

OLIVE HILL TIMES.

VOL. III.

OLIVE HILL, KY., JANUARY 10, 1907.

No. 3

Uncle Sam's Heroes Of The Surf



Dr. WILLIAM A. NEWELL, FOUNDER OF THE LIFE SAVING SERVICE



When the Lord breathes His wrath above the bosom of the waters, then the rollers are a poundin' on the shore. The mariner's a thinkin' of his wife and soft and daughters. And the little home hell, maybe, see no more; When the bars are white and yeasty and the shoals are all a-trottin', When the wild no'theaster's cuttin' like a knife, Through the seehtin' roar and screech he's patrolin' on the beach— The Gov'ment's hired man fer savin' life. —Joe Lincoln.

Today Uncle Sam's hired men for saving life endangered by storms on the coast patrol the beaches from Quoddy Head on the North Atlantic to Cape Disappointment on the North Pacific, and are also to be found on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes, swept by storms as fierce as any that ever raged on the Atlantic. Upwards of two thousand men strain their eyes and ears out to sea every minute of the day and night; and nearly every hour that passes these winter days, somewhere along the storm-beaten coast, the members of saving crews are risking their own lives to save ships and their crews, or putting forth an effort possible to wade down to the deep in ships

away from destruction on hidden reef and sunken bar.

Since the day when Uncle Sam began to employ coast guards, his heroes of the surf have saved upwards of a quarter of million lives. Under the present system of life saving, dating from 1871, they have attended fifteen thousand disasters, and out of the 105,000 lives involved they have been able to save all except one in every hundred. As secondary work, of the \$2,500,000 worth of property imperilled, they have saved an amount valued at \$75,000,000. No other life saving service of the world can point to a record anywhere near comparable to this in epic grandeur. A moment spent in reflection on these statistics will reveal the "transcendental heroism" back of them. On one hand, the combined elements, in their fiercest mood, roaring destruction; on the other, a handful of men in oils and sou'westers—

—a crew of six or seven men; and by the average instance, the little band of fighters overwhelmingly victorious. Where is the much vaunted heroism of battle when compared with the unseen heroism that takes place in the black night on some lonely strip of beach? For while one is the excited heroism of destruction, the other is the calm heroism of salvation. The Government spends annually

about \$1,750,000 for the maintenance of the service. This is less than one-fortieth of the property value saved from the sea in the same period, to say nothing of the lives saved. Each succeeding year finds the sum set aside by the Government for life saving somewhat augmented; the first appropriation called for \$5,000. This was made in 1842, and with it the long and noble history along the Atlantic coast was furnished with

means to render assistance in case of ship wrecks. The life saving service proper was not really instituted until the following year, when an appropriation of \$10,000 was made for the establishment of eight life saving stations on the New Jersey coast between Sandy Hook and Little Egg Harbor.

And right here let the man who was most instrumental in securing this appropriation—the man who is, therefore, the founder of the life saving service—tell how he came to conceive the idea of the service. It is a story little known yet it forms an interesting chapter in the history of federal life saving. This it is told by Dr. William A. Newell, who, though well along in the eighties, until recently was actively practicing medicine in Allentown, N. J. "My identification with the life sav-

ing system of the United States was the result of a marine disaster I happened to view during the summer of 1839.

When an Australian brig, the "Euryasto," was wrecked on Long Beach, Monmouth, upon Ocean County, N. J., near the Mansion House, south of Barnegat Inlet, when the captain and crew, thirteen in number, were drowned and their bodies washed upon the strand. "The wreck occurred at midnight. The vessel struck a sandbar, three hundred yards from shore, and was driven by the force of the violent surge, through the surf, upon the beach, where, when the tide receded, she lay stranded, high and dry. The sailors were drowned while endeavoring to swim ashore from the bars, where the vessel had lodged for a time, and the bodies were found scattered along the beach for more than a mile. "The bow of the brig being elevated and close to the shore, after the storm had ceased, the idea was forced quickly upon my mind that those unfortunate sailors might have been saved if a line could have been thrown to them across

Continued on Next Page.

Advertisement for Iver Johnson's "Safe For The House" featuring a hammer and a revolver. Text includes: "The Iver Johnson is safe to leave to the hands of any woman. The famous line of firearms is supplied with the famous Iver Johnson hammer. The Iver Johnson is safe to leave to the hands of any woman." and "Iver Johnson's Hammer and Revolver... Iver Johnson's Hammer and Revolver... Iver Johnson's Hammer and Revolver..."

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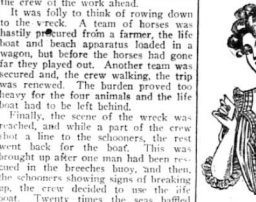
Table with columns: Expenditures, Receipts, and Net Profit. Includes details for 'The Chicago and 20 Shows' and 'The Small Investors' Opportunity'.

HERE ARE OUR FIGURES.

Capital Stock \$80,000. Operating each show \$5,000. Receipts (\$84,000) \$21,000. Net profit \$3,000.

Uncle Sam's Heroes

of the Surf. Continued from First Page. The fatal chase. It was only a short distance to the bar, and they could have been hailed ashore in their small boat...



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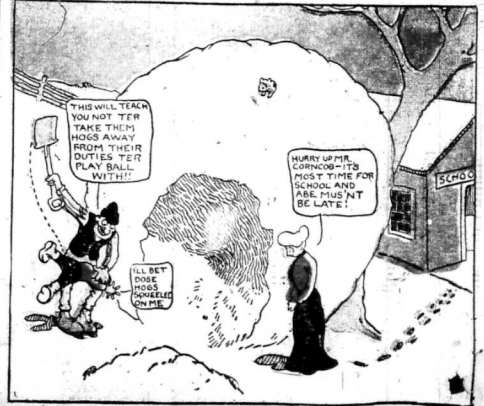
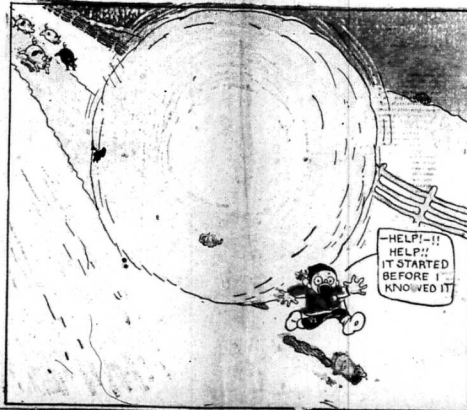
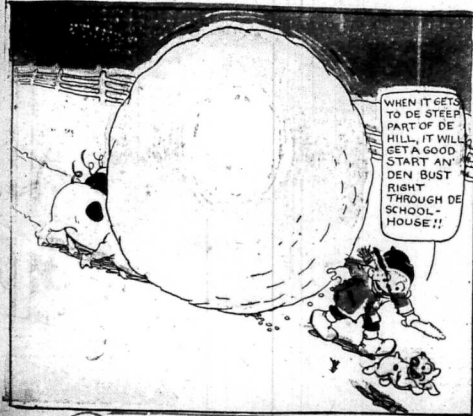
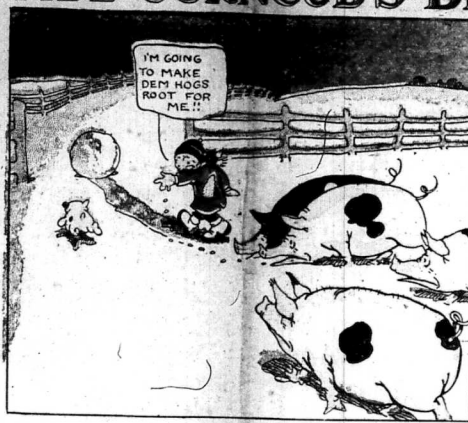
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LITTLE ABE CORNCOB'S BIG IDEA.



By W. F. Mariner



THE NECKLACE PUZZLE BY SAM LOYD.

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among those sending the best answers to the above Puzzle.

For the best, briefest and clearest correct solution, \$100 in Gold. If two or more correct solutions are of equal merit in respect to brevity and clearness, the \$100.00 will be equally divided among them, subject to subdivision if there are more than three of equal merit.

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The subscription is 25 cents a year, and it will be sent four months for 10 cents.

Address your reply to: PUZZLE EDITOR, *CHEERFUL MOMENTS*, 204 William Street, New York