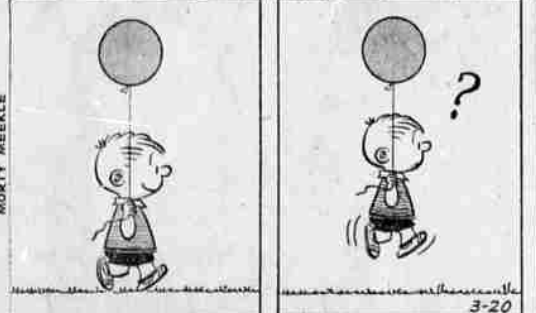
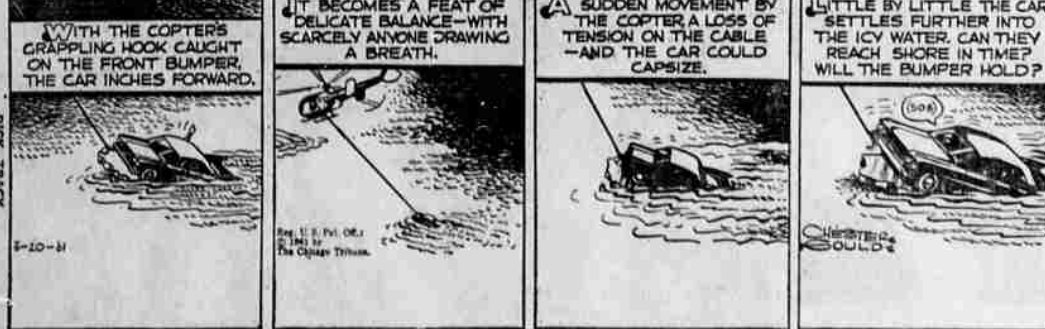
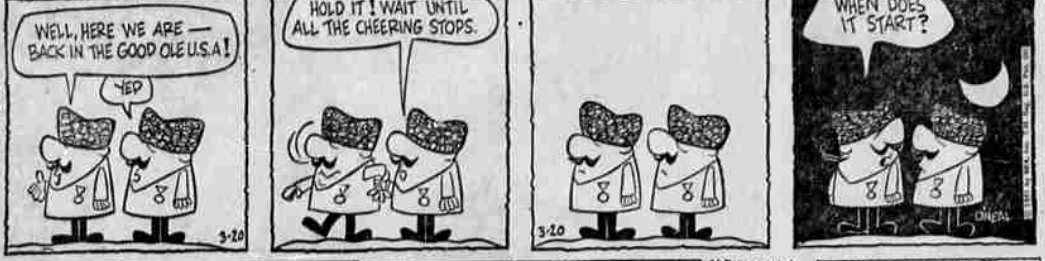


Foolish Facts And Useless Information

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP)— Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:
What are the two most beautiful words in the English language? Dorothy Parker's choice: "Check enclosed."
Students, you can probably win money from your American history professor by betting him a dollar to a dime he can't name the first woman to submerge in a submarine. She was Clara Barton, founder of the U.S. Red Cross.
Laughter has become a status symbol. Some psychologists say the more often a person laughs, the higher he probably is on the social scale.
We're not sure why, but lightning last year struck four times as many men as women. A possible reason: most women have more sense than to go out into a storm.
While we're on this subject, did you know the electric eel is one of nature's most potent forms of living lightning? It can produce 600 volts, enough to stun a buffalo.
Our quotable notables: "No man in the world has more courage than the man who can stop after he has eaten one peanut." —Channing Pollock.
You're middle-aged if you can remember the Marmon, the Stutz Bearcat, and the Cord. They are among the nearly 2,000 different makes of automobiles—ranging from the ABC (1906) to the Zip (1913)—that have been manufactured in this country.
Tiny, crowded Japan is getting even more crowded—because its people are getting bigger. Since 1900 the average 20-year-old Japanese man has grown from 5 feet 3 1/4 inches to 5 feet 4 1/2. Japanese girls have done even better, rising from 4 feet 10 to 5 feet and a quarter inch.
Financial troubles break up many marriages, but prosperity is no guarantee of marital happiness. Wealthy America has the world's highest divorce rate, money-poor Ireland one of the lowest.
Night is the friend of fire. About 90 per cent of fires break out between 8 o'clock in the evening and 8 in the morning. The peak hours: between midnight and 2 a.m.
Most home fires start in the kitchen or the living room.
Looking for a novel present for a boy who has everything? To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the invention of the BB gun, a firm has turned out a gold-plated model. It's yours for a measly \$1,000.
Wisecrack of the week: Women are the greatest magicians. Some make men of fools, others make fools of men.
Odd nuggets of knowledge unlikely to change your life: Costa Rica has the highest literacy rate in Latin America. Some 25 per cent of the U.S. prison population is made up of auto thieves. Brigitte Bardot told an interviewer her favorite food is bananas. Flattery does get you somewhere. A top door-to-door salesman told bandleader Paul Lavalle this was his success secret: "The first five words I utter when a housewife opens the door are—'Miss, is your mother in?'"
It was Don Marquis who advised, "Live so that you can stick out your tongue at the insurance doctor."



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