“CALL OF THE WILD”

Series Editors: David Gerstein and Gary Groth
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DAN THE DOGCATHER AND MICKEY’S NEPHEWS AND GAG STRIPS

JULY 31, 1932 – JANUARY 22, 1933
loyd Gottfredson was not one to rest on his laurels. After mastering several kinds of Sunday gag strip storytelling, how else could he improve his new feature? Perhaps by introducing continuity—though not yet the semi-serious, high adventure continuity that characterized the *Mickey* daily strip.

Gottfredson’s first Sunday serials were firmly comedies, often loosely inspired by concurrent cartoons. But this didn’t make them lightweight in Gottfredson’s mind. He evidently took care to make sure that they integrated sensibly with the continuity of their daily counterparts.

What did this mean in practice? It meant that when *The Mad Dog* (1932), a new Mickey cartoon short, featured a comedy storyline that begged for Sunday adaptation, Gottfredson hopped right to it. Action-packed battles between Mickey and a misunderstanding dogcatcher—as shown in the cartoon—were obvious fodder for a long-form, multi-week scenario. But there was a problem: in the cartoon, this dogcatcher—the voice of law and order—was “played” by Pegleg Pete. And in Gottfredson’s ongoing daily strip serials, Pegleg Pete was consistently a crook: “the most perennial heavy of all time,” as Gottfredson described him. Could *Mickey Mouse* comics fans make sense of seeing Pete as a lawbreaker during the week, and a law-and-order city official on Sunday? Perhaps not. So how to avoid confusion?

Gottfredson’s “out” seems to have been the fact that in *The Mad Dog* cartoon, Pete’s physique differed slightly from past incarnations. Dog gave Pete a fatter figure and more slovenly demeanor than in earlier *Mickey* shorts—and earlier Gottfredson strips. At the time, Gottfredson drew Pete as a top-heavy, barrel-chested strongman, not a fat slob; and Gottfredson decided to continue that way for the moment. *The Mad Dog* slob design could instead become a somewhat Petelike, but ultimately different peg-legged cat. Exit Pete; enter “Dan the Dogcatcher,” fat feline lawman, who starred in both the eponymous 1932 Sunday story and the short 1933 daily serial, “Pluto and the Dogcatcher” (see Volume 2 of our daily strip series).

Of course, time wounds all heels. Several cartoons later, it became clear that Disney’s Animation Department would be keeping the animated Pete in his new fatter form. What to do now? Gottfredson’s cast numbered a Pete who no longer looked like the cartoon Pete—and a Dan who did.

The answer was to blubber up the comics Pete, which Gottfredson did in 1934, and surreptitiously remove Dan from the cast for awhile. In much later 1940s strips, the catfaced dogcatcher eventually reappeared, fat figure and all. But in a nod to perfectionism, Dan now had gray fur or a shaven chin, just to make sure readers still knew he wasn’t Pete.

Continuity makes perfect. [DG]

WHOleh FER --- HE AIN'T EVEN GOT A LICENSE!

YOU LEAVE MY DOG ALONE!

'HERE YA YALLER, HOUND!

HA! HA! THAT'S A TRICK FOR THAT OL' DOG-CATCHER, T'LEARN!

COME BACK DOWN HERE — THAT'S RIGHT!

HOORAY! JUST IN TIME!

I'LL SHOW YOU A TRICK OR TWO, MYSELF!

BANG!

AW! DON'T SHOOT HIM! DON'T PLEASE!

HE'S TH' FIRST GUY YOU EVER HURT, AN' YOU DON'T BITE HIM! SO IF HE WANTS YOU SHOULD HAVE A MUZZLE, I'M GONNA PUT IT WHERE IT BELONGS!

AW, SEE MISTER! PLUTO DON'T NEED A MUZZLE! HE WOULDN'T HURT ANYBODY!

DAT DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE! DE LAW'S DE LAW ANYWHAT IT SAYS GOES! AN' IT SAYS DAT DOGS HAS Gotta HAVE MUZZLES, SEE?

HEY! WILL YA --- PUFF! PUFF! --- SELL ME --- PUFF --- THOSE BALLOONS --- QUICK! ALL OF 'EM!

WALT DISNEY

DAN THE DOG-CATCHER 51.
GO FETCH IT, PLUTO!

I’VE GOT YA NOW, YA VALLEYS HOUND! COME BACK HERE!

HEY! WHAT THE--?

G-G-GOSH! HE’S GAININ’!

COME TO LUNCH, PERCY! YOU CAN FINISH MENDING THAT STATUE THIS AFTERNOON!

O.K., MY LOVE— I’LL BE RIGHT Back!

HURRY UP PLUTO— HE’S RIGHT BEHIND US!!

MY GOSH, PLUTO, WE’RE LOST! WE’LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH ALL THIS STUFF ON US!!

HEY! I KNOW WHAT WE’LL DO!

THAT’S FUNNY—I’D OF SPOKE THEY CAME THIS WAY!!
Dan the Dog Cat

I'm gettin' tired o' doin' this. I'm gonna raise enough money to buy you a license!

Ice Cold Lemonade

Here ya ax! Ice Cold Lemonade! Fit cents a glass!

I hope ya like it, on account of I made it myself!

Gee! Thanks!

That's all right, Mickey! Keep the change!

Come an' get it, folks! Ice Cold Lemonade!

Haww! Gotta catcha!

There's no use arguin'-- dogs has gotta have licenses an' this hound ain't got none!

But, look! I've got over a dollar already! Just gimme a little longer an' I'll have plenty t' buy him one with!

O.K. -- I'll give you one hour more. If you haven't got it then-- -- it's good-bye Pluto!

Just watch me work!

Would ya messie like t' buy some nice lemonade?

Would I what?

Whaddaya mean, sellin' stuff on th' street without a business license? Don't ya know dat's agin' th' law?

No license, no dog!!

No license, no business!!

54. Dan the Dogcatcher
THE NEXT CASE IS "PEOPLE VS. MICKY MOUSE!
CHARGED WITH SELLING MERCHANDISE
WITHOUT A LICENSE - GUILTY
OR NOT GUILTY?"

WELL, YA SEE, JUDGE,
IT WASN'T EXACTLY
MERCHANDISE -- IT WAS
LEMONADE -- AN' I WAS
SELLIN' IT ON ACCOUNT
OF I HAD TO RAISE SOME
MONEY T' BUY MY
DOG, PLUTO, A
LICENSE!

AN' WHAT'S MORE, I'VE GOTTA
GET OUTA HERE, 'CAUSE THE DOG-
CATCHER'S GOT PLUTO, AN' I'VE
GOTTA GET HIM BACK
BEFORE SOMETHIN' TERRIBLE HAPPENS
TO HIM.

CASE DISMISSED! FAR
BE IT FROM THIS COURT TO
KEEP ANY BOY FROM
SAVING HIS DOG.

GEE! THANKS, JUDGE!

SINCE YA FEEL
THAT WAY ABOUT
IT, COULD YA MEbbe
LOAN ME A DOLLAR
? I GOTTA HELP
BUY MY LICENSE
WITH?

WHOOPEE! I GOT IT!

THIRD
DISTRICT
POLICE

EXECUTION
CHAMBER.

HURRY!
GET HIM OUT!
QUICK!
OH, POOR,
PLUTO!

SORRY, KID,
BUT I'M AFRAID
WE'RE TOO
LATE!

IT'S
EMPTY!
HE'S
GONE!

WELL, FOR...

WOOF! WOOF!

WHAT
TH? - -

PLUTO!

WALT DISNEY
CLARABELLE, I OWE JUDGE BARNES A DOLLAR. ON ACCOUNT OF HE LOANED ME ONE TO BUY PLUTO A LICENSE. HOW HAVE YOU GOT ANY WORK I COULD DO TO EARN THAT MUCH?

SURE I HAVE, MICKEY! COME OUT BACK!

I’VE BEEN DIGGIN’ IT? PLANT ME A GARDEN? RAISE ROSES? IF YOU’LL DIG UP MY BACK YARD I’LL GIVE YOU TWO DOLLARS.

GEE! THANKS, CLARABELLE!

BOY! IT’S SURE HOT OUT HERE! BUT I’VE JUST GOTTA GET THAT MONEY!

HULLO, MICKEY! WHATCHA DOIN’?

I’M DIGGIN’ FOR MONEY, THAT’S WHAT.

GOON’ VA ASK? CAN WE HELP VA?

REY! C’MON! QUICK!

SURE! C’MON!

WELL, THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

IF I FIND TH’ TREASURE, I’M GONNA BUY A WHOLE SCHOOLHOUSE AN’ BURN IT DOWN!

ME TOO! I WONDER IF THEY TAKE ‘SPANISH DOOBLOOMS’ AN’ PIECES OF EIGHT AT TH’ SOOTY FOUNTAIN!

IT’S A GOOD THING I READ TOM SAWYER, ON ACCOUNT OF THIS IS TH’ WAYS HE’D OF DONE IT!

GEE WHIZ, MICKEY! WE’VE DUG ALL OVER TH’ WHOLE BACK YARD! I GUESS MEBBIE WE AIN’T DIGGIN’ IN TH’ RIGHT PLACE!

TOO BAD! BUT THANKS A LOT FOR TRYING MEBBIE WE’LL HAVE BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

HA! HA! NO, NO, NO, SMART? HA! HA!

WELL, I DON’T KNOW HOW VA DID IT, BUT VA DID IT! COMIN’ AROUND FRONT AND I’LL GIVE VA YOUR MONEY!

DARN IT, MICKEY, WE AIN’T FOUND IT HERE, EITHER!
WHATCHA Doin', Minnie?

MAKING TARRFY -- AND IT'S ALL READY TO ROLL -- WANT TO HELP?

O.K. -- PU-Y-ULL!

OH, GEE! I FORGOT TO PUT ANY BUTTER ON OUR HANDS!

OOOOO! WHAT A GOOFY MESS! HOW'LL WE EVER GET IT OFF?

HEY! GET AWAY, PLUTO!

OH! MY BED! AND MY PINK PILLOW CASES!

HEY! WHY TH' --

STOP HIM, MICKEY! HE'LL RUIN THE HOUSE!

PLUTO! LEAVE THAT PILLOW ALONE!

AN! WHAT'S MORE, THE NEXT TIME WE MAKE CANDY IT'S GONNA BE FUDGE!

HEY! GET YER FOOT OUTA MY FACE!

HELLO, YOU'LL ALL TOGETHER, NOW! PUSH IT DOWN!
IT’S SO NICE OF YOU TO KEEP MY BOYS WHILE I’M AWAY — IF THEY EVER GET NOISY, JUST READ ‘EM A FEW BEDTIME STORIES!

I WON’T FORGET! I’M DONT’WORRY MRS. FIELDMOUSE — I WON’T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!

COME ON, BOYS! WE’LL HAVE A SWELL TIME, WOOF!

BETCHA! WHOOPEE!

OH, LOOKIE! POOGOO-STICK!

HEY! COME BACK HERE! YOU’LL BREAK SOMETHING WITH THAT!

GOOD GOSH! WHAT’S THE OTHER ONE UP TO?

CRASH!

WHOOPEE! BOWLING ALLEY!

JUST WAIT’LL I CATCH THOSE KIDS! I’LL MAKE ‘EM WISH THEY HADN’T!

HEY! GET OFFA THERE, YA SCAMP! THAT’S MY BEST PICTURE!

HEY! WHAT?

NOW WHAT?

WHEE!

WHEEEE!

WHEE!

OWOOOO! MY BEST MIRROR!

SO BEDTIME STORIES WILL QUIET YOU, HUH? WELL, WE’RE GONNA FIND OUT RIGHT NOW!

WALT DISNEY

WALT DISNEY

AND THEN LITTLE PETER RABBIT WENT UPRIGHTLY LOP, UPRIGHTLY LOP ACROSS THE FIELD TO THE CARROT PATCH, AND PICKED THE BIGGEST, FATTEST CARROT YOU EVER SAW — — —
Hey! You kids! I'm tired! When your mother asked me to take care of you, she said you could amuse yourselves! Let's see you try it!

Kin we play with Pluto, Unci Mickey?

Sure you can! You go ahead, an' don't bother me, 'cause I want to take a nap!

Crash bang! Wheee!

Hey! Stop! Ya brats!!

Believe me, I'll fix you this time!

There! Now I can sleep in peace!

Clang! Clang! Bong!

Hey—what th—???
Uncle Mickey! Uncle Mickey! Read us a bedtime story!

No! Not tonight!

Aw, please, uncle! You said you would!

No, sir! I said I would if it was raining, on account of then I couldn’t go over, an’ see Minnie — but it’s a swell night — an’ so I’m gonna go!

I-I-I-I’m a ding dong dandy from Dumas, an’ ya oughta see me do my stuff! I-I-I-I’m —

Hey! Uncle Mickey!

Come quick! Lookie!

See? Rainin’.

Well, doggone! If that isn’t just my luck!

Now will ya read us a bedtime story?

Whoopee!

Whee!

Once upon a time there was a king, an’ he lived in a beautiful castle on a river!

—An’ just as th’ wicked black knight was gonna grab princess Minnie by her golden locks, up rides th’ prince, on a swell white horse, an’ —

—An’ so they got married an’ lived happily ever after.

No — hummm! I’m glad that’s over!

O’now, Pluto — I hate it! But ya cut in th’ rain, but it’s bedtime, an’ —

—
Now you two kids be real good on account of I want it take some pictures with my new camera. An' I don't wanna be bothered with ya.

Hey! Listen! Stay away from that camera! Can't ya keep quiet a minute?

I'll bet this'll surprise 'em!

But I'll show you some magic—watch closely—'n' yes, hat's will come back!

Allakazoo, allakazam, kazing! Presto—change-o!

Hey! Uncle Mickey! Our hat's blew in th' water!

Hey! Uncle Mickey!

Well, that's too bad! You oughta be more careful.

We've lost 'em!

Gee! You're a regular magician, ain't ya?

And—there you are! Just like that!

Doggone it!—Ya can't get sorr at 'em! They sure are cute!

Ho ho! Haw! Haw! Ha! Ha! I told ya I could do magic!

There! Do it again, Uncle Mickey!
"Oh, the old tom cat with his meow, meow, meow, old hound dog with his bow, bow, bow, the crow's caw, caw, an' th' Miller's hoo, hoo, gosh! What a racket, like an old buzz saw."

"Kin we held ya paint, unca Mickey?"
"Kin we? Huh?"
"Nope! Not today! We're goin' over 't see Minnie. Pretty soon, an' I don't wanna hafta give ya another bath!"

"But I know we could help ya!"
"An' I know you can't! I don't want you t' be gettin' all messed up!"

But, unca Mickey... now there's no use arguin'! When I says ya can't, ya can't! That's that!"

I have listened to the cuckoo, his coo coo, an' I've heard th' rooster cock his doodle doo-oo-oo.

Unca Mickey! Telephone!

Somebody wants says ya, unca Mickey:


Pluto! F' gosh sakes! Kl-kl-kl-kl-kl-kl! Yipes!"

Owwww! Squawk! Click! Cluck! Cluck!

Those doggone kids!

Whew! See, unca Mickey? I told ya we could help ya!

But th' cows an' th' chickens, they all sound like th' Dickens when I hear my little Minnie's yoo-hoo!"
Well, I guess I was smart, paintin’ ty’ stairs till last thing! Now we can all git’ bed. An’ they’ll be dry before morning! Hey! Get out of that paint! Doggone it, look at your hands! I’ll wipe em’ off, unca Mickey!

Now look what you’ve done. C’mon, you’re goin’ t’ bed! An’ what’s more, you’re gonna stay there!

Good night, unca Mickey! Good night, kids! An’ don’t you dare t’ get outa that bed! Oh, we won’t, unca Mickey!

I’m gonna put this paint right by my bed. Where I can sleep an’ know it’s safe! An’ if they try t’ sneak downstairs in th’ dark, they’ll trip on this an’ I’ll hear ‘em!

Th’ kids! I got ‘em!

Gosh, Pluto, I’m sorry! As soon as I get this off, you can come up an’ sleep in my room!

An’ I think I blamed ty’ kids. When they’ve been asleep all this time! Ty’ noise didn’t even wake ‘em up!
NOW I WANT YOU KIDS T’BE REAL GOOD TODAY, ON ACCOUNT Y’MANNE WANTS T’TAKE YOUR PICTURES AT HER HOUSE!

I WANTCHA T’MEET MY TWO NEPHEWS!

OHH! AREN’T THEY CUTE!!

SURE WE ARE!

YA WANTA WATCH EM A BIT, MINNIE, ON ACCOUNT OF SOMETIMES THEY GET INTO MISCHIEF!

DON’T WORRY, MICKEY— I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE CHILDREN!

AND WHAT’S YOUR NAME?

WHOOPPEE! SWING!

MORTIMER FIELDMOUSE!

OHHOOOH! GET DOWN!

WHEEEE!

MY STARS! WHAT’S THAT?

LOOKIE, AUNTIE MINNIE! SEE? PRETTY BLUE BUBBLES!

YOU COME WITH ME! WE’RE GOING TO TAKE THAT PICTURE RIGHT NOW! AND NO MORE MONKEY BUSINESS!

THE NEXT DAY

MINNIE MOUSE ASKED ME T’GE A PICTURE SHE LEFT HERE YESTERDAY!

YES, SIR! HERE IT IS!

WALT DISNEY
HERE'S A LETTER FROM YOUR MOTHER! SHE'S COMIN' BACK AN' SHE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE! WHOOPPEE! THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HAD IN MONTHS!

HURRY, NOW! WE'VE GOTTA GET ALL CLEANED UP SO SHE'LL THINK YOU'VE BEEN GOOD BOYS!

YOU WON'T TELL HER WE WEREN'T, WILL YA, UNCA MICKEY?

WHOOPPEE! DO I FEEL GOOD?

I WONDER WHAT THOSE KIDS ARE UP TO NOW? IT'S TOO QUIET TO SUIT ME! I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF 'EM FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES!

OH! THERE YOU ARE! BEIN' REAL GOOD KIDS FOR A CHANGE?

SURE, WE ARE!

WE'RE AWFUL GOOD, UNCA MICKEY!

MY, BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!

HELLO, MAMA!

WHAT'D YA BRING US?

AND DID YOU ENJOY KEEPING MY PRECIOUS LITTLE DARINGS?

YEAH! I COULD HARDLY WAIT FOR YOU TO COME HOME, SO'S YOU COULD ENJOY 'EM, TOO!

GOOD-BYE, MICKEY! AND THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF MY TWO ANGELS FOR ME!

GOOD-BYE, UNCA MICKEY!

BYE!

GOSH, WHAT A RELIEF! EVERYTHING'S SHIPSHAPE. AN' FOR ONCE THEY KEPT OUT O' MISCHIEF!

I HAVEN'T DONE A LICK O' WORK AROUND TH' HOUSE FOR WEEKS! I GUESS I'LL PUT ON SOME OLD CLOTHES, AN' SPEND TH' REST O' TH' DAY JUST PUTTERIN' AROUND!

F'GOSH SAKE! WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES?

WHY--THOSE DOGS! ONE KID--
The Lone Arranger

This is the last straw! You make fun of me, and when I get mad, all you do is laugh at me—and say I have a bad temper.

Well, believe me, Mister Mickey Mouse, this is one time I'm not going to forgive you so easily! You'll have to crawl back to me on your hands and knees!

Well—anyway—you'll have to coax me a lot or I won't!

Yoo-hoo! Minnie!

I knew he'd come back! I knew it! I'll just hide and see what he does!

Roses can't live without sunshine, and lilies can't live without rain, and people can't live without laughter—we only have sadness and pain.

Were it not for the honey in flowers, there could be no bees.

The trees could not live were it not for the earth, and the birds would die without trees.

Violets slowly would wither and die were it not for the rain and the dew.

So really, you see, it's a marvelous thing having you—get on without you!

Ho! Ho! Ha, ha, ha!