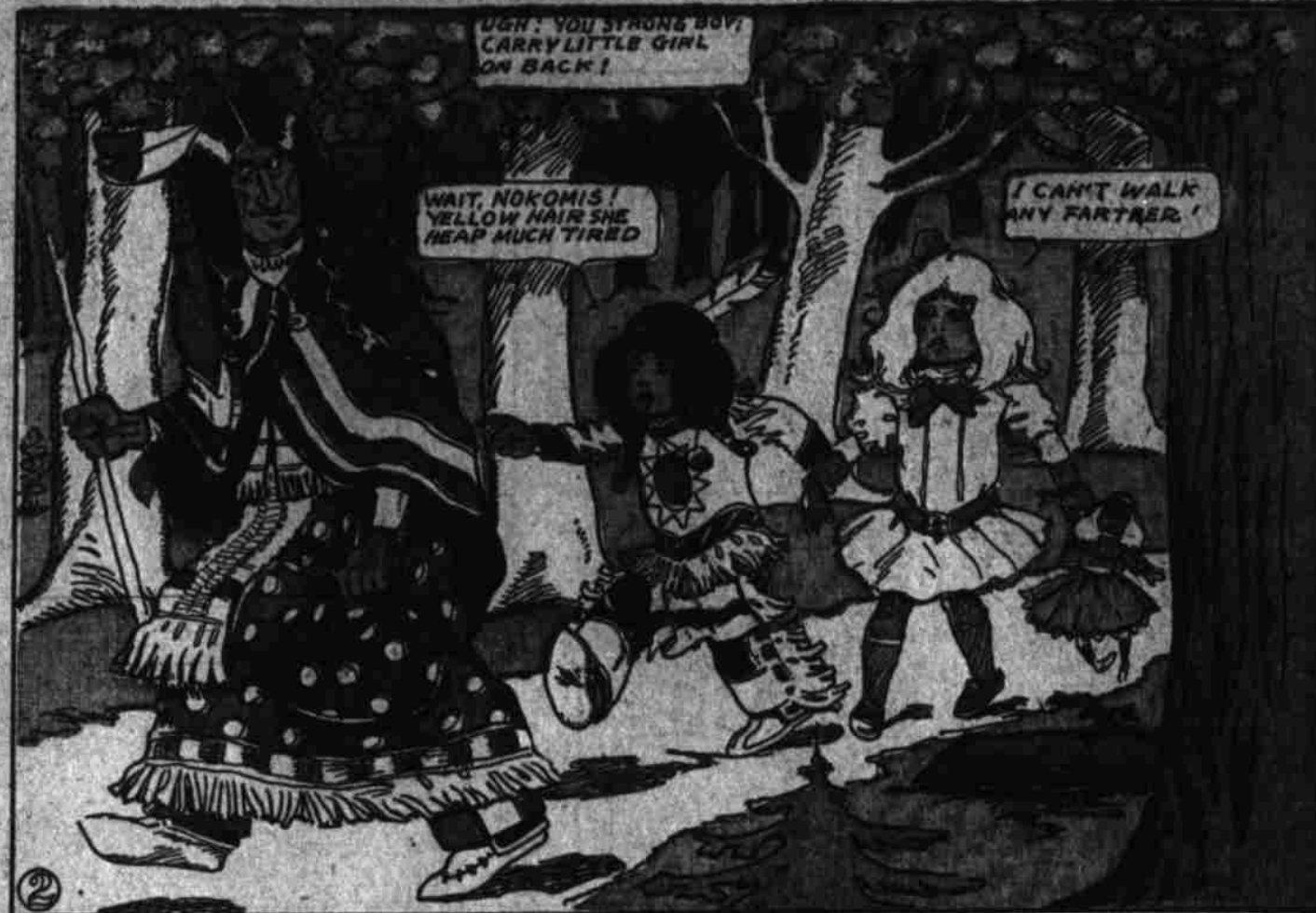


LITTLE CRAWLING BIRD IN WINDEGO LAND



Now when the time came for Little Crawling Bird to go back to Windigo Land, Nokomis asked Chief Red Feather if she could take the little white girl he had rescued from the bad Indians along with her. She said Little Crawling Bird needed a little playmate because she had no other companions but a big brown bear and a very black crow to play with. There were plenty of Indian children in the village, so Red Feather agreed that it would be all right if Panny Yellow Hair wanted to go. However, he said he would come for her in the spring, when he was about to start on a journey to the White Man's country.

It was now the fall of the year and the Indians would not be going across the Big Water to the White Man's Trading Post, where they sold their winter's catch of furs, until the following spring. Red Feather intended to take her with him when he went and hand her over to the "Black Coast," the Missionaries, so they could find out where her people lived and restore the little girl to her parents. Well, that being settled, one fine morning they said good-bye to the Indian village and began the journey through the forest that lay between the village and their home in Windigo Land. Yellow Hair was not used to walking so fast and soon became very tired, so—



Little Crawling Bird called to Nokomis to stop a while and rest, because Yellow Hair was almost ready to drop. Nokomis thought she would see how much the little boy cared for his new playmate, and said "You heap big strong boy now, carry little girl on back!" So Little Crawling Bird lifted Yellow Hair up and carried her "pickaback." He went along bravely enough for a while, but he was a very little boy, and soon grew dreadfully tired.

Very soon he had to give up, too, and called on Nokomis for help! So she took her big red blanket from her shoulders and threw it over both the children. Then she swung them around and up on her back and away she went, walking faster than ever to make up for lost time. The two children looked very funny with their heads—a yellow and a black one—bobbing around in the folds of the blanket, but they felt very "comfy," and soon fell asleep.

When they awoke—to and behold—there was the Wigwam almost in front of them! Big Bear and Aundak, the Crow, had been waiting for them a long time and both were very lonesome without their little friend and playmate. They were sleeping behind the Wigwam, but when their sharp ears caught the sound of footsteps, they jumped up and ran out to see who was coming.



My, but they were glad to see Nokomis again! They knew that Little Crawling Bird was sure to be with her, and they ran down the path to meet them. Nokomis set the children down and Little Crawling Bird ran straight into the arms of Big Bear, who gave him oh, such a hug—and you know how bears can hug when they really try! Aundak, too, came flapping along, "cawing" loudly. But Panny Yellow Hair had never before seen a real, live brown bear outside of a picture book, and when she saw such a great, big bear so close she almost fainted. Nokomis only laughed at her fears and told her what a nice, good friend this bear was.

When Little Crawling Bird had finished his greeting to his big friend he thought he had better make him and Panny Yellow Hair acquainted. So he began pulling Big Bear forward, and Nokomis persuaded the little girl to shake hands with him. She was very timid at first, and Big Bear acted rather foolish himself. He was as bashful as some little boys are when they first meet a strange little girl. Anyway, they soon became fast friends, and Yellow Hair and Little Crawling Bird had many pleasant adventures together—as you may see by the pictures, if you watch for them every week.