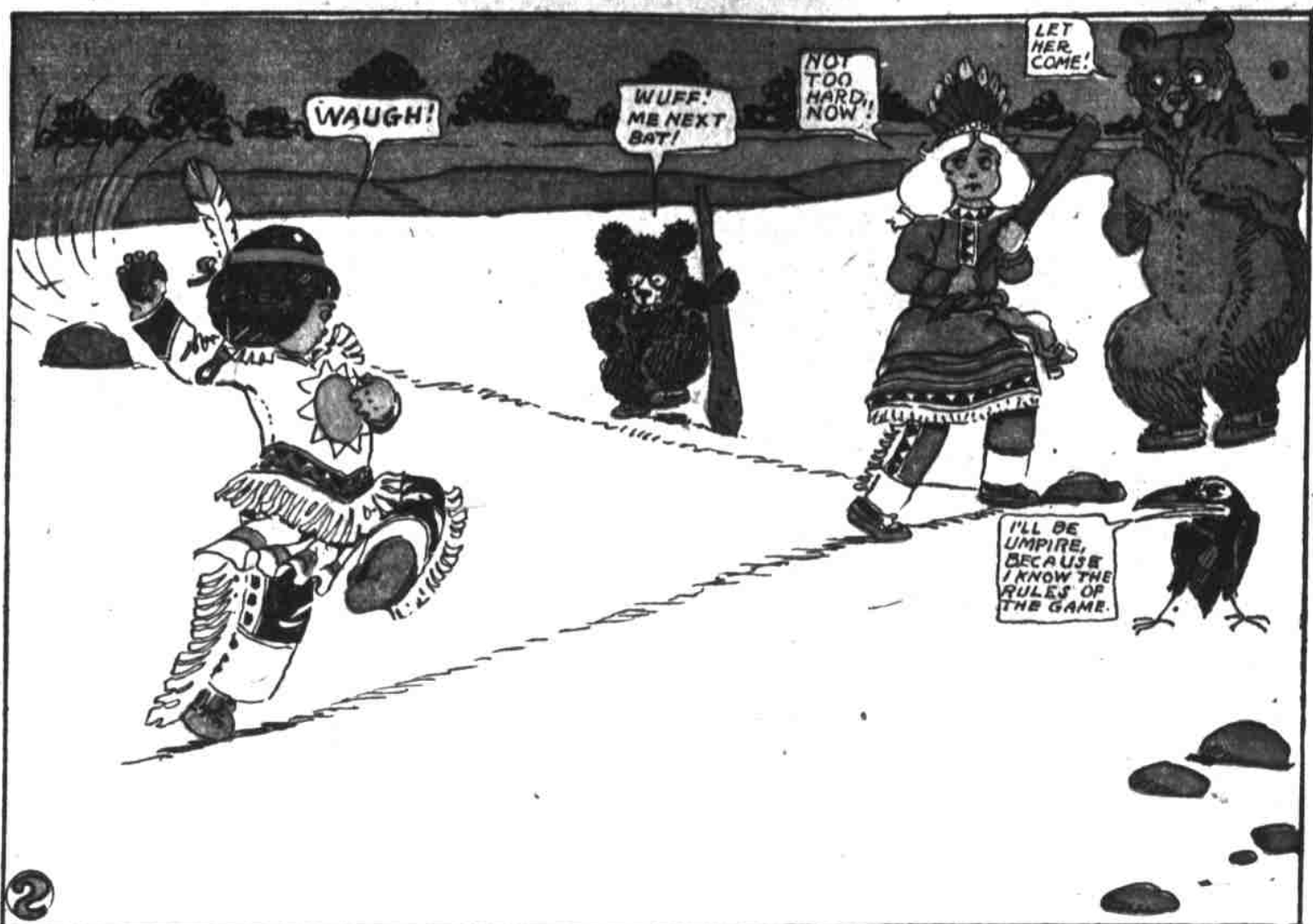


LITTLE GROWLING BIRD IN WINDY GO LAND



As you were told last week, Nokomis cut the lump of cartilage, or gristle, from the nose of Nah-may, the Great Sturgeon (which Big Bear had caught and brought ashore), and, after rounding it off, she gave it to Little Growling Bird to use as a "bounce ball." But Yellow Hair said it would be nicer to play a bat-and-ball game than to go on bouncing it around aimlessly. So they coaxed Nokomis to give them enough fishing twine to wind around it until it should look like a real "store" ball. Yellow Hair found a nice smooth club-stick, suitable for a bat, but Little Bear—proud of his victory over Wolverine, and boasting that he was now "Heap strong Black Bear"—dragged after him a great big sick—a regular "Pug-ah-maw-gun," or Indian War-Club, for HIS bat!

The wide, flat sandbar at this part of the river bank would make the best kind of a ball ground, but, of course, they could not play a regular boys' game, because there were not enough players. But Yellow Hair said she would teach Growling Bird the old "One Hunk" game, which three or four can play. Of course, the Little Boy had often played "catch" with Big Bear, but not this kind of a game. So Yellow Hair explained it to him and the others. This is the way it is played: In this game there is only ONE "hunk," or base (which is usually a stone or an old stump), and lies about twenty or thirty feet away. When the ball is struck the batter runs and tries to touch the "hunk" and get back before the others can reach the ball and throw it so that it either hits the home base itself or is caught by another player and the plate touched.



But if he gets back safely he counts one run, and goes on batting until he is put out. If the ball is caught on the fly, or on the FIRST rebound, or if he misses three fairly pitched balls over the plate, and the catcher catches them all, on the fly or on "first bounce," he is out! Sometimes a strong batter will knock the ball so far that he will have time to make quite a number of runs on one flight of the ball. But if the ball cannot be found after a little search the others cry: "LOST BALL!" and then he cannot count any more runs on that hit. When the batter is put out he must go out and "field," and the other comes in and catches; the catcher takes the pitcher's place, he being now the batter himself. Each one of the players thus plays all the different parts of the game in turn. But they all like to bat as long as they can stay "in."

Well, Big Bear offered to play "catcher"—and bears CAN catch fine! Aundak couldn't play ball, so HE said he'd be the umpire! Yellow Hair took the bat, and the very first ball Growling Bird pitched she struck almost into his hands. He caught it easily, and, alas, Fanny was out! Aundak cawed "OUT!!!"—just like a real umpire. Little Bear then came to bat, carrying his big War-Club. Growling Bird threw a real swift ball at the Big Stick. (He was a good stone thrower, you remember.) Little Bear never moved his bat at all, so the ball struck it fair and square and bounced straight back, almost as hard, and landed against the Little Boy's "tummy" with an awful jolt! It knocked the breath out of him, and he sat down very suddenly. Aundak yelled "FOUL BALL!!!" but—



Little Bear paid no attention to him. Of course, there aren't any "fouls" in "One Hunk," but the Crow didn't mind a little thing like that! Meanwhile, the Careless Cub had dropped the heavy club right on Big Bear's tender feet, and was galloping off toward "first base," from which Yellow Hair was now returning. (She was "hunk," you know.) Big Bear hopped around on one foot, holding the other, and grunting with pain. When Little Bear reached the "hunk," or base—which happened to be a large stone—he thought he'd do something to show how smart he really was getting to be! He grabbed up the stone with his strong claws and came toddling back with it to "show off" before Growling Bird, who was still sitting on the ground. You would have laughed had you heard the way he bragged THEN! (You can get only a faint idea of it from the words in the picture!)

The foolish Bear Cub had heard Yellow Hair explaining the way to "steal a base"—which means to steal along quietly to the base while the others are not looking—but HE thought that she meant to steal the base ITSELF! However, the Little Bear Cub was SURE to come to grief every time he began to grow BOASTFUL, or let his GREEDINESS get the better of him, so you may be sure that severe punishment was awaiting him not far off. Big Bear was very angry at the rough way Mukoons, the Little Bear, had acted all through the game, and took him over his knee—and what happened THEN you can see for yourself!!! But later you may see a different kind of game—"BAH-GAW-UD-OWAY," the REAL game of ball the Indians invented themselves!

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A. T. C.

