

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

CLEAN COMICS THAT WILL AMUSE BOTH OLD AND YOUNG

FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin
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THE FEATHERHEADS

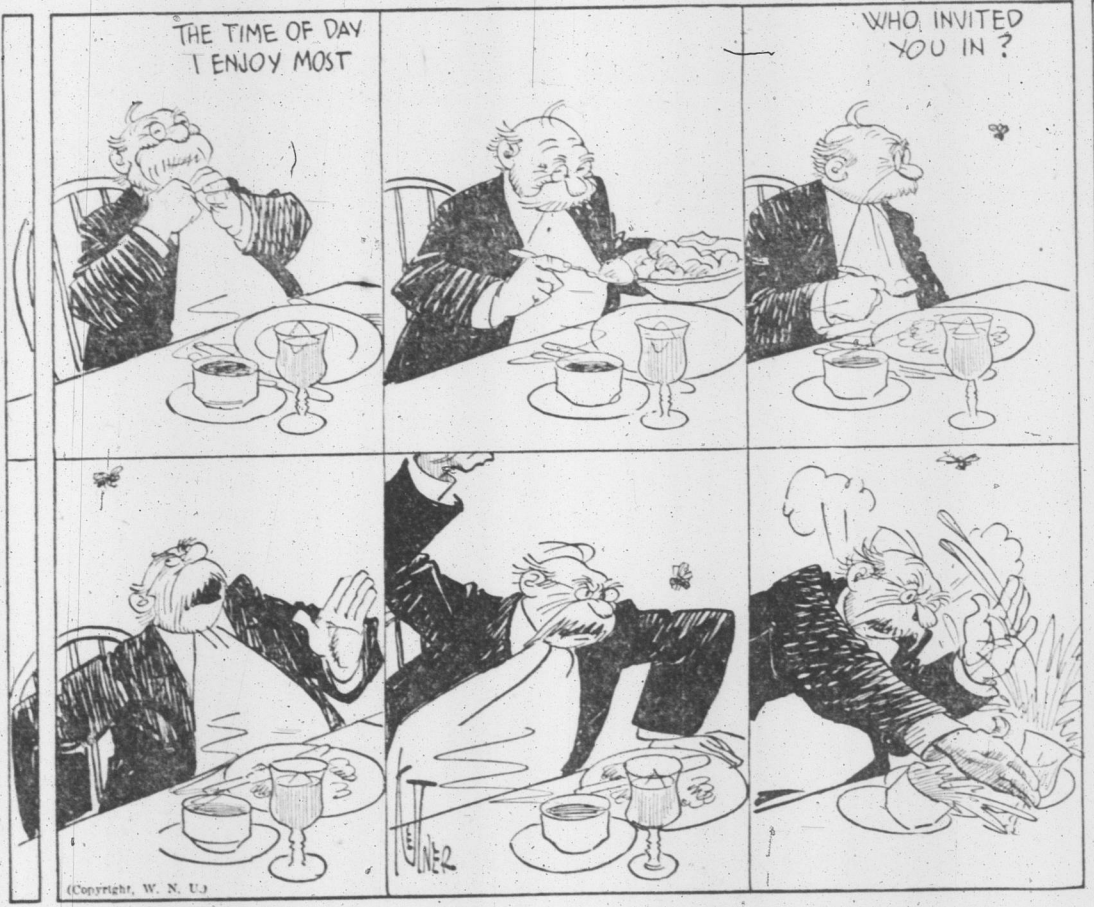
By Osborne
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Along the Concrete

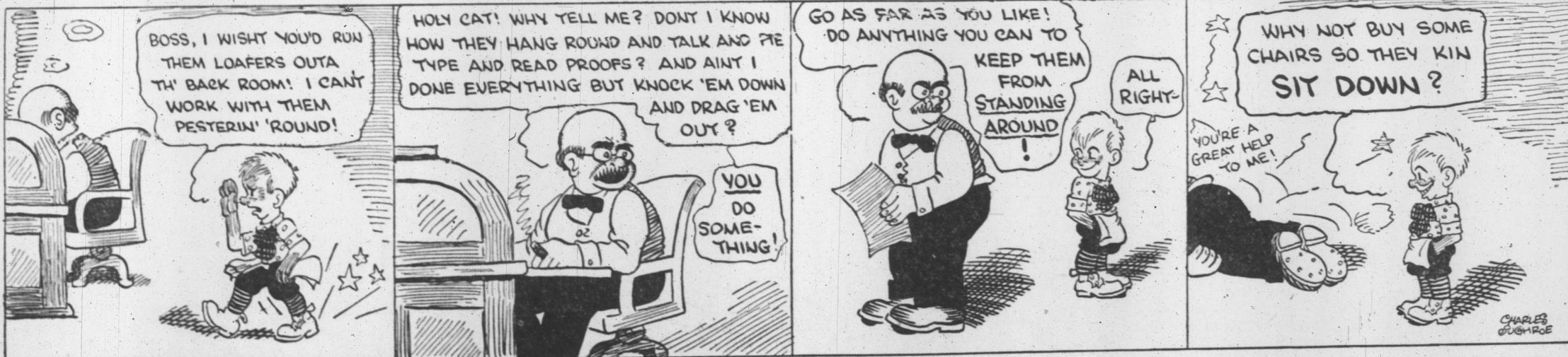


Our Pet Peeve



MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughrue
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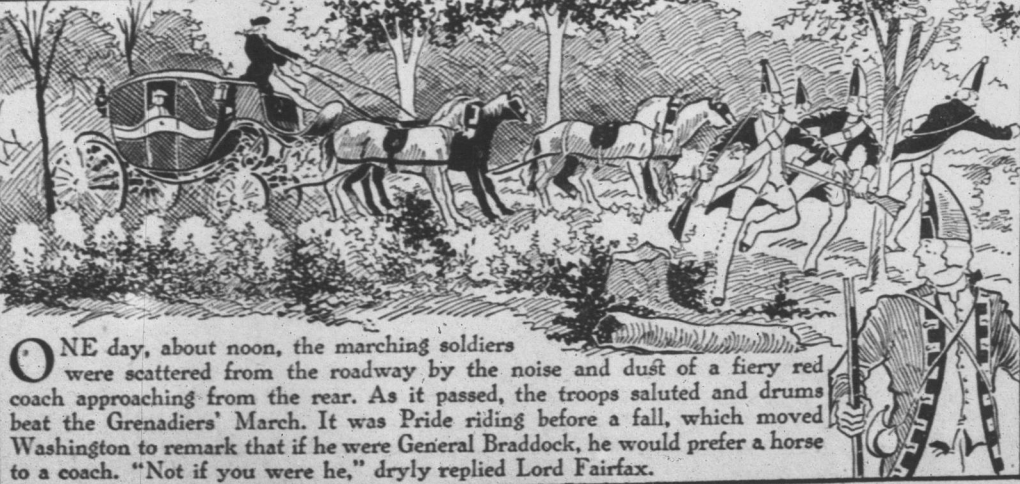
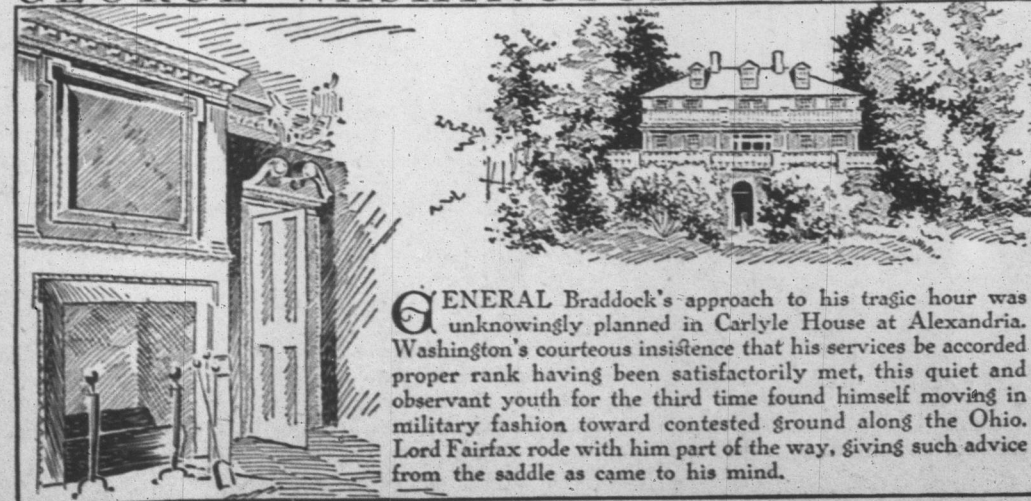
Print Shop Loafers are Hard to Discourage

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TRAVELS

By James W. Brooks

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Historically Correct Sketches
By CALVIN FADER



Modern Contract Bridge

By Lelia Hattersley

No. 5

Distributional Values

WHEN your hand indicates that a suit take-out is the best policy, but the sum of your honor-tricks is below the yardstick measurement for game, you should declare only a sufficient number of tricks to cover your partner's bid. In taking out with a no trump, use the yardstick measurement, bidding one or two no trumps according to the indications of your partnership holding in honor-tricks. In short, whenever you are taking out and it is still uncertain whether your partnership hands will prove congenial at your new bid, you must tread gingerly unless the sum of your honor-tricks spells "GAME."

Often however, when your partner has made an original suit bid of one, there may enter into your response a factor which justifies you in totally disregarding the yardstick measurement of honor-tricks, so important in most responses. This factor is the distribution of your hand. If your hand is so favorably distributed as to show great length in your partner's suit, length in a second suit and complete absence of a third, as for example: S-Q 10 9 8 7 6, H-5, D-none, C-10 9 8 6 5 3, when your partner has bid a spade, you could ignore your lack of honor-tricks and jump immediately into a game bid. Such a proceeding would be justified by the fact that your spade strength would so solidify your partner's trump holding as to promise no losers in that suit; your length in clubs offers the probability of setting up some end cards or giving your partner repeated ruffing opportunities, and most important of all in compensating for your deficit of honor-tricks, your short and missing suits would enable you to trump off your opponent's defensive strength in honor-tricks. It is certain that no more than one honor-trick in hearts could be cashed against you, and none at all in diamonds. So that even though your partnership total of honor-tricks sums up only to the 2½ which your partner's original bid guaranteed, your practical certainty of breaking down the opponent's defense is equivalent to a strong honor-trick holding when reckoned for its assisting value to your partner.

Playing Tricks

As a rule the last thing that a contract player learns is the most important thing he should know. That is, how to count the playing tricks in his hand.

Playing tricks are the general tricks your own hand may be expected to take if your declaration or your partner's declaration becomes final. When making an opening bid at no trumps, it is rarely possible to locate playing tricks, other than honor-tricks, because you have no definite long strong suit to establish. (With a biddable suit, you would not declare no trump.) But the count of honor-tricks in the hand will automatically include a proportionate amount of low card tricks.

When shifting into a no trump, or entering a later stage of the bidding with a no trump declaration, it is often possible to count definite playing tricks according to the location of strength shown by others bids or by the fact of a strong minor suit in your own or your partner's hand which can be set up. But for opening no trump bids and no trump raises and rebids, there is no better guide than the yardstick count of honor-tricks.

The direct and simple method of counting honor-tricks, so helpful in valuing no trumps, will not answer for raises and rebids at declared trumps, which must be played under totally different conditions. As a matter of fact, the difference in play of no trump and suit hands creates two almost totally different games; so that a separate system of valuation must necessarily be used for each.

The count of playing tricks at a suit bid is an easy matter for a player of long experience and judgment. Fortunately for the average player, in the approach-forcing system what is an unconscious mental process with the expert has been translated into a concrete form known as the distributional count. The distributional count may be mastered in half an hour's study, and once clearly comprehended, enables any team of players to value their hands at suit bids with the precision of experts.

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(WNU Service)

Angling Pro and Con

Isaac Walton said: "We may say of angling as Doctor Boteler said of strawberries: 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did'; and so, (if I might be judge) God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling. But Doctor Johnson, a much more erudite man, defined a fishing rod as "a stick with a hook at one end and a fool at the other."

Civilization Built on Coal

Today's civilization requires more work than human labor can perform. The dominant source of brain replacing energy is coal. We are today using 20 times as much coal per capita as we did in 1850. Coal is the most important source of energy in our modern industrial civilization and has made our national life into a complicated network of interdependent groups with duties to each other.

Faith and Hope

We live by faith in the winter time, and faith is a thing of will power. When things start to grow in the spring, hope supersedes faith in our lives. Hope feeds on faith but it is born of the sunshine.—Exchange.

One Way of Reasoning

It is remarkable how much finer horseback riders the poor must be than the rich. Thus you must have noticed that poor youths never are thrown and injured in polo matches. —New Orleans Times-Picayune.