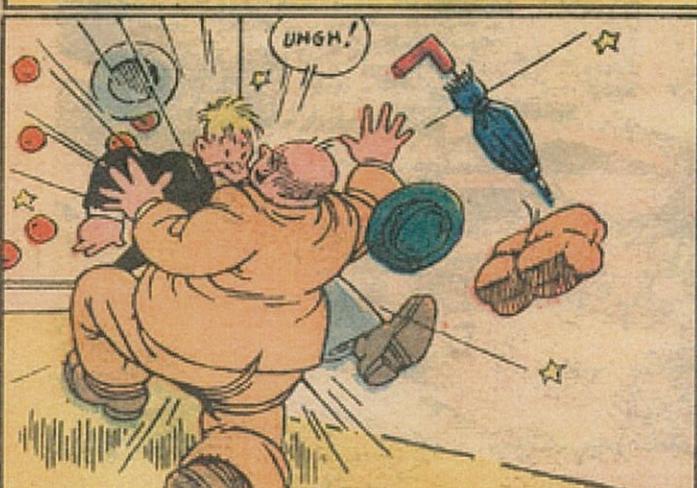


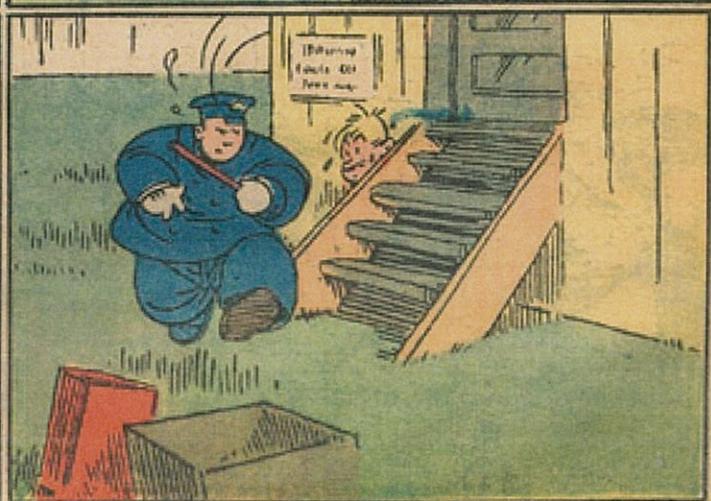
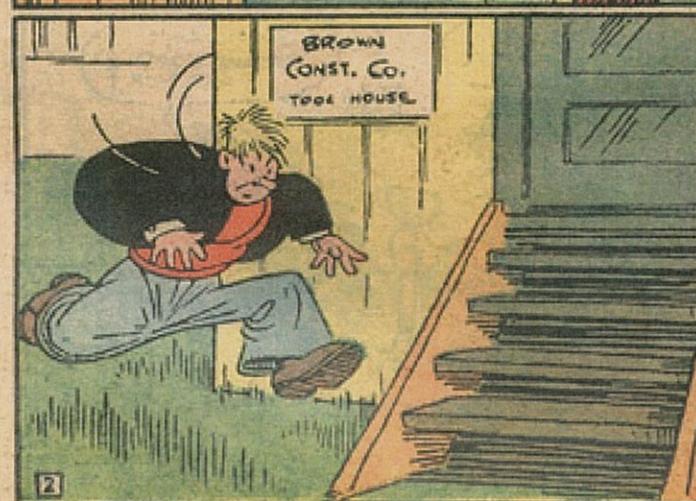
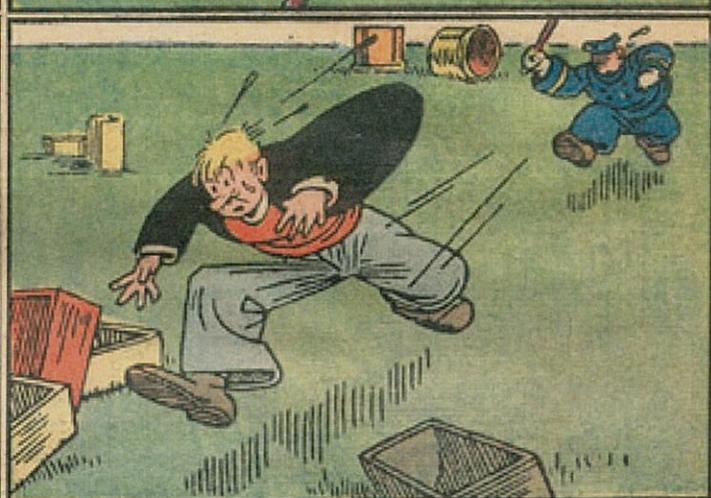
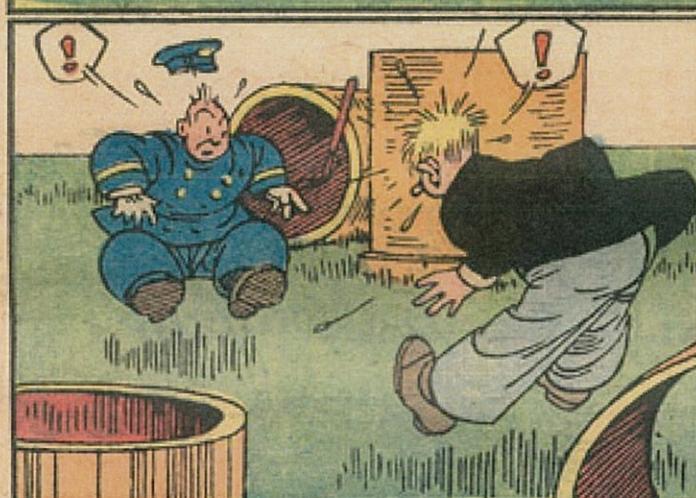
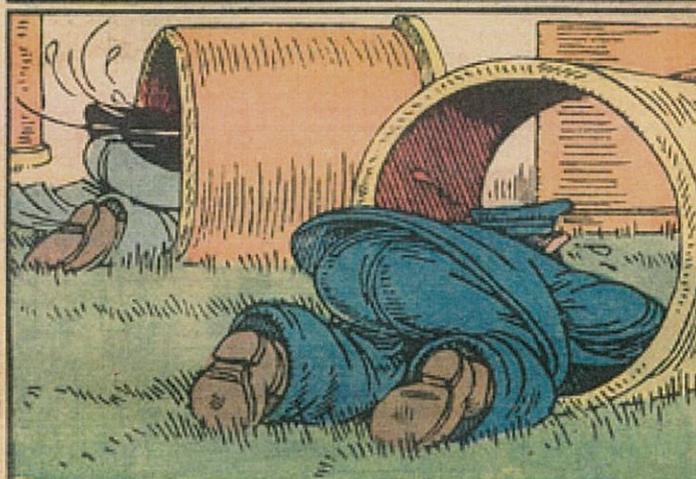
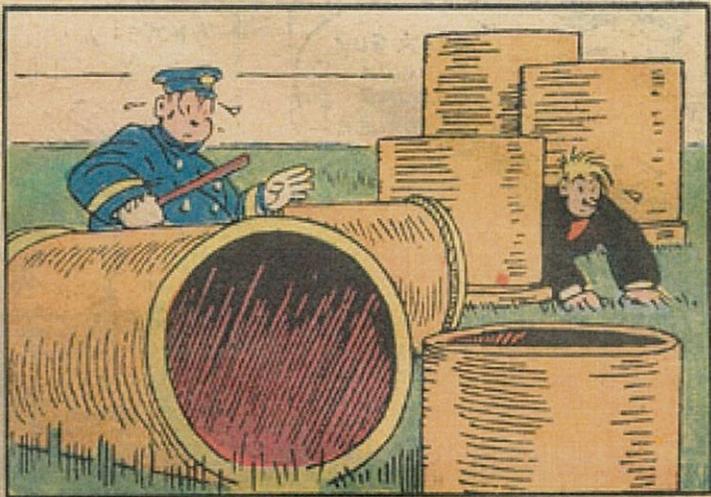
EXHIBIT II

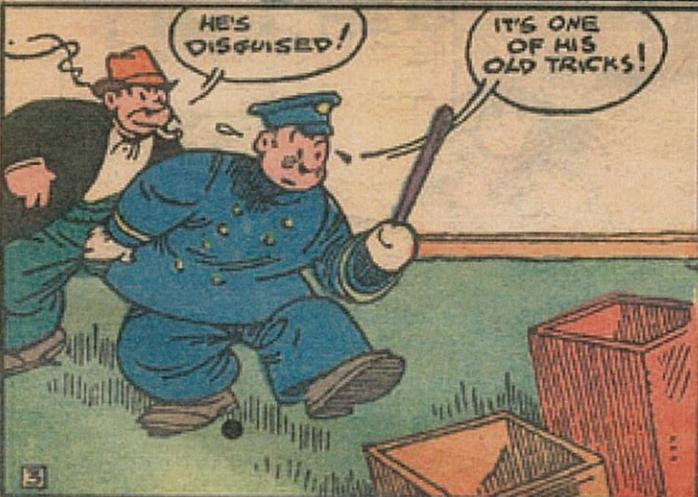
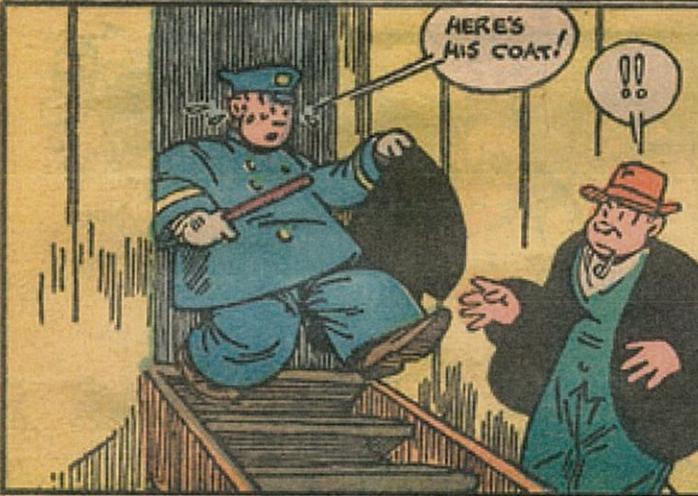
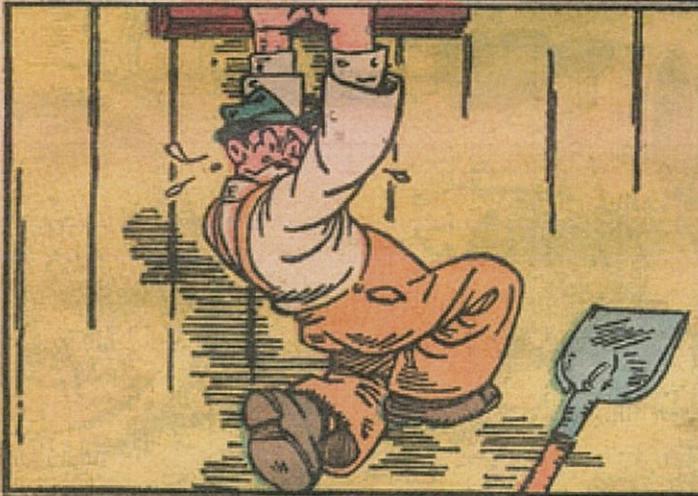
Part 8 of 14

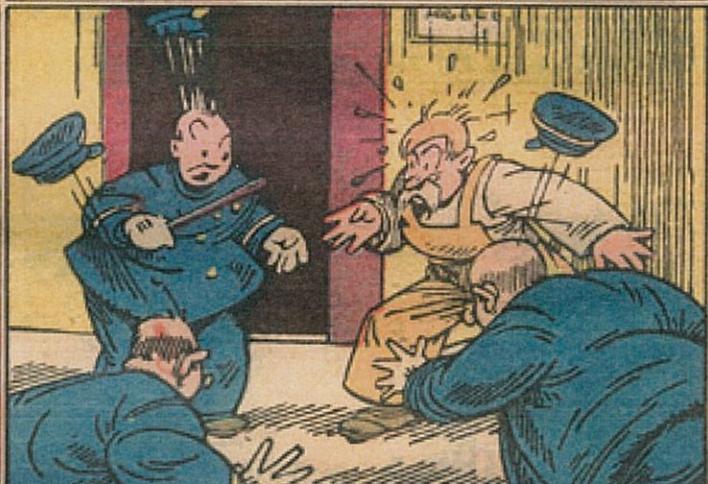
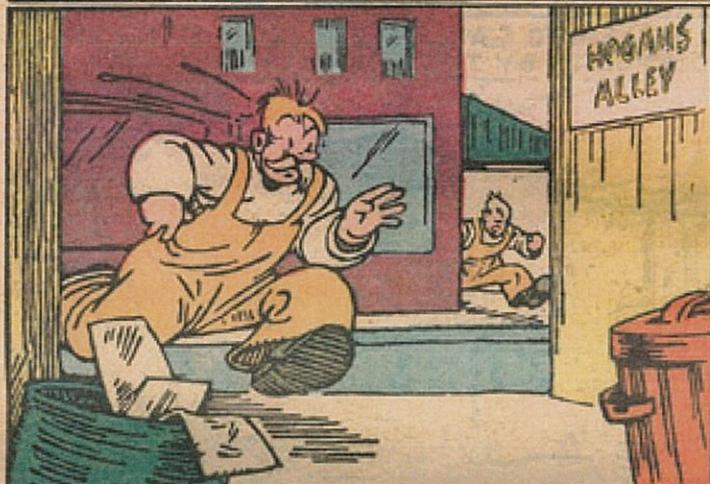
STICKY-MITT STIMSON

BY ALGER









The ADVENTURES of **MARCO POLO**

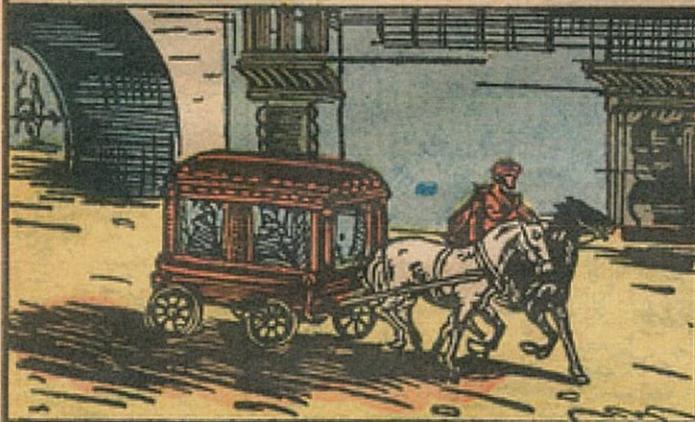
ILLUSTRATED by SVEN ELVÉN

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 IMMEDIATE
APPEARANCE AT HIS RESIDENCE AT ACRE



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



SO AGAIN THEY SET OUT FOR DISTANT
LANDS.



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.

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



WHERE THEY RECEIVE IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE
WITH HIS HOLINESS AND GIVEN
THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

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

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

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.

