

OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men



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Wit and Humor

ALL ALIKE

Jackson met an old school friend whom he had not seen for a number of years.

"Hallo, old chap," he said heartily. "I hear you've been engaged for nearly a year. Who is the woman in the case?"

"I don't think you know her," replied Jackson. "She's a Miss Terry." The other shook his head gravely. "I understand, old chap," he replied. "I've been married to one for ten years, and she's still a mystery."

—Stray Stories.

Not Fair

Two patients were airing their grievances in the asylum grounds.

Said one: "It's an outrage. I've been here ten years, and I'm as sane as anybody."

"So am I," chimed in the other, "and I've been here 12 years. Let's go and tell the Governor."

"Wait a minute," said the first. "I'm going to test you."

Then, putting her hands behind her back, she said: "What have I got in my hand?"

"A tramcar," promptly answered the other.

"You cheat!" was the heated retort. "You saw me pick it up!"

—Tit-Bits.

ONE WAY



"But your fiance's salary is so small how are you going to live?"

"Oh, we're going to economize. We're going to do without a lot of things that Tom wants."

Finch Hitting

At a marriage service performed in a little country church, when the minister said in solemn tones, "Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, etc.?" instead of the woman answering for herself, a gruff man's voice answered, "I will!"

The minister looked up, very much perplexed, and paused. He repeated the sentence and again the same gruff voice answered, "I will!"

The minister looked up, when a man seated at the end of the first row said, "She's deaf, parson, an' I'm answerin' for her!"

Everyone a Loser

A small boy came hurriedly down the street, and halted breathlessly in front of a stranger who was walking in the same direction.

"Have you lost half a dollar?" he asked.

"Yes, yes, I believe I have!" said the stranger, feeling in his pocket. "Have you found one?"

"Oh, no," said the boy. "I just want to find out how many have been lost today. Yours makes 55."

Final Refuge

"Is there anything in this job of tax collector—any future in it?"

"Well, when you're through they'll let you in at some home for the friendless."

OCCUPATIONAL



"Sometimes Sue speaks and sometimes she doesn't."

"Yes. She got that way since she took a position in the telephone exchange."

Correct Definition

In the course of a general knowledge test, some small boys were asked: "If your mother is shopping and finds she has left her purse at home, she may ask the shopkeeper to send the parcel C. O. D. What do these initials mean?"

It was a very earnest boy, not yet old enough for frivolity, who answered: "Care of Daddy."

In Use

First Neighbor—May I use your telephone?

Second Ditto—Certainly! Is yours out of order?

First Ditto—Not exactly, but my sister is using it to hold up the window; ma's cutting biscuits with the mouth-piece and the baby is teething on the cord.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

EVERYONE who sees Harriet Hilliard in "Follow the Fleet" or hears her sing on the radio with Ozzie Nelson's band ought to meet her as well; she's decidedly worth meeting. To begin with, she is much prettier in real life than in pictures. And to see her as the demure music teacher who, as Ginger Rogers' sister, falls in love with Randolph Scott, gives you no idea whatever of what sort of girl she is. She is magnetic, delightful, charming. And she is one of the few girls who have a career thrust upon them.

She never did want to go on the stage, but she had to earn her living. And when she was very young her mother pointed out to her the fact that it's better to train for a profession that pays well than for one that never will bring in much money. "Better a dancer at one hundred a week than a stenographer at fifteen," said Mamma, or words to that effect. So Harriet became a dancer. She appeared at one of Broadway's big movie houses, and on the road in musical shows. And she worked so hard that, at nineteen, she had to stop.

"If you want to get ahead in Hollywood nowadays, it's better not to be too good looking," remarked a fan magazine editor the other day. She has been meeting movie stars for some fifteen years now, and knows what she is talking about. "Heburn isn't beautiful," said she. "Neither is Doris Dudley, RKO's newest discovery. But they both have talent."

Will Hays, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (what a title!) has decided that one week in May will be Memorial week for Will Rogers; during that week the Will Rogers Memorial at Saranac Lake will be dedicated. But Will Rogers did so many things that will make people remember him that he needs no other memorial.

For a long time it has been Ruby Keeler's ambition to be a great woman golfer; being a good actress and a marvelous dancer meant little in comparison to that.

She's been playing golf for some time, and recently she went into the Southern California women's tournament, won three matches, and was put out in the last round. Looks as if she might achieve that ambition after all.

Did you hear the recent broadcast of Paul Whiteman's birthday celebration? Of course, it came at a bad hour—on the morning Eastern Standard time; NBC kept its line open after midnight for it. The Paul Whiteman alumni staged it—and what a list of well-known people once worked for Paul! Morton Downey, Bing Crosby, Jane Froman, Ferde Grofe and George Gershwin, the composers, and Mary Margaret McBride.

And speaking of Morton Downey, he's sailing in May to keep concert engagements in England and Ireland—and how he loves to go to Ireland!

Here's a funny check-up on the popularity of radio programs. In London they've found that during a really big broadcast the consumption of water drops 85 per cent.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . "These Three" is a picture that you can't afford to miss . . . Toby Wing is actually going to make a picture at last . . . "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" is such a success everywhere that all the studios are going in for outdoor pictures . . . Leslie Howard's son Ronald has been working as an extra in "Romeo and Juliet" . . . Shirley Temple has learned to ride a bicycle and she's crazy about it . . . "Little Lord Fauntleroy" is a grand picturization of the famous book, although Freddie Bartholomew had his boy and does not wear golden curls or a velvet suit . . . Incidentally, his father and mother are still trying to get part of his earnings . . . Paramount will make four pictures in color . . . And Twentieth Century-Fox will film "Ramona" the same way . . . First thing we know, black and white pictures will be on the shelf with the old silent ones.

Flood Prevention Is Matter of Checking Soil Erosion

Ruin Is Ahead Unless Some Action Is Taken, Expert Says.

Such disastrous floods as those of recent weeks can be prevented only by vast undertakings to prevent soil erosion, according to government experts.

They attribute these floods to denuding the soil of the vegetation that receives and holds water in the soil and holds the top soil in place. The water from rains and melting snow now rushes over the bare soil without sinking in and carries the top soil away, to boot.

Thus our fertile soil is steadily being washed into the sea, and life and property are more and more imperiled by floods. Example of a country that did not perceive the same danger now confronting us is China, denuded of trees and other natural vegetation hundreds of years ago and now the perennial victim of the most disastrous floods since the time of Noah.

Millions Spent.

We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in attempts to control floods once they develop, but we scarcely have begun to attack the problem at the source—the prevention of floods.

Under a new government subsidy much may be done to restore the fertility of soil and something may be done to halt the wind erosion of the soil that produces the great dust storms of the last few years. But virtually nothing will be done toward permanent reclamation of the soil with the verdure necessary to the absorption of flood waters at the source.

Soil Erosion Damage.

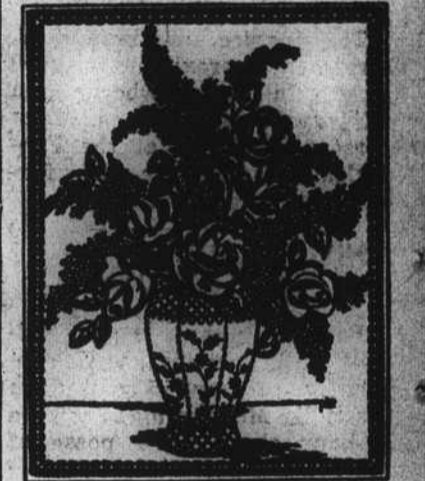
"We must attack the problem of soil erosion control as we would an armed foe about to defeat us," said Mr. Cooke. "Let things go on as they now are going and in 50 years we will have a total area of really fertile land not much more than three times the size of Nebraska. We are likely to go the way of Asia Minor and Tibet unless we sense our dangerous situation and act promptly."

This is no fanciful picture, according to Mr. Cooke. A single dust storm, he says, has swept away as much as 300,000,000 tons of fertile top soil from the wheat belt; the Mississippi river carries 400,000,000 tons of top soil to the Gulf of Mexico every year; more than 100,000,000 acres already have been destroyed as crop bearing soil, while another 125,000,000 acres have been seriously impaired for crop bearing and an additional 100,000,000 acres are seriously threatened. The total annual damage amounts to \$400,000,000.

"We unwittingly have broken the balance of nature's forces," says Mr. Cooke, "by clearing too much of our forests, turning under too much of our soil, and grazing too much of the remainder in such manner as to destroy the grass roots. We have planted tile, dug ditches and straightened and cleared creeks and rivers to hasten run-off. Consequently less rain and snow penetrates into underground storage. More of it rushes to the sea without benefit to us and carries with it valuable top soil."

The nation's only real flood safety, according to H. H. Bennett, chief of the soil conservation service, lies in a nation-wide program of crop adaptation, rotation, and reforestation calculated to hold American top soil, particularly that of hilly and mountainous regions, where it belongs, and to give it the utmost degree of porosity so that heavy rains will have a fair chance to drain off underground.

Colorful Embroidery Picture for Your Wall



Pattern 5537

In honor of spring your house deserves a colorful new wall-hanging such as this, which depicts roses and lilacs in their natural splendor. You'll enjoy embroidering it—it's so easy even a beginner will be won over to this delightful occupation. The lilacs are in lazy daisy—the roses in satin and outline stitch; and you needn't frame it—just line it and hang it up.

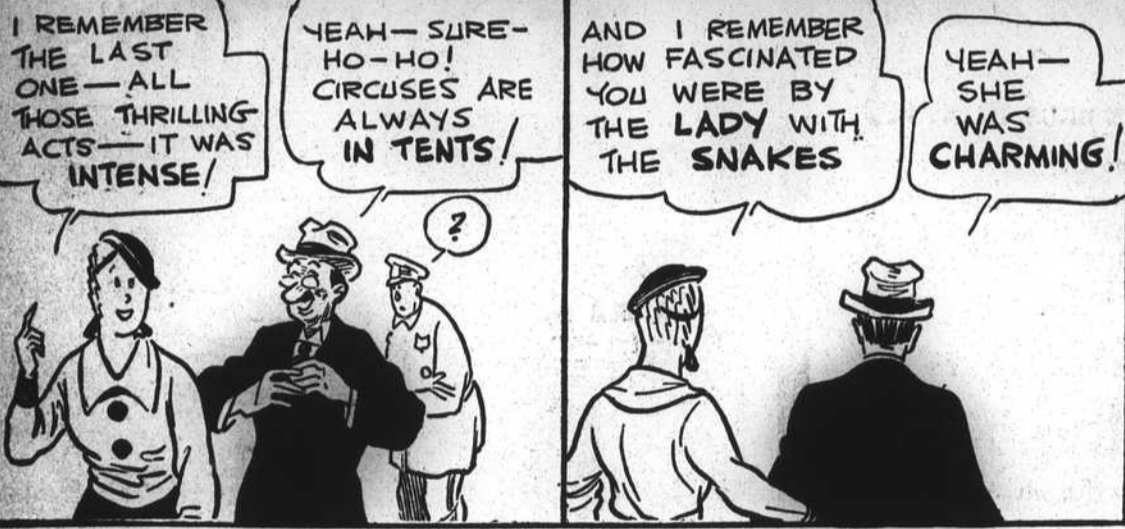
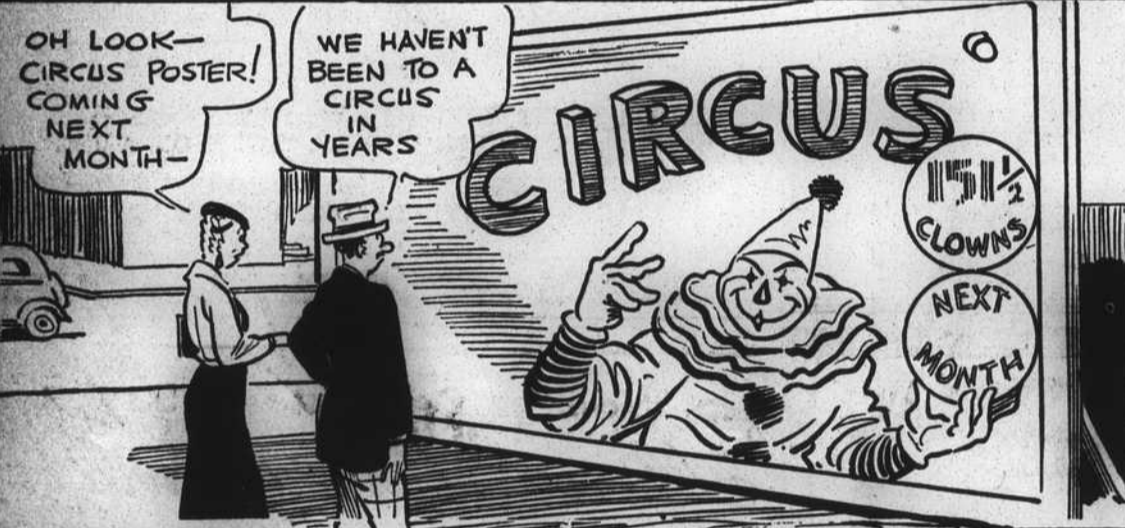
In pattern 5537 you will find a transfer pattern of a hanging 15 by 20 inches; a color chart; material requirements; illustrations of all stitches needed; directions for making the hanging.

Send fifteen cents in coins or stamps (coins preferred) to The Sewing Circle, Household Arts Dept., 259 W. 14th St., New York, N. Y.

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne

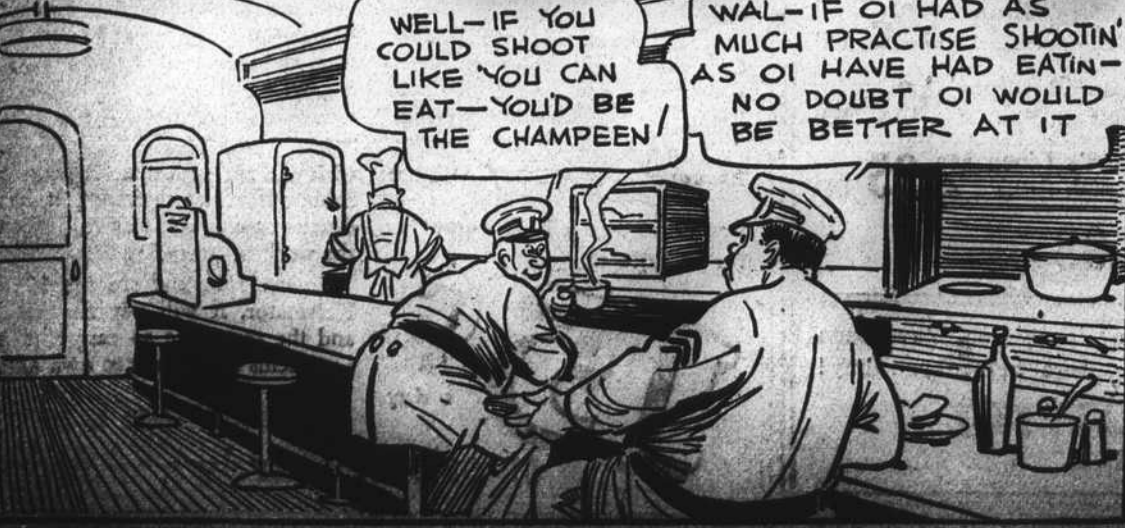
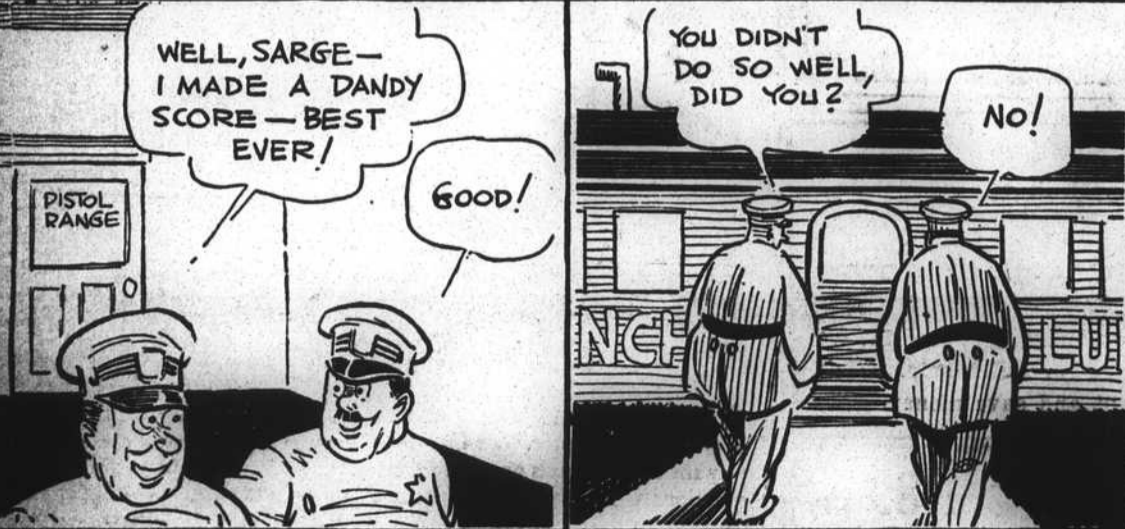
Just Clowning



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin

A Different Aim



SMILES

It's a Big Place

Teacher—Bobby, do you know the population of Chicago?

Bobby—Not all of them, Miss Shaw, we've only lived here three years.

King for a Day

A.—What would you do if you could be a king for one day only?

B.—I would borrow so much money that I could live carefree the rest of my life.

To Be Bitter End

Mr. Snap—My motto is: What is worth doing is worth doing well.

Mrs. Snap—I notice that when you make a fool of yourself.

Saves Time

Mrs. Youngbride (telephoning grocer)—I want you to send me two pounds of beefsteak.

Grocer—What kind would you like?

Mrs. Youngbride—I'd like it rare, please.

Stolen Kisses

Husband—If a man steals, no matter what it is, he will live to regret it.

Wife (cooly)—You used to steal kisses from me before we were married.

Husband—Well, your heard what I said.

Familiarity

FAMILIARITY makes us careless and unobservant. But there comes a day when we observe and think. Then we suffer. As a boy I loved life and country things. I used to get up to see the sun, as an old divine I once read remarks, "coming forth from his chambers in the East." I have come in to breakfast drenched in dew. How it used to glisten and sparkle in the morning light! But that is all a thousand years behind.—J. A. Stewart.

Brave deeds are most estimable when hidden . . . What was finest in them was the desire to hide them.—Pascal.

Cramping His Style

"Are you an angel, daddy?"

"Of course not! Why?"

"Because I heard mother say she was going to clip your wings."

The Very Idea!

Miss—Did anyone ever tell you how wonderful you are?

Youth—No; I don't think anyone ever did.

Miss—Then I'd like to know where you get the idea.

NO SUCH COURAGE



Miss Flirt—Two strange men spoke to me on the street today. Old Aunt Sarah—Huh! A stranger never tries to speak to me.

