

# New Stories By O. HENRY

**THE RAKE-OFF.**  
 "Who bids?"  
 The auctioneer held up a child's rocking-horse, battered and stained. It had belonged to some little member of the man's family whose household property was being sold under the hammer.  
 He was utterly ruined. He had given up everything in the world to his creditors—house, furniture, horses, stock of goods and lands. He stood among the crowd watching the sale that was scattering his household goods and his heirlooms among a hundred strange hands.  
 On his arm leaned a woman heavily veiled.  
 "Who bids?"  
 The auctioneer held the rocking-horse high that it might be seen. Childish hands had torn away the wavy mane; the bridle was twisted and worn by tender little fingers. The crowd was still. The woman under the heavy veil sobbed and stretched out her hands.  
 "No, no, no!" she cried.  
 The man was white with emotion. The little form that once so merrily rode the old rocking-horse had drifted away into the world years ago. This was the only relic left of his happy infancy.  
 The auctioneer, with a queer moisture in his eyes, handed the rocking-horse to the man without a word. He seized it with eager hands, and he and the veiled woman hurried away.  
 The crowd murmured with sympathy.  
 The man and the woman went into an empty room and set the rocking-horse down. He took out his knife, ripped open the front of the horse and took out a roll of bills. He counted them and said: "It's a cold day when I fall without a rake-off. Eight thousand five hundred dollars, but that auctioneer came very near busting up the game."  
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## BARNEY GOOGLE



## Sparky Gets "Fired," and Breaks a Record.

BY BILLY DE BECK.

## MUTT AND JEFF

"They're Off" at Jamaica Today.

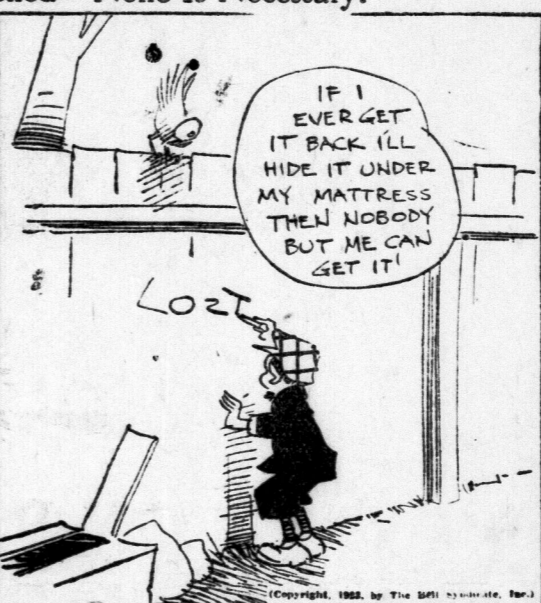
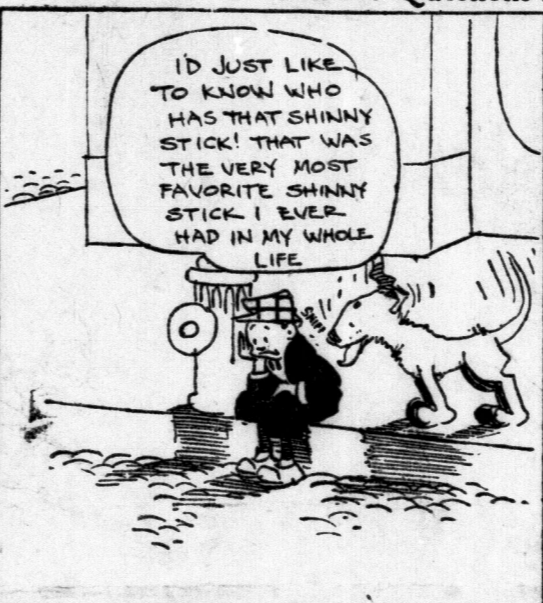
BY BUD FISHER



## REG'LAR FELLERS

And No Questions Asked—None Is Necessary.

BY GENE BYRNES.



## CAS BUGGIES

Some People Howl Before They're Hurt.

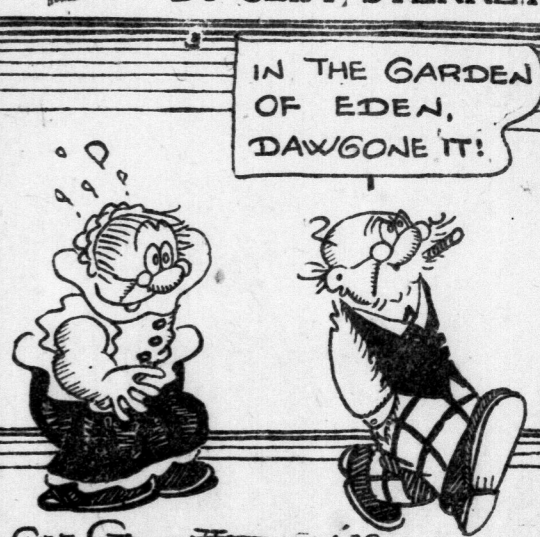
BY BECK



## POLLY AND HER PALS

Ask Pa Some Hard Question.

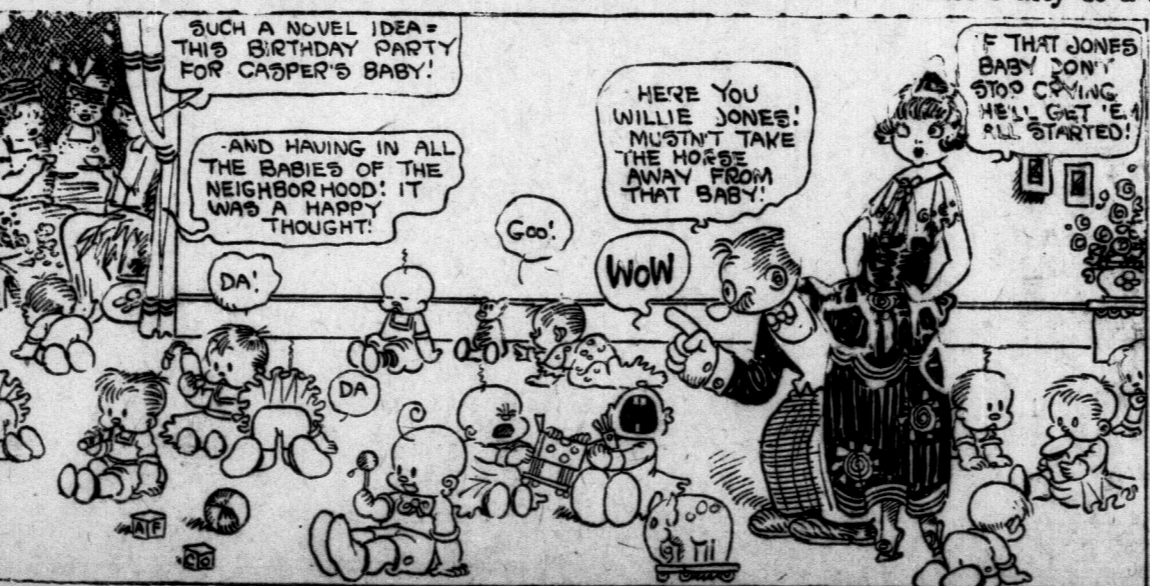
BY CLIFF STERRETT.



## TOOTS AND CASPER

The Party Is a Howling Success.

BY JIMMY MURPHY.



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