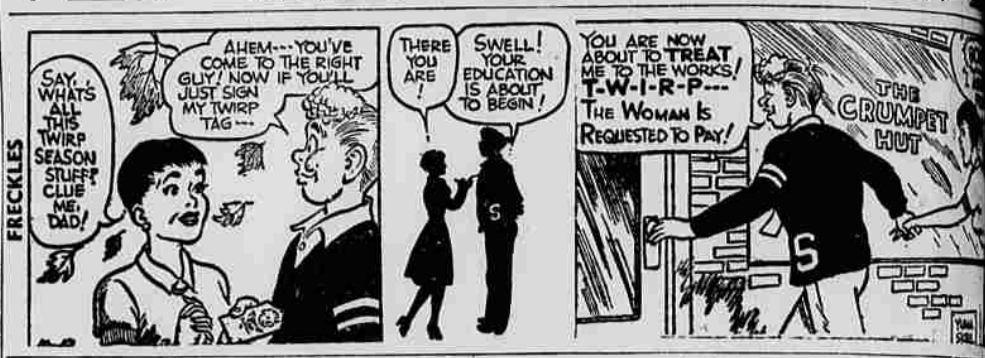
STEVE ROPER

MARTHA WAYNE

GASOLINE ALLEY

ORPHAN ANNIE

FRECKLES



BUZ SAWYER

BOOTS

REX MORGAN

ALLEY OOP

BUGS BUNNY

Is That So!

Here's New Angle on Old Rope Trick

By EUGENE BURNS

"I RUN a good hardware store here in Idaho Falls," writes A.S.G., via the Post Register. "Now a fancy rope peddler the other day tried to sell me on the strength of his manila rope by hitching the ends of a piece to two tractors and having the tractors pull in opposite directions. I told him to go blow. The tension on the rope was no greater than if one end were fastened to to a tree and only one tractor were used. The joker blew his top and bet me a bale of 4½-inch rope. Now that ain't hay, Ranger. What's your answer? And the next time you come to Idaho fishing, look me up for sure."

"Can a nonpoisonous snake like the garter bite?" asks Mrs. H.S.O. via the Beaver (Pa.) Times.

"Maybe I'm just a low-caliber hunter, but will you tell me what's meant by the designations: .22, .30-30, and .250-3,000?" asks J.R.S. via the Eureka Humboldt (Cal) Standard.

"Can an animal drown?" asks Joe B., aged 11, via the Merced (Cal.) Sun-Star. "If so, do they come up three times like a human?"

SNAKE BITE: Yes indeed, Mrs. H. S. O., all those non-

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poisonous snakes such as garter snakes, water snakes, and bull snakes have teeth and they can and do bite. However, as you perhaps know, their fangs are not hollow and provided with poison glands and their bite is no more dangerous than that of most animals (shrews and humans excepted). When bitten by a snake, it is sound practice to make the wound bleed, then wash and sterilize it promptly as there is always danger of blood-poisoning setting in.

RIFLE BORE: The first number in all those designations refers to a gun's caliber, that is, the interior diameter of the barrel measured between those raised parts in the bore between the grooves. It is usually measured in inches or hundredths of an inch.

That means, J. R. S., that your .22 has a 22/100ths-inch bore, the .30-30 a 30/100ths of an inch, the .250-3,000, a 250/1,000ths of an inch. In the .30-30, the figure following the hyphen denotes the ballistic equivalent to the black powder charge. When referred to as .250-3,000, the figure after the hyphen denotes the muzzle velocity. Incidentally, it isn't right to speak of "low caliber"—either you're a "large" caliber hunter, or a "small" one!

ANIMAL DROWNING: Sure enough, Joe, animals drown. All of them — fish, birds, beaver, whales. And, like the human, they do not necessarily rise three times before finally sinking. That, incidentally, is a mistaken notion and has no scientific basis although a human body will often rise to the surface.

It's like this: a person who falls into deep water tends to sink because the human body is slightly heavier than the same amount of water it displaces. When the drowning person rises, it is because there is some air remaining in his lungs or air passages.

But don't bank on it. Many drowning persons do not come to the surface after their first sinking. This usually happens when a person finding himself drowning makes a frantic struggle to save himself. In doing so, he draws water into his windpipe, which causes him to cough and expel air from his lungs. He then sinks. If all the air is expelled he will not rise to the surface at all, and especially so if he is fully clothed. But when the drowning person has some control over himself, he may sink and rise more than three times before his strength fails completely and he sinks to rise no more.

ROPE PULL: Man, you just won yourself a bale of rope. You're dead right. That second tractor exerts no more pull than if the rope were tied to a solid object. It's like that old chestnut about whether more tension is exerted on a rope when 20 men pull, ten to a side, than if only 10 pulled and had the rope tied to a tree. Such a stunt done with two tractors must look very impressive to the uninitiated, Mr. A. S. G.—but, apparently, you don't belong to that breed. But you wouldn't spoil a good demonstration, would you? P. S. Hope to fly fish in Idaho again next summer, if I'm lucky. EB.

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WEST VIRGINIAN HAS SURPRISING PLATFORM

'I-Don't-Like-Ike' Is Solon's Theme

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another of several stories by roving Associated Press political reporters analyzing the campaign in key states.

By DON WHITEHEAD
Of The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP)—West Virginia's fiery, 79-year-old Sen. Matthew M. Neely (Democrat) is fighting today for a fifth term in the U. S. Senate on the politically surprising platform: I-Don't-Like-Ike.

Generally, Democratic candidates have aimed their criticisms at "the administration" while tip-toeing around any direct assaults on President Eisenhower himself.

But Neely is an exception and he's waging an anti-Eisenhower campaign in his effort to defeat his Republican opponent, 50-year-old Thomas B. Sweeney of Wheeling, who is making his third bid for a Senate seat. Eight years ago, Sweeney fell short of beating Sen. Harley Kilgore (D-W.Va) by only 3,852 votes.

Neely has aimed at Eisenhower such darts as these:

'USELESS PRESIDENT'

"In 32 years in Washington, I've never seen a more useless President than Dwight D. Eisenhower."

"Eisenhower is a political myth."

"He's the poorest President the United States ever had."

Neely says he has no fears that such attacks will hurt his own chances for re-election, and he supports his argument by pointing to his nomination with more votes than all of his three opponents combined.

At this stage, even Republican leaders concede privately that Neely's tactics apparently have done him no great harm and they don't seem inclined to make Eisenhower's economic record the issue in the campaign.

DOUBTFUL APPEAL

The GOP theme of "peace, progress and prosperity" appears to have a doubtful appeal in a state with the highest unemployment in relation to size of any state in the union. The jobless total is estimated as high at 173,000, most of them in the soft coal fields.

Neely, who usually has UMW backing, said in an interview:

"If the Republicans come in here talkin progress and prosperity they'll get booed off the stage. During the last month of Harry Truman's administration, this state had 12,000 unemployed. Today there are 173,000."

The state's Republican leadership for the most part appears inclined to write off the mine vote. One of them, asking not to be quoted by name, said: "We couldn't swing the state to Eisenhower in 1952 when he was at the peak of his popularity. It would be foolish for me to say we can do it this year. But there are a lot of local issues involved in this thing that might turn the tide. We aren't giving up hope."

GOP STRATEGY

GOP State Chairman James Offutt Lakin said Republican strategy is to get out a big GOP vote by concentrating on the areas with the heaviest Republican registrations.

There is hope, too, that there will be a light Democratic vote.

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TOM SWEENEY
Republican, W. Va.

★ ★ ★

SEN. NEELY
Democrat, W. Va.

Bedbugs Studied for Polynesian Secrets

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)— A collection of bedbugs is being made on a remote Pacific atoll so University of California scientists can study the origin of the island's Polynesian population.

A six-man team of scientists is visiting Kapingamarangi—which lies in the Southern Caroline Islands two degrees off the equator—to study the island's rocks, marine life and to bring a sample of bedbugs for Dr. Robert L. Usinger, entomology professor.

Dr. Usinger hopes to determine by examining these bugs just where the island's people originated. The people seem to be of Polynesian culture, but the atoll lies between Micronesia and Melanesia and about 1,200 miles from Polynesia. Dr. Usinger believes members of island's population scratch bites of Polynesian begbugs, but the bugs are being brought back to Berkeley so he can make sure.

Aged Rotary Head Is a Bike Rider

YOAKUM, Tex. (AP) — H. D. Meister claims he not only is the world's oldest Rotary Club president but also is "one of the oldest bicycle riders I know of."

The 84-year-old Meister recently was elected president of the Yoakum Rotary group for the second time. He first served as president in 1940-41.

"Hank," as he is called by his friends, was owner-editor of the Yoakum Daily Times until his retirement in 1946. At one time he served as president of the South Texas Press Association. He still attends conventions of the group.

He keeps in shape by riding a bicycle put together from parts of three discarded bicycles. He was a bike racer as a youth and competed against Barney Oldfield and Sid Blackwere. He once made a 10-day trip of 900 miles around Lake Erie.

Qs & As

Q—In early days how was the speed of a ship determined?

A—By throwing a log from the bow, and counting the time it took to float to the stern of the ship. If the vessel was 60 feet long and the log took six seconds to pass its length, its speed was estimated at 600 feet a minute.

Q—Has anyone ever been able to swim across Lake Ontario?

A—In September, 1954, this feat was accomplished for the first time by Marilyn Bell, a Canadian high school girl. She took 20 hours and 56 seconds to swim the 32-mile stretch.

Q—Who supplied the first express service in this country?

A—William F. Harnden in 1839, when he began transporting small parcels and money between New York and Boston.

Q—Who is Nicholas Rossolino?

A—Famous French chess champion, one of the few granted the title of International Grand Master. He's now working as a bus boy in a New York hotel restaurant.

Q—What is the earliest evidence of human life yet found on the American Continents?

A—The skull unearthed last year near Midland, Tex., called Midland Man. Evidence indicates the bones are at least 12,000 and possibly 20,000 years old.

Q—What was the real name of Fra Elbertus who lost his life when the Lusitania went down?

A—Elbert Hubbard.

FOR TRICKS OR TREATS

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