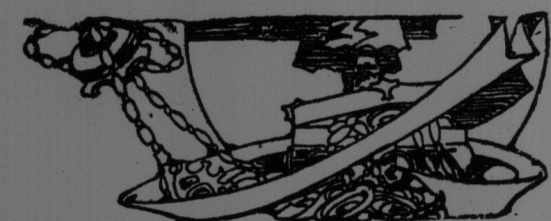


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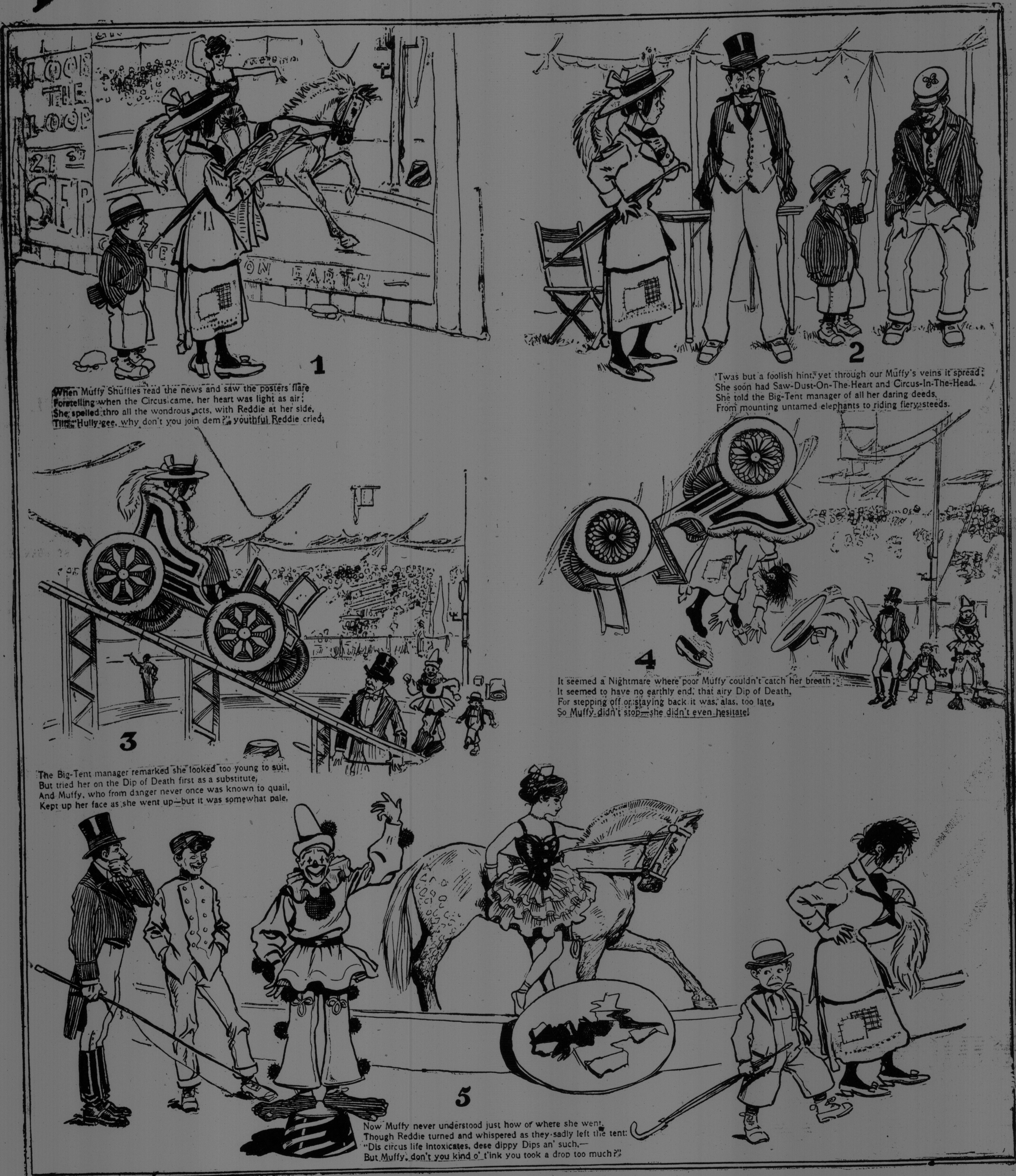
MC 2034



MUFFYSHUFFLES

by B. CORY KILVERT

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When Muffy Shuffles read the news and saw the posters flare
Foretelling when the Circus came, her heart was light as air;
She spelled thro' all the wondrous acts, with Reddie at her side,
"Hully-gee, why don't you join dem?" youthful Reddie cried.

'Twas but a foolish hint yet through our Muffy's veins it spread;
She soon had Saw-Dust-On-The-Heart and Circus-In-The-Head.
She told the Big-Tent manager of all her daring deeds,
From mounting untamed elephants to riding fiery steeds.

The Big-Tent manager remarked she looked too young to suit,
But tried her on the Dip of Death first as a substitute,
And Muffy, who from danger never once was known to quail,
Kept up her face as she went up—but it was somewhat pale.

It seemed a Nightmare where poor Muffy couldn't catch her breath,
It seemed to have no earthly end; that airy Dip of Death,
For stepping off or staying back it was, alas, too late,
So Muffy didn't stop—she didn't even hesitate!

Now Muffy never understood just how or where she went,
Though Reddie turned and whispered as they sadly left the tent:
"Dis circus life intoxicates, dese dippy Dips an' such,—
But Muffy, don't you kind o' tink you took a drop too much?"