Fun for the Whole Family

DORIS DENE'S COLUMN

Don't Believe Parents 'Narrow Minded' Until You Know Them.

DEAR DORIS DENE: I am a girl of seventeen and am kept very much at home by an over-strict mother and father. They are kind to me in some ways and will allow my friends to come to the house but they have ridiculous ideas about going out. I do not go out very often and resent it very much. Mother seems to think I am safer at home. As she has no idea of what young people are like, it seems to me that it is unfair of her to interfere. She talks about the boys I know as if they are men she'd known all her life—when really she hasn't the faintest idea what boys are all about. Mothers and fathers might be expected to keep out of what they don't understand.—I. S.

ANSWER — Sometimes it's the fault of the mothers and fathers that they seem to be such utterly fleshless and bloodless individuals. In their desire to bring up the young as they think they should they present a picture of their sterling virtue which would cause many children to regard them as less than human.

Actually though, mothers and fathers are not so short on memory as they seem. If they could be persuaded to take off the mantle of ultra respectability and virtue, and show themselves for the human beings they really are, many a son and daughter would be amazed at how much the old folks know about life and love.

Just because mother doesn't run around town with gigolos doesn't mean that she was always a settled-down humdrum sort of person. She remembers what it felt like to be in love—and she knows how near she came to making a fool of herself over the town's bad boy, and she can recapture even now the thrill of stolen joys and dangerous pleasure.

When she discusses her daughter's boy friends with assurance, she is remembering her own suitors of the past, and how much time she wasted herself in the wrong company. And she tries to steer her daughter away from the mistakes and the follies she herself committed.

Father may have turned out to be a monument of respectability but when he gives his son advice, he's speaking from real experience. He's remembering the scrapes he got into which gave him nothing but pain and humiliation. He's reliving the moments when he found that his best girl was just a weak little liar who made love to everybody—he's tasting again the bitter gall of disillusionment, and he's trying to persuade his boy to keep clear of bad entanglements.

DEAR MISS DENE: I have a dear friend, a man of forty-five, who is being very kind to me, and taking me about a good deal. My mother and father disapprove of him and I cannot get their consent to my friendship with him. They know nothing about him. They do not appreciate his intelligence or his experience. I take his advice on a great many problems because I know that he is old and wise enough to give me good advice. This makes my parents furious, although they might be glad, it seems to me, that I have such a wise friend to help me."—Jeanette.

ANSWER—How can anyone explain off-hand why Jeanette's mother and father, probably aged fifty at the outside, should be so utterly incompetent to understand and appreciate a man of nearly their own age? And why should their intelligence and experience be so useless—while the new friend is of such inestimable value?

The very fact that poor old mother and father have always been around, makes some children regard their parents as useful household equipment, rather than as real human beings.

Foolish boys and girls will submit to discipline from outsiders which they wouldn't dream of accepting from their parents. They will hang on the words of an older man or woman who flatters them—and flout the opinion of their parents who have lived and suffered and understood a good deal more than the youngsters ever dreamed of.

Mary will shrug her shoulders lightly over her mother's admonition not to run around with the Brown boy—but she will go next door to Mrs. C.—a pretty widow lady, who has a talent for attracting men—and agree meekly to this lady's dictum that the Brown boy is no fit companion for any girl.

John will tell his father in so many words that he's a back-number and doesn't know what he's talking about when he advises against drinking. But when John meets the golf champion out at the club who tells him solemnly to cut out liquor there's a big reformation in the making.

As I say, it is often the fault of mothers and fathers that their children can't take them seriously as human beings. But it is just as often the fault of the children who assume blandly that parents aren't people at all.

Taking it all in all, most men and women want their children to be happy. That's what they're aiming at. And any boy or girl is safer in taking the advice of someone who is working for his or her best interests—than in trying to work out their own salvation along lines approved of by indifferent outsiders.

© Bell Syndicate. WNU Service.

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne

S'MATTER POP— Or, When He Goes on a Diet

By C. M. PAYNE

MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

On With the Dance

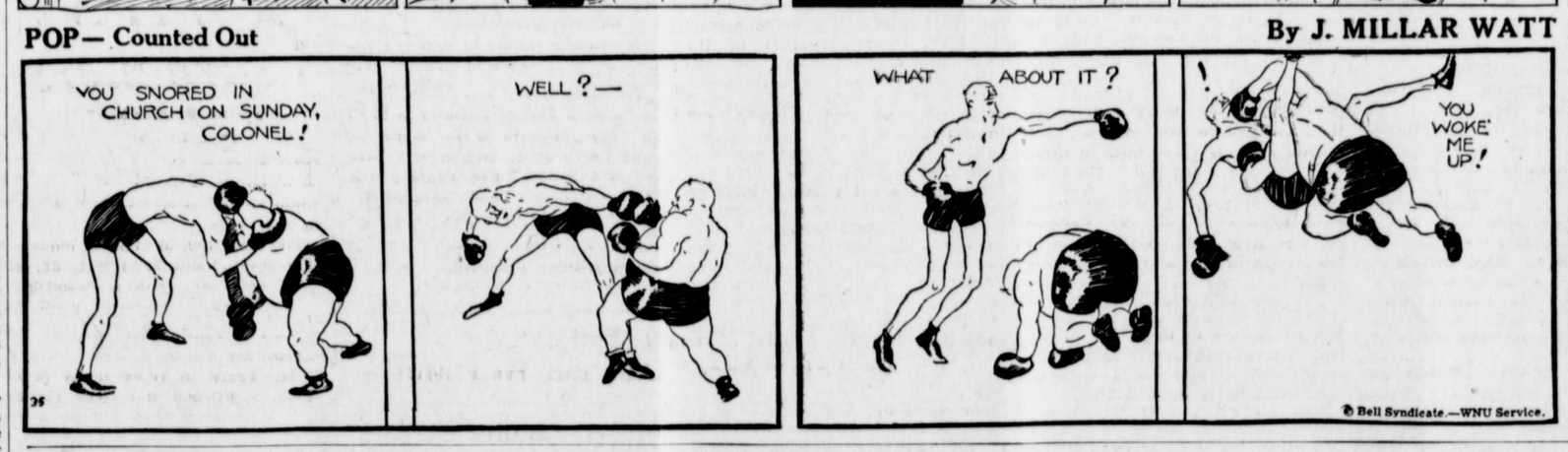
FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin

Robbed of Robes

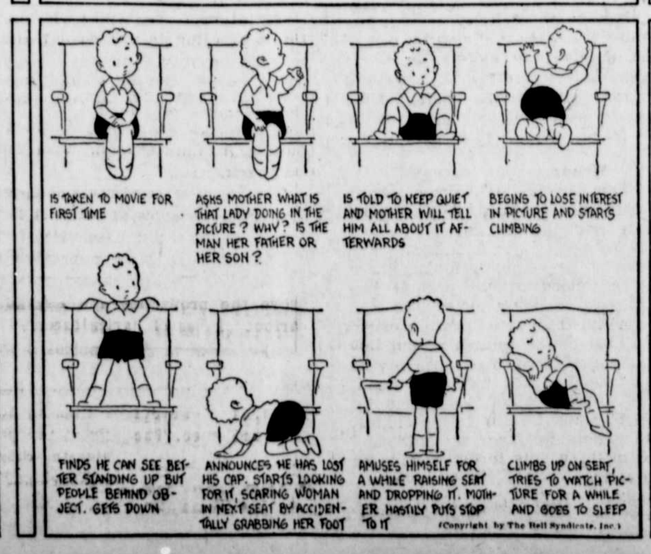
POP— Counted Out

By J. MILLAR WATT



SMALL BOY AT THE MOVIES

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



SOME DILEMMA

"I'm in a terrible difficulty over my girl."

"What's wrong?"

"I've been saying such nice things that she's getting conceited. If I quit she'll think I don't care for her any longer; and if I go on she'll think she's too good for me."

Music Notes

"What is your occupation?"

"I used to be an organist."

"And why did you give it up?"

"The monkey died."

Not in Control

Policeman—How did the accident happen?

Motorist—My wife fell asleep in the back seat.

TIT FOR TAT

Two men were quarreling.

"Yer lanky strip," yelled the diminutive one, "if yer tied yerself in a knot yer wouldn't be fat!"

"And you," retorted the lengthy chap, "if you were to pull your socks up you'd be blindfolded."—Chicago Daily News.

"It's Better!"—say Millions about Pepsodent with IRIUM

BOTH Pepsodent Tooth Paste and Powder contain marvelous Irium

● Millions everywhere are singing the praises of Pepsodent containing Irium to get teeth far brighter!

It is wonderful Irium that helps Pepsodent gently brush away stubborn, clinging surface-stains that *hide* the natural brilliance of your teeth... just as a cloud will hide the light of the sun. With these ugly surface-stains *gone*, your teeth reveal the lovely, gleaming radiance they *naturally* should have!

And Pepsodent with Irium works SAFELY—because it contains NO BLEACH, NO GRIT, NO PUMICE. Try it!