



WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

# Bethlehem Steel Signs With Union; Confusion Shrouds Defense Policy; Industry Profits Reflect Up-Trend

EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.

## BIG STEEL:

### The Break Comes

The break had come in the steel strike. The United Steelworkers had signed an agreement with the Bethlehem steel corporation ending the strike for that company's 80,000 workers and breaking the otherwise solid front that had been maintained by big steel in the strike issue.

IT WAS A TRIUMPH for CIO's President Philip Murray who announced that the agreement called for Bethlehem to pay the full cost of minimum \$100-a-month pensions for all employees 65 or over with 25 years of service. A social insurance plan also was included in the agreement.

Bethlehem, the industry's second largest producer, was the first unit of big steel to capitulate to union demands for a company-financed pension and welfare plan.

No one could say just how much the pension program would cost the steel company per hour for each employee once it begins operating. It was expected the pension plan would start to function in January and the social insurance program would get underway at about the same time.

Murray told newsmen that a "very conservative" estimate of the pension cost to the company would be about 10 cents an hour, but added actuarial studies would have to be made before the cost could be determined definitely.

THE CIO LEADER said the Bethlehem action would set a pattern for the steel industry, but declined to say what companies he was talking to privately.

"Bib Steel," speaking through U. S. Steel corporation President Benjamin F. Fairless said:

"We renew our earlier proposals to sit down with the steelworkers union in an endeavor to negotiate a mutually satisfactory program . . . of course we will study the Bethlehem settlement."

The question was: How long would the remainder of "big steel" hold out? The Bethlehem pact was a forceful argument for the unions for, they could argue, if Bethlehem can do this, so can you.

## STETTINIUS:

### Was Hard Worker

With the death of Edward R. Stettinius, another major figure of the Roosevelt era passed from the American scene. The former secretary of state died of a heart attack at the age of 49.

STETTINIUS' contributions to his government were many and valuable. A rich man's son, he scorned a life of leisure and, instead, determined to make his own way, which he did rather well. He was chairman of the U. S. steel corporation at the age of 37. At 44, he was U. S. secretary of state, the top cabinet post. He was lend-lease administrator, taking over the post in 1941, a job in which he directed the 60-billion-dollar flow of supplies that played a major role in defeat of the axis powers.

Youngest secretary of state since the administration of George Washington, Stettinius held the post only 11 months. He resigned to become the first U. S. delegate to the United Nations general assembly. He was one of Roosevelt's advisers at the Yalta conference with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin.

## ALBANIA:

### New 'Strong Man'

The Communists were beginning to throw their weight around in Albania. A new Communist "strong man," Lt. Gen. Mehmet Shehu, Moscow-trained army chief of staff, was reported gradually taking over control from Premier Hoxha.

ACCORDING to reports reaching western diplomats, Shehu appears to be the actual ruler of the country. Hoxha, Albanian leader for five years, was reported to have been shoved into the background although he retains the title of premier.

The "strong man" is only 36 and he not only is the boss of the army, but also chief of the secret police, interior minister and vice-premier. He is described as the most ruthless Communist in Albania. He gained considerable fame in Albania during the war by leading the first Albanian partisan division in many deadly raids against Germans and Italians.

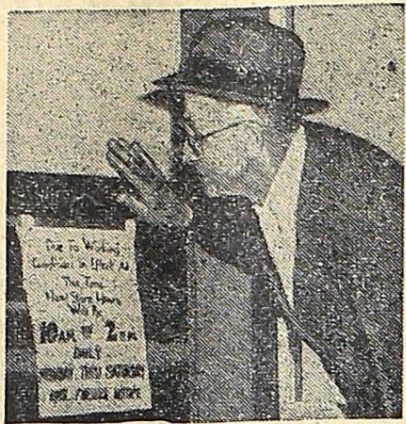
## NICKEL CUT:

### Howl of Protest

The Eatonton, Ga., city council recently devaluated the nickel and right away got a taste of the trouble Britain is having with the pound sterling.

The value of the nickel went down when the council raised the price of soft drinks by levying a penny tax. The bottling business immediately went to pot. Some stores quit selling soda pop altogether to escape the customer ire.

## Slowing Down



Indicative of the general slowing down in industry and field affected by it as a result of the coal strike is this photo of a store of the Westland mine of the Pittsburgh coal company. Because sales dropped so much with miners out of work, the store cut its operating hours from 9 each day to 4.

## DEFENSE:

### Some Confusion

It was difficult to reconcile Mr. Truman's constant emphasis on the grave defense problem, that he said confronts the nation, with his slashing of the air force budget which limited the groups to 58, and the more recent decision of the navy to cut 31 warships from the active fleet.

THESE ACTIONS served only to intensify the average citizen's confusion and puzzlement as to what actually is the status of the country's defense needs.

The navy's top admiral had been ousted because he contended present defense policies would destroy navy value and effectiveness. Other navy officials were facing probable punishment for speaking out. Unification and harmony were urged on all sides as a desperate need if this nation is to protect itself in the world of today.

Despite all that, the air force was to be less than it generally declared it should be and the navy was being deprived of much of its strength. This left still hanging the question of who was right in the row over arms-service unification and the proper defense setup.

THE NAVY was taking 77 ships out of active service—cutting the operating fleet by 31 warships in line with fund reductions. The fleet by mid-1950 will be made up of 237 combat vessels, instead of the 268 it had on September 1. Most of the cut was to be in the Atlantic force.

It was also reported that 54,891 men will be whittled from the navy and marine corps by next July to correspond with the reduction in ships.

## INDUSTRY:

### Profits Climb

The first upward trend of U. S. industry profits since the peak of earnings was reached in the third quarter of 1948 was reported in New York.

Profits turned around and headed upward in the third quarter of 1949, the report said, and pointed out that 1948 was a banner year that surpassed even the fabulous 1929. Thus it appeared that industry earnings were at a record peak.

BUT THE PICTURE was not quite as bright as it may have appeared. Washington had a different report. Commerce Secretary Sawyer reported that the coal and steel strikes had increased the number of jobless by 225,000 in the week ending October 8, as compared with early September. It was quite possible that the strike effect had not been felt strongly enough as yet to influence the rosy report concerning earnings in industry.

The future was uncertain. As strikes continued, so would purchasing power dwindle, and with that fall-off would come an inevitable decline in industry earnings.

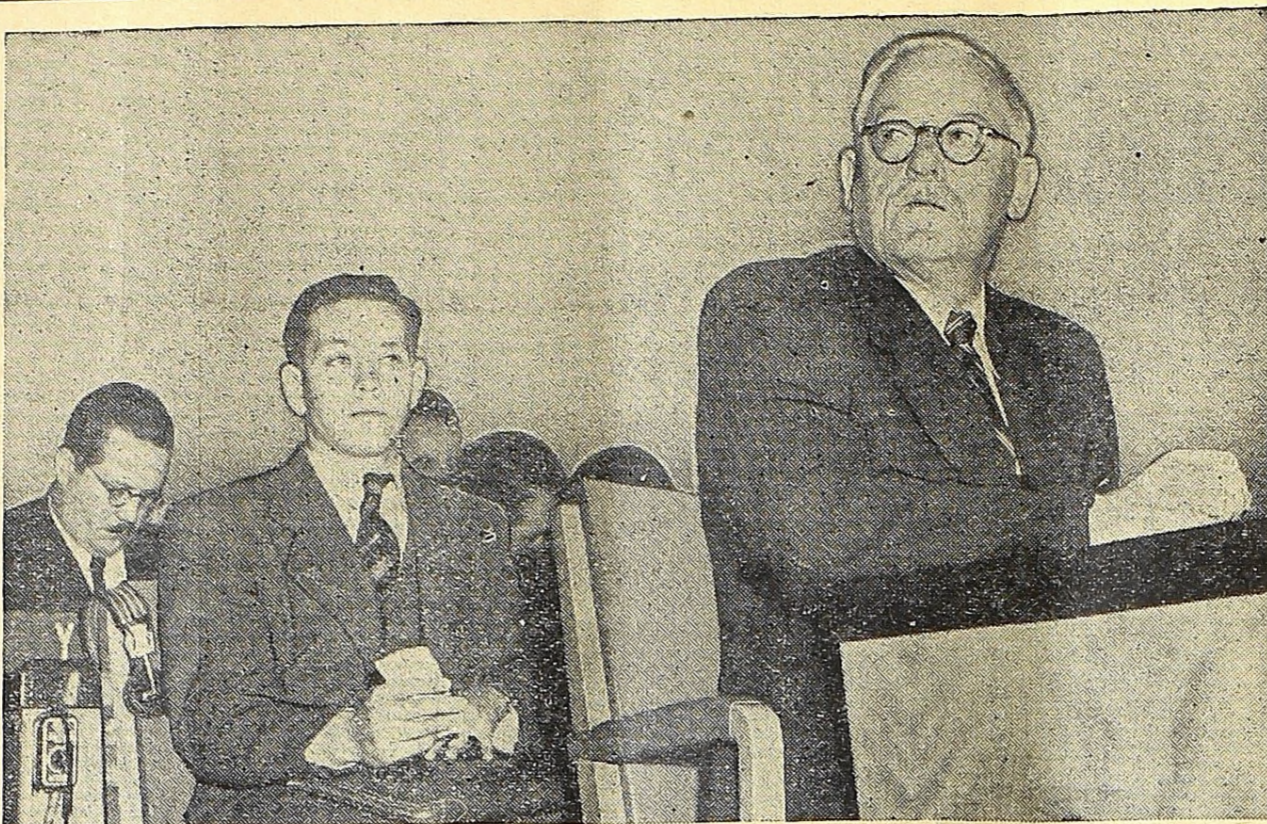
HE EMPHASIZED that the figures released do not show the full effects of the strikes because they were compiled while the walkouts were in their early stages.

As for industry profit, a compilation by the Associated Press showed net profits of 314 companies amounted to one billion, three million, 664,061 dollars in the third quarter of this year—an increase of 4.3 per cent over earnings of 962 million, 102,819 dollars in the second quarter of 1949.

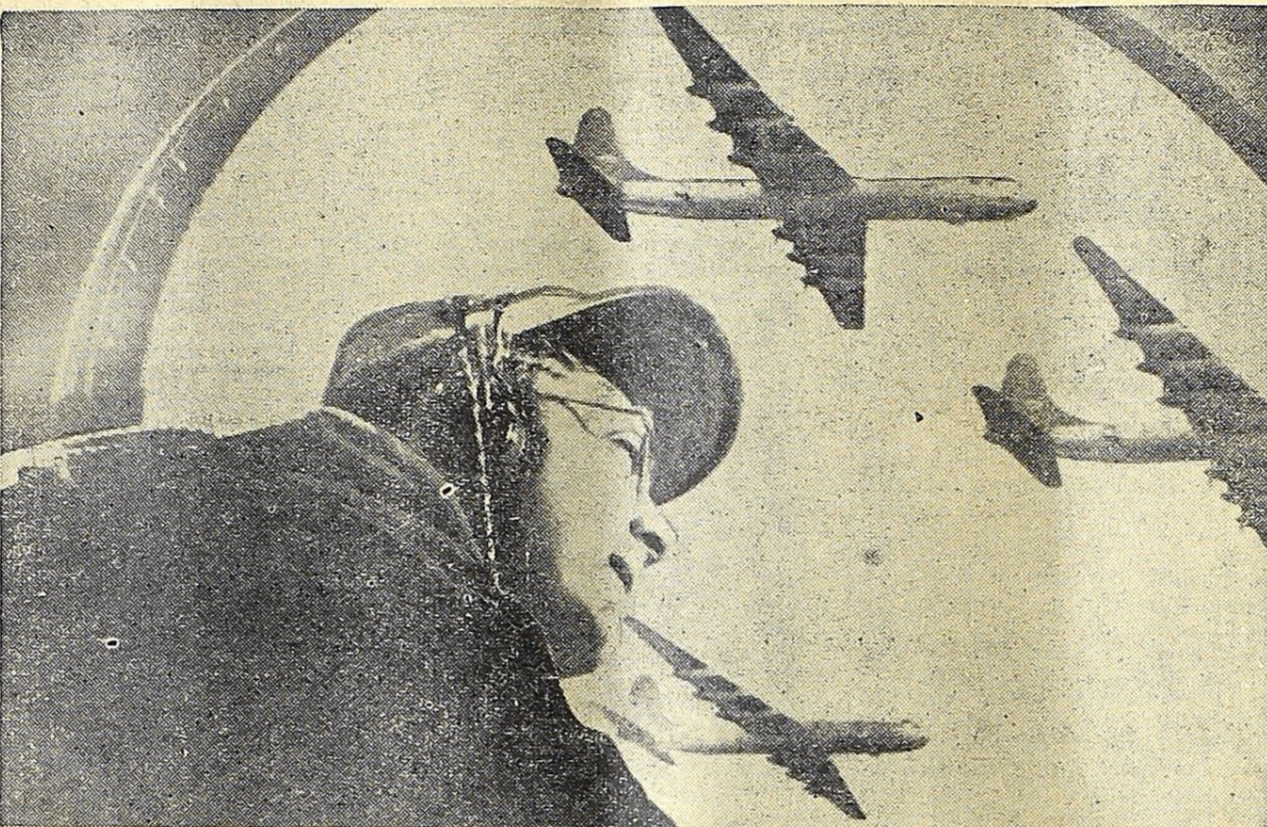
## Bethlehem Appeal

Protestant churches during the Christmas holiday season will seek funds to provide clothing, education, recreation and spiritual leadership for refugees in the Near East.

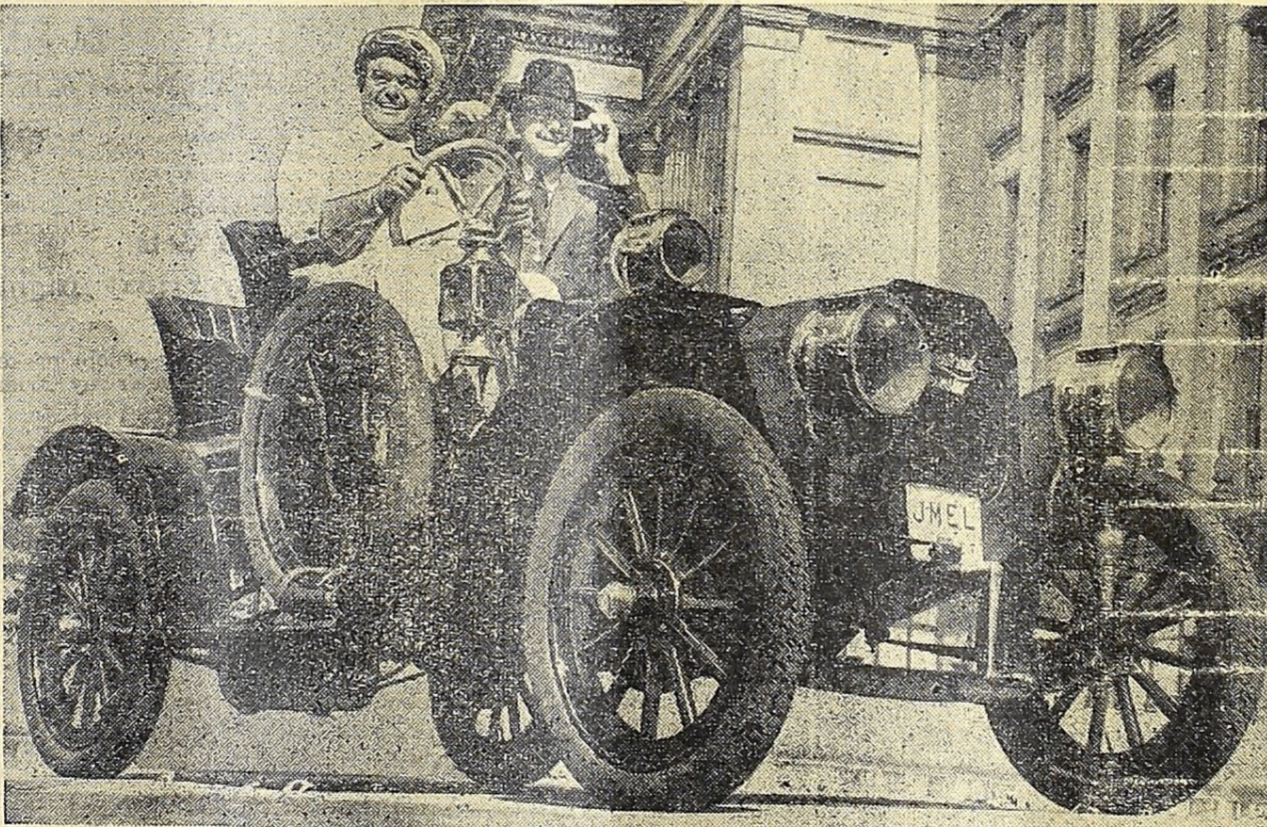
Church World Service, Inc., overseas relief agency for 23 Protestant and Orthodox denominations, said a special Bethlehem Appeal committee would seek gifts to aid refugees stranded in Bethlehem and other Near East areas.



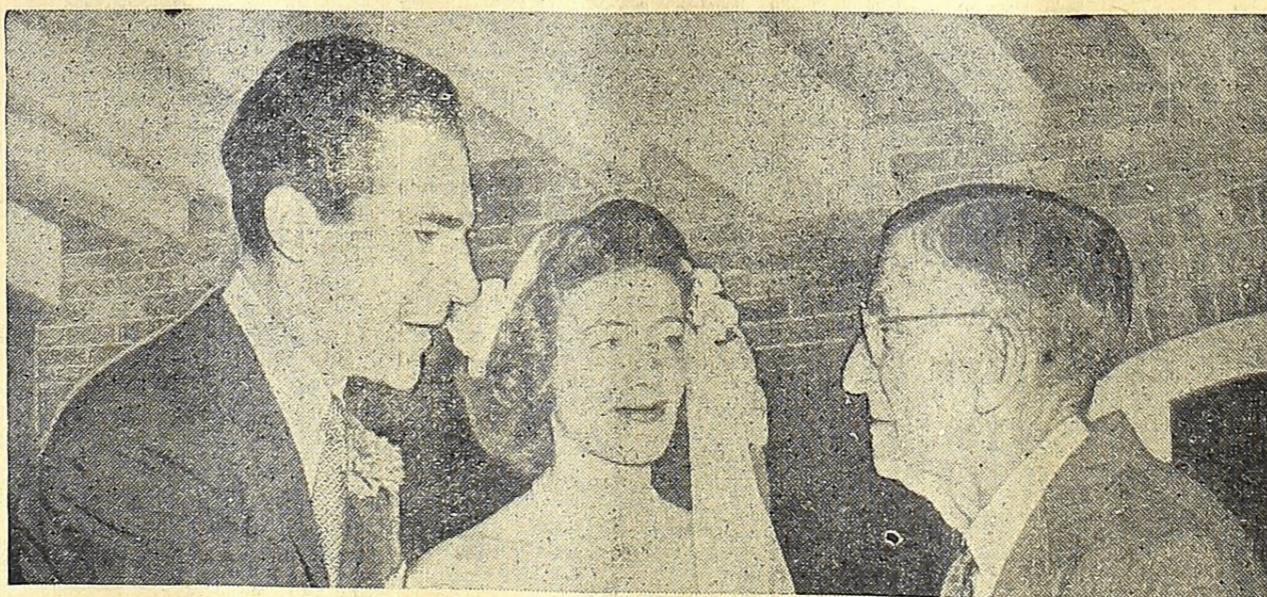
CROSS PURPOSES AS ASSEMBLY BALLOTS . . . Tensely awaiting the first ballot of the general assembly of the United Nations on the question of admission of Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia to the security council are antagonists Edvard Kardelj of Yugoslavia (left) and Andrei Vishinsky of Russia (right). On the second ballot, Yugoslavia won over Czechoslovakia, incurring the wrath of the Soviet leader. Between Kardelj and Vishinsky is Oleg Troyanovsky, an interpreter. Balkan authorities say Stalin is massing troops on Yugoslavia's border in preparation for a showdown with Tito who has defied the Cominform.



TARGET: PEACE . . . This striking still from the documentary film, "Target: Peace," outlines the part played by the air force's B-36 intercontinental bomber in future strategic air warfare as a "timely warning against aggression," to quote former air force chief, General H. H. Arnold. The big plane is the star of the movie. This still shows a crewman of one superbomber watching the flight of the others. The big plane lately has been the center of the air force-navy controversy. Film was produced by Consolidated Vultee aircraft corporation, builders of the B-36, with the cooperation of the air force.



CONVERTIBLE: 1908 VINTAGE . . . Opera star James Melton takes Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder for a whirl around the treasury building in Washington in his 1908 International Harvester automobile. The opera singer owns a collection of 120 old-time cars of many makes and styles. Melton was in the capital city for a convention of farm equipment merchandisers. He recently completed a tour of the United States with a selection of antique automobiles. The tour was sponsored by the Glidden Tours. Melton has made a hobby of collecting and showing these unusual vehicles that drove Dobbin off the roads in former days.



SARAH CHURCHILL A BRIDE . . . Sarah Churchill, daughter of Winston Churchill, Britain's war-time prime minister, and her husband, Anthony Beauchamp, are congratulated by Judge Edwin W. Dart, marrying judge of Glynn county, Georgia, after he married them at Sea Island, Ga. Beauchamp, an artist and photographer, is 32, two years her junior. When Sarah came to America, there was gossip over whether she would marry an American or not. During her visit in this country, she has participated in theatrical performances in the east. Beauchamp turned the tables on news photographers who came to take pictures of the couple by photographing them.

# AROUND THE HOUSE

**Hat Freshener**  
Black felts and derbies that have become dull looking or rain spattered can be freshened by holding them over the spout of a steaming kettle and then buffing them with a soft brush or piece of felt to bring up the nap.

**Limp Veils**  
A limp veil can be cured by putting it between two pieces of waxed paper and running a moderately warm iron over it. Or dip it in beer, shake it briskly, and lay it out on a towel to dry.

**Trouser Cuffs**  
You can brush out the cuffs of men's trousers easily if you take out the stitches holding the cuff and replace them with metal snaps. From then on, the cuffs snap, brush, then resnap the snaps.

**Drying Shoes**  
When shoes get water-soaked, stuff them full of newspapers or uncooked oatmeal; let dry away from radiators, stoves and other sources of direct heat.

**Cleaning White Braid**  
To clean white braid, wet an old toothbrush, rub it across a cake of mild soap and scrub the braid with it. The lather can be removed with a damp cloth.

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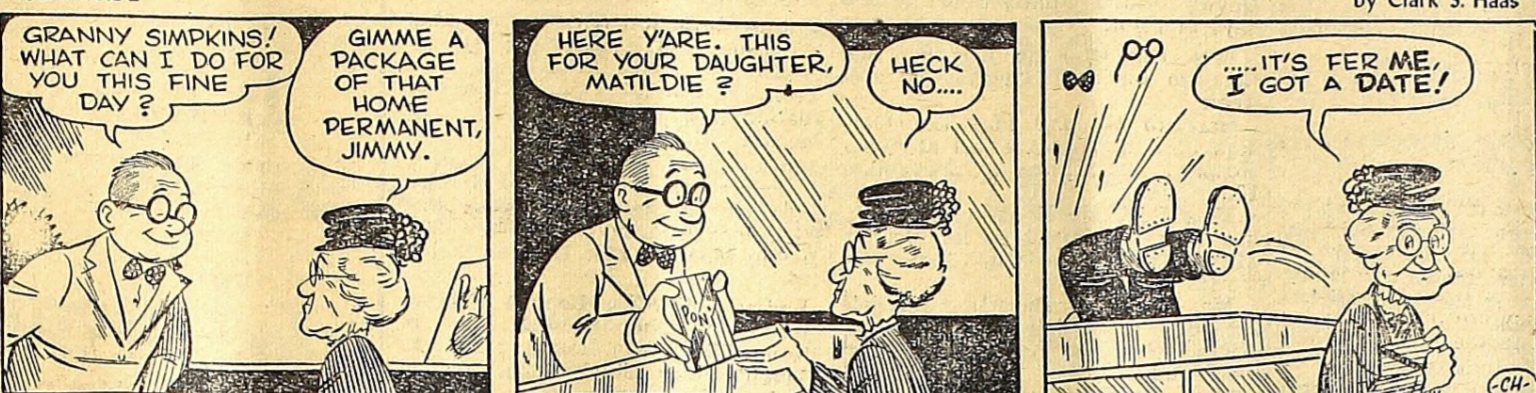
ACCOMMODATIONS for 12 deer hunters. Cabins for 2, 3, or 4 and board—helps get you in the deer woods...

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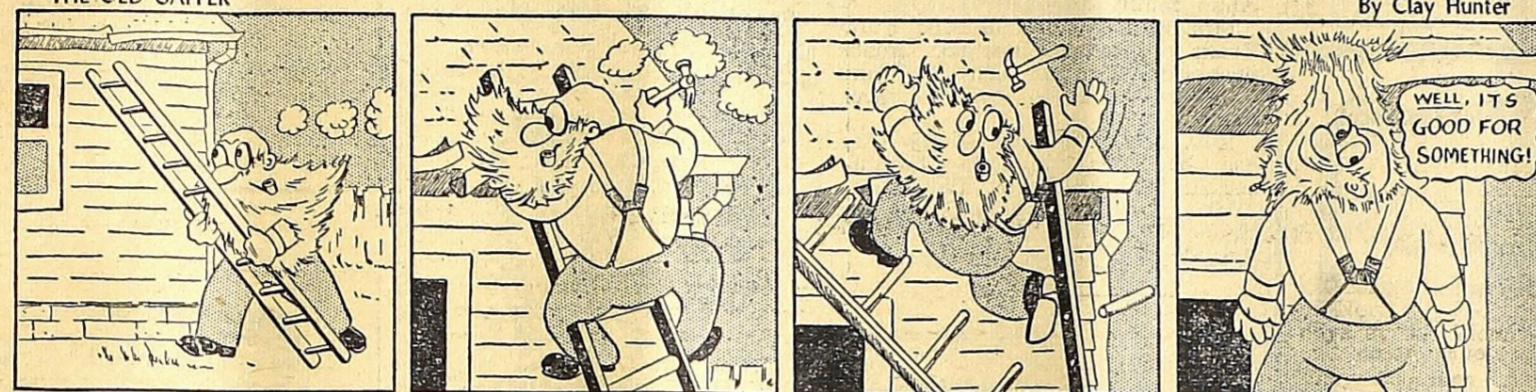
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SUNNYSIDE



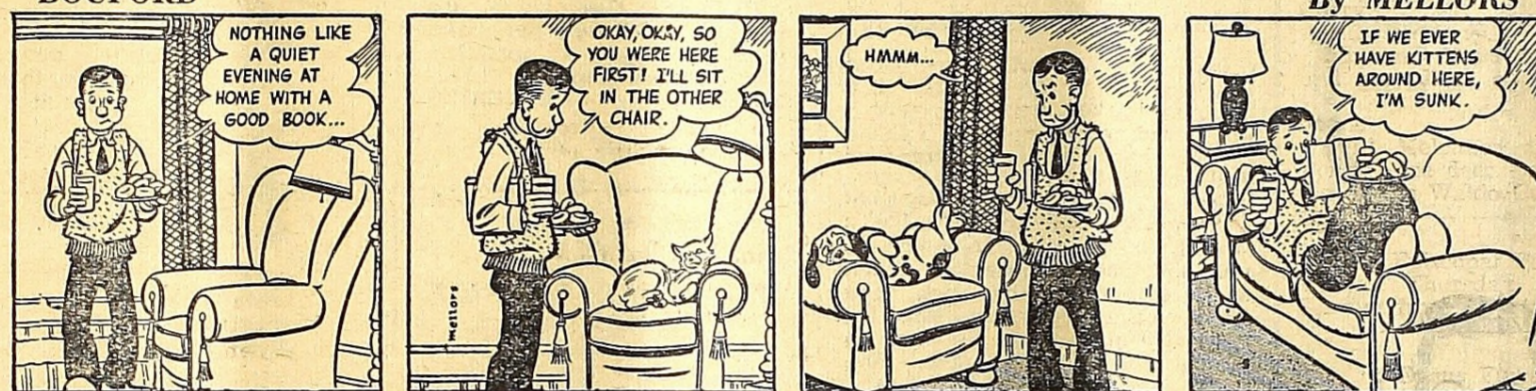
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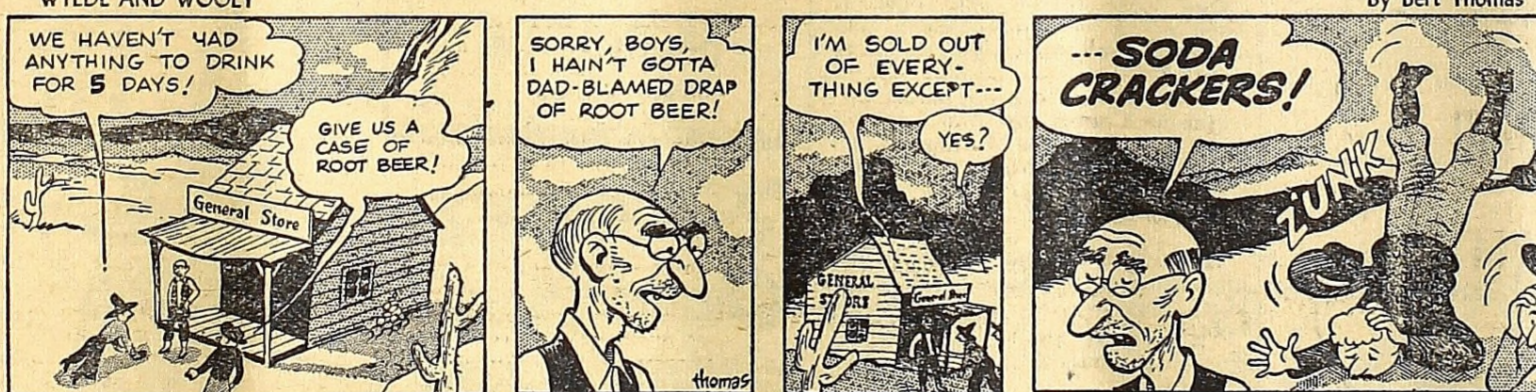
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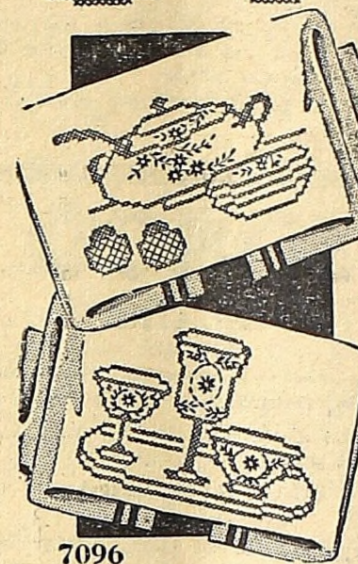
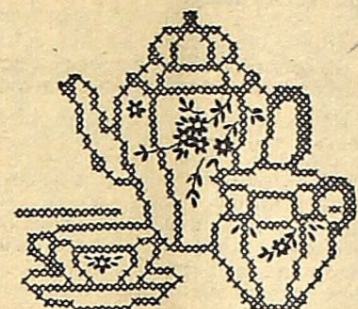


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2 "The ghastly glow in the water lighted a floating hand! A man—caught between our craft and the piling—his flashlight under water! I roped his wrist... managed to hold his head above water... screamed! Luckily—help came fast!



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