

Boyle's Column

Just About Anything Can Happen On The NY Subway

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK, May 10 (AP) — The subway is an underground avenue to and from work.
It is also a place where you can pick up a bedbug or a cold, make a home, commit a murder, hear a harmonica duet, meet a girl, close a business deal or buy a pencil from a blind man.
Some people believe the subway made modern New York City possible. Others are just as sure it has made the city impossible.



HAL BOYLE

The subway is a twice-a-day purgatory to millions who have to ride it during the rush hours. To out-of-towners it is first an adventure, then just one more reason why "New York's a great place to visit, but I sure would hate to live here."

Safe Road
It is the safest railroad in the world, but it remains a claustrophobic hell for many who get nervous when the train rolls under the East river. They go on for years dreading a tube collapse and swift drowning in rushing waters. It is futile to point out to these people this isn't likely to happen.

"Here anything can happen," they say. In that they are about right. The subway is more than a transportation system that sews the town together. Some day it will have a Boswell to write its history, a Bobby Burns to sing its songs.

Some natives here when asked to give their place of birth can put down truthfully: "A subway station."

at so-and-so streets." A few have been born in the subway, many have died there. The roaring wheels, fascinating invitations to death for the life-sick — have extinguished the problems of living for hundreds who put their nickel in the turnstile for a pass to eternity. Beginning July 1 it will cost a dime.

"Leaders"
These "leapers" are the bane of subway workers and cops who must jack up the trains and lift out the drainless flesh. This interrupts the schedule ten to twenty minutes and angers thousands of riders who complain. "Why didn't he jump off a Brooklyn bridge?"

Theoretically, a man could live forever in the subway—a full, crowded life at that. He could mooch his eating money from fellow passengers, sleep at night on the warm seats and change his socks in the rest rooms, where he could also do his laundry. In times of depression men have saved rent money that way for weeks. Whole families have done it for days.

The subway has the city's largest circulating libraries — trash boxes

in which readers stuff newspapers and others pluck them out for free. At every point the subway touches the life of the city. There even is a theory that the subway is responsible for the Brooklyn accent—it is the only speech that will penetrate the noise of grinding wheels.

Visitors—Mr. and Mrs. Pete Lesmeister and Ruth Gearin, all of Gold Beach but formerly of Klamath Falls, were visiting here over the week-end with friends. Lesmeister is now in the real estate business in Gold Beach and Gearin is serving as Curry county district attorney. He was in law practice here for several years before the war.

James Franklin, elder brother of the famous Ben, started "New England Courant," America's fourth newspaper, in 1721.

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HERALD AND NEWS COMICS

BLONDIE
THE VETERINARIAN GAVE ME THESE PILLS FOR BLONDIE TO TAKE. WOW... THE SIZE OF THEM!
CUT OUT THE NONSENSE, ELMER AND TAKE YOUR PILL!
COME ON, NOW, SWALLOW IT!
I WONDER WHAT THEY DO TO PEOPLE!

Red Ryder
YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR HOME IN GOWER BEND, BUCKSKIN! WADE AND ME ARE MAKIN' YOU A PARTNER IN OUR GOLD STRIKE!
SHALL I KEEP ON PRETENDING I'M BUCKSKIN'S DAUGHTER, RED?
YES! WADE AND JESS MUSTN'T CATCH ON THAT WE'RE TRYING TO CONNECT THEM WITH THE STAGE ROBBERY!
WHO'S THE RED-HEADED CONDOY, WADE?
JANE BROUGHT HIM HERE WHILE YOU WERE IN RIMROCK, JESS! SHE PROBABLY TOLD HIM ABOUT THE GOLD "STRIKE."
OUR FIRST SUCKER!

Alley Oop
HE LIVES! HE KNEW THE MONSTER! VERY NASTY! A GOD!
SURE I'M ALIVE, BUT NO THANKS TO TH' PUNKS WHO RAN OFF MY LEFT. HE LENDS THIS CROCODILE ALONE—WHERE ARE THEY?
FORGIVE US, OH MIGHTY ONE! NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE SEEN SUCH A MONSTER! WE WERE NUMB WITH FEAR!
YOU'RE NUMB ALL RIGHT! LIKE THIS! LIKE THIS! ALL OF YOU!
YEAH! THAT'S JUST RIGHT! WHUP!

Boots and Her Buddies
OH-HH! OW-WW!
DE MULLIGAN WAS PITCHED!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME WITH OL' GOLLABY!
YEAH! BUT WE NEEDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BLUNT IN TELLIN' US!
I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE! I'VE ALREADY GOT!

Wash Tubbs
ZERO ON OUR INTELLIGENCE TEST... THEN MISSED ALL TEN OF HIS OWN QUESTIONS! I FIGURE THAT GIVES HIM AN I.Q. OF MINUS TEN!
HMM, AFRAID THAT'S TOO MUCH HANDICAP FOR ANY JOB ON THE LOT, EXCEPT ON HEROD'S STAFF. AND HE HASN'T ANY VACANCIES!
GRESTFALLEN, BUSTER LEAVES JUST AS MARQUEE CHATS OUTSIDE WITH HEROD.
HMM! YOUR MAN... I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF OUR PICTURES YOU'RE WORKIN' IN, BUT YOU'RE OVERACTING THE PART!
WAIT, DE. THAT CHAP'S NO HERE ACTOR, HE'S REAL! AND LOST AS A LITTLE STRAY PUP IN THIS PHONY LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE!
DUR-H-H... I'VE GAVE YOU SOMEPLACE BEFORE, MISTER, BUT I DUNNO WHERE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT? HOW'D YOU LIKE ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND OUR ZOO? WE'VE GOT SOME PUNNY SPECIMENS AND IT'S ALMOST FEEDING TIME!

Freckles And His Friends
THAT FISH WASN'T SO BAD, EVEN IF IT DID FALL IN THE ASHES!
I GOT A CLUNKER IN MY TOOTH!
AT LEAST YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING FOR SUPPER!
DON'T BE FUNNY—IF THE FISH DON'T BITE, WHAT ARE WE GONNA BITE?
I KNOW A FEW TRICKS SO WE WON'T STARVE! GIVE ME YOUR BELTS!
WHAT FOR? YOU GONNA HANG YOURSELF?
I'LL PUT 'EM ON TO BOIL! COOKED A FEW HOURS, LEATHER MAKES A NUTRITIOUS SOUP!

Little Orphan Annie
YES, SIR, GANDY—THIS IS A VERY INTERESTING ALLEY... SEE? ON ONE SIDE ARE TH' BACKS OF CHEAP FLATS AND ROOKERY HOUSES AND SECOND HAND STORES AN' CHEAP RESTAURANTS...
BUT ON TH' SIDE TOWARD TH' AVENUE ARE WHAT USED TO BE STABLES FOR TH' GELL HOUSES IN FRONT OF 'EM...
GARAGES NOW... SERVANT QUARTERS ABOVE... LITTLE YARDS—GEAR—FEW TREES... NOT BAD...
HAROLD GRAY

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