

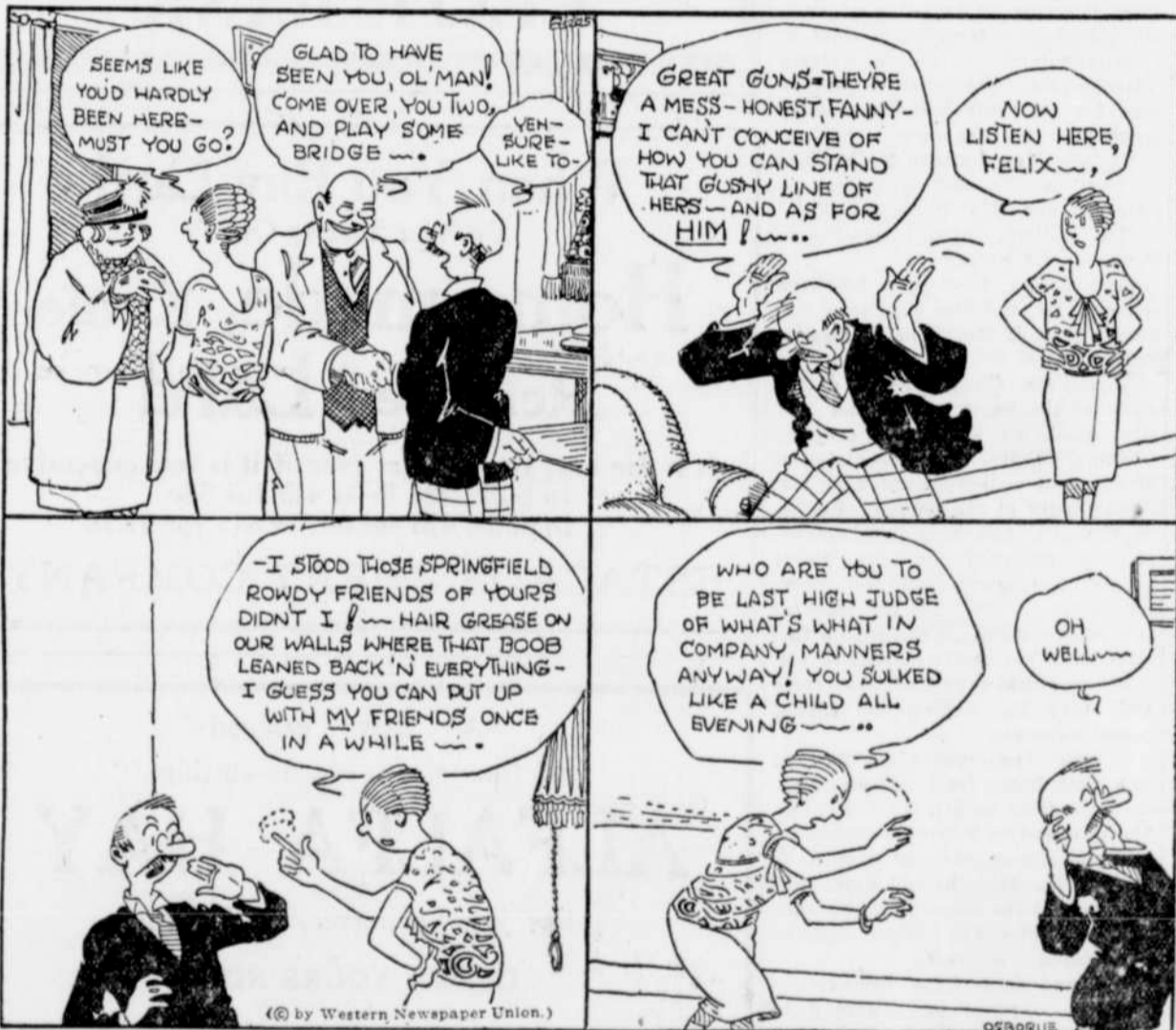
OUR COMIC SECTION

Off the Concrete



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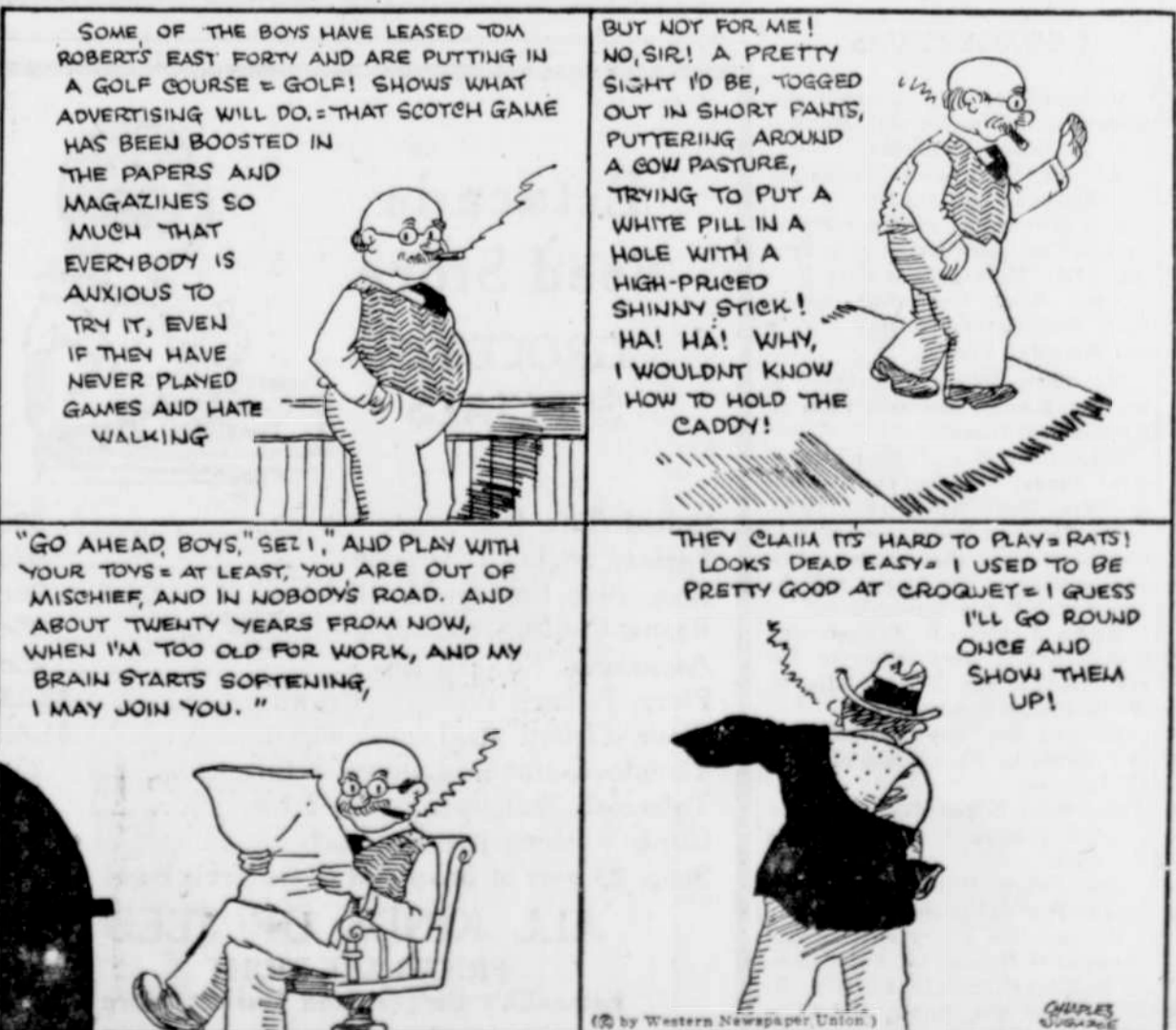
THE FEATHERHEADS



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Uncivil War

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL



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First Symptoms

Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for March 6

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

LESSON TEXT—Acts 8:4-8; II Cor. 5:14-20.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ye shall be my witnesses.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Telling Others About Jesus.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Winning Recruits for Christ's Army.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Telling Our Companions About Jesus.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christian Evangelism: Duty, Method, Results.

I. Preaching Everywhere (Acts 8:4). Following the stoning of Stephen the enemies of the Lord were more active than ever in their efforts to stamp out the new faith. With Saul as their leader they dragged men and women from their homes and imprisoned those who confessed Christ. The devil overreached himself in this for this persecution scattered the believers everywhere and they preached the gospel as they went. The time had now come for this witness-bearing to extend beyond Jerusalem as the Lord had commanded. The Lord permitted this persecution so as to scatter them.

II. Philip Preaching the Gospel in Samaria (vv. 5-8).

Philip was one of the seven so-called deacons. He was not an apostle, nor a minister in the accepted sense of that term, but a layman. He is the only man called an evangelist in the New Testament. He is an example of what a devoted layman can do in preaching the gospel in the evangelization of the world. He went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ, showing that the purpose of God included these despised people. The fact that Philip preached Christ unto these people shows that the true evangelist's message is Jesus Christ. He did not preach Christ as an ethical teacher or an example merely, but Christ as the Savior from sin through the substitutionary offering of Himself on the cross. This is shown by the fact that he preached Christ to the eunuch from the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. He not only preached Christ as the Savior from the guilt of sin, but from the power of sin as symbolized in baptism, which means not only identification with Christ in His death, but to arise in the power of His resurrection, to walk in newness of life. Then, too, according to verse 12 he preached Christ as a reigning king. Philip's preaching was fruitful, for multitudes believed his message which was accompanied by numerous miracles. He cast out unclean spirits, healed the palsied and the lame. Great joy accompanied the reception of the gospel by these Samaritans.

III. Paul an Example of a True Preacher of the Gospel (II Cor. 5:9-20).

1. His supreme aim was to please God (v. 9). To live or to die was immaterial to him if his service was but acceptable to God. This transcendent aim was strengthened by the consciousness that every one must one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ. This aim explains Paul's devotion.

2. His consciousness of responsibility (v. 11).

His sense of solemn responsibility was the explanation of Paul's behavior. Some thought that he was mentally unbalanced. His knowledge of God's holy nature and of man's sinful condition moved him earnestly to persuade men to be reconciled to God. No one who knows God's terror will be half-hearted in his ministry.

3. He was constrained by the love of Christ (v. 14).

This means that he was governed by Christ's love. Ministerial devotion is the expression of reciprocal love. Christ's supreme love was expressed in His death for us. Our love in return is expressed in our devotion to Him.

4. Consciousness of the God-wrought change in Him (v. 17).

It was because he was wrought upon by God and was therefore a new creature that he sought to do His will.

5. The content of the gospel which he preached (vv. 18, 19).

The reconciliation of God through the death of Christ was his central message. In the incarnation God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.

6. Paul was an ambassador sent from God to appeal to the world to be reconciled unto God (v. 20).

He was the ambassador from the high court of heaven sent to this rebellious world. In a real sense, every Christian minister is occupying the same position.

Knowing the Lord

Every servant knows the past of our Lord, and many know the future, but what really helps is knowing Him in the present.—Echoes.

Crosses

Crosses are often more comfortable than comforts.—Central Bible Hall Record.

Our Prayers

It is in the closet that we are fitted to be mouthpieces for God.—Echoes.

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Lv. Portland	2:00	6:20		Lv. Estacada	8:00	4:20	8:30
Clackamas	2:30	6:50		Eagle Creek	8:15	4:45	8:45
Carver	2:40	7:00		Barton	8:25	4:55	8:55
Barton	3:05	7:25		Carver	8:45	5:15	9:15
Eagle Creek	3:15	7:35		Clackamas	8:55	5:25	9:25
Ar. Estacada	3:30	7:50		Ar. Portland	9:30	6:00	10:00

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