

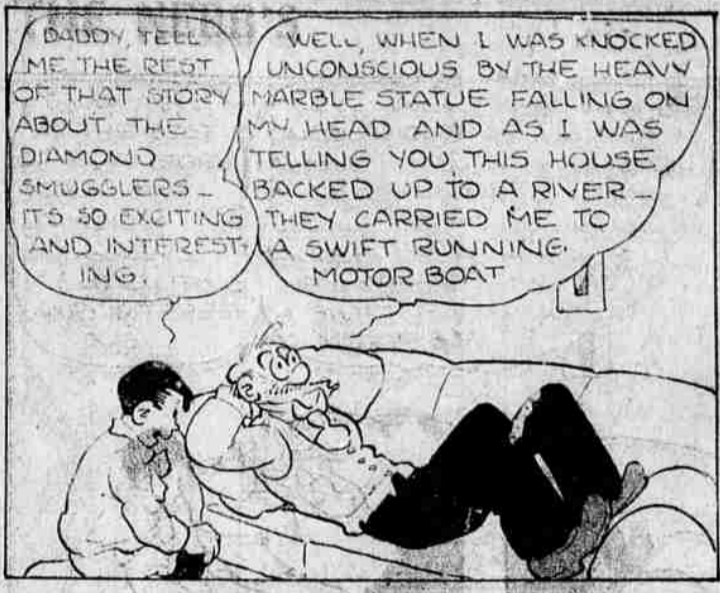


THE NEBB'S

Captured At Last

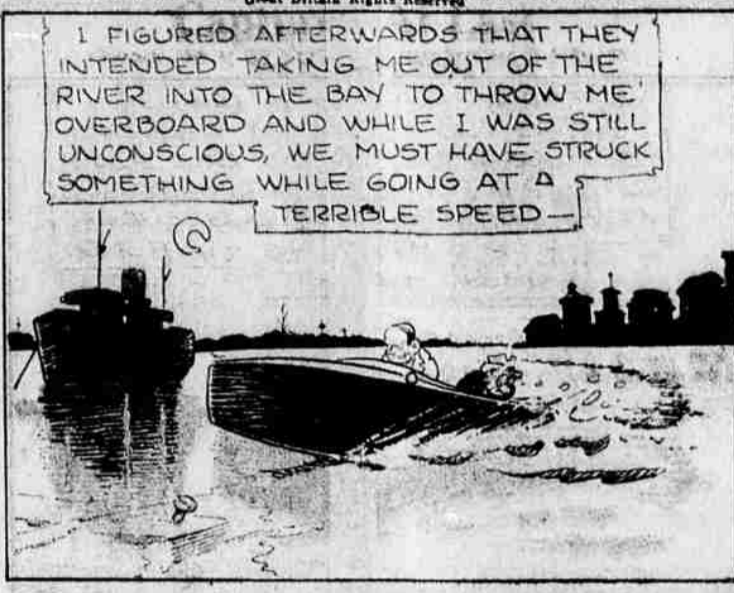
By SOL HESS

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DADDY, TELL ME THE REST OF THAT STORY ABOUT THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS - IT'S SO EXCITING AND INTERESTING.

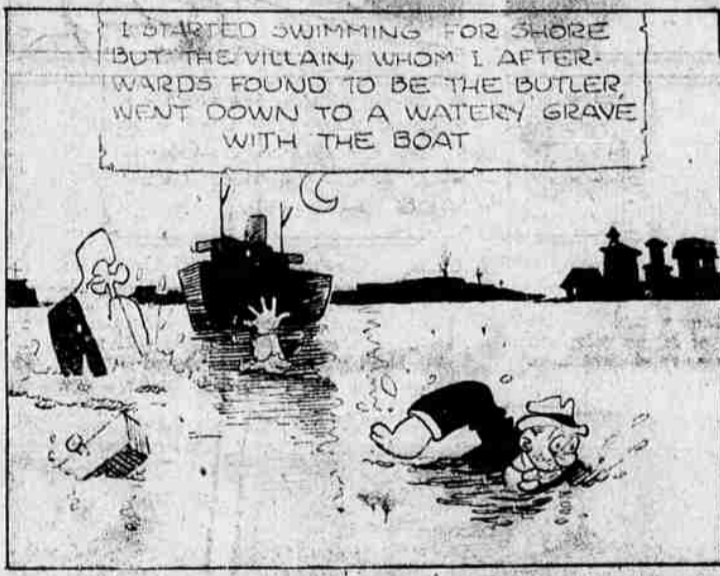
WELL, WHEN I WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE HEAVY MARBLE STATUE FALLING ON MY HEAD AND AS I WAS TELLING YOU THIS HOUSE BACKED UP TO A RIVER - THEY CARRIED ME TO A SWIFT RUNNING MOTOR BOAT



I FIGURED AFTERWARDS THAT THEY INTENDED TAKING ME OUT OF THE RIVER INTO THE BAY TO THROW ME OVERBOARD AND WHILE I WAS STILL UNCONSCIOUS, WE MUST HAVE STRUCK SOMETHING WHILE GOING AT A TERRIBLE SPEED -



THE BOAT SANK AND IT WAS EITHER THE SHOCK OF THE IMPACT OR THE COLD WATER THAT IMMEDIATELY REVIVED ME -



I STARTED SWIMMING FOR SHORE BUT THE VILLAIN, WHOM I AFTERWARDS FOUND TO BE THE BUTLER, WENT DOWN TO A WATERY GRAVE WITH THE BOAT



I WAS NEARLY EXHAUSTED WITH MY SWIM TO THE SHORE WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT TWO MILES - I HAILED A TAXI AND DIRECTED HIM TO TAKE ME BACK TO THE SMUGGLERS' HOUSE - COLD, WET AND EXHAUSTION NEVER STOPPED ME FROM MY DUTY WHEN I ONCE GOT ON THE TRAIL OF CROOKS -



WHEN I FINALLY REACHED THE HOUSE AND WAS PROWLING AROUND LOOKING FOR AN ENTRANCE, I CAME ACROSS THE TELEPHONE WIRES THAT LED INTO THE HOUSE -



PULLING OUT MY POCKET PHONE, WHICH I ALWAYS CARRIED, I TAPPED THE WIRES AND WAITED - EARLY NEXT MORNING MY EFFORTS WERE REWARDED. I HEARD THEM CALL A NUMBER AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR 9 O'CLOCK TO TURN OVER THE SMUGGLED DIAMONDS -



KNOWING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER, I HAD NO DIFFICULTY FINDING THE PLACE WHICH HAD EVERY EARMARK OF BEING A REPUTABLE FIRM, BUT AFTERWARD PROVED TO BE A FENCE - A FENCE IS A PERSON WHO BUYS ILLEGITIMATE OR STOLEN GOODS -



I ENTERED THE PLACE A LITTLE BEFORE 9 O'CLOCK AND TELLING THE OLD GENTLEMAN THAT I FOUND THERE THAT I HAD SOME JEWELRY I WISHED TO DISPOSE OF, HE BECKONED ME INTO A REAR ROOM



PRETTY SOON I RETURNED TO THE RECEPTION ROOM TO GREET THE SMUGGLERS. OF COURSE THEY DID NOT KNOW ME - I HAD CHANGED CLOTHES WITH THE OLD VILLAIN AND TIED HIM UP AND MADE MYSELF UP TO LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM -



I ASKED THEM TO STEP INTO THE BACK ROOM WITH THE DIAMONDS AND YOU CAN IMAGINE THEIR SURPRISE WHEN I COVERED THEM WITH MY REVOLVER AND TORE OFF MY DISGUISE -



DID YOU ARREST THEM AND GET THE REWARD?

YOU BET I DID. SINGLE HANDED - GOT A BIG REWARD AND WAS PROMOTED - SOMETIME I'LL TELL YOU SOME MORE OF MY EXPERIENCES AS A DETECTIVE.

