

"Murder!" They Cried

By DOROTHY STALEY Copyright, 1946, NEA Service, Inc.

THE STORY: Nana, lying in bed, hears Fletch come in. He knocks at Dru's door and there is the sound of their whispering. The old governess falls asleep and awakens by Betsy who comes in to close her windows against a sudden storm. Betsy is still wearing her white party dress. She says the time is a little after one. There is a violent crash of thunder and a blinding streak of lightning. Betsy goes to her own room, the storm subsides and Nana falls into a peaceful sleep.

XIII
MY family were all at the table when I came down the next morning. That is, all but Phillipa. The storm had cooled the air only temporarily, and it was now, even at 7, furnace hot again. We all ignored the one empty place, and talked—when we talked—about the damage the storm must have done. Part of it we could estimate from the terrace for the big oak that stood back from the rock gardens was gone.

None of my family looked as though they had slept well. My Miss Jenny was more flustered than usual and Mr. Willson more silent. Dru had little to say and kept casting worried glances toward Fletch, who looked tired and worn and was even less talkative than his father. I remembered the rap on the door across the hall and the whispered conversation and pressed my lips close together. Betsy and Uncle Andrew were carrying the burden of the breakfast conversation, and Betsy somehow made me think of a sleep-walker, automatically going through all the familiar routine of breakfast with the family. I remembered either 7 o'clock breakfasts on the Fourth of July. The children would be almost as excited as on Christmas morning, and as they grew up they kept some of that holiday exuberance. There was none of it this morning.

When half-way through breakfast we heard a car on the drive, both Fletch and my Miss Jenny looked at Phillipa's place, and

Miss Jenny said, "It's too early for the caterer's men."

BUT it was the front door bell that was rung, and I saw Sarah, listing to starboard as usual, crossing the hall to answer it. We all heard Sarah say, "But he is at breakfast," and then she came to the dining room doorway and started to say, "Mr. Willson, there is a woman..." but the woman wasn't waiting. She pushed past Sarah. She was a youngish woman, about 30, I suppose, dressed in slacks, but she was quite distraught.

"Oh, Mr. Willson," she said, "you'll have to come quickly." Her words were fairly tumbling over one another. "You can use our car. I have it outside. We were going fishing, my husband and I. He stayed there."

Both Mr. Willson and Fletch were standing, looking at her. She glanced from one to the other, and one hand crept up to her throat. "Your..." She looked toward Fletch, then turned back to his father. "There's a dead woman lying at the foot of the cliff in your rock garden, Mr. Willson."

Mary, who had just brought in fresh coffee, set the pot down heavily and said, "Mother of St. Jerome" and crossed herself. Mr. Willson and Fletch went off with the woman and Uncle Andrew went for Hendricks and the station wagon. My Miss Jenny, and Betsy, Dru and I just sat there. My Miss Jenny finally said "I think we'd better have some coffee," but her hand shook so she could hardly pour it. We continued to sit silently, and I was certain that the other three were as numb as I. For we all knew that the girl had started to say, "Your daughter-in-law."

WHEN the cars stopped again, we went as silently into the hall. Fletch carried Phillipa's

body in and laid it gently on the long wooden settle in the hall with her face toward its back. But it was Uncle Andrew who took the square of linen from his pocket and covered her face carefully until Hendricks brought the automobile robe and spread it over her. I heard Betsy catch her breath and I reached for her hand. All I could think of was the old reference to human clay. For Phillipa's beautiful face was smashed like a broken doll's, and the brassy goldness of her hair, wet and muddy from the storm, was already tarnished by death. I looked around that circle of faces, each one drawn by its own kind of compassion. We had hated her; each one of us yesterday at some moment had murder in his heart; now there was only compassion. I don't know what the others were thinking, but I was wishing that death might have left her the only redeeming quality she had—if quality it were—her beauty.

Fletch looked at his father. "What do we do now?" and Mr. Willson said, "We will have to call a doctor." He looked around the circle of faces. "It's a formality," he explained.

Later the doctor said the same thing when he called the coroner. "Poor child," my Miss Jenny said. She was pitying Phillipa, I knew, not because she was so young to be finished with life, but because she had lacked the quality to make people love her, even like her. She was dead and there was no one to mourn. What mourning would be done would be a formality just as calling the doctor was a formality. I felt like echoing "Poor child." The twins were too young to miss her—or if not exactly too young, they had seen too little of her. They were just as happy with their grandmother or with Betsy as with Phillipa.

Apparently the same thoughts were going through my Miss Jenny's mind for suddenly she gasped. "The boys, Steve, the boys. We don't know where they are!"

(To Be Continued)

Oatmeal can be used in a meat loaf instead of bread to keep the loaf moist.

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority
While the declarer on a hand probably has more opportunities for good plays than the defenders and needs as much skill, no one can be classed as an expert until he becomes a fine defensive player. Harold Ogust of New York made a very nice defensive play on today's hand in a recent rubber bridge game.

His partner's opening club lead was won in dummy with the king, and a small spade was led which Ogust won with the king. The natural return at this point would be a diamond, but then the declarer would have no problem at all to

Q 10 9 8 2
K 8 2
A K Q 7
7 4

Declarer

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♣ 5.			

make four-odd. Ogust reasoned that declarer could not have the queen of clubs, or he probably would have played the ten from dummy to the first trick. If declarer did hold the club queen, there was little likelihood of defeating the contract anyway, so Ogust returned a club. Now, when declarer led another spade, East won and led another club which declarer had to trump. This reduced his trumps to the same number as East's. There was thus no way to prevent East from making three spade tricks, which, with the king of spades, defeated the contract.

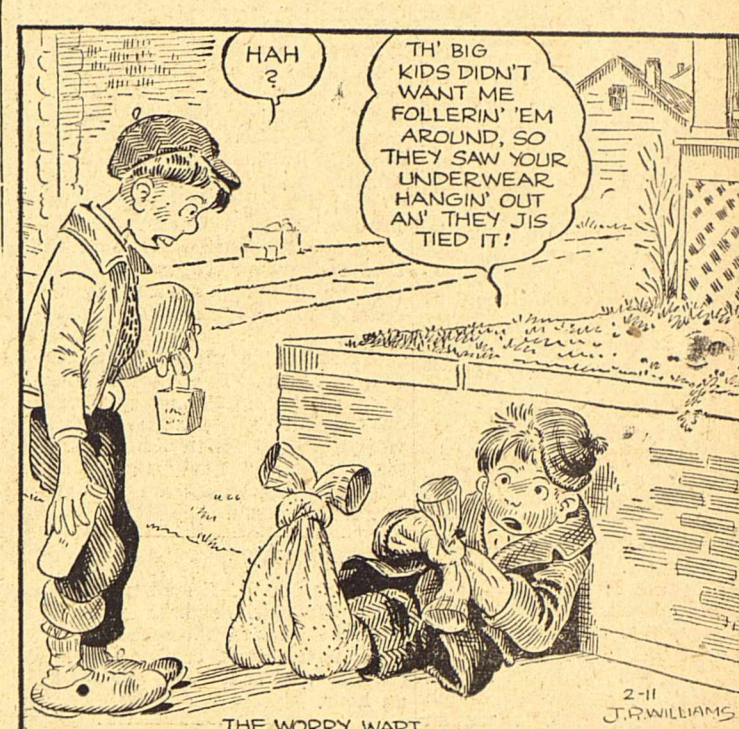
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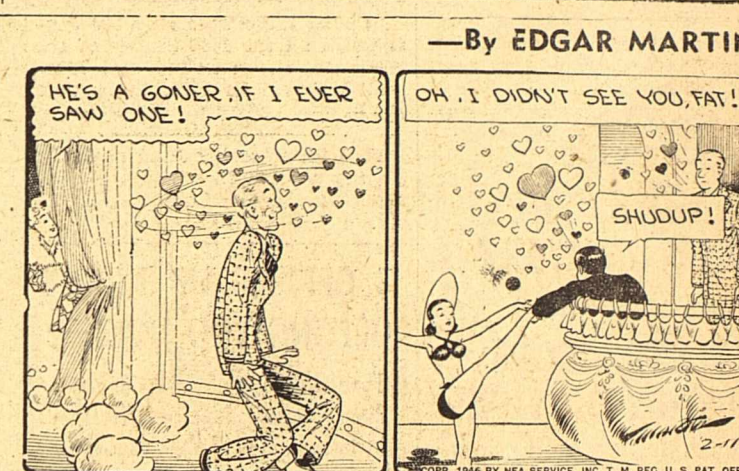
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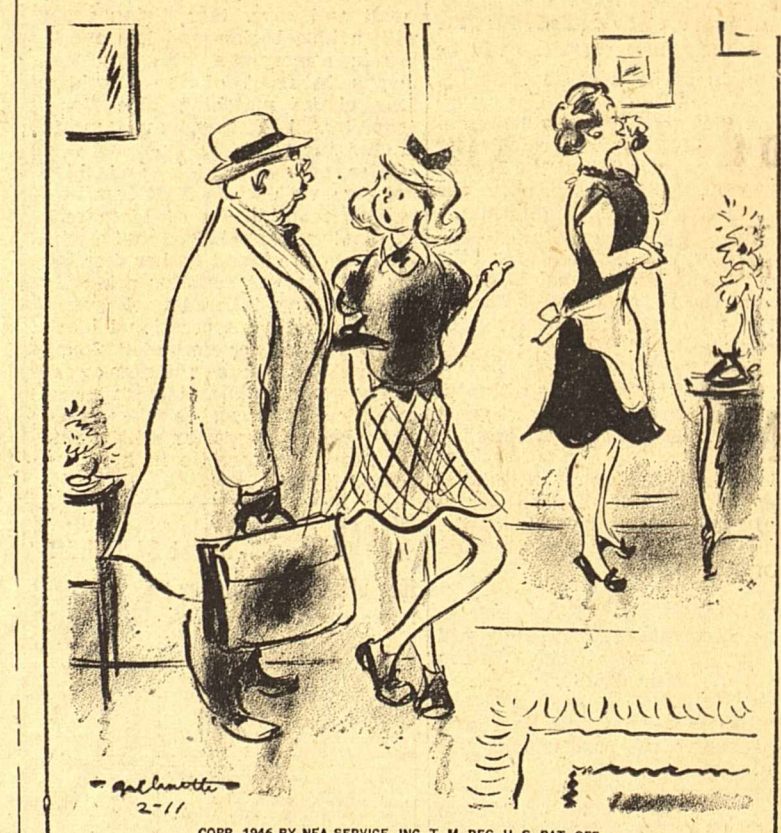
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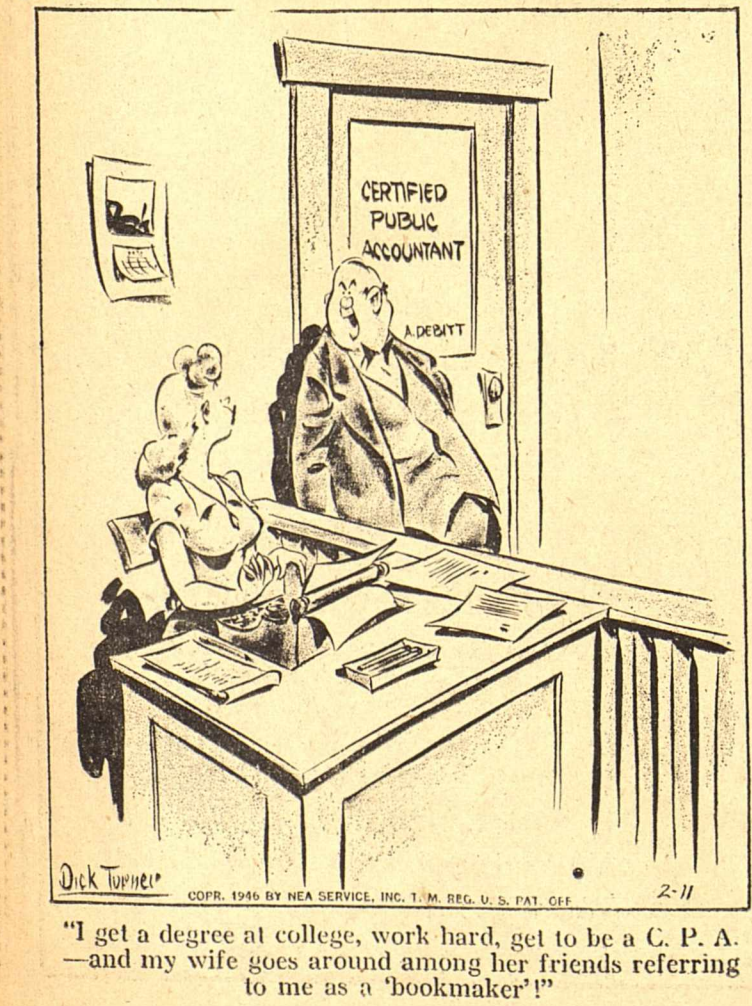
SIDE GLANCES



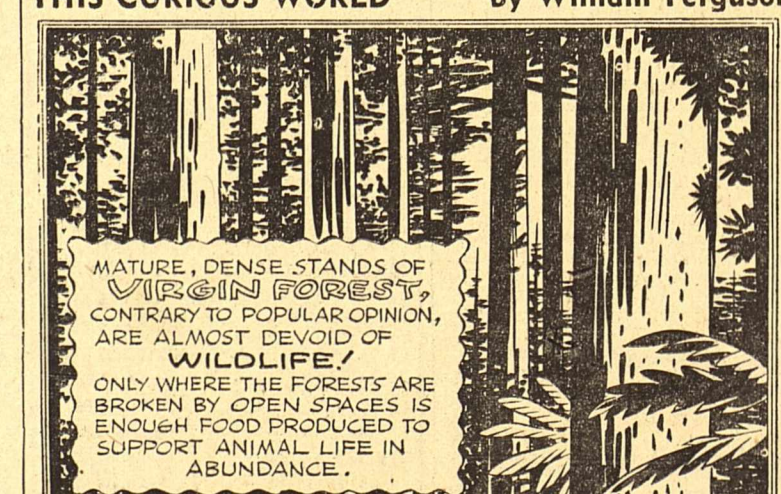
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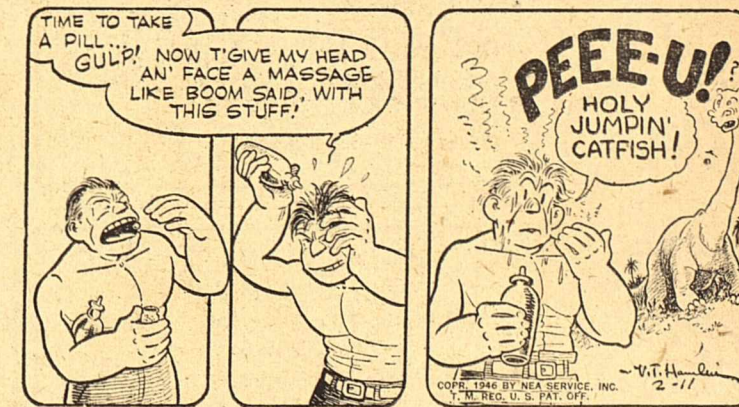
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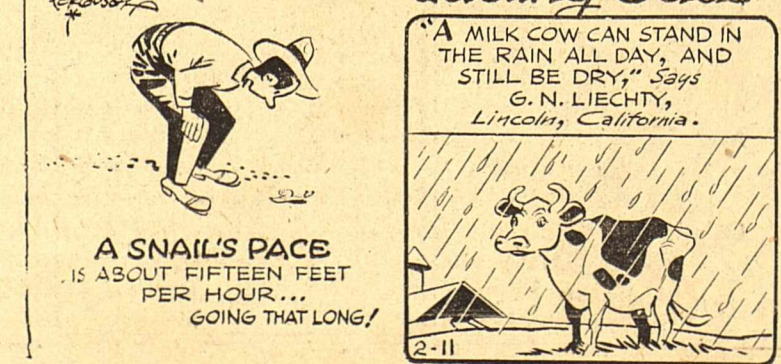
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VIC FLINT —By MICHAEL O'MALLEY and RALPH LANE

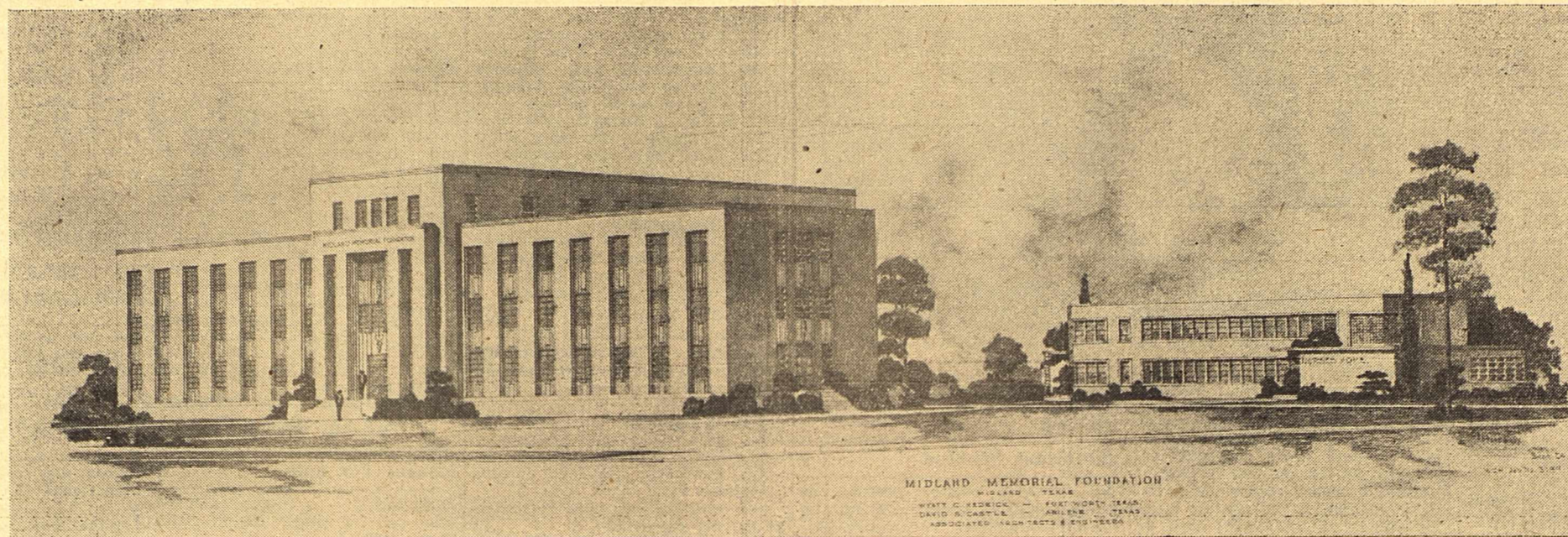


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- The plans include a two-story Nurses' Home and all departments, rooms, wards, and numerous other facilities which go to make a modern hospital. These may be provided as fitting memorials.
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- The hospital will be located on a tract of seven acres on West Illinois Avenue and the Andrews Highway. The building will face south.
- It will be an OPEN-STAFF hospital.
- Midland Memorial Hospital will be a general hospital for the sick and injured of all creeds and races.
- It will be a 75-bed hospital.
- We have a definite responsibility as citizens of this progressive and outstanding community to provide adequate hospital facilities for the people of Midland and of this area.
- You and your family are a part of this community. This solicitation for a community hospital will be for your benefit and use.
- Midland now lacks adequate hospital facilities. All physicians concede this and are supporting the building of the Midland Memorial Hospital.
- Through this organization we can provide the means to benefit humanity, eliminate suffering and spread the blessings of health to our people.
- The Midland Memorial Foundation affords an unusual opportunity to provide a living and useful memorial to loved ones. It can perpetuate and add glory to their names.
- Appropriate recognition will be given ALL contributors.
- Contributions may be deducted in figuring income taxes. The Midland Memorial Hospital being a non-profit, charitable institution does not have to pay income taxes on its receipts.
- A contribution to the Midland Memorial Hospital fund will be the means of saving lives, alleviating suffering, bringing to all citizens peace of mind when illness or injury befall them, and be a tremendous satisfaction to the donor now, and happiness, health and life to thousands in the years to come.
- Our population is increasing. We must provide hospital facilities not only for ourselves and families, but for our newest citizens.
- The Midland Memorial Hospital cannot be built until YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS RECEIVED—You owe it to yourself, your children, your neighbor and friends to contribute to the fullest extent of your ability and to make your contribution NOW.
- Make contributions to "Midland Memorial Foundation." Mail or deliver to John P. Butler, Treasurer, Midland, Texas.
- Truly a MUST for 1946.

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GENERAL hauling, day or night. Phone 1842-W.

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Premier
HORIZONTAL 6 Nested boxes
1 Pictured 7 Jacket
Bulgarian 8 Iron (symbol)
premier, 9 Away
Kimon 11 Identical

Answer to Previous Puzzle
SIXTY-FOUR (SIXTYFOUR)
TWO (TWO)
SIXTYFOUR (SIXTYFOUR)
SIXTYFOUR (SIXTYFOUR)

32 Eminence 43 English court
34 Time to come 44 Greek
35 Image 45 mountain
36 Assistant 45 Foreteller
40 Mountains 50 Artificial
41 Common fund language
42 Against 51 Palm lily

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WANTED to rent — Unfurnished house or apartment by engineer and wife. Ph. 2057-W.

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PASTEEL chintz 5 drawer lingerie chest.

Auto Repair
AUTO REPAIRING. Years of experience in all makes of cars.

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FOR SALE—4 room frame house, with or without furniture.

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BUSINESS BUILDING
Well located building now vacant.

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FOR SALE—350 acre black land farm, 110 acres in cultivation.

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KIMBLE COUNTY RANCH For Sale
4,000 acres, highly improved.

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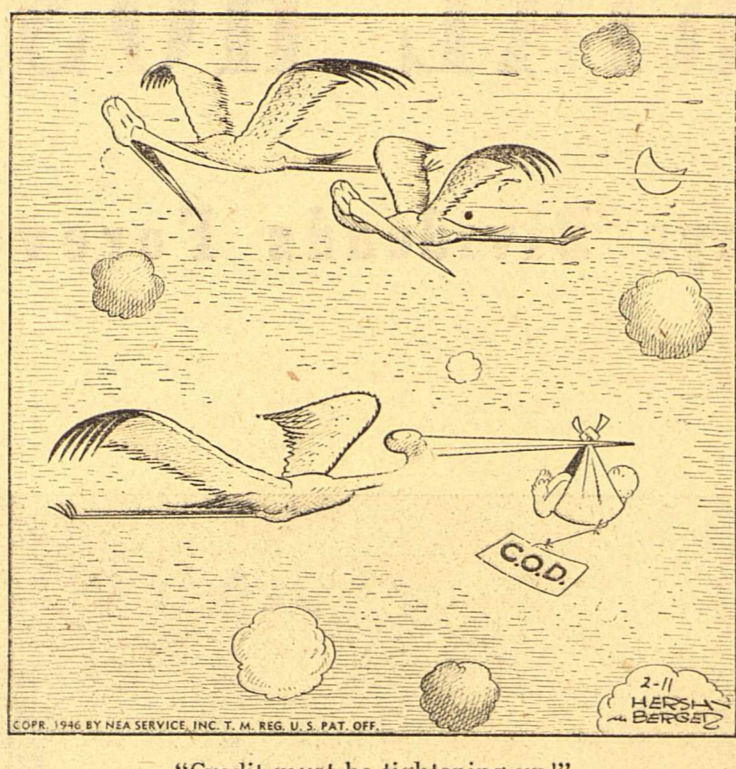
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MITCHELL Washing Machine Service. Parts, wringer rolls for all makes washers.

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FOR TRADE — Trailer house for good '35 or '36 model car.

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We will pay cash for late model used cars.

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All Makes and Models
Highest Prices Paid

Wanted To Rent
We will pay cash for late model used cars.

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