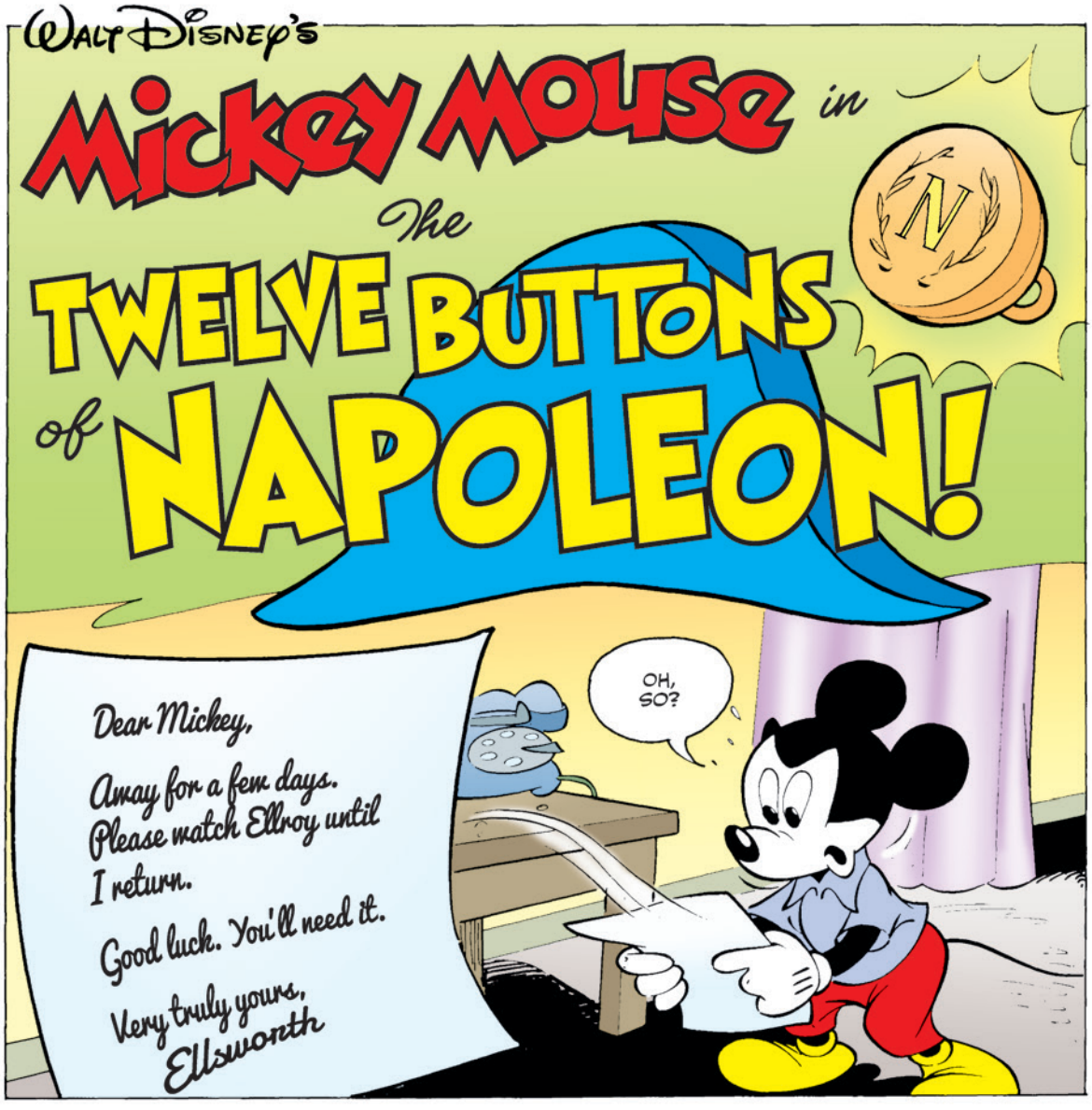

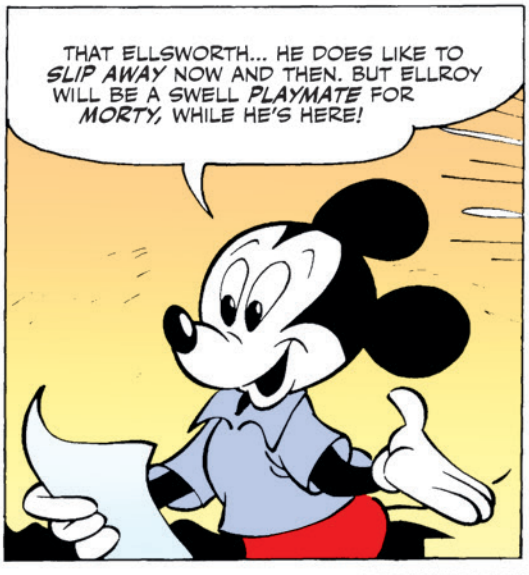

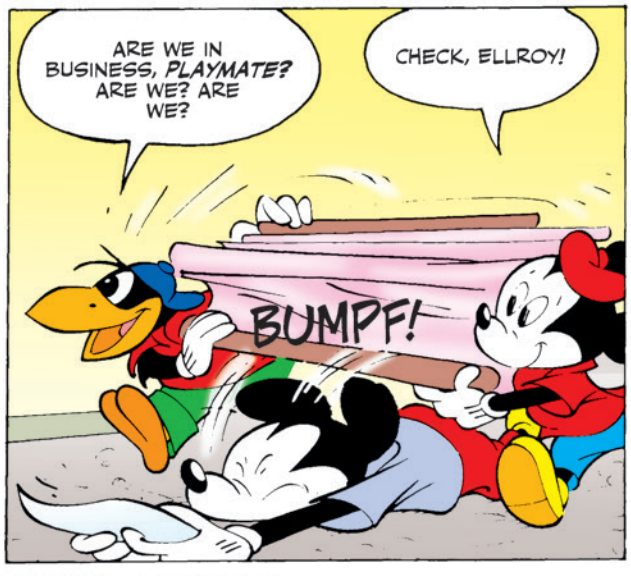

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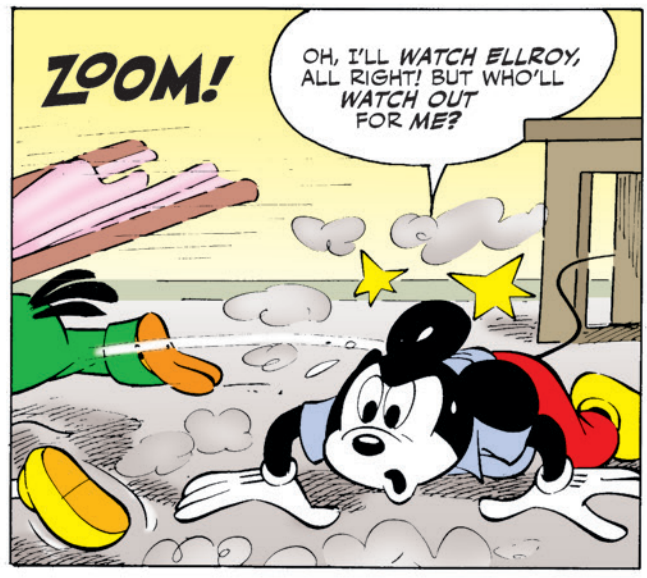
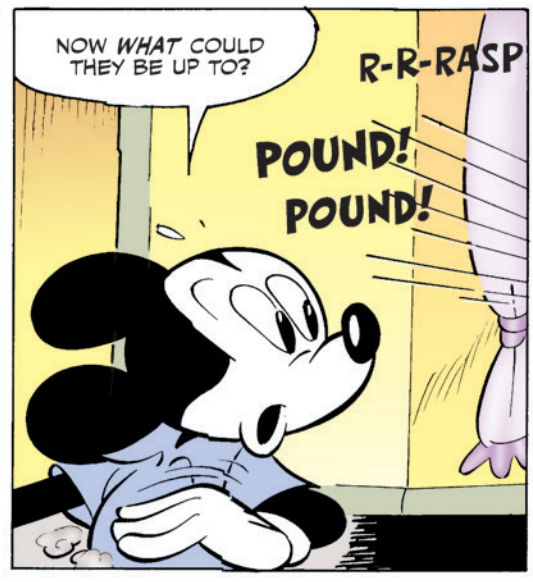
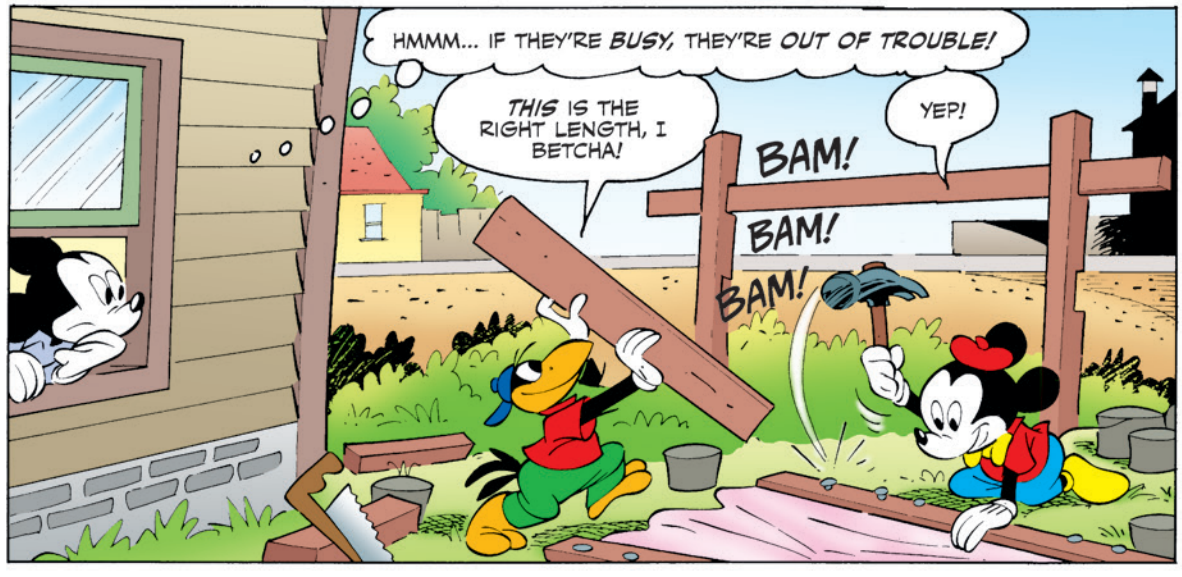
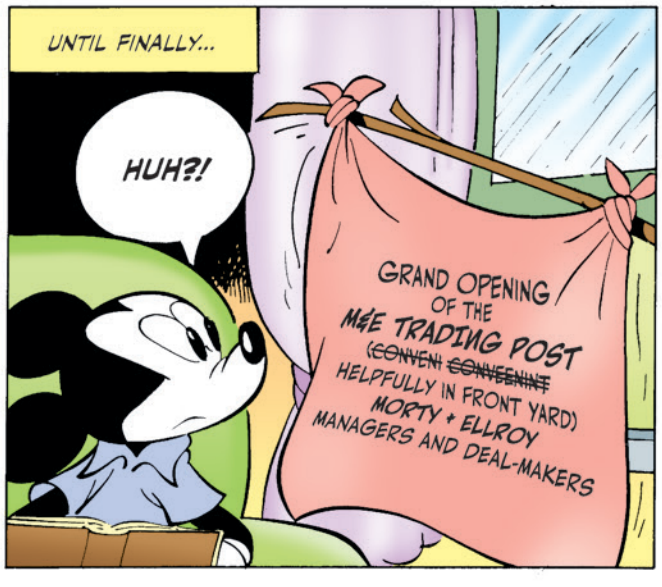
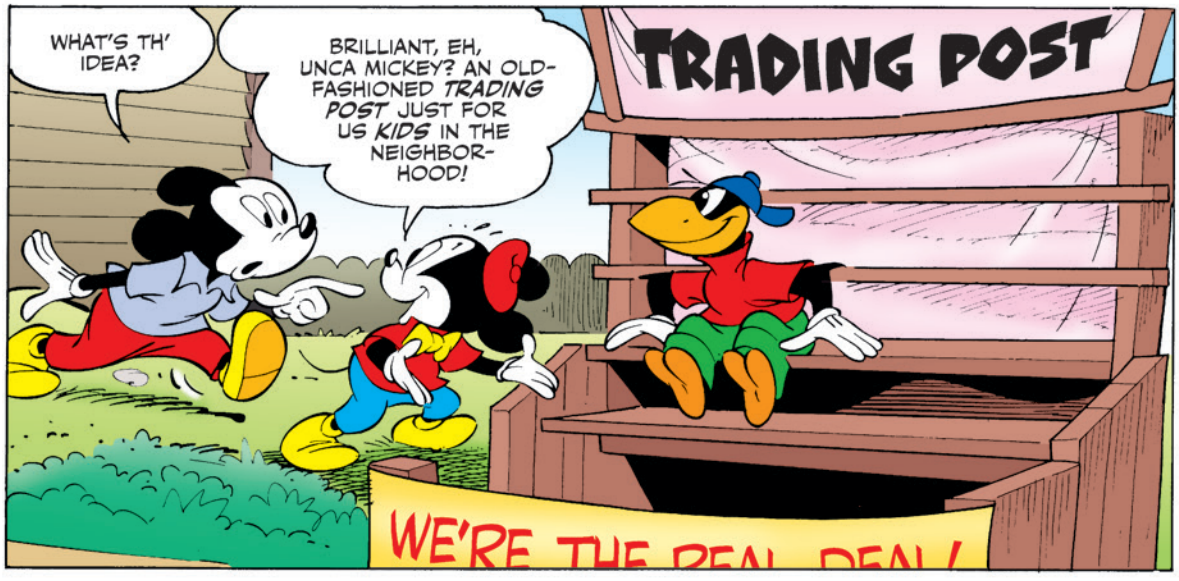

ZOOM!
OH, I'LL WATCH ELLROY, ALL RIGHT! BUT WHO'LL WATCH OUT FOR ME?

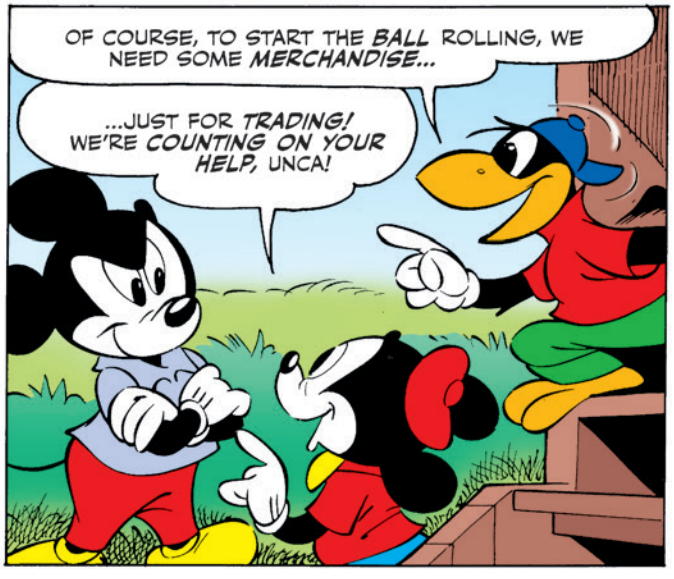

NOW WHAT COULD THEY BE UP TO?
R-R-RASP
POUND! POUND!


HMMM... IF THEY'RE BUSY, THEY'RE OUT OF TROUBLE!
THIS IS THE RIGHT LENGTH, I BETCHA!
YEP!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

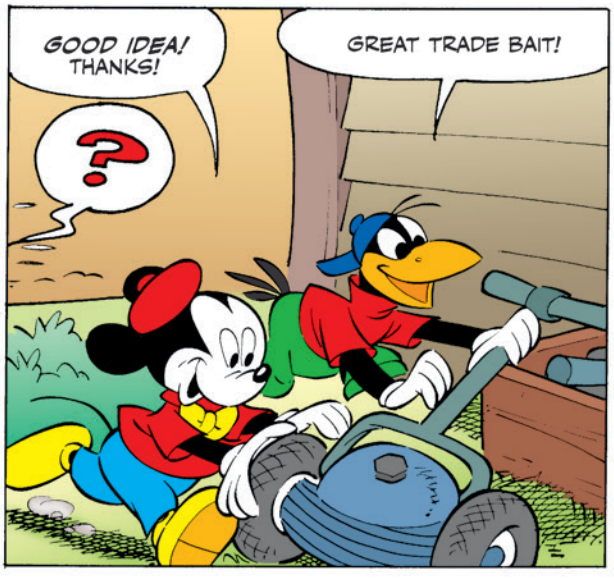
R-R-RIPP!
BANG! BANG!
POUND! POUND!


UNTIL FINALLY...
HUH?!
GRAND OPENING OF THE M&E TRADING POST
(CONVENI CONVENINT HELPFULLY IN FRONT YARD)
MORTY + ELLROY
MANAGERS AND DEAL-MAKERS

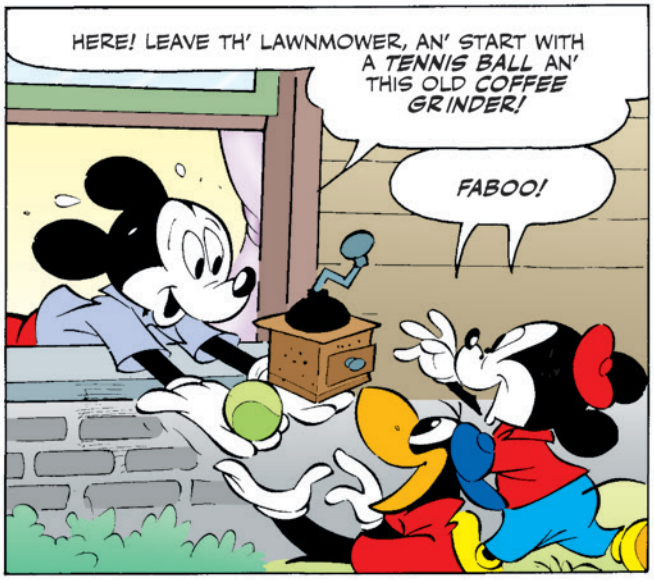

WHAT'S TH' IDEA?
BRILLIANT, EH, UNCA MICKEY? AN OLD-FASHIONED *TRADING POST* JUST FOR US *KIDS* IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD!
TRADING POST
WE'RE THE REAL DEAL!


OF COURSE, TO START THE *BALL* ROLLING, WE NEED SOME *MERCHANDISE*...
...JUST FOR *TRADING!* WE'RE *COUNTING ON YOUR HELP,* UNCA!

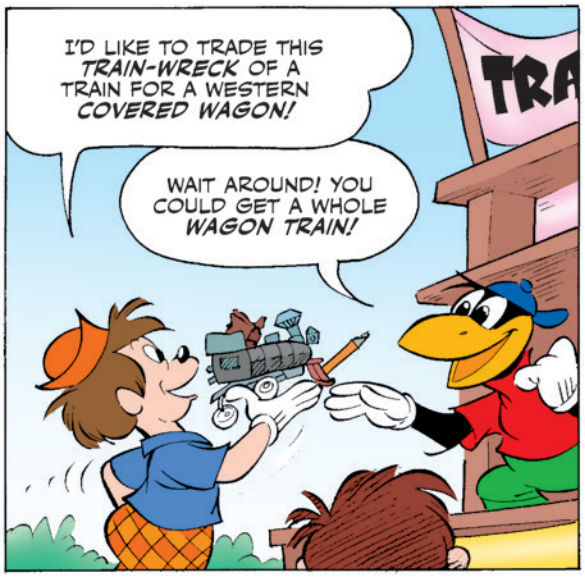
FINE, BUT DON'T FORGET Y' HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH TH' *LAWNMOWER* FIRST!

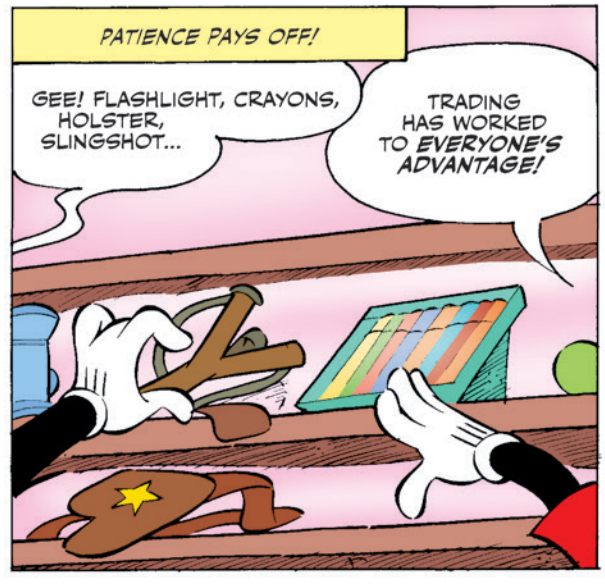

GOOD IDEA! THANKS!
GREAT TRADE BAIT!
?

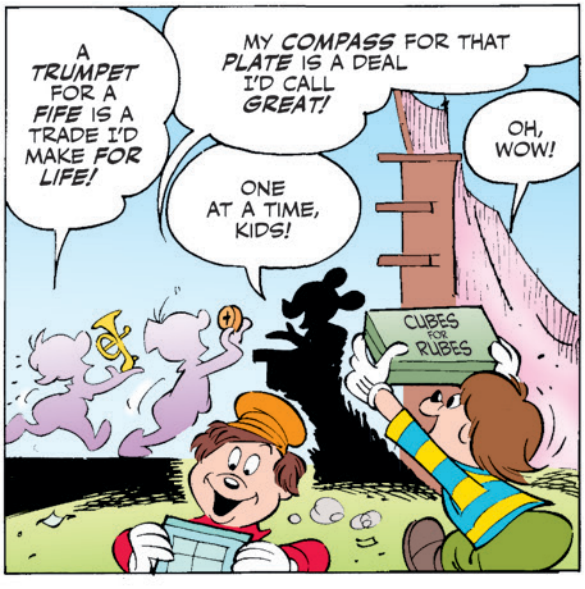
NOW, DON'T GET ME WRONG! I'M SURE I CAN HELP WITH *ALTERNATIVE STOCK!* :HEH!:

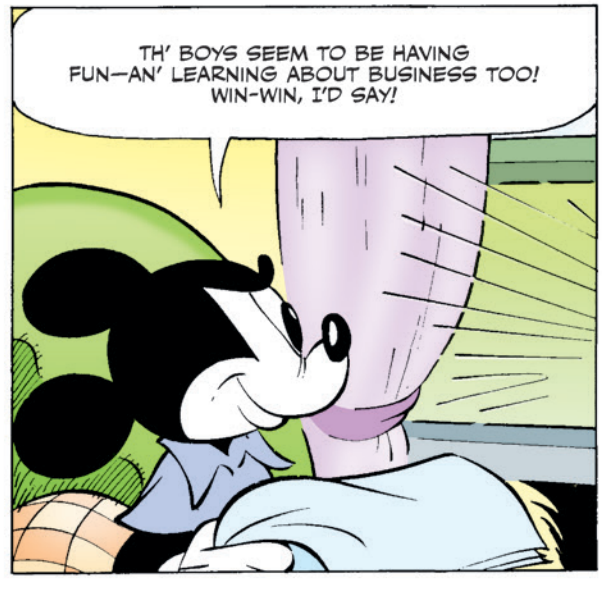

HERE! LEAVE TH' LAWNMOWER, AN' START WITH A TENNIS BALL AN' THIS OLD COFFEE GRINDER!
FABOO!

TRADES MADE! HOP IN... SWAP OUT!
WE'LL DEAL YOU IN ANYTIME, WE WILL! WE WILL!
TRADING POST
WE'RE THE REAL DEAL!

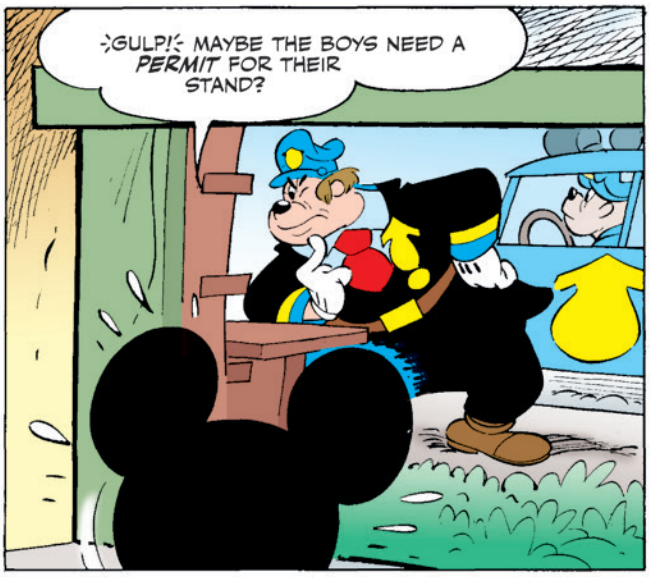

I'D LIKE TO TRADE THIS TRAIN-WRECK OF A TRAIN FOR A WESTERN COVERED WAGON!
WAIT AROUND! YOU COULD GET A WHOLE WAGON TRAIN!
TRA

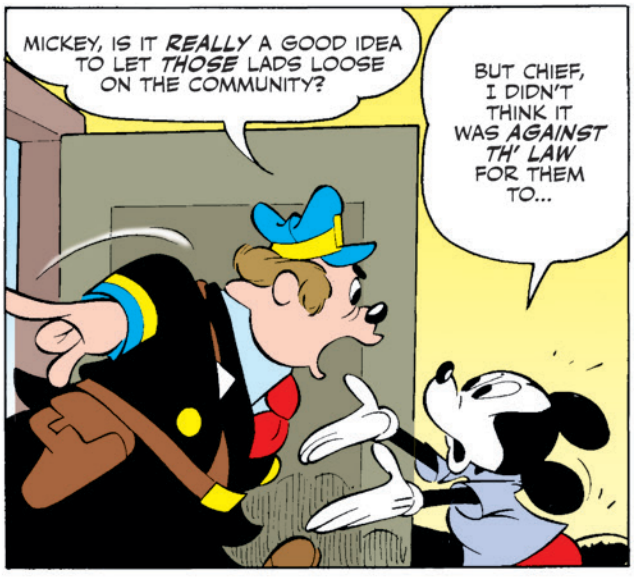

PATIENCE PAYS OFF!
GEE! FLASHLIGHT, CRAYONS, HOLSTER, SLINGSHOT...
TRADING HAS WORKED TO EVERYONE'S ADVANTAGE!

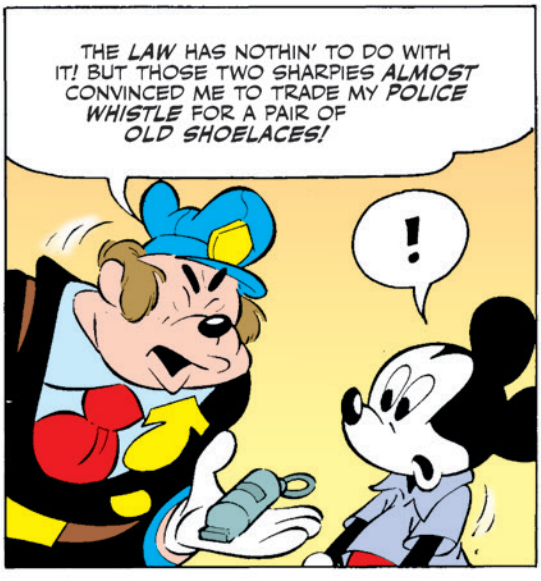

A TRUMPET FOR A FIFE IS A TRADE I'D MAKE FOR LIFE!
MY COMPASS FOR THAT PLATE IS A DEAL I'D CALL GREAT!
ONE AT A TIME, KIDS!
OH, WOW!
CUBES FOR RUBES

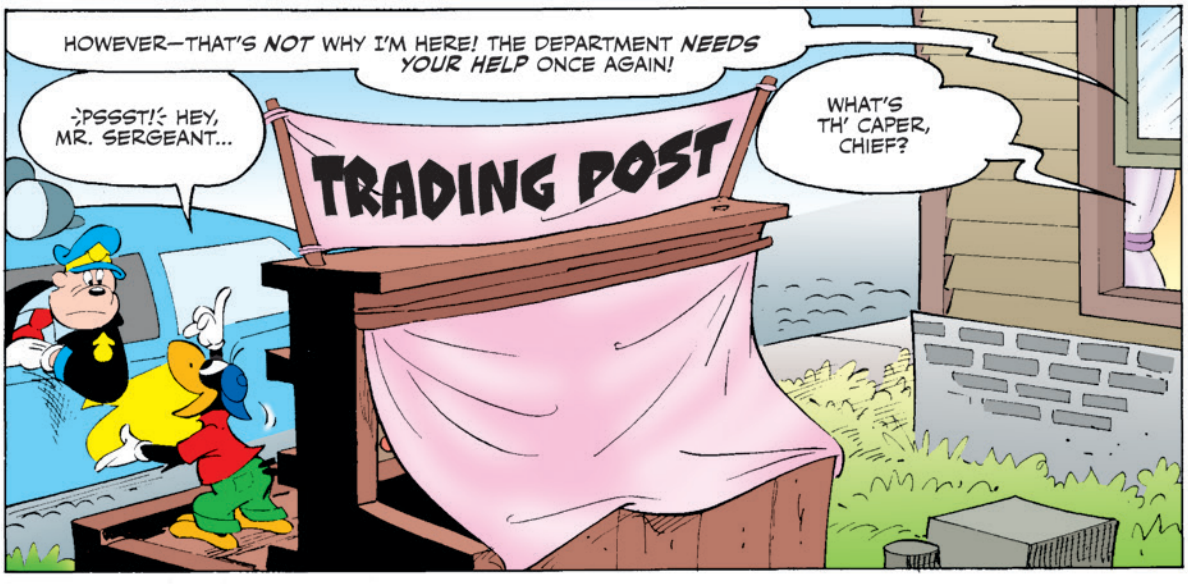

TH' BOYS SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN—AN' LEARNING ABOUT BUSINESS TOO! WIN-WIN, I'D SAY!

WHEEEOOOOOOOOO!
THE POLICE? WHAT COULD BE WRONG?


:GULP!: MAYBE THE BOYS NEED A PERMIT FOR THEIR STAND?


MICKEY, IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO LET THOSE LADS LOOSE ON THE COMMUNITY?
BUT CHIEF, I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS AGAINST TH' LAW FOR THEM TO...


THE LAW HAS NOTHIN' TO DO WITH IT! BUT THOSE TWO SHARPIES ALMOST CONVINCED ME TO TRADE MY POLICE WHISTLE FOR A PAIR OF OLD SHOELACES!
!


HOWEVER—THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE! THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP ONCE AGAIN!
:PSSST!: HEY, MR. SERGEANT...
TRADING POST
WHAT'S TH' CAPER, CHIEF?