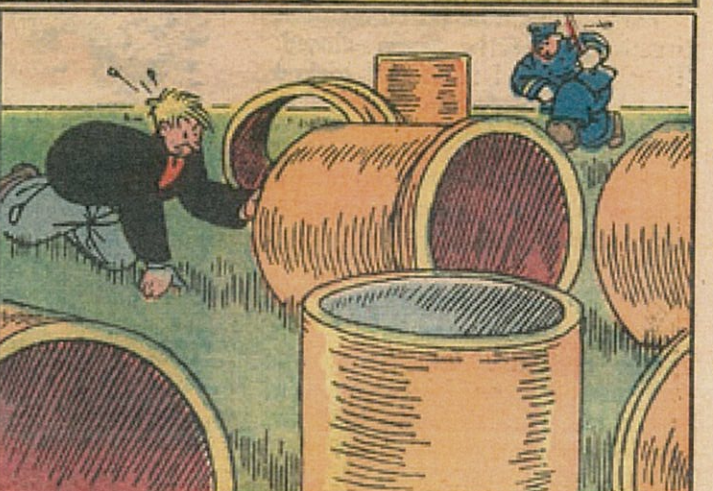
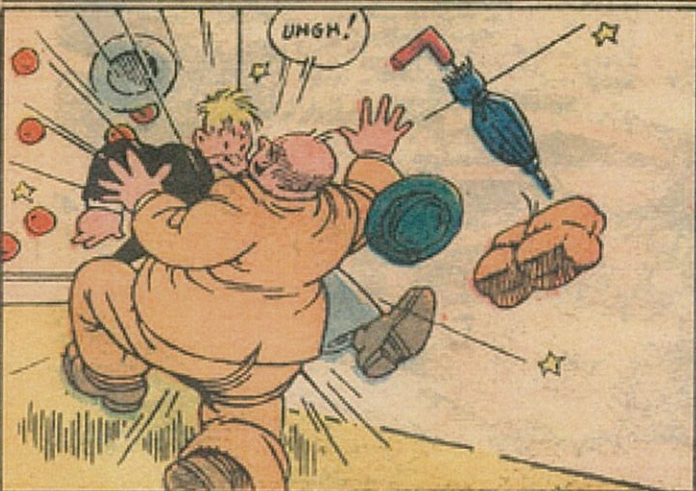


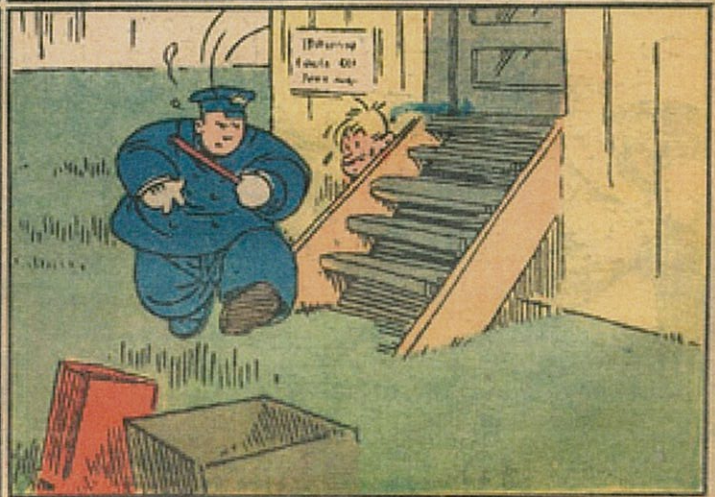
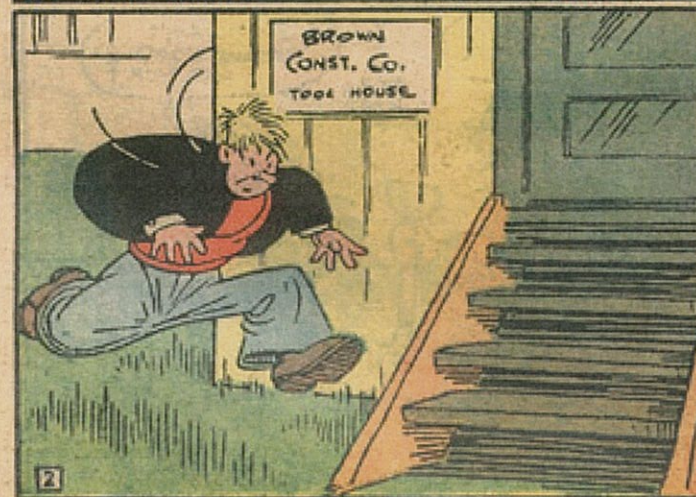
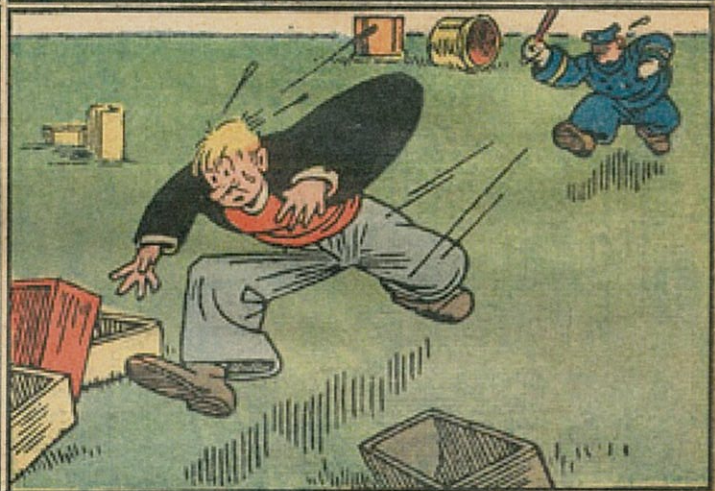
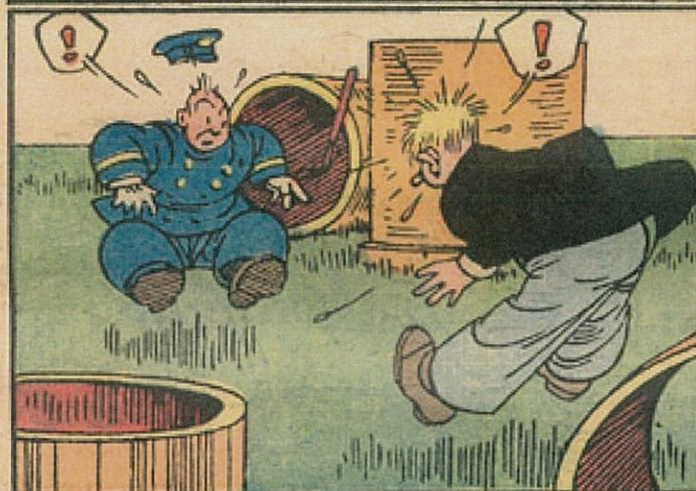
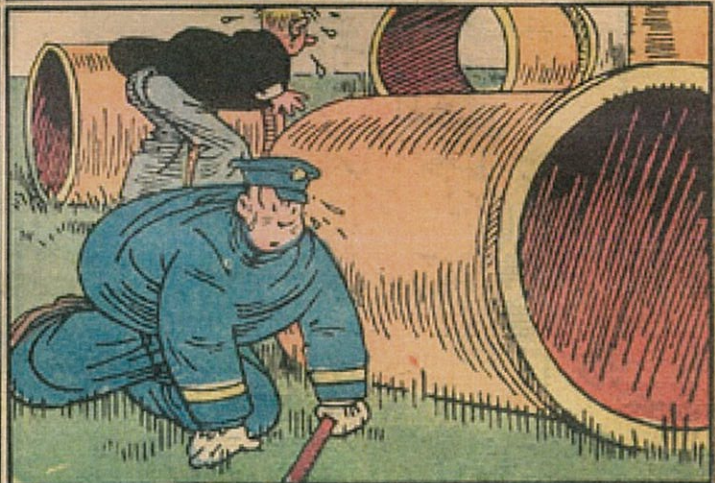
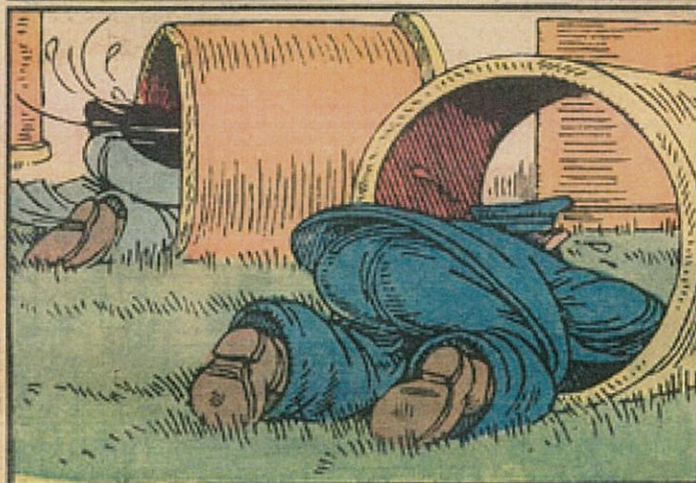
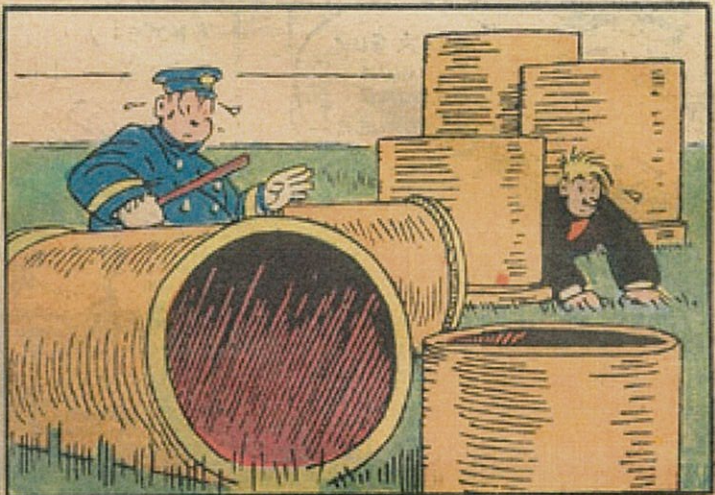
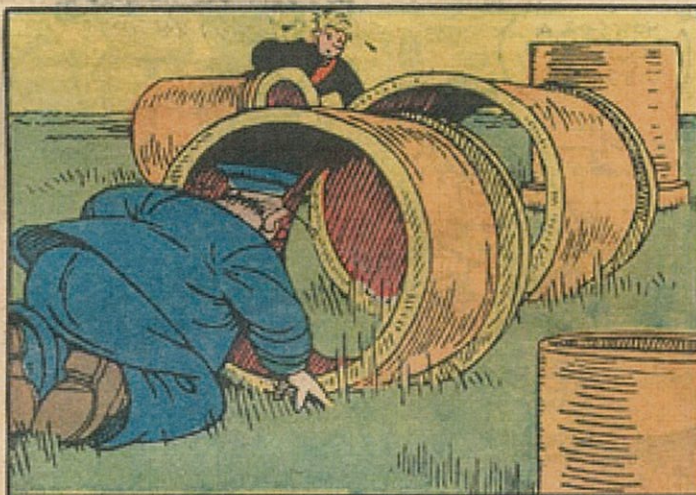
EXHIBIT II

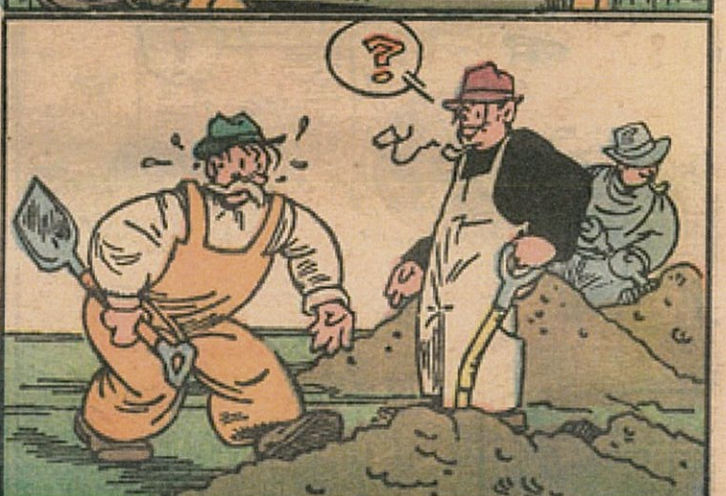
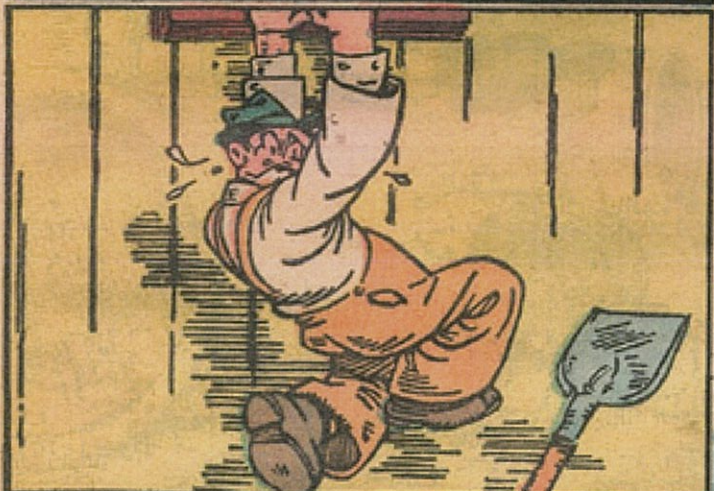
Part 8 of 14

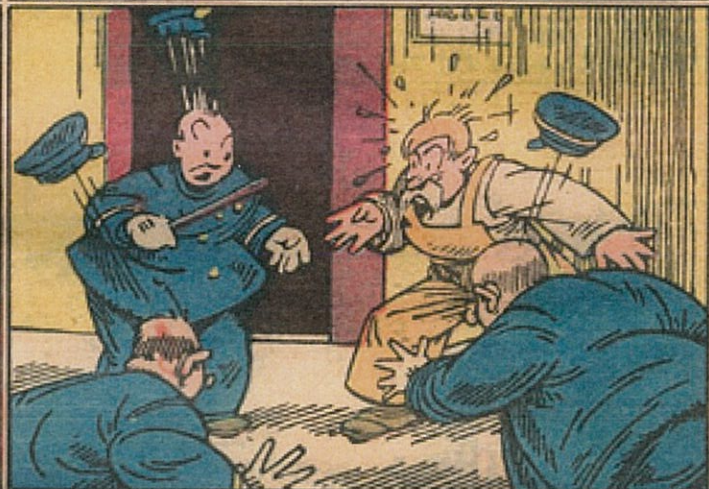
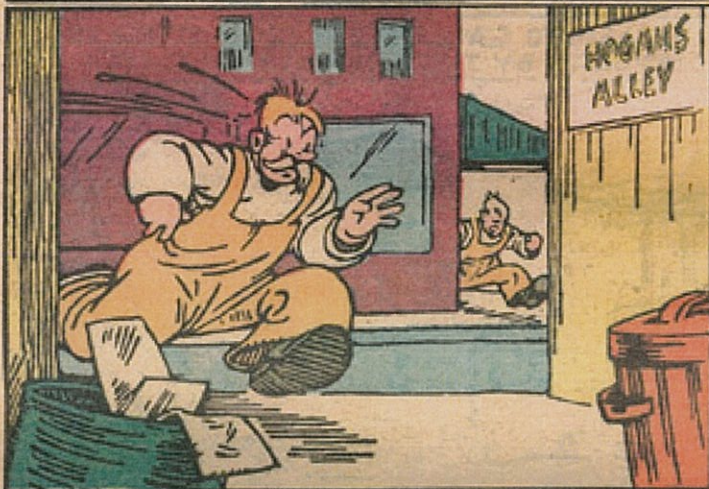
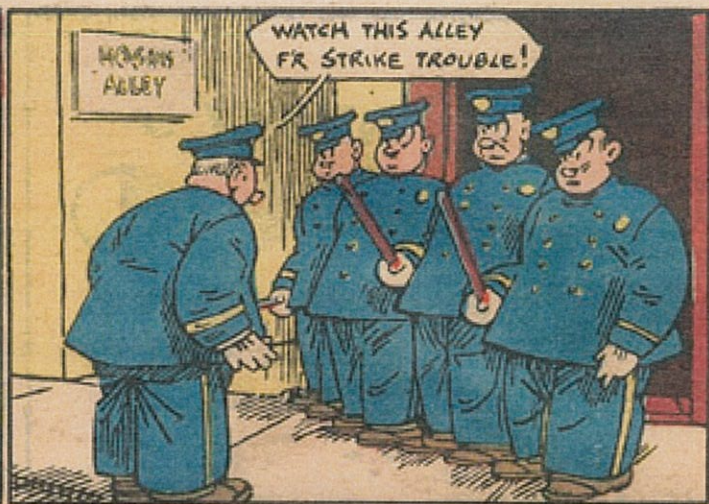
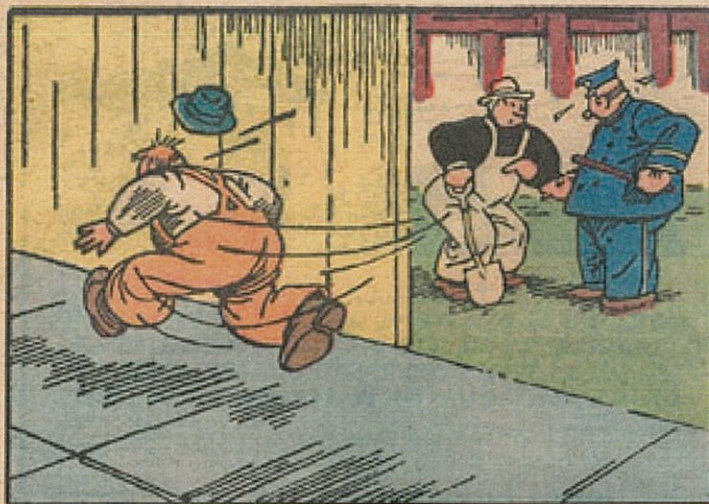
STICKY-MITT STIMSON

BY ALGER









The ADVENTURES of **MARCO POLO**

ILLUSTRATED by SVEN ELVÉN



IT'S THE YEAR 1271.
MARCO POLO, AT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN,
TOGETHER WITH HIS FATHER AND UNCLE,
TWO WEALTHY AND IMPORTANT MEN OF
VENICE, SET OUT ON A JOURNEY TO THE
ORIENT.

AS THEY REACH THE ARMENIAN COAST
THEY ARE MET BY THE KING'S EMISSARY.

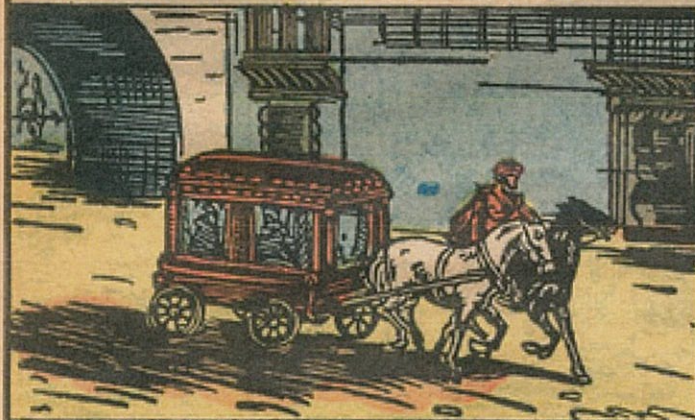
OUR KING HAS JUST RECEIVED
WORD FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED
POPE REQUESTING YOUR IM-
MEDIATE APPEARANCE AT HIS
RESIDENCE AT ACRE.



AN ARMED GALLEY IS PLACED AT THEIR
DISPOSAL BY THE ARMENIAN RULER.



DOLKING AT THE CITY OF ACRE THEY GO
DIRECTLY TO THE POPE'S PALACE.



WHERE THEY RECEIVE IMMEDIATE AUDI-
ENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS AND GIVEN
THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

--MY BLESSINGS UPON YOU--
THIS IS YOUR MISSION; THE KHAN OF TAR-
TARY REQUESTS ME TO SEND PRIESTS AND
MEN OF LEARNING TO HIS GREAT DOMAIN
TO IMPART THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR COUN-
TRY TO HIS PEOPLE.

I HAVE BUT TWO PRIESTS AVAILABLE TO
SEND, WHO, WITH LETTERS AND GIFTS I EN-
TRUST TO YOUR CARE TO SAFELY CONVEY
TO THAT VAST EMPIRE IN THE EAST.

SO AGAIN THEY SET OUT FOR DISTANT
LANDS.



I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN,
THAT YOUR KING IS AT
WAR WITH THE RULER
OF BABYLONIA

YES, 'TIS SO -
THE SOLDAN HAS
LAID WASTE MUCH
OF OUR BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY.

