

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1947

Little Orphan Annie

I HAD RATHER BE A BEGGAR AND SPEND MY LAST DOLLAR LIKE A KING, THAN BE A KING AND SPEND MY MONEY LIKE A BEGGAR."
—INGERSOLL

THAT CRAZY MOB DID JUST AS I FIGURED THEY WOULD... BUT THE FOOLS... WHY COULDN'T THEY HAVE GONE ON AND STRING UP JOE CHRISTMAS?

THEY WOULD HAVE, EXCEPT THAT STUPID CHIEF UPGO, HAD TO BUTT IN! WELL, IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE!

I STILL HAVEN'T PLAYED MY ACE! HA-HA! WAIT TILL THE MONEY AND THAT BLOODY POKER ARE FOUND... IN JOE'S SHACK!... THEN WE'LL SEE SOMETHING!

GEE, JOE! ALL TH' BASKETS AND PACKAGES... WHAT YUH DOIN'?

OH, CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE, ANNIE...

YES, I KNOW... BUT... ER... THAT IS... ALL THOSE POOR GUYS THAT YOU HELPED...

DRIVEN AWAY AND THEIR HOMES BURNED BY THAT MOB? YES... BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS IN NEED...

SURE... BUT, JOE... WHAT ABOUT THAT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT? EVEN NOW YOU HAVEN'T MONEY ENOUGH TO PAY IT...

OH, THE LAW WON'T ALLOW THEM TO EVICT ME AT ONCE... AND THE POOR AND HUNGRY CAN NOT PUT OFF THEIR NEED...

JOE'S AN AWFUL GOOD GUY... ALWAYS SPENDIN' HIS LAST DOLLAR, AND GOIN' WITHOUT TO HELP SOMEONE WORSE OFF...

JOE CHRISTMAS... WHY, HE'S GOT TH' REAL SPIRIT O' CHRISTMAS... AND NOT JUST ONCE A YEAR, BUT EVERY DAY O' TH' YEAR!

HOW TH' SAM HILL CAN FOLKS HATE A GUY LIKE JOE? CAN IT BE THAT HE SORT O' EMBARRASSES 'EM, 'CAUSE THEY KNOW THEY'RE NOT AS GOOD AS HE IS?

THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY RUGGED 'ROUND HERE LATELY, BUT I GUESS TH' WORST HAS BLOWN OVER FOR A WHILE... IT LOOKS AS IF IT'D BE A MIGHTY MERRY CHRISTMAS, AFTER ALL... EH, SANDY?

LET'S SEE NOW! HERE'S OUR PRESENTS FOR AUNT DIETY AND UNCLE TIL... AND PAW... AND JOE... AND LITTLE JOEY, CHIEF UPGO'S KID... AND HM... TH' ONE I HAD FOR POOR MRS. NUBB...

EH? AIR EXPRESS? FOR ME? SPECIAL DELIVERY? ARE YUH SURE?

YEP! IT'S FOR YOU, ANNIE! AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GEE-E-E--WHO'D SEND ANYTHING TO ME? HERE... KIND O' SMUDGED... WHY... IT'S... IT'S FROM... FROM DADDY WARBUCKS!

HAROLD GRAY

YEOW! YOU SAID IT, MISTER! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ARF!