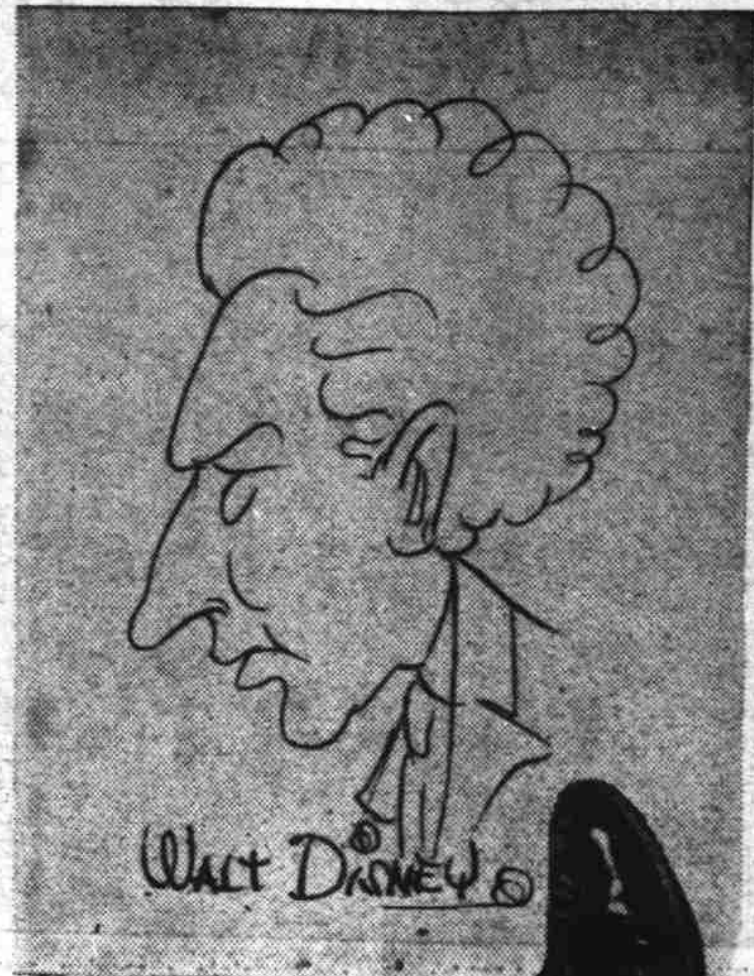
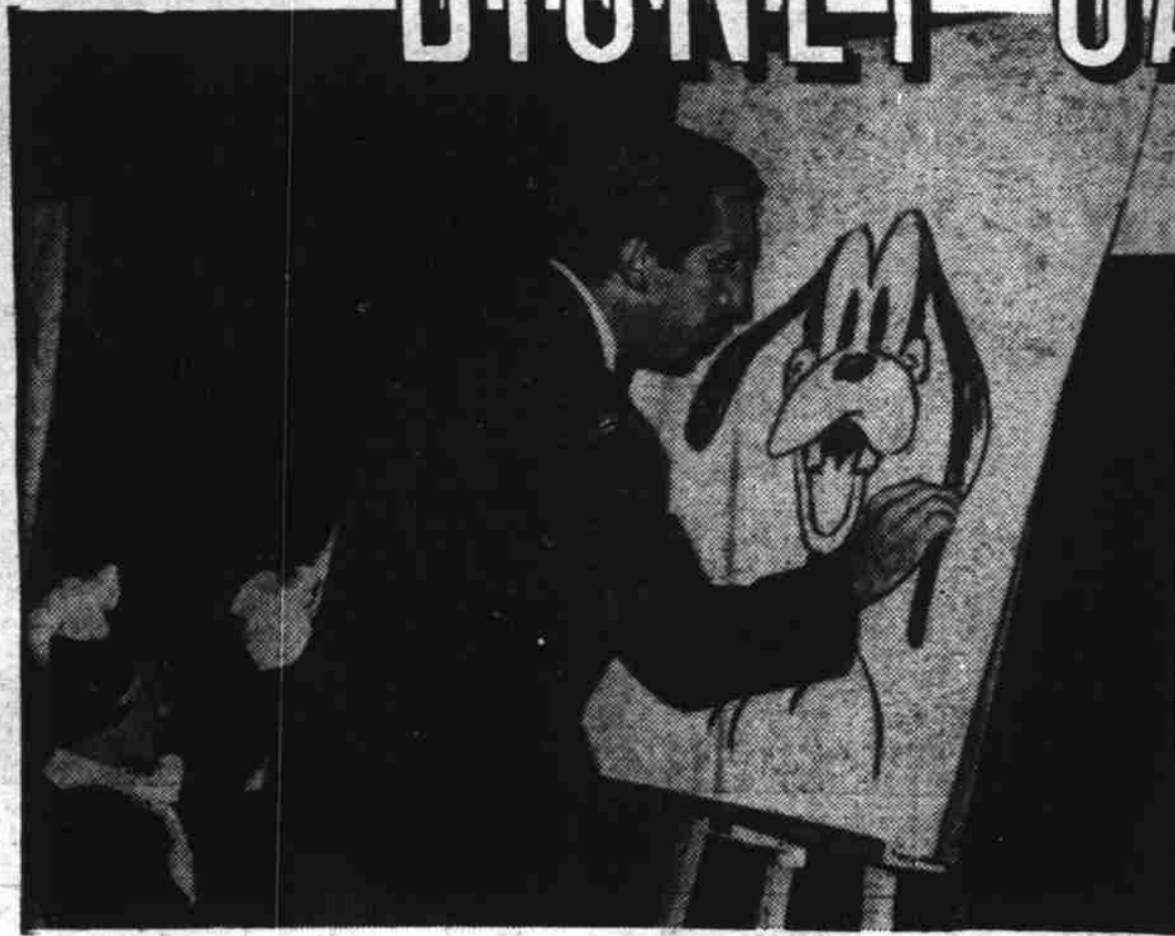


# SO DISNEY CAN'T DRAW?



When Walt arrived there, in Aug. 1923, his older brother Roy was already in Los Angeles, recovering the health he lost in World War I service. Roy put his savings behind Walt's ideas and became the business head of the studio they established. He (left) has been Walt's right-hand man ever since. Walt has two older brothers, one younger sister.

Another genuine Disney drawing—the subject, of course, is Leopold Stokowski. Disney caricatures of visitors have provided characteristics for many an animal in his strip and film creations.

You couldn't fool this child: She knows Walt Disney CAN draw.

A FEW weeks ago Westbrook Pegler departed from his usual theme to do the unexpected—say a kind word for a fellow mortal. Walt Disney, he said, "is the author of more gross tonnage of innocent fun . . . than any other human being who ever lived." However, instead of resting his case on fact, Pegler proceeded to refer to Disney as "this American artist who, himself, probably could not draw an acceptable comic strip."

Well, to let Pegler off easily, this was one time he didn't know what he was talking about. For Disney produces comic strips that hundreds of editors consider highly acceptable—strips that brighten up newspapers for millions of readers daily. What does Pegler look at in newspapers? Disney newspaper comic strips antedate the movies that won him most fame among theatergoers. It's true now Disney doesn't draw all of them right down to the last line; but he COULD.

The Disney Mickey Mouse newspaper strip goes back to 1928. The Donald Duck strip was started several years later. Disney, himself, began cartooning in 1919; hundreds of original Disneys are to be found in files of Middle Western farm papers. They were mostly drawn while he was living in Kansas City. There, in 1920, he chanced to get a job as cartoonist for a company producing advertising slides for movie theaters—perhaps the most fortuitous happening in the history of cinema art, for it led Disney to become an animated movie producer. His first one, a short reel of Kansas City incidents, he produced singlehandedly at home. Its success encouraged him to make more; and Disney went to Hollywood.



Disney comic strips spanned the world before his movies did. There is a country now that has not heard of him through the movies, but nobody has heard of his strips.



Candid shots of Disney in a story conference, "acting" sequences for his animators. You can see impish Disney self-caricatures in many of his pictures. He's also screen voice of Mickey Mouse.



Disney does heavy thinking about musical themes for his movies or continuities for his comic strips, on his back. He was born Walter E. Disney, Dec. 5, 1901, in Chicago, son of a building contractor who moved the family to Kansas City when Walt was young. He quit high school in the second year, to get into World War I; but Harvard, Southern California and Yale have given him honorary degrees.



Disney's great gifts for pantomime made it easy for him to get along with crowds of children he encountered in South America, where he found he was one of the three foreigners best known and liked—the others being FDR and Churchill. He has two children of his own, daughters named Diane Marie and Sharon Marie. His home is a rambling French Provincial mansion on a hill overlooking his studio.

Walt's favorite recreation is polo. His horsemanship won him the respect of gauchos with whom he rode (above) in the Argentine.

Disney likes to fix his lunches in the kitchen of the apartment he has in his studio. When engrossed in a picture, he works around the clock. He has donated a vast amount of endeavor to production of cartoons and animated pictures to aid the war effort.

Mrs. Disney was Marie Bounds, of Lewiston, Idaho. They met in 1923 when she became one of the first two girl employees of the Disney studio; they were married in 1925. The Disneys do not seek the spotlight, are usually unrecognized by celebrity hunters.

