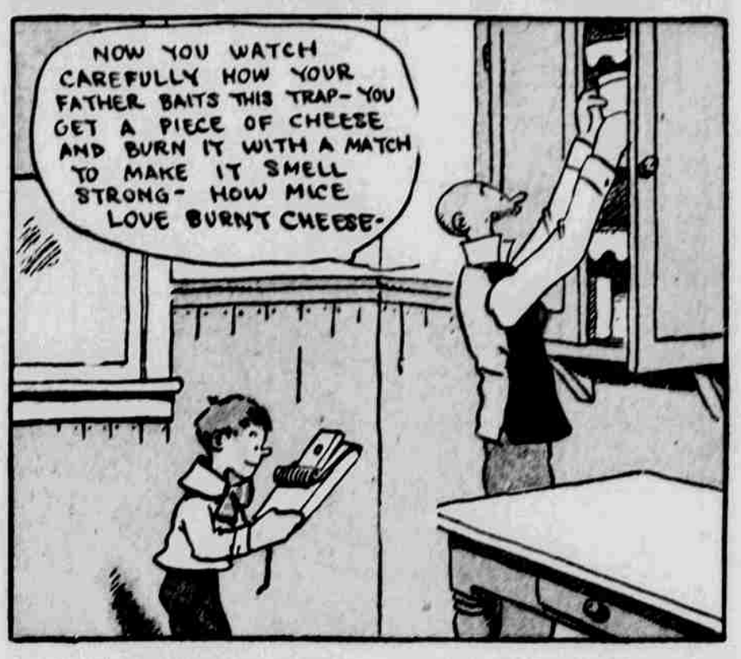
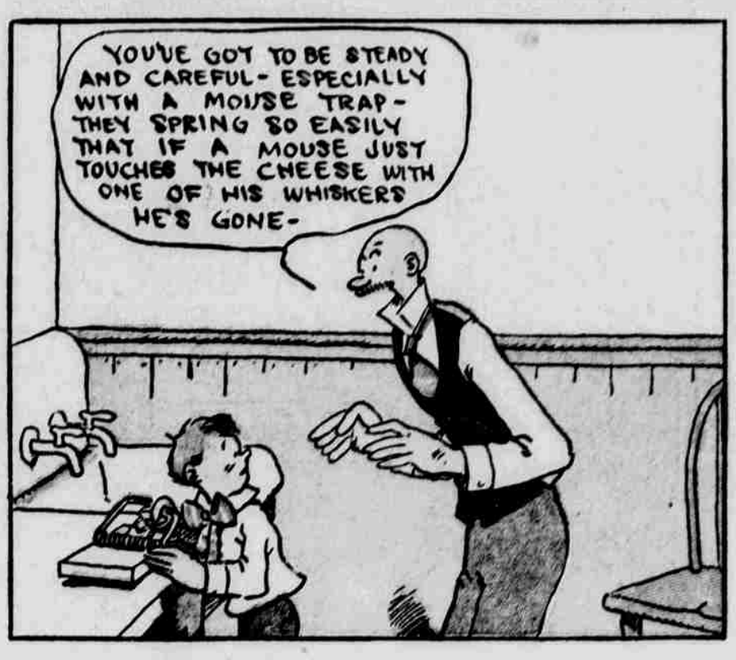
THE GUMPS
SIDNEY SMITH

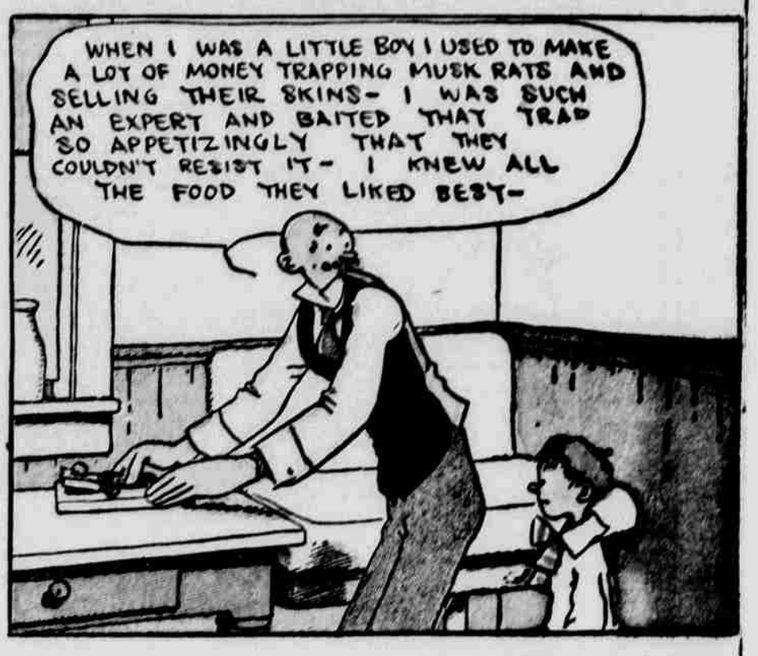
CHESTER- THERE ARE MICE AROUND HIS HOUSE- THEY KEPT ME AWAKE ALL LAST NIGHT GNAWING AND RUNNING AROUND-


NOW YOU WATCH CAREFULLY HOW YOUR FATHER BAITS THIS TRAP- YOU GET A PIECE OF CHEESE AND BURN IT WITH A MATCH TO MAKE IT SMELL STRONG- HOW MICE LOVE BURNT CHEESE-

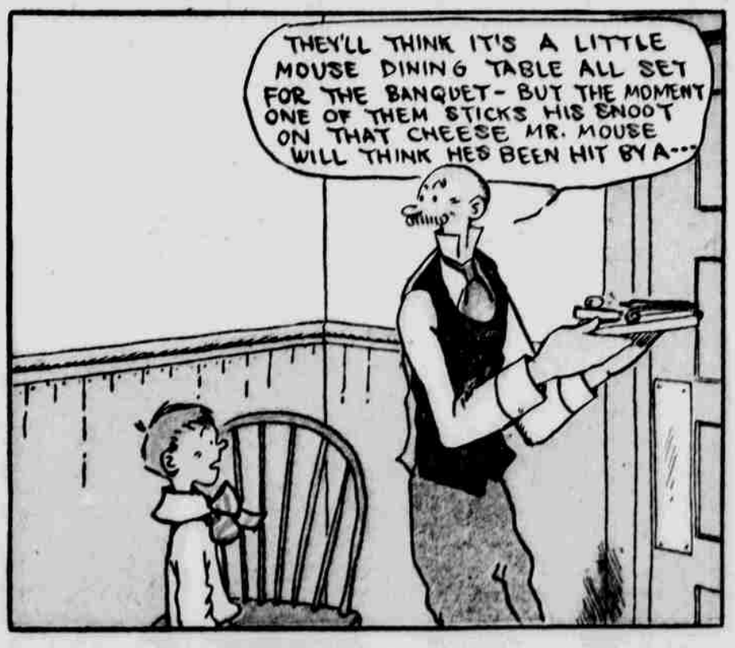
I TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO- I'LL CATCH THE FIRST ONE- I NEVER MISSED ONE YET- THEN FOR EVERY ONE YOU GET I'LL GIVE YOU A DIME- YOU KNOW YOU ONLY NEED $19.55 MORE AND YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO BUY THAT PONY AND CART-

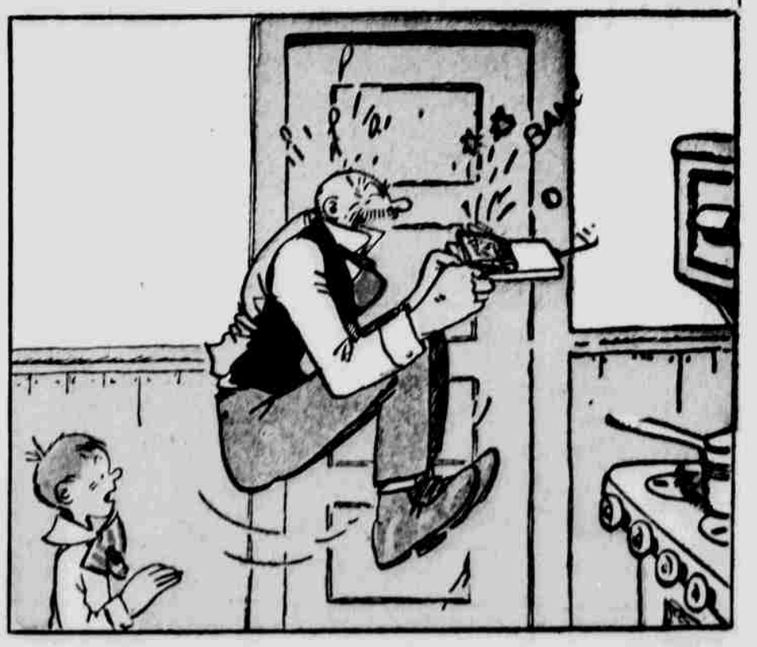
OH, I KNOW HOW TO SET THIS TRAP- I CAN DO IT NOW- LET ME CATCH THE FIRST ONE-
LOOK OUT THERE- THAT SPRING'S AWFULLY STIFF- IT WILL JUST NIP YOUR FINGER RIGHT OFF IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL-

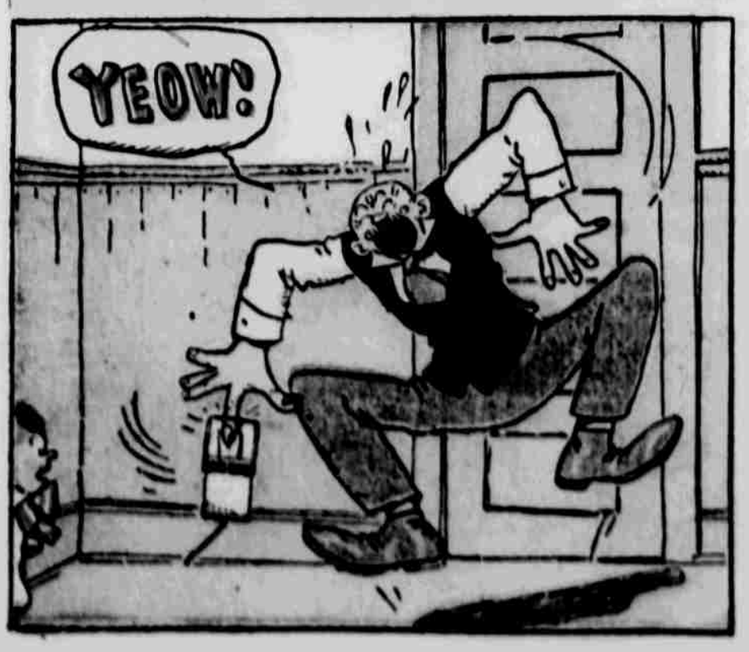

YOU'VE GOT TO BE STEADY AND CAREFUL- ESPECIALLY WITH A MOUSE TRAP- THEY SPRING SO EASILY THAT IF A MOUSE JUST TOUCHES THE CHEESE WITH ONE OF HIS WHISKERS HE'S GONE-


WHEN I WAS A LITTLE BOY I USED TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY TRAPPING MUSK RATS AND SELLING THEIR SKINS- I WAS SUCH AN EXPERT AND BAITED THAT TRAP SO APPETIZINGLY THAT THEY COULDN'T RESIST IT- I KNEW ALL THE FOOD THEY LIKED BEST-

THERE- IT'S ALL SET AND READY NOW- WE'LL PLACE IT IN A NICE CONVENIENT PLACE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MOUSE BOULEVARD-


THEY'LL THINK IT'S A LITTLE MOUSE DINING TABLE ALL SET FOR THE BANQUET- BUT THE MOMENT ONE OF THEM STICKS HIS SNOOT ON THAT CHEESE MR. MOUSE WILL THINK HES BEEN HIT BY A---


BAM


YEOW!

O-OO-O! MY FINGER!

SEE! WHAT DID I TELL YOU? NOW I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED!