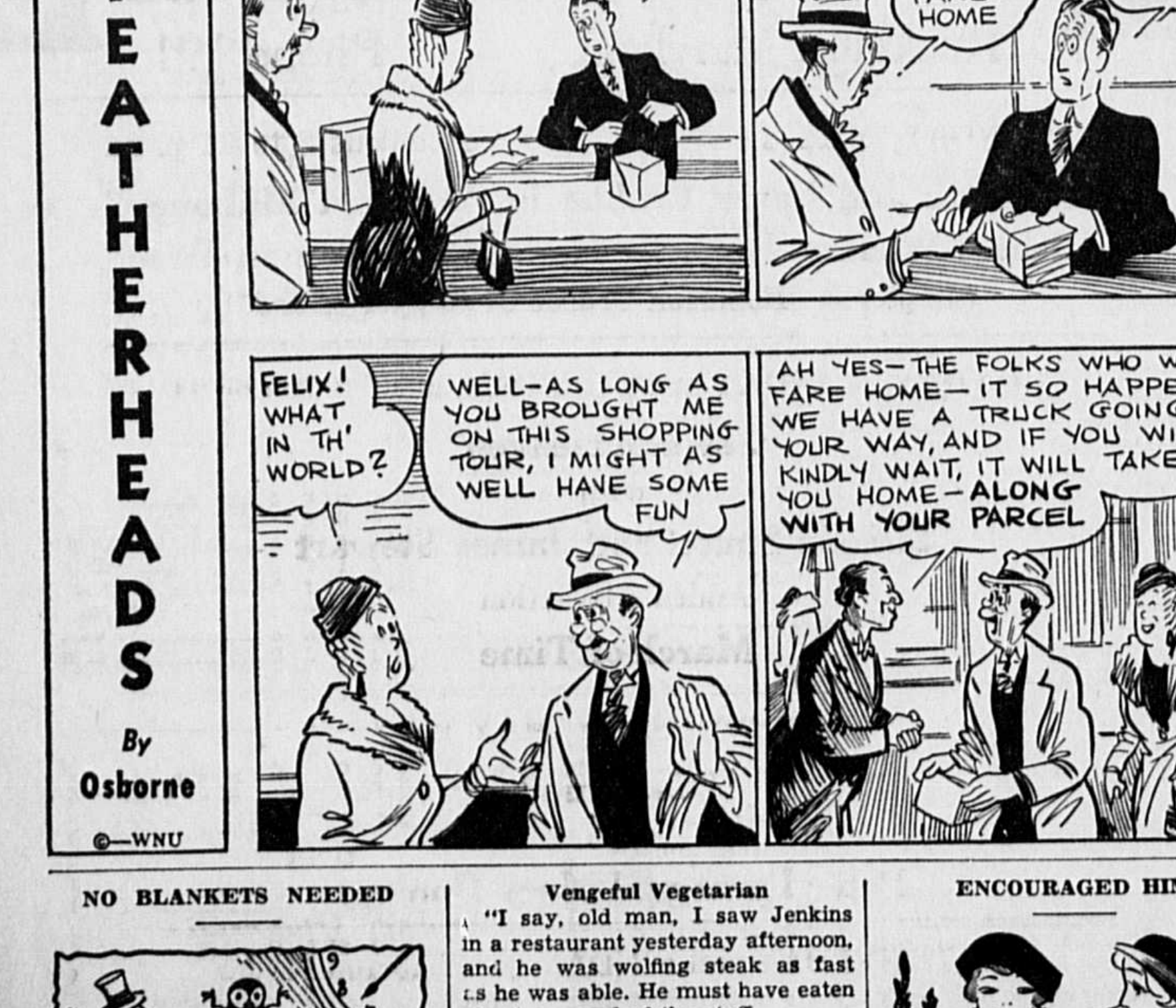
OUR COMIC SECTION

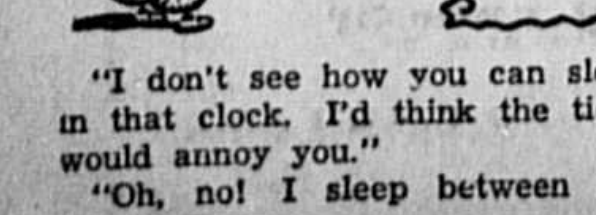
Events in the Lives of Little Men


NEWS FROM THE FRONT
W. H. TIMM
THE TIGERS AN' YANKS HAVE A NEW GANG OF PITCHERS
THE GIANTS AN' CARDS BOTH SAY THEY'LL TAKE A PENNANT THIS YEAR!
(Copyright, W. N. U.)


FINNEY OF THE FORCE
By Ted O'Loughlin
©—WNU
TH' COPS!
CRASH!
A RAID!
SHAME ON YEZ, FER GAMBLIN'! IN WIT' YEZ!
SAY—DO ENNY O' YEZ WANT T' TAKE A CHANCE ON TH' POLEICEMIN'S RAFFLE?
POLICE


The FEATHERHEADS
By Osborne
©—WNU
OF COURSE YOU DON'T CHARGE ANYTHING FOR DELIVERING OUT WHERE WE ARE?
OH, NO, M'AM—DO YOU WANT THIS DELIVERED?
NO! WE'LL TAKE IT WITH US AND SINCE WE'RE SAVING YOU DELIVERY CHARGES WE'LL TAKE THE MONEY WE SAVE THE FIRM FOR OUR CAR FARE HOME
HUH? WHY—ER—I'LL HAVE TO SEE THE MANAGER
FELIX! WHAT IN TH' WORLD?
WELL—AS LONG AS YOU BROUGHT ME ON THIS SHOPPING TOUR, I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME FUN
AH YES—THE FOLKS WHO WANT FARE HOME—IT SO HAPPENS WE HAVE A TRUCK GOING YOUR WAY, AND IF YOU WILL KINDLY WAIT, IT WILL TAKE YOU HOME—ALONG WITH YOUR PARCEL

NO BLANKETS NEEDED



"I don't see how you can sleep in that clock. I'd think the ticks would annoy you."

"Oh, no! I sleep between the ticks."

Vengeful Vegetarian

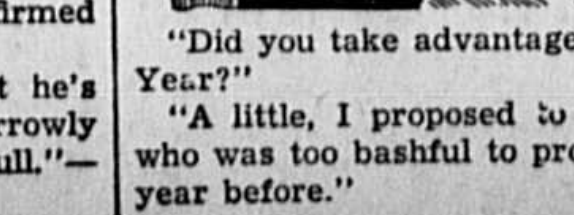
"I say, old man, I saw Jenkins in a restaurant yesterday afternoon, and he was wolfing steak as fast as he was able. He must have eaten about a pound of the stuff."

"There's nothing surprising about that."

"But I thought he was a confirmed vegetarian?"

"Well, he used to be, but he's changed his ideas since he narrowly escaped being tossed by a bull."—London Tit-Bits Magazine.

ENCOURAGED HIM



"Did you take advantage of Leap Year?"

"A little, I proposed to a fellow who was too bashful to propose the year before."

MYSTERIES THE WORLD HAS NEVER SOLVED

THE MARIE CELESTE

Why Was She Abandoned?

By MADOC OWENS

OF ALL the skippers that have sailed the seven seas, Capt. B. S. Briggs of the Yankee bark Marie Celeste has been the cause of the most speculation.

With a stanch hull and strong rig the Marie Celeste, on November 7, 1873, sailed from New York for Genoa with a cargo of alcohol in casks. Captain Briggs hailed from Marion, Mass. He took along his wife and two-year-old baby. The bark's two mates and one man of her crew were Americans. The other four men in the forecastle were Germans.

According to her log she passed the island of St. Mary's, in the Azores, on the twenty-fourth of November. Ten days later the British bark Dei Gratia, bound from New drifting aimlessly about under partial sail. Suspicious of her eccentric behavior, Captain Boyce of the Dei Gratia, hailed her, but received no response. Boarding her, he made a discovery that set his jaws agape and his eyes staring. It was not a scene of blood and carnage but a spectacle so peaceful that it was uncanny. The Marie Celeste had been mysteriously abandoned in the open sea.

Abandoned, But Why?

Bad weather had not caused her crew to leave her. A bottle of medicine was standing upright on the skipper's table, where a moderately heavy sea would have upset it. Pirates had not frightened Captain Briggs and his comrades away. The cargo was undisturbed and in the forecastle were the sailors' chests, filled with their clothing and money, untouched. Skipper Briggs' gold watch hung beside his berth.

Starvation had not threatened. There was plenty of food. In the galley victuals had been prepared for the next meal. There was also plenty of water. And all about was searoom enough for a considerable cruise. No shoals or rocky coasts were near.

Yet there was every indication of a sudden, although peaceful, abandonment of the ship. Upon the log slate, following the usual routine entries, had been scrawled:

"Fanny, my dear wife—"

The entry was unfinished. Apparently, the interruption had come while the skipper was writing it. Was it to have been an account of something untoward that had befallen his spouse? And was this emergency the cause of everyone's suddenly leaving the vessel?

Mrs. Briggs had hurriedly dropped her sewing. Upon her table in the cabin were threaded needle, scissors and a bit of partly sewed material, lying as if hastily tossed aside. On the open melodeon lay music that had apparently been played since the cabin was last put to rights. There was still the impression left of a baby's head upon the pillow in the crib and toys were strewn about on the cabin floor. On the wall the clock still ticked.

The fore hatch was open, but whether one of the boats had been launched was a matter of doubt. If none was put to sea all aboard the Marie Celeste must either have gone into the sea or had been taken aboard some other craft. Yet in all of the intervening years no boat has reported visiting her. And why should it? She was in excellent condition, ready to proceed on her cruise. If Captain Briggs, his family and crew did embark in one of his ship's boats it would probably have been sighted at sea or upon some beach even after it had overturned and drowned its human freight.

No Evidence—Nothing.

No signs of storm. No evidence of famine. No shortage of water. No fear of a dangerous coast. No evidence of piratical attack. No relics of mutiny, struggle or bloodshed. No leakage and nothing wrong with stearing gear, rigging or navigating paraphernalia. What is the answer?

The owner, the late J. H. Winchester of Rahway, N. J., could never venture a solution. Neither could Messrs. Meisner, Ackermann & Co., the New York firm to whom she was chartered. Many fanciful theories as to the fate of her vanished occupants have been offered. According to one, Captain Briggs became insane as the result of rough weather encountered in the open sea. But granting that he did, were there not seven able-bodied men aboard, capable of resisting his crazy commands? According to another theory, the casks rattling about in the hold sprang a leak and the resulting alcohol fumes, threatening to smother those on board, caused their hasty exodus. But the evidence says that the cargo was intact.

TSU-HSI

Who Were Her Parents?

A BEAUTIFUL girl, tall, large-eyed and finely formed, entered the harem of the Chinese emperor, Hsien-Feng. Not only by her beauty but by her cleverness and charm she attracted the attention of the emperor's mother and first wife, and as a result she became a favorite in the household. Soon she was promoted to the rank of fourth wife, and when the second wife died she took her place.

Two years after entering the imperial harem, Hsu-Hsi—for that was her name—gave birth to a son, and as the emperor's first wife was childless this boy, at his father's death, five years later, succeeded to the throne. The first wife and Tsu-Hsi were made coregents for the boy emperor and each was given the title of dowager empress, the former being known thereafter as the empress of the eastern palace and Tsu-Hsi as the empress of the western palace.

Tragedy Follows Her.

The empress of the eastern palace was a woman of quiet tastes and retiring disposition, interested mostly in literary pursuits and gifted with no executive ability, while Tsu-Hsi had an active interest in politics and affairs—was made of the metal out of which stern and shrewd rulers are wrought. Being opposites in disposition the two empresses got along amicably and fostered for each other a sincere affection, which was not diminished until the empress of the eastern palace died, in 1881.

Tsu-Hsi suffered a terrible shock when her son, the young emperor, succumbed to an ominously brief and mysterious illness. But undaunted by her great grief, she outwitted the mandarins by snatching from his cradle at midnight the three-year-old boy Kwang-Hsu, first cousin of the dead emperor, and by hurrying this infant into the council chamber, where she presented him as the new ruler of the empire. It is said that the mandarins protested, but that Tsu-Hsi quelled their objections with blows from a whip.

She continued her regency thereafter as foster-mother of the emperor, whom to the day of his death she is said to have spanked.

The origin of Tsu-Hsi has always been shrouded in mystery. To efface all knowledge of her childhood she is said to have forbidden its mention.

Not a Concubine.

One story was that Tsu-Hsi was the daughter of a lieutenant general of the Manchu forces, who was a member of the highest Manchu nobility, and that when in her late teens she entered the imperial palace, not as a concubine but as a noble guest of the then dowager empress. According to another account she was the daughter of Chao, a small military official, afterward raised to the rank of duke, but finally beheaded for some military delinquency. Then there was a tradition that her father was a Tartar general who died at his post on the River Yang Tze, leaving an indigent widow and two daughters. The widow is said to have been on her way to Pekin, bearing his coffin in a mourning boat decorated with the customary blue and white lanterns, when on reaching Hankow she suddenly found herself without funds. According to this story the servants of a local official mistook her boat for that of the governor of the province and left upon it rich gifts of gold and viands. The widow in gratitude for the supposed tribute to herself then gave her elder daughter to the local official as a gift and proceeded to Pekin with the younger girl, Wehonala, whom she presented as a candidate for the imperial harem, and who, on being accepted by the emperor, was given the name Tsu-Hsi.

Mystery Unto Death.

The ending of Tsu-Hsi's life was quite as mysterious as its beginning. On November 3, 1908, when she celebrated her seventy-fourth birthday, she was noticed to be in perfect health, and the court was naturally surprised to hear less than a fortnight later that she had died. At the same time was made the announcement that her protege, the emperor, had died the day before. Later evidence indicated that he had given up the ghost some days previously, but that the fact had been suppressed. The cause of Tsu-Hsi's sudden death and the motive for concealing that of the emperor is still a baffling mystery.

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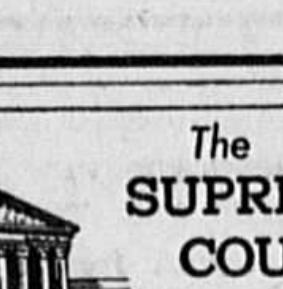

The SUPREME COURT AND HOW IT WORKS

The Need for an Umpire

By ROBERT MERRILL

THE men who in 1787 drafted the Constitution of the United States had two great advantages in establishing a government that sought to assure personal liberty.

In the first place, they had vivid personal recollections of the despotism of King George III. In the second place, they knew from bitter experience the weakness of the first government which they had set up to take the place of the repudiated King.

Having renounced a one-man government that was unjust because too strong, they had suffered under another—established by the Articles of Confederation — equally unjust because it was too weak. Their problem was to frame a constitution under which the people of each state should be protected against any attempt of federal officials to become tyrants, while at the same time making it impossible for the several states to cripple or hamper the central government.

Thus it came about that the very people who had actually suffered both from too much government and from too little were best fitted to find the safety-point half way between.

Some Early Weaknesses.

Illustrations of the despotism which they feared are effectively recited in the Declaration of Independence. Among the many despotic acts there charged may be found, for example: that "he has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers."

On the other hand, among the many weaknesses which made the Articles of Confederation a failure, the following is a typical illustration:

During the Revolutionary war, vessels of war, called privateers, had been fitted out by citizens of the several colonies and sent out to prey upon British commerce. A British sloop, the Active, had been seized by citizens of Connecticut who were bringing her into port as prize when an American privateer, the Convention, which had been fitted out in Pennsylvania, captured the Active and claimed the prize money which belonged to the men from Connecticut.

A Pennsylvania court decided the case in favor of the home claimants and awarded them the greater part of the prize money, but, upon appeal to a court which the feeble Articles of Confederation had set up, the rights of the Connecticut claimants were properly recognized and the judgment of the Pennsylvania court was reversed.

Decision Not Backed.

Then, to their dismay, the victorious Connecticut men discovered that the order of the court was not worth the paper it was written on, because Pennsylvania refused to recognize or enforce it and the central government was without power to enforce the order of its own court. Conferences followed between a committee of congress and the general assembly of Pennsylvania; but nothing was accomplished.

As soon, however, as the Constitution of the United States was adopted federal courts were set up, with the Supreme court of the United States at their head; and the federal government was given power to enforce their decrees. Accordingly, after having waited years for such an outcome, the men from Connecticut were able to bring suit in a United States district court to enforce the order formerly made in their favor but subsequently disregarded.

The district court granted partial but not complete relief; but, upon appeal, the Supreme court of the United States finally did complete justice among the parties.

Court Stands on Own Feet.

With such experiences immediately behind them the framers of the Constitution were naturally careful to make rules to prevent their recurrence. It was obviously insufficient, however, merely to make the rules: it was essential that there should be a judicial umpire to interpret and apply them. Accordingly the Constitution safeguarded the judicial power of the United States by vesting it "in one Supreme court."

With our form of government the Supreme court cannot be abolished by the congress or by the President any more than the congress or the President can be abolished by the court. Remembering that the king of Great Britain had made judges here "dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries," the framers were careful to provide that "the judges, both of the Supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office."

While, therefore, the men of 1787 were not super-men they were people whose actual experiences made them think of many safeguards of liberty which otherwise might have been overlooked.

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Household Questions

Dust-Proofing Pictures—Has the dust got into your picture frame? It should be examined periodically and new brown paper backings should be stuck on to make it dust-proof.

• • •

Cleaning Reed Furniture — A stiff brush dipped in furniture polish is good for cleaning reed and rattan furniture.

• • •

Oiling Household Machinery—A little oil applied when needed will keep household machinery working longer and always ready for work. You can use cooking or salad oil to lubricate small cooking equipment.

WNU Service.

"Black Leaf 40"
KILLS INSECTS
ON FLOWERS • FRUITS
VEGETABLES & SHRUBS
Demand original sealed bottles, from your dealer
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First a Student

He who proposes to be an author, should first be a student.—Dryden.

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due to constipation

Relieve the cause of the trouble! Take purely vegetable Black-Draught. That's the sensible way to treat any of the disagreeable effects of constipation. The relief men and women get from taking Black-Draught is truly refreshing. Try it! Nothing to upset the stomach—just purely vegetable leaves and roots, finely ground.

BLACK-DRAUGHT
A GOOD LAXATIVE

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

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FOR SALE PEAS
Irons $2.15, Mixed $2.05, New Eras $2.15, Whipps $2.15, Clays $2.15, Brabhams, $2.35, Brab. Mixed $2.15. F. O. B. here. Can ship any quantity.
J. E. KENNEDY - - WILLISTON, S. C.

EMPLOYMENT

WANTED—Amateur-Professional Singers, dancers, musicians, all kinds of entertainers, for stage, radio and night club work.
BOX 633 - - - - - JOHNSTOWN, PA.

FLOWERS

Gladiolus—Selected large healthy bulbs, 5 each 5 varieties labeled including new Picardy $1 postpaid. Catalog free. Richglad Garden, 3126 Woodrow Ave., Richmond, Va.

INSTRUCTION

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DOUBLE $2.50
Special Weekly Rates
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7th AVE. at 36th ST.

The Hardened

Justice must tame whom mercy cannot win.—Saville.

How CARDUI Helps Women

Cardui is a purely vegetable medicine, found by many women to ease functional pains of menstruation. It also helps to strengthen women, who have been weakened by poor nourishment, by increasing their appetite and improving their digestion. Many have reported lasting benefit from the wholesome nutritional assistance obtained by taking Cardui. If you have never taken Cardui, get a bottle of Cardui at the nearest drug store, read the directions and try it.

"Quotations"

I have never attached much value to any education I was subjected to, but only to the education I voluntarily sought.—*Havelock Ellis.*

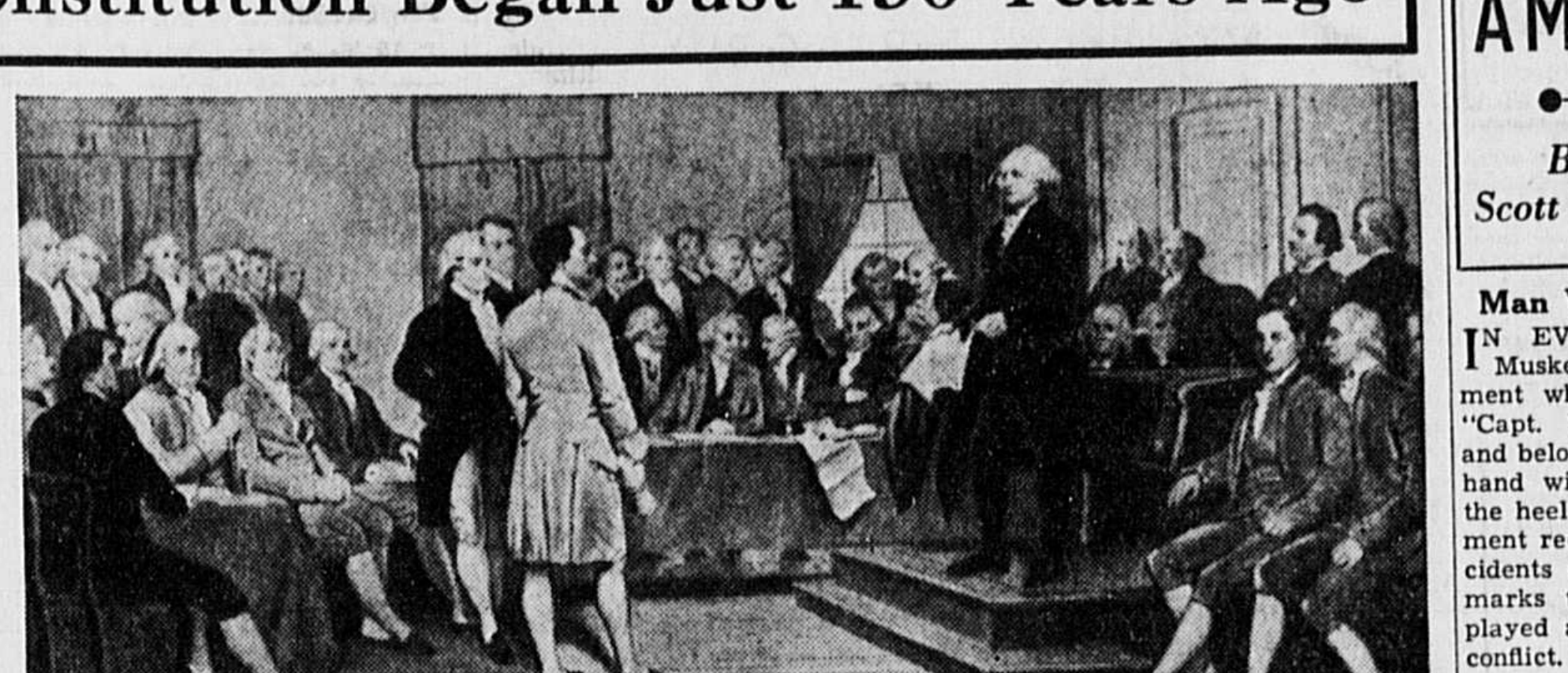
Wages should be reckoned not in numbers of pounds or dollars, but in purchasing power of good things—of beauty as well as bread, of a pleasant social intercourse as well as bathrooms, cheap forms of pleasure as well as cheap goods.—*Sir Philip Gibbs.*

I have never been able to see why a Vanderbilt or a French was inherently any better than a Jones.—*Francis O. French.*

The thing you want is always somewhere else!—*Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

Act I. in the Drama of Making the Constitution Began Just 150 Years Ago

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



Opening of the Constitutional Convention in Independence Hall, May, 1787.

SPEAK of the importance of the Potomac river in the history of our country and the average American remembers that it was once a sort of "deadline" between the Union and Confederate armies in the War Between the States. Or he may dimly recall that the phrase "All quiet along the Potomac!", indicative of the stalemate that existed at one period in that conflict, became a by-word and a familiar synonym for an unchanged status quo.

But long before the sixties the Potomac river played an important, even though little-known, role in the history of this nation. Because of it we are today governed under a charter of liberties known as the Constitution of the United States of America. A surprising statement, that? Give heed, then, to this chain of events.

From their earliest days as English colonies, the Potomac had been the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia. But that does not mean that it was necessarily a well-defined boundary nor that the people of these two states shared the use of the river amicably. On the contrary, they were constantly having disputes over whether the exact line was the highwater mark or the low-water mark on the Virginia shore, since several square miles of valuable oyster beds were involved in the answer to that question.

Began in 1661.

As early as 1661 this matter was in dispute and it dragged along for a century without a settlement. Then in 1777 the two commonwealths, now American states instead of English colonies, appointed commissioners "to consider the most proper means to adjust and confirm the rights of each to the use and navigation of and jurisdiction over the Bay of Chesapeake and the Rivers Potomack and Pocomoke." But no definite agreement came out of this move and settlement of the question was delayed until after the Revolution.

In 1785 the question came up again and again commissioners were appointed to settle it. Edmund Randolph, George Mason, James Madison, Jr., and Alexander Henderson represented Virginia, while Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chase and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer represented Maryland. They met first at Alexandria but soon adjourned to the home of a distinguished citizen named George Washington, at Mount Vernon, where they not only reached an amicable settlement of the immediate question of the Potomac river boundary but they also discussed the larger questions of export and import duties and commercial matters in general.

At that time the new nation was operating under the Articles of Confederation and the Articles specifically forbade treaties or alliances between the states unless approved by congress. Despite this fact, when the Maryland legislature came to act on the report, it proposed that Pennsylvania and Delaware be invited to join with Maryland and Virginia in formulating a common commercial policy. Virginia went even farther. She invited all other states to send commissioners to a general trade convention and later announced Annapolis as the place of meeting. September, 1786, was set as the time for the meeting.

This action was clearly an illegal encroachment upon the authority of congress and was recognized as such by James Madison who noted that "from the Legislative Journals of Virginia it appears that a vote to apply for a sanction of Congress was followed by a vote against a communication of the Compact to Congress" and he also mentioned other similar violations of the laws established under the articles of Confederation. But there was a deeper significance to all of this than appeared on the surface or was indicated by a call for a trade convention.

"Dis-united States.

The fortunes of the new United States had about reached their lowest ebb. Only 15 members, representing seven states, were attending the sessions of the Continental congress, which was making a futile effort, under the authority given it by the Articles of Confederation, to function as a governing body. Measure after measure was proposed in congress to provide funds for government expenses but most of these failed for lack of the necessary nine votes. Even when the bills were passed the states treated the demands upon them for funds with the greatest indifference. In fact, a more appropriate name for the nation at that time would have been the Dis-united States of America.

The soldiers of the disbanded army which had won the fight for freedom from England were unpaid and in an ugly mood. They wanted their money, long overdue, and large numbers of them camped outside the city and began threatening to stone the building where the congress was meeting unless their demands were met. Presently the situation became so threatening that the congress had to flee from Philadelphia to Princeton, N. J., where it sat for a while, then went on to New York.

Moreover, open rebellion had broken out in Massachusetts where Daniel Shays, leader of the common people in their effort to reform conditions which had become intolerable, had given the government of that state and the wealthy merchants of Boston plenty of worry and there was unrest among the common people of other states.

Recognizing the desperate condition of affairs, such men as Madison and Alexander Hamilton of New York saw in this proposed trade conference an opportunity to take the first steps toward strengthening the power of the central government. Believing that any direct proposal for a new organization of the federal government would meet with opposition from the people, they used the pretext of bettering trade conditions, which the people would favor, as an indirect approach to their real objective.

Only Five States Respond

They were correct in their surmise and on September 11, 1786, commissioners from Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York assembled at Annapolis. Delegates had been appointed by North Carolina, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire but they did not appear and Georgia, South Carolina, Maryland and Connecticut took no action at all on the matter. Since only five states were represented, the commissioners "did not conceive it advisable to proceed on the business of their mission." But they did adopt a report written by Alexander Hamilton, who had played the leading role in the meeting, supported by Madison, who kept himself in the background. This was a report to the legislatures of the states represented at the meeting in which the defects in the federal government at that time were pointed out and which called for "a convention of deputies from the different states for the special purpose of entering into this investigation and digesting a plan for supplying such defects." Philadelphia was suggested as the place of meeting and the time was fixed for the second Monday of May of the next year.

Several of the states acted promptly upon this recommendation and in February, 1787, congress passed a resolution authorizing a constitutional convention and calling on the states to send delegates to such a meeting in Philadelphia "to take into consideration the situation of the United States, to revise the Articles of Confederation and to devise such further provisions as should appear to them necessary to render the Constitution of the federal government adequate to the exigencies of the Union." Each state could send as many delegates as it pleased, since each was to have but one collective vote.

"Little Rhody" Holds Out.

Of all the states only Rhode Island, which had been at odds with the federal government almost from the beginning, refused to send any delegates at all and, consistent with its attitude, it was the last to ratify the Constitution after one was finally adopted. New Hampshire was in favor of the meeting but because of lack of funds its delegates did not arrive until the convention was well under way.

Altogether 72 of the leading citizens of the 13 states were accredited as delegates although some of them failed or refused to go. Outstanding among the latter was Patrick Henry, the fiery orator of the Revolution, who was suspicious of the purposes of the convention. Or, as he phrased it, "I smelt a rat!" Of the 72 accredited delegates, 55 took part in the deliberations of the convention at one time or another but only 39 stayed on the job until the end. They were the following:

CONNECTICUT — Roger Sherman and William S. Johnson.

DELAWARE—Richard Bassett, Gunning Bedford, Jr., Jacob Broom, John Dickinson and George Read.

GEORGIA—Abraham Baldwin and William Few.

MARYLAND—Daniel Carroll, Daniel Jenifer and James McHenry.

MASSACHUSETTS—Nathaniel Gorman and Rufus King.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—Nicholas Gilman and John Langdon.

NEW JERSEY—David Breasley, Jonathan Dayton, William Livingston and William Patterson.

NEW YORK—Alexander Hamilton.

NORTH CAROLINA—William Blount, Richard D. Spaight and Hugh Williamson.

PENNSYLVANIA— George Clymer, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Benjamin Franklin, Jared Ingersoll, Thomas Mifflin, Gouverneur Morris, Robert Morris and James Wilson.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Pierce Butler, Charles Pinckney, Charles C. Pinckney and John Rudledge.

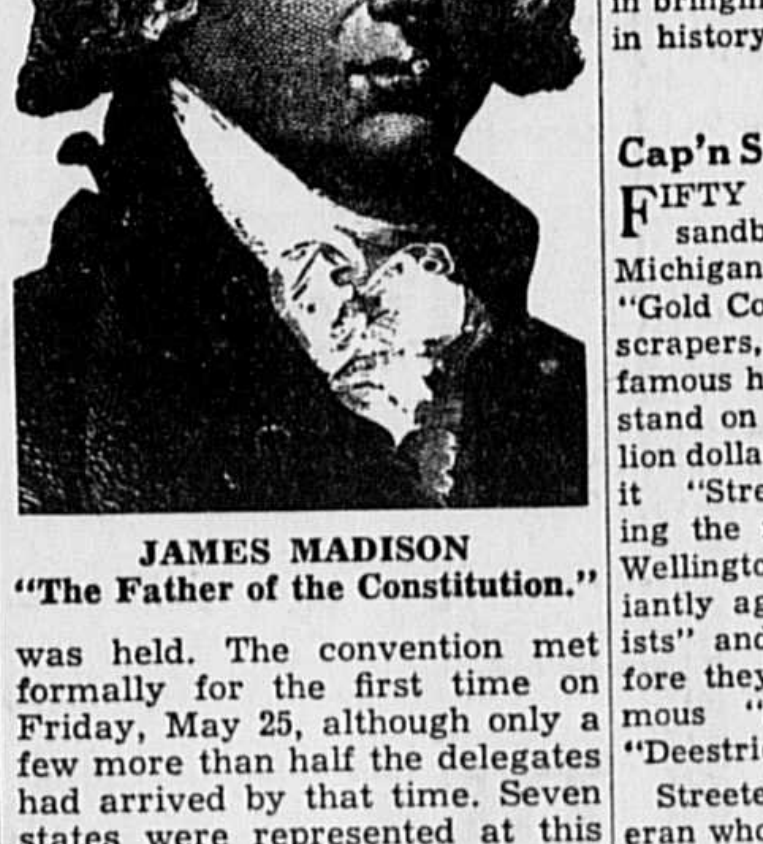
VIRGINIA—John Blair, James Madison and George Washington.

Of this number more than half, 21, were lawyers. Six are classified as "statesmen," three were farmers, landowners or planters, three were merchants, two bankers or "financiers," one an educator, two physicians and one a soldier. Most of them were well educated. Nine of them had studied in the Inner Temple or the Middle Temple in England, one at Oxford under Blackstone and two in Scottish universities. Half of the delegates were graduates of American or European colleges, three were professors and one, Dr. William S. Johnson, was president of Columbia college, on leave of absence to act as delegate from Connecticut.

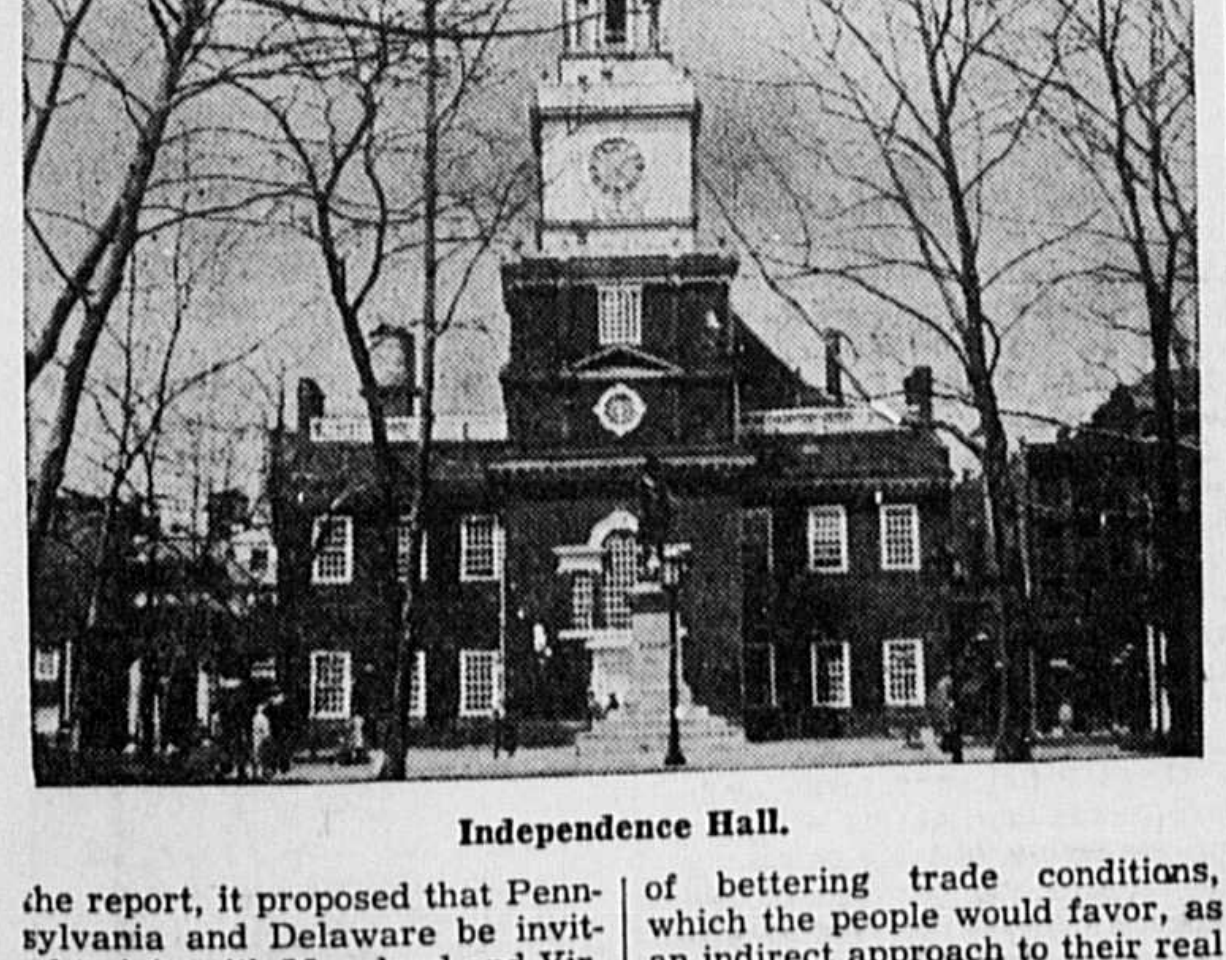
A Youth Movement.

Moreover it was a convention of young men. The patriarch Benjamin Franklin was then eighty-one years old, but 20 of the 55 were under forty years of age. Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey was the "baby" of the convention — only twenty-seven years old. Charles Pinckney, who submitted the first draft of the Constitution, was only two years his elder. Alexander Hamilton of New York, destined to play a leading role in the convention but a more important one in securing the ratification of the Constitution, was barely thirty, and James Madison, who would become known as the "Father of the Constitution," was thirty-six.

Although the second Monday in May had been set as the date for the opening of the convention, the roads of that time were so poor and travel so slow and expensive that it was not until two weeks later that the first session was held. The convention met formally for the first time on Friday, May 25, although only a few more than half the delegates had arrived by that time. Seven states were represented at this meeting, according to one authority; according to another, there were nine. Whatever the number, those present got down to business at once by electing a presiding officer. Benjamin Franklin, because of his age and the fact that this was his home city, was the logical choice for this position but he graciously waived that honor and suggested the choice of George Washington.



JAMES MADISON
"The Father of the Constitution."



Independence Hall.

So the late commander in the struggle for liberty, the man who was destined to become the first President under the Constitution which would be adopted after several weary weeks of struggle in this convention hall, took his place on the raised platform in Independence hall and on Monday, May 28 the convention entered upon the business for which it had been called.

At the first session, a rule enjoining secrecy on the part of the delegates as to their deliberations was adopted. Nearly all of them observed that rule and died without revealing any of the inner details of the drafting of the Constitution. Fortunately for posterity, however, James Madison, who had devised a system of shorthand of his own, took extensive notes on the proceedings and to him we owe the fullest accounts of the eventful sessions which followed.

• • •

Thus it was that 150 years ago this month Act 1 in the drama of making the American Magna Charta opened. And in the background of this drama is the story of another of those "tremendous trifles" of history—a dispute over a river as a boundary line which, through a long chain of events led at last to this great moment

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UNCOMMON AMERICANS

By Elmo Scott Watson © Western Newspaper Union

Man With Branded Hand

IN EVERGREEN cemetery in Muskegon, Mich., stands a monument which bears the inscription "Capt. Walker's Branded Hand" and below it a bas-relief of an open hand with the letters "S. S." on the heel of the thumb. This monument recalls one of the stirring incidents of pre-Civil war days and marks the grave of a man who played a part in bringing on that conflict.

Capt. Jonathan Walker was a Massachusetts sea captain and in 1844 was engaged in coastwise trade. Hating negro slavery, Walker tried to help seven blacks, who had fled from a Florida plantation, escape to the Bahamas. He was arrested, brought to Pensacola, tried as a thief in federal court and found guilty. He was sentenced to be branded on the right hand with the letters "S. S." (slave stealer), to stand in the pillory one hour, be imprisoned fifteen days and pay a fine of $150.

After the first part of the sentence had been carried out, he was led again into the courthouse. Ordered to put his hand on the post of the railing in front of the judge's bench, Walker protested when the marshal bound it fast to the post. He declared that he could hold it firm during the ordeal, but his protest was ignored and the branding took place.

After his release from prison, Walker went back to his home in Massachusetts to find himself a hero and a martyr. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem in which he besought Walker to hold his branded right hand aloft for all the world to see. Abolitionist leaders recognized in the incident a potent argument for their cause. Accompanied by a fugitive slave he traveled through the North and lectured on the evils of slavery.

The "Man with the Branded Hand" became a famous figure and he did much to arouse the North and put it in a receptive frame of mind for Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as a faithful picture of the horrors of slavery. In the '50's Walker and his family moved to Wisconsin and a few years later bought a small fruit farm in Michigan. There he lived during the remainder of his days and there he died in 1878, an almost forgotten figure who had played no little part in bringing on the greatest civil war in history.

Cap'n Streeter, Squatter King

FIFTY years ago it was only a sandbar on the shore of Lake Michigan opposite Chicago's famous "Gold Coast." Today towering skyscrapers, huge office buildings, a famous hotel and a great university stand on land valued at half a billion dollars. But Chicagoans still call it "Streeterville," thereby honoring the memory of Cap'n George Wellington Streeter, who battled valiantly against "them dern capitalists" and held out for 30 years before they finally dethroned this famous "squatter king" from his "Deestrict of Lake Michigan."

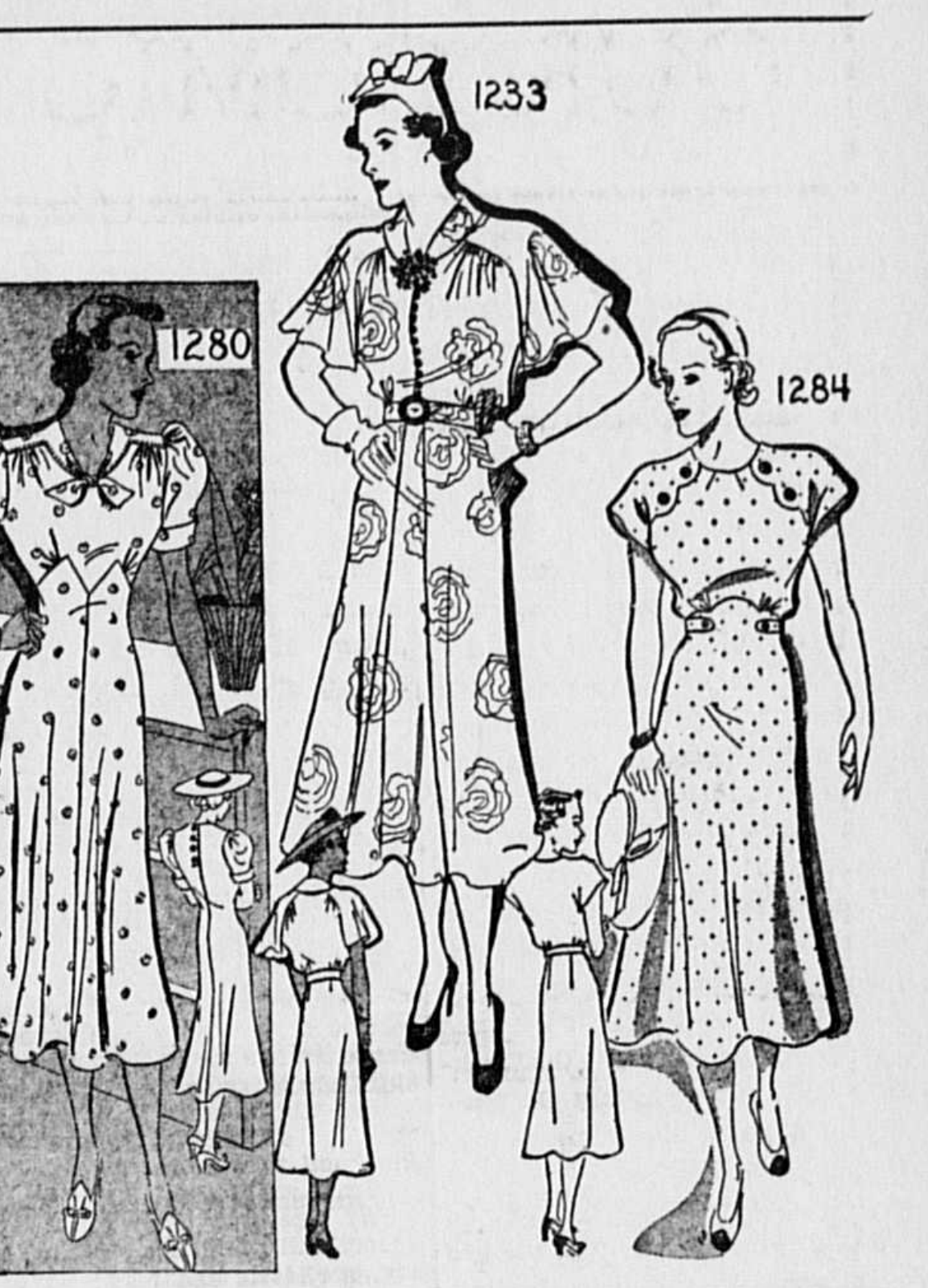
Streeter was a Civil war veteran who became a boatman on the Great Lakes. In 1884 he built a 100-ton ship in which he started for Honduras to take part in a revolution then in progress. But his ship went aground on a sandbar and the skipper found himself marooned several hundred yards out in Lake Michigan from the Chicago shoreline. So he decided he might as well stay right there. Out of the timbers of his ship he and his wife, Maria, built a little shack on their sandy island and settled down.

But the rich owners of property in that part of Chicago were extending their riparian rights out into the lake. As the little peninsulas of filled-in land reached out toward the captain's island, which had been enlarged by drifting sand, they decided that his shack was an eyesore and should be removed. They called on the law to evict these squatters and five husky constables started out to do it. Cap'n Streeter put on his fighting costume—a high silk hat and a frock coat—he and Maria took muskets in hand and the constables retreated hastily.

Streeter found an old map of the city on which the boundary of Lake Michigan was plainly marked. He contended that the "made land" was outside that boundary, therefore it was under federal jurisdiction and he claimed it by right of discovery. But the courts refused to recognize his claim to this "Deestrict of Lake Michigan." He and Maria were evicted time and again but they always came back. So the struggle went on year after year, in court and out of court.

"Cap'n" Streeter died in 1921. But his second wife, "Ma" Streeter, true to her promise to him, carried it on for several years more. Finally she had to give up the fight and Chicago's "Thirty Years' war" with the "squatter king" came to end when she died last year.

Talk About Smart Frocks



"AUNT ALMA, there's just one thing I don't like about my new dress—it's so attractive I'm afraid Sis over there will appropriate it when I'm not looking. Outside of that I'm crazy about it, and I think you're swell to make it for me. Why—"

"What's this, what's this? If that isn't a laugh. Aunt Alma! Imagine me wanting anybody's dress. Why since you've taught me to sew-my-own I never want anything. I just make it and that's that. This sport dress, for instance, took me only one afternoon."

Praise From Auntie.

"I think you do wonderfully well with your sewing, my dear. You'll be making my clothes the first thing I know. I feel especially pleased with my new spring dress and I have both of you to thank for suggesting this style. It does right well by my hips, and it's so comfortable through the shoulders. I guess I should diet but in this dress I feel nice and slender. Don't you see, girls, how important it is to choose a style that's particularly becoming? It's abiding by this theory that gives some women such enviable chic."

The Patterns.

Pattern 1280 is designed in sizes 12-20 (30 to 40). Size 14 requires 3¾ yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1233 is designed in sizes 34-52. Size 36 requires 5⅝ yards of 39 inch material. The collar in contrast requires five-eighths of a yard.

Pattern 1284 is designed in sizes 14-20 (32 to 44). Size 16 requires 3⅜ yards of 35 inch material.

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