





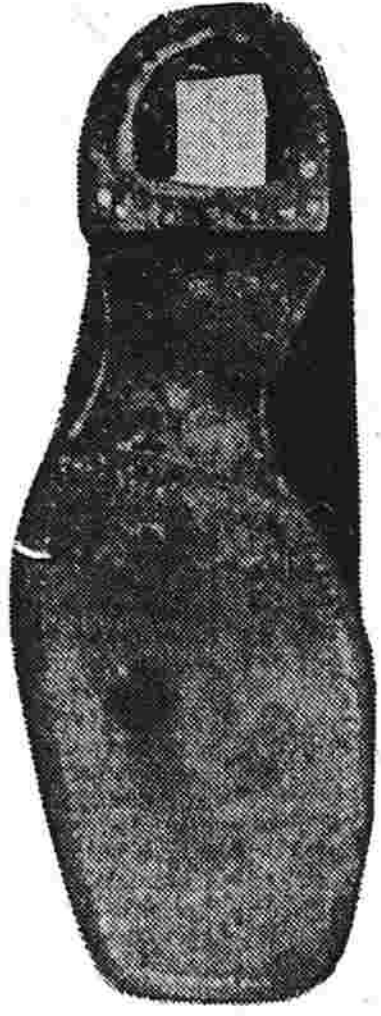




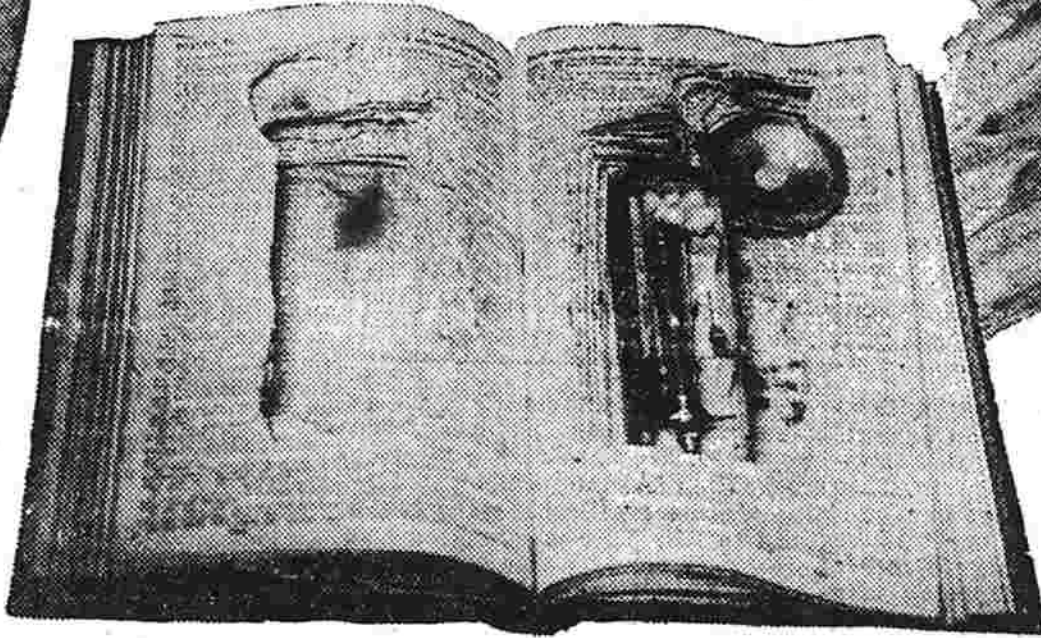


# Dope Traffic Today

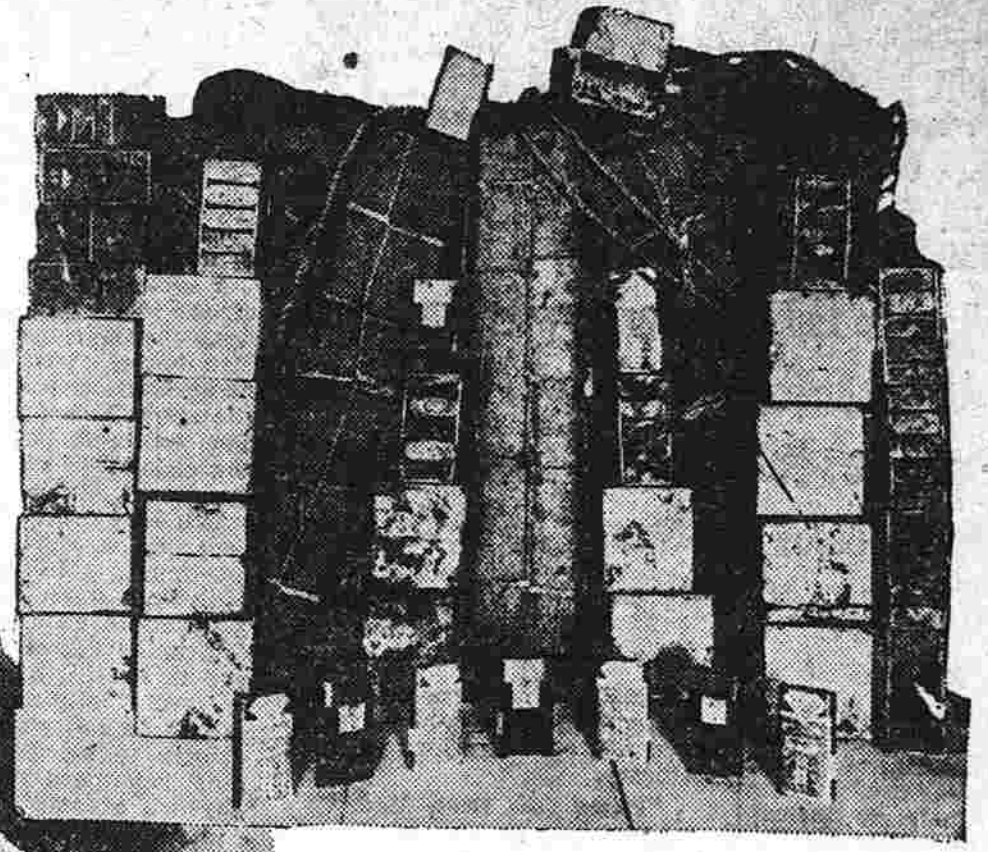
Women Are Playing More and Bigger Roles On Both Sides of the War Waged By the Government Against the Smartest Crooks of the Underworld



Two ingenious schemes of the dope peddler. . . . Above, a hollow-heeled shoe and, at the right, a Bible confiscated by U.S. agents.



A pound of morphine brought into New York . . . sifts over the whole country, an ounce here, an ounce there.

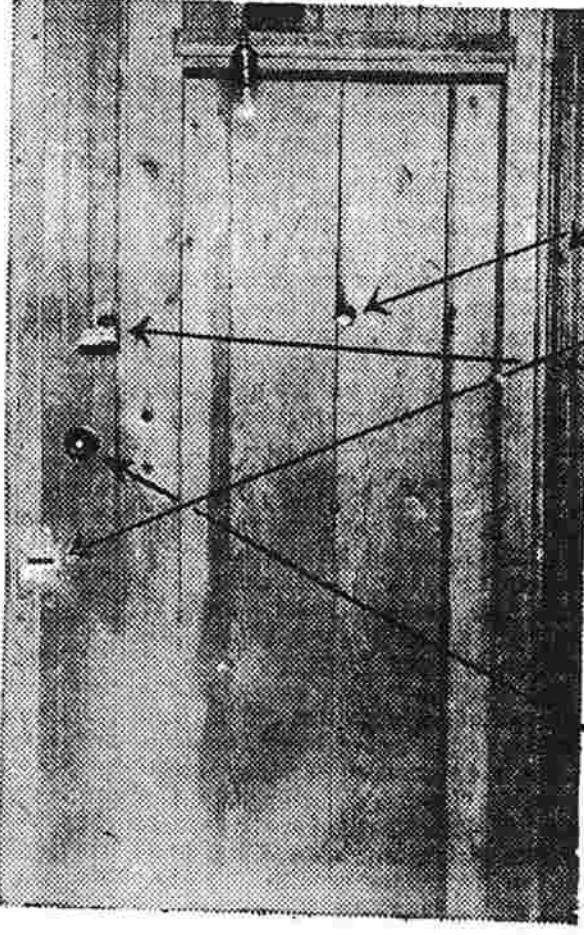


A million dollars worth of contraband opium in the Customs Department at Washington, D. C.

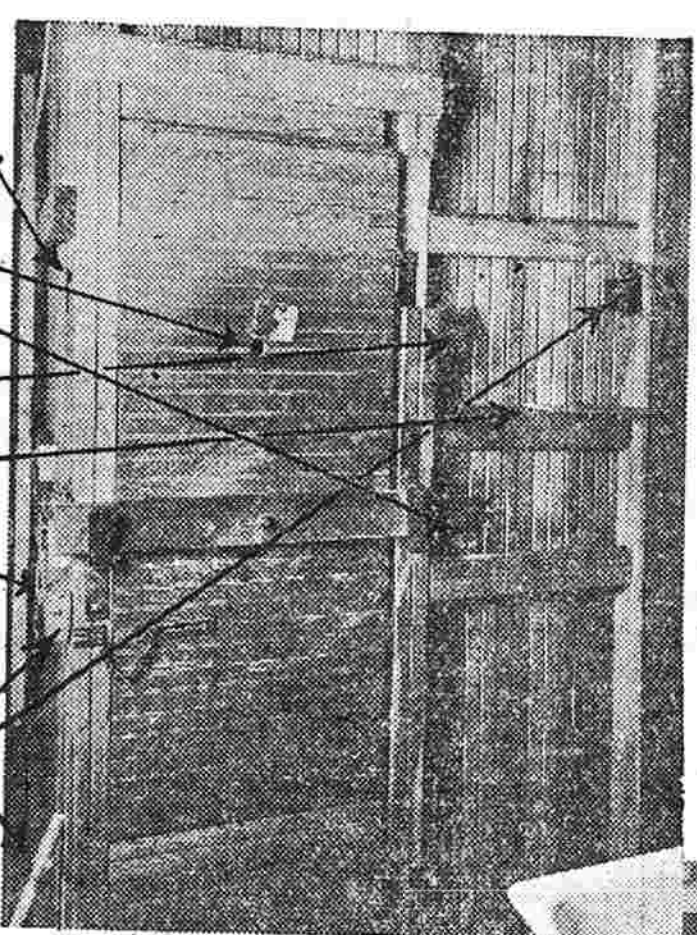
EXCEPT for the fact that her skirts appeared a trifle voluminous—and only the shrewdest observer would have noted that—there was nothing to indicate that the woman, whom federal authorities had tapped on the shoulder and were escorting off, was any different from a hundred other women arriving in the United States from Canada.

But through devious routes had come information asking that an investigation be conducted. At a place of detention, matrons discovered that she was wearing a novel petticoat. It was fashioned of muslin and net and around the hips had been carefully stitched 27 small pockets. Each pocket contained a bottle holding one ounce of morphine, approximately 12,000 grains in all and valued at as many dollars, bootleg rates.

The woman was convicted under the Harrison Narcotic Act and given a substantial jail sentence for illicit traffic in dope. Her garment was added to that interesting collection of souvenirs which the Narcotic Unit of the Federal Prohibition Bureau has accumulated in the course of its campaign to eradicate the drug evil in the United States.



- Peekhole for profile view of purchaser.
- Peekhole for front view and conversation.
- Slot through which purchaser passed money.
- Slot through which sold drugs were dropped.
- Tray on which vendor kept stock of drugs.
- String and chain by which purchaser was locked in joint's vestibule before sale was made.
- Paper wrapped iron bar for defense of joint.
- Buzzer for code signal to gain entrance.
- Triple locks on door.



Below, the inside of a dope "joint" raided by federal agents . . . and left, both sides of the door of the den, showing how the criminals operating the place attempted to protect themselves.

Nearly 300 agents and inspectors operate under the Narcotic Unit, spreading over the country a network of informative channels to snare smugglers, peddlers and addicts, who, using methods such as this, trade illegally in the forbidden drugs: opium, heroin, morphine and cocaine.

Because these drugs are easy to conceal in the clothing and personal effects; because peddlers and smugglers are extremely resourceful and crafty in devising ways to market their contraband, and because disgrace and shame attach to a habit which can only be practiced discreetly, narcotic agents and the informers who co-operate with them face an exceedingly difficult task.

They must often resort to disguise and they must haunt the dives of the underworld, cultivating the friendship and confidence of seasoned criminal characters. For the protection of the service, as well as for their own protection, they must observe strictest secrecy as to their identity and methods. To reflect the slightest suspicion upon the men and women who serve them as spies might be to expose them to swift death.



Most women addicts . . . withstand grilling.

It has been contended that women cannot keep a secret, but this has been refuted many times in the experience of the Narcotic Unit. When it is necessary, they can and do, peddlers and informers alike. Many an addict, under the severest grilling and threatened with jail, has refused to give any information that might lead to the apprehension of those who supply her.

Due to the nature of the work and the type of characters with whom it is necessary to associate, the government usually employs men as agents. However there is one woman doctor, who is an inspector and checks up on the distribution of drugs from legitimate sources to make sure that none is being diverted to supply addicts.

However it is not at all unusual for agents to use the services of women, frequently addicts themselves, to establish contacts and secure information during the course of special jobs to which they seem adapted.

Usually a girl so used is a product of the underworld, familiar with the haunts of thieves and gangsters, who has been won over to the side of the government. Perhaps she is trying to overcome her environment and "go straight."

All narcotics used for medicinal purposes in the United States are manufactured in this country from crude opium and coca leaves. Salts and alkaloids, ready for use, cannot be imported legally. Hence it follows that practically all drugs used for addiction purposes are smuggled.

THE federal check-up on the legitimate sources is just about 100 per cent perfect. The dealers, first of all, must have a government permit to import, the check beginning even before the crude product leaves the country of its origin. Again it is checked in customs.

Principal importation is by three firms, who manufacture alkaloid products and distribute them under government order

to other firms, authorized to use them in various pharmaceutical preparations, and to wholesale dealers. All manufacturers and wholesale dealers are required by law to submit monthly reports of all transactions in narcotics. They must use government order forms in disposing of them.

From the producing firm to the retail dealer, from the retail dealer to the physician, the same careful check-up is maintained so that it is almost literally true that each grain can be accounted for.

Any physician purchasing unusual quantities of drugs can be investigated easily, but since most physicians realize the importance of the law and give the government their full co-operation, the diversion from this source is almost negligible.

It is estimated that at least 85 per cent of all smuggled narcotics come in at or near the port of New York, though there is occasional smuggling at other Atlantic coast and gulf points and along the Mexican border. Most smoking opium comes in through Seattle.

Heading the various dope rings are some of the shrewdest criminal characters of the underworld, who are attracted to the traffic by the large financial returns. These men, or women, are not usually addicts; nor do they necessarily bring the contraband into the country themselves. They sit back, avoiding suspicion and leaving the hazards of the "business" to trusted agents who operate under their direction.

A pound of morphine brought in at New York sifts over the entire country, an ounce going her, an ounce or two there, slyly passing through many hands until it reaches the addict in California, Iowa, Ohio, Main and Texas.

DISTRIBUTION is effected through large dealers in different parts of the country, who sell only to other trusted dealers.

These, in turn, distribute to smaller agents and to peddlers, usually addicts themselves, who sell to other addicts.

As the supply goes through these devious channels it increases in price and sometimes it is cut with milk of sugar to increase the profit. Smuggled morphine that sold in New York in large quantities for as little as \$11 or \$12 an ounce, brings \$35 to \$50 in Detroit, Chicago and other midwestern cities. The addict pays about \$1 a grain, or \$437.50 an ounce.

He buys in small quantities, the drug being packed in "decks" or capsules of one and two grains each for, usually, he leads a hand to mouth existence. The habit, aside from tearing down the health and causing degeneration of the brain and nervous system, is expensive. It costs from \$6 to \$18 a day.

It has been stated erroneously that there are as many as a million dope addicts in the United

States and that the ban on liquor has caused an alarming increase in their number. This is emphatically denied by officials of the Narcotic Unit. Carefully compiled statistics show that the use of drugs has steadily decreased since 1910 and even more rapidly since the Harrison Act went into effect in 1915.

During the year of heaviest opium importation, before there was any law restricting the sale of morphine, heroin and cocaine and they could be purchased at any drug store just as aspirin can be purchased today, the entire amount brought into this country was insufficient to "feed" more than 246,000 addicts.

Surveys conducted by health officers, army doctors at the time of the draft, and other dependable agencies, show that there are not more than 100,000 addicts in the United States today and that these are largely of the psychopathic delinquent type who spend the greater part of their lives in the penitentiaries.

THE fact that more addicts are to be found in the prisons indicates only that the law is being effectively enforced. The mere possession of narcotics, except in compliance with the law, constitutes a criminal offense today.

Another ill-founded, or deliberately erroneous, statement is that dope is being peddled to school children. Every possible lead in this regard has been painstakingly checked and not one has been found to be founded on fact. Furthermore, the method of checking used for such investigations has been perfected to such an extent that narcotic officers can be absolutely certain of the authenticity of their findings.

Peddlers are not regarded as important factors in spreading addiction in any case. The source of supply is so limited that difficulty is experienced in keeping confirmed addicts supplied and the peddlers are aware that they are committing a felony, so that they are extremely careful to sell only to persons they know.

If the supply were more plentiful, the problem would be more difficult to cope with, and would require the services of many more agents.



Many prison addicts . . . try to get their dope. (Copyright, 1935, NEA Magazine)

In former days addicts were created through self-medication. Narcotics were first given them under doctors' orders and since they could readily have prescriptions renewed, they would treat themselves and eventually grow to depend on drugs.

A better understanding of the use of narcotics by the medical profession, together with the close check maintained by the government, has practically eliminated the danger of innocent persons becoming addicts in this fashion now. It is believed that few new addicts are being created at all.

THE dope peddler has many ingenious ways of distributing his wares. Rarely will he encounter an addict on the street. More often he arranges an appointment at a certain place, using an intermediary.

For instance, in one case which records disclose, a woman informer had made an appointment with a peddler whom she was to meet at a certain street corner. Accompanied by a policeman she went to the trusting place and waited an hour before she was encountered. Finally a woman whom she had never seen arrived and asked:

"Whom are you waiting for?"

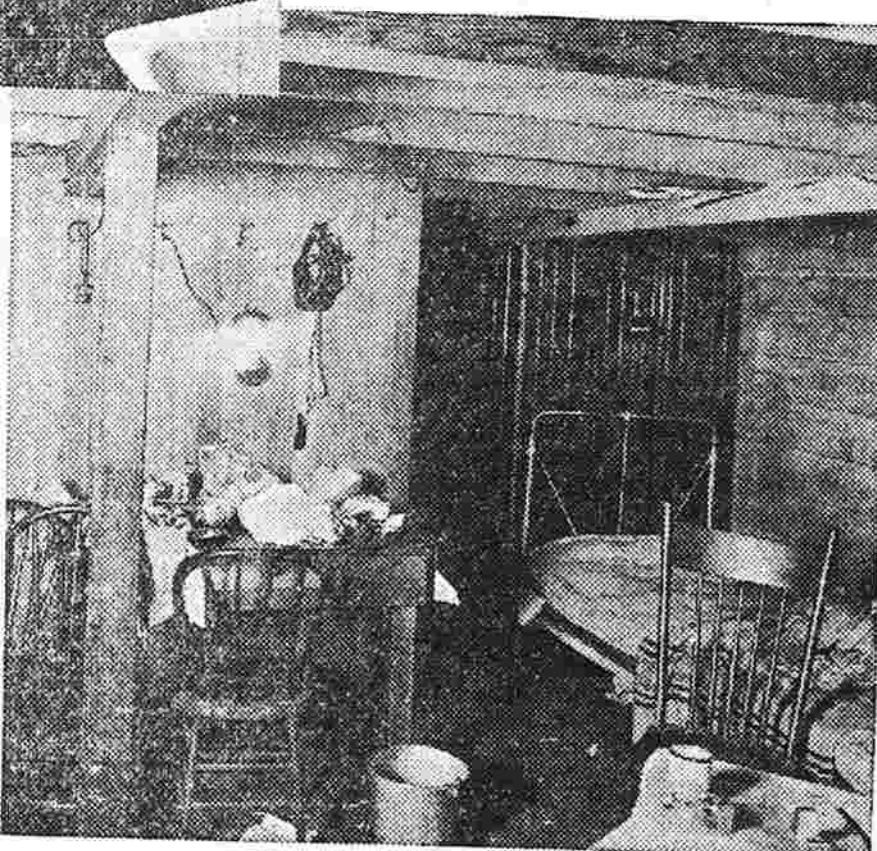
The informer explained that she wanted to get an ounce of heroin. The strange woman offered to get it for her and took them to a certain address where she left them to go get the heroin. After being gone five minutes she returned and was arrested with an ounce in her possession. Then she told who had sold it to her and offered to help frame the case.

A trip was made to a second address, another buy made and a second arrest effected.

Sometimes other methods are used. A beggar sits on a street-corner, peddling shoestrings or pencils. That, in the parlance of the underworld, is his "stall"; peddling dope is his "racket."

There are dozens of methods. The craftiness of the peddler is illustrated by the fact that, in spite of almost insurmountable barriers and a surveillance that never relaxes, drugs are often smuggled to addicts inside of penitentiaries.

By adroit methods word is sent to the prisoner who, perhaps, is a member of the road or farm gang, that a package will be planted near a certain fence post or tree. The package is slyly retrieved, concealed in the prisoner's clothing and carried into his cell. It is often a mystery how these messages are dispatched; sometimes they are contained in apparently harmless letters in which a secret code has been used.



A FAVORITE trick is to remove a layer of leather from the heel of a shoe, cut a hole in it, insert a small box of dope, and then tack the layer back into place.

A cake of soap, a spool of thread and similar objects also have been used as containers. One addict concealed his supply and all the necessary paraphernalia, hypodermic needle and mixer, in a square hole cut through the pages of a Gideon Bible.

One man brought in smoking opium in a fashion truly ingenious. Each button on his clothing had for a center a small hard pellet, about the size of a match-head, enough opium for one good smoke. Dried fowl, a Chinese delicacy, has frequently concealed opium for smoking.

Drug addicts are seldom cured and the dope peddler, even though not an addict, usually goes back to his trade when his prison sentence has been finished.

The person who trades in dope may win diamonds, limousines and palatial homes; he, or she, may also win a jail sentence and suffer the confiscation of all these things. But, usually, when the sentence is up and in spite of the best resolutions, the dope peddler returns to his trade.

For this reason the government keeps track of all peddlers and addicts after their release, tracing them from one part of the country to another. As soon as their weakness again overcomes them the law reaches out and new sentences are given.

Dope peddlers are the most hunted and despised persons in the land and, particularly if they are not victims of the drug habit themselves, the hand of the law is heavy and swift to act. Few of those apprehended escape punishment. Last year 4,459 persons were convicted and given sentences aggregating more than 7,000 years. Of all cases tried, 97.3 per cent were successfully prosecuted.

During the same year, 695 pounds of opium, 3,845 ounces of heroin, 9 ounces of miscellaneous opium derivatives and 200 ounces of cocaine were seized under import and export laws.



"Pencil peddling" . . . is part of the "racket."











FLAPPER FANNY SAYS:



A waitress loses her tray when a mouse plays the deuce.

LETTER GOLF

A PUZZLING SMILE You can SMILE this puzzle to SCORN pretty easily. Par is five and one solution is on another page.

Word puzzle grid with letters S, M, I, L, E and S, C, O, R, N.

THE RULES 1-The idea of letter golf is to change one word to another and do it in par, a given number of strokes. Thus to change COW to HEN, in three strokes, COW HOW, HEW, HEN.

A pretty quotation contributed by W. E. H. "Men are oaks. Women are vines. Children are flowers."

SENSE and NONSENSE

Sans Eyes, Sans Nose The farmer is a lucky man; He sweats upon the land. And then to pay the mortgage off He runs a hot dog stand.

Memoriam Take her up carefully, Lay her to rest, Tenderly, prayerfully, God knoweth best.

Angel, most beautiful, Emblem of love, Came from the Heavenly Realms above.

Mrs.—I won't be long, dear. I'll be ready in a minute. Mr. Well, for goodness sake do pick out a minute that's not more than half an hour away.

Can anyone imagine an experience more embarrassing than to wake up and hear burglars singing in the cellar?

The farmer has his troubles, but it doesn't take forty acres of corn to pay the rent on a habitation the size of a hen house.

"How much do you think I made in commissions last week?" said one drummer to another.

"Half." "What do you mean by 'half'?" "Half of what you're going to tell me," was the knowing reply.

The disrepute into which corsets have fallen was well illustrated at a recent college dance.

Speaking of the one girl in the place who wore 'em, one young man said: "Well, I'm going over and dance with Old Ironsides now."

A house built upon the sands will not stand many beach parties.

When we write the truth it isn't so necessary to keep a carbon copy.

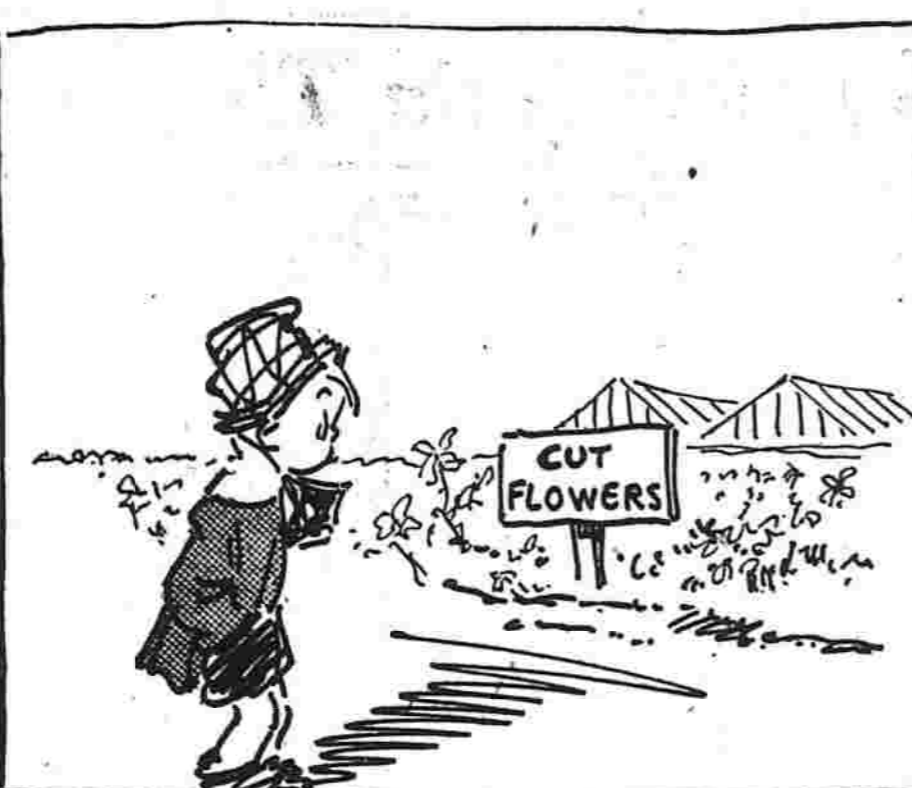
Do something every day that will make your work easier each day thereafter.

Nerve is what a skinny girl has to have to abide by present fashions.

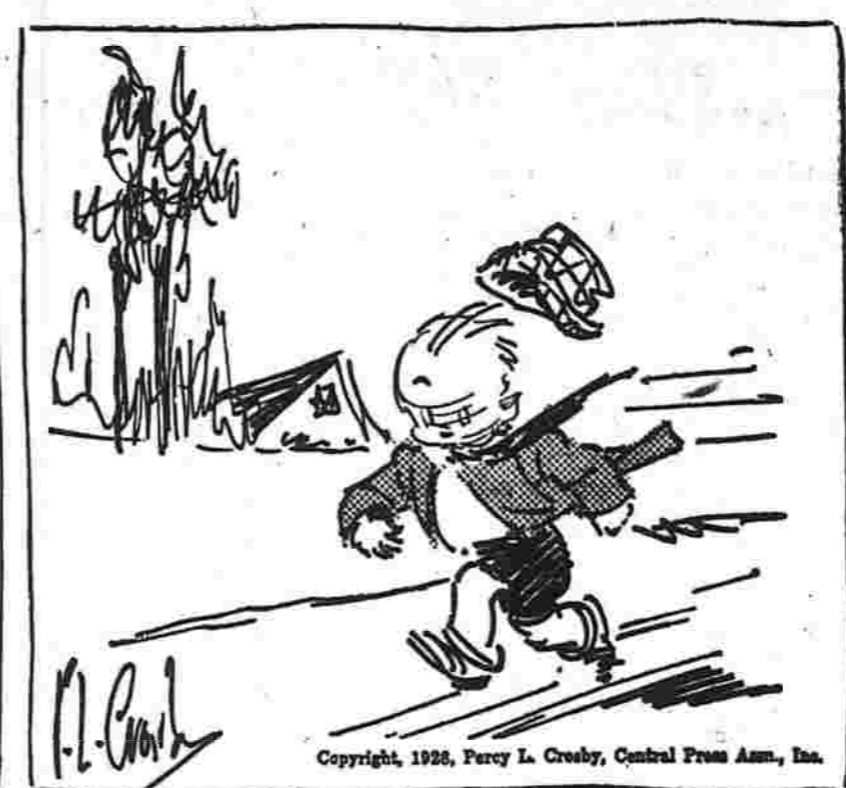
Football Coach: "And didja carry ice like I told ya, last summer?" Halfback: "No, I got a better job selling electric refrigerators."

BY REQUEST, TOO. "Were you presented at Court in England?" "Yes, for driving on the wrong side of the street."—Judge.

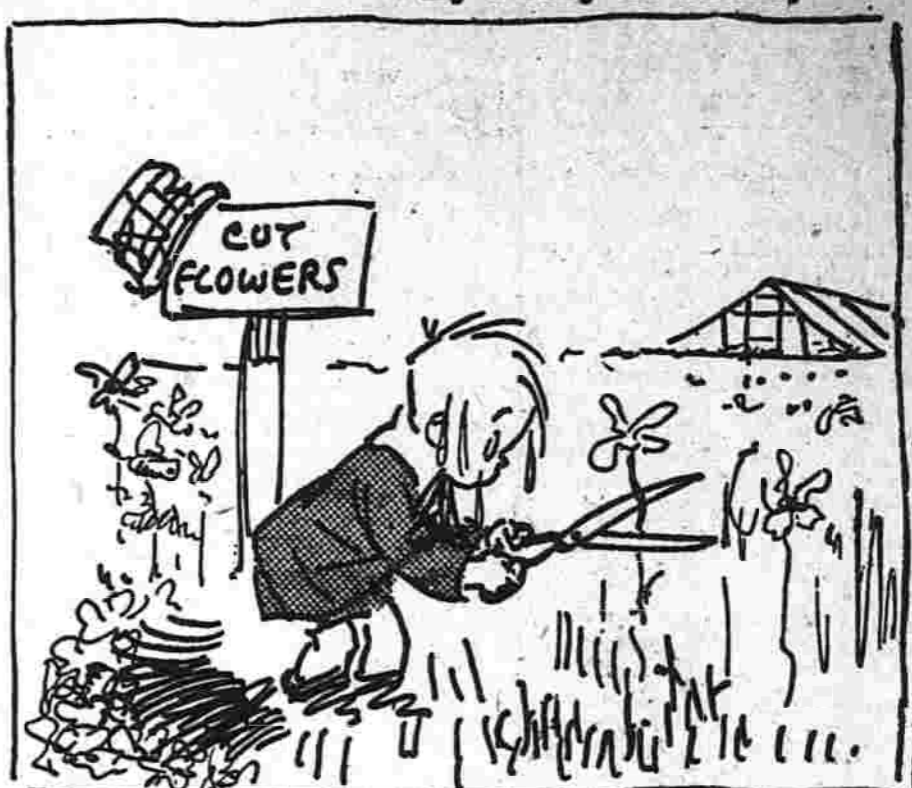
SKIPPY



Mickey (Himself) McGuire



By Fontaine Fox



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

By Gene Ahern

AND MCGUIRE HAS NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP HIS TITLE



WASHINGTON TUBBS II

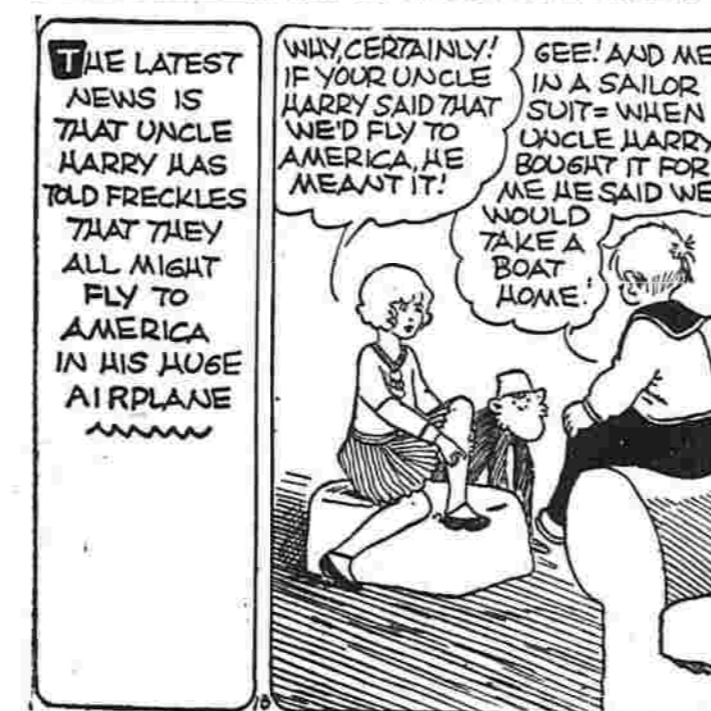


THE TINYMITES



(READ THE STORY, THEN COLOR THE PICTURE) The Tinymites clung to the rope and Clowzy said, "Oh, gee, I hope the tiger doesn't turn on us. We wouldn't have a show. His teeth look sharp as they can be. I hope he doesn't start for me. Then Scouty said, "Oh, he's all right. I guess I'll let him go."

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



Home-Going Plans



SALESMAN SAM



She's Well Rated



WASHINGTON TUBBS II



Home-Going Plans



SALESMAN SAM



She's Well Rated



(The Tinymites meet the circus trainer in the next story.)

