

The Amateur Gentleman

By Jeffrey Farnol

SYNOPSIS
Barnabas, prizefighter of the one-time champion prize fighter of England, inherits the sum of seven hundred thousand pounds from his father's mother. Old John Bell, Barnabas's father, was a good fortune teller and a good deal of a philosopher. Barnabas, a book-lover like his mother, whom he never saw, tells his father that he is going to London to become a gentleman. Old John Bell, Barnabas's father, tells him that he will have to teach him a lesson. Barnabas, his lessons from his father and Natty Bell, another one-time champion, are not in vain. Barnabas, in a sporting boxing match, Old John Bell takes his defeat manfully, shakes hands with his son and wishes him luck. Barnabas leaves for London. Now go on.

INSTALLMENT TWO (Continued)

"But wherever you go and whatever you come to be—you're our lad still, and so, Barnabas, take this, wear it in memory of old Natty Bell—steady—catch!" And, with the word, he tossed down his great silver watch.

"Why, Natty Bell," exclaimed Barnabas, very hoarse of voice. "Dear old Natty—I can't take this!"

"Ah, but you can—it was presented to me twenty and one years ago, Barnabas, the time I beat the Ruf-fian on Bexley Heath."

"BUT I can't—I couldn't take it," said Barnabas again, looking down at the broad-faced, ponderous timepiece in his hand, which he knew had long been Natty Bell's most cherished possession.

"Ay, but you can, lad—you must—'tis all I have to offer, and it may serve to mind you of me, now and then, so take it! Take it!" And, Barnabas, when you're tired of being a fine gentleman up there in London, why—come back to us here at the old 'Hound' and be content to be just a man. Good-by, lad; good-by!" saying which, Natty Bell nodded, drew in his head and vanished, leaving Barnabas to stare up at the closed lattice, with the ponderous timepiece ticking in his hand.

So, in a while, Barnabas slipped it into his pocket and, turning his back upon the "Coursing Hound," began to climb that hill beyond which lay the London of his dreams. Therefore as he went he kept his eyes lifted up to the summit of the hill, and his step grew light, his eye brightened, for adventure lay in wait for him; life beckoned to him from the distance; there was magic in the air.

Thus Barnabas strode on up the hill full of expectancy and the blind confidence in destiny which is the glory of youth.

"More shame to them, then." "Why, so says I, young master, but, ye see, beef an' mutton, ducks an' chicken, an' sich, ain't good enough for your Nobs nowadays, oh no! They must devour larks wi' gusto, and French hortons wi' avidity, and wi' a occasional leg of a frog throw'd in for a relish—though, to be sure, a frog's leg ain't over meaty at the best o' times. Oh, it's all true, young sir; it's all wrote down here in this priceless wolum." Here he tapped his book upon his knee.

"The title, young sir; well there! read for yourself."

AND with the words the Chapman held up the book open at the title page, and Barnabas read: HINTS ON ETIQUETTE

THE COMPLETE ART OF A GENTLEMANLY DEPORTMENT BY A PERSON OF QUALITY.

"You'll note that their Person o' Quality, will ye?" said the Chapman.

"Strange!" said Barnabas.

"Not a bit of it!" retorted the Chapman. "Lord love me! any one could be a gentleman by just reading and inwardly digesting o' this here priceless wolum; it's all down here in print, an' nice bold type, too—pat as you please."

"This is certainly very remarkable," said Barnabas.

"Ah!" nodded the Chapman, "it's the most remarkable book as ever was!—Look—here's pictures for ye—look!" and he began turning over the pages, calling out the subject of the pictures as he did so.

"Gentleman going a walk in a jerry 'ole, Gentleman eating soup! Gentleman kissing lady's 'and, Gentleman dancing with lady—note their legs, will ye—their elegance for ye! Gentleman riding a 'oss in one o' these 'ere noo bucked 'ats. Gentleman shaking 'ands with ditty—observe the cock o' that little finger, will ye!"

"Gentleman eating ruffles—no, truffles, which is a vegetable, as all pigs in uncommon partial to. Gentleman proposing lady's 'ealth in a frilled shirt an' a pair o' skin-tights. Gentleman making a bow."

"And remarkably stiff in the legs about it, too!" nodded Barnabas. "Stiff in the legs!" cried the Chapman reproachfully. "Lord love you, young sir! I've seen many a leg stiffer than that."

"And how much is the book?"

(To Be Continued)

INSTALLMENT THREE

"HEADS UP, young master, never say die! and wi' the larks and the throbbles a-singing away so inspiring too—Lord love me!"

Barnabas started guiltily, and turning with upturned head, perceived a very small man perched on an adjacent milestone, with a very large pack at his feet, a very large hunk of bread and cheese in his hand, and with a book open upon his knee.

"Listen to that their lark," said the man, pointing upwards with the knife he held.

"Well?" said Barnabas, a trifle haughtily perhaps.

"There's music for ye; there's j'y. I never hear a lark but it takes me back to London—to Lime-us, to Giles Rents, down by the river."

"Pray, why?" inquired Barnabas, still a trifle haughtily.

"Because it's so different; there ain't much j'y, no, nor yet music in Giles Rents, down by the river."

"Rather an unpleasant place!" said Barnabas.

"Unpleasant, young sir. I should say so—the worst place in the world—but listen to that their blessed lark; there's a voice for ye; there's music with a capital M; an' I've read as they cooks and eats 'em."

"Who do?"

"Nobs do—swells—gentlemen—ah, an' ladies, too!"

Questions and Answers.....

Q—Who raised the funds for the swimming pool at the White House that was presented to President Roosevelt?

A—A group of newspapers headed by the New York Daily News, through popular contributions.

Q—In which counties in Virginia is Shenandoah national park?

A—Warren, Rappahannock, Page, Rockingham, Madison, Greene, Albemarle and Augusta.

Q—Who was the author of the novel from which the picture "Maedchen in Uniform" was taken?

A—Baroness Hatvany, who writes under the name Christa Winslow.

Q—Whom did Helen Taft, the daughter of the former President, marry?

A—Frederick J. Manning.

Q—What part of the wing of an airplane contributes the most lift, and in what proportion?

A—The upper surface, at usual angles of inclination, produces a partial vacuum which is responsible for from two-thirds to three-fourths of the total lift. This varies with design of wing curve.

WRIGLEY'S GUM



THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



TEN-THOUSAND-DOLLAR BONFIRES WERE HAD FREQUENTLY BY LUTHER BURBANK, IN BURNING UP THE THOUSANDS OF EXPERIMENTAL PLANTS GROWN IN DEVELOPING HIS FAMOUS CREATIONS.



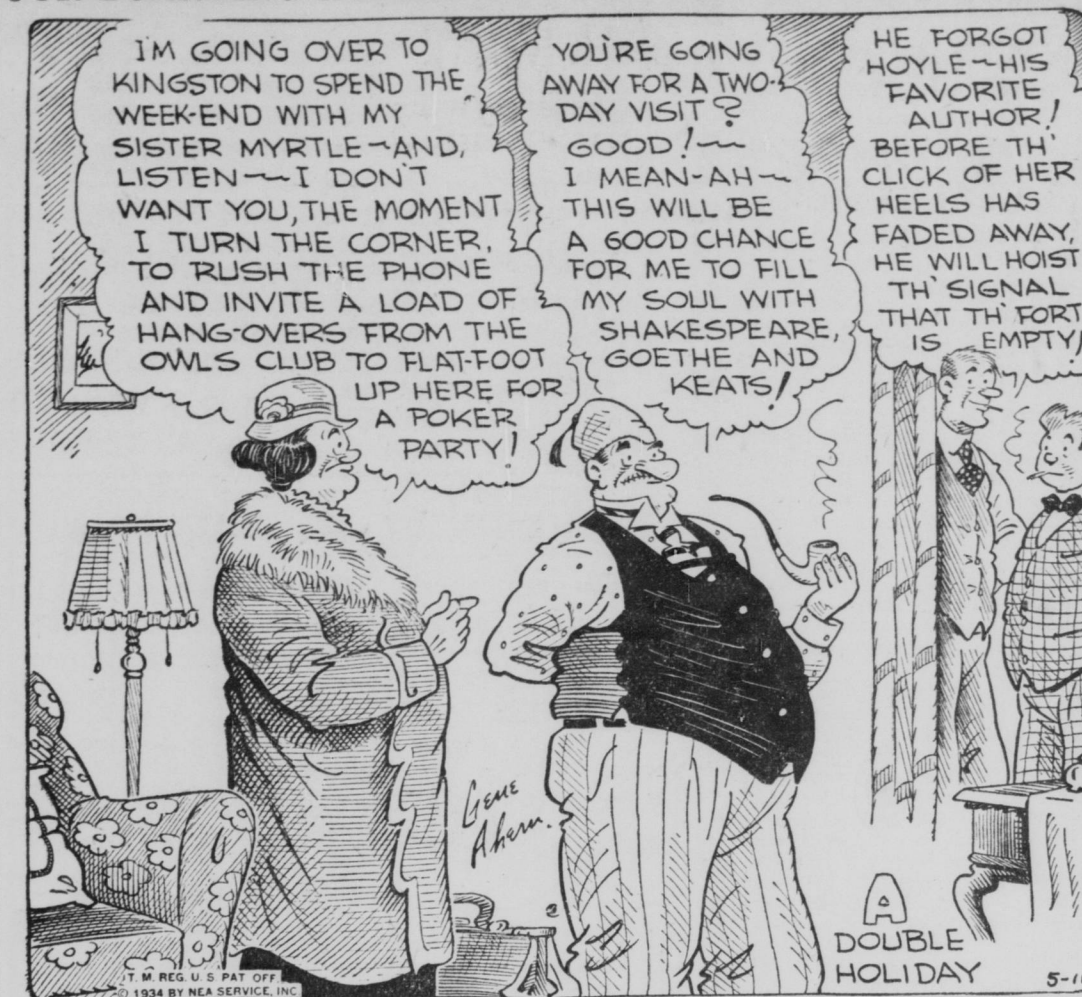
A WHALE, ALTHOUGH A MAMMAL, CAN REMAIN UNDER WATER MORE THAN AN HOUR.

WHALES do not ordinarily stay under water for longer periods than fifteen to twenty minutes, but a harpooned whale will sink several hundred feet below the surface and rest on the bottom for more than an hour at a time.

NEXT—How did a comma make fruit exempt, at one time, from import duty?

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

—By Ahern



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



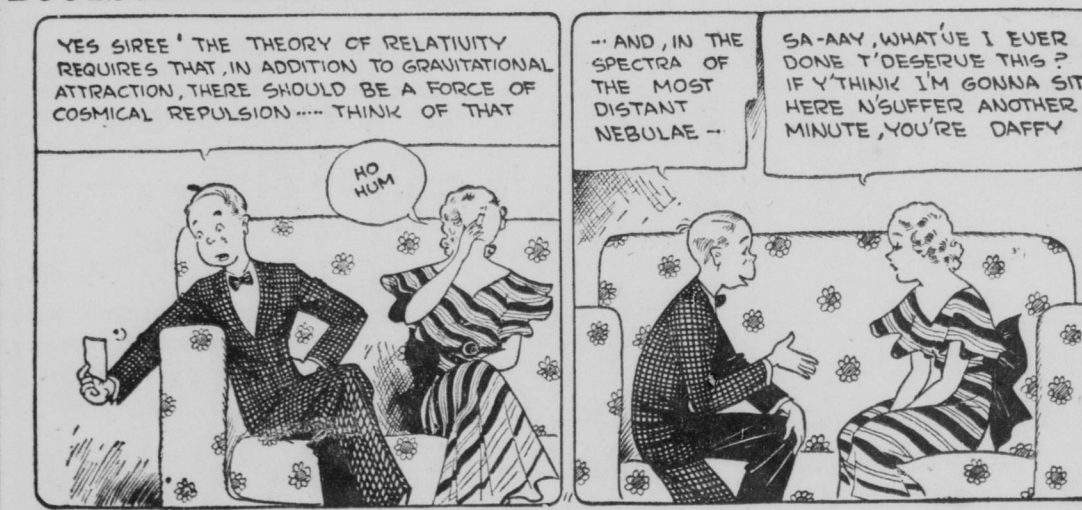
WASHINGTON TUBBS II



ALLEY OOP



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



TARZAN THE INVINCIBLE



While she ate, he spoke for the first time, but not to her, nor in any language she had ever heard. He spoke to the great elephant, and the huge pachyderm wheeled slowly about and entered the jungle. Soon she could hear the noise of his passage diminishing.

OUT OUR WAY

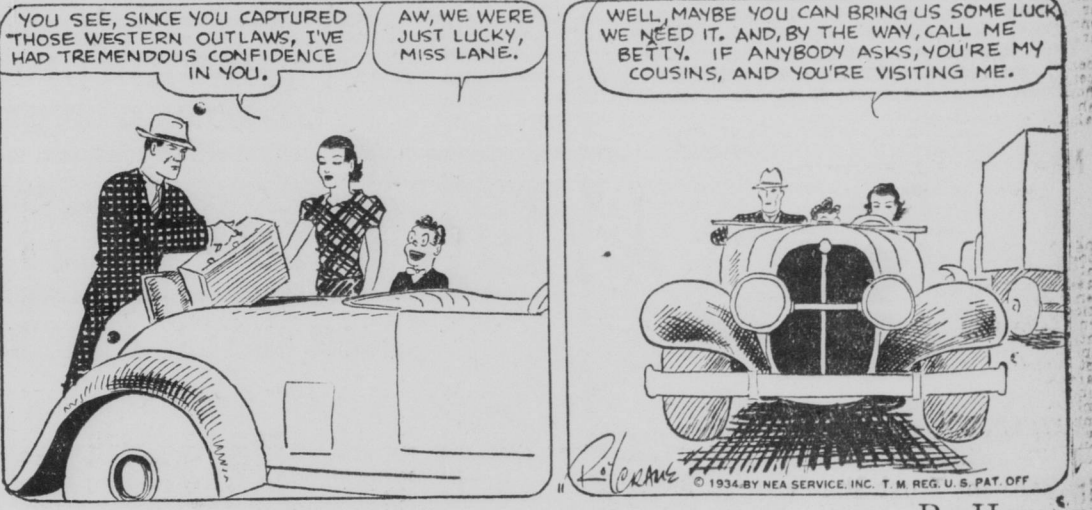
—By Williams



THE SUBURBANITE



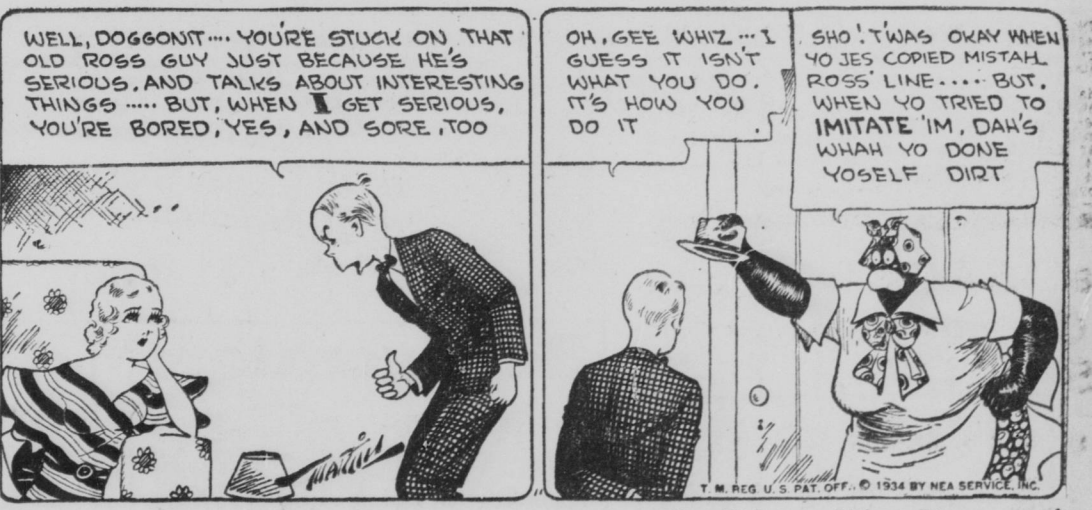
—By Blosser



—By Crane



—By Hamlin



—By Martin



When there came a sound of something moving in the jungle just beyond the fire-light, he raised his head and growled a low, savage warning from his lips. The girl closed her eyes and buried her face in her arms in sudden terror.

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