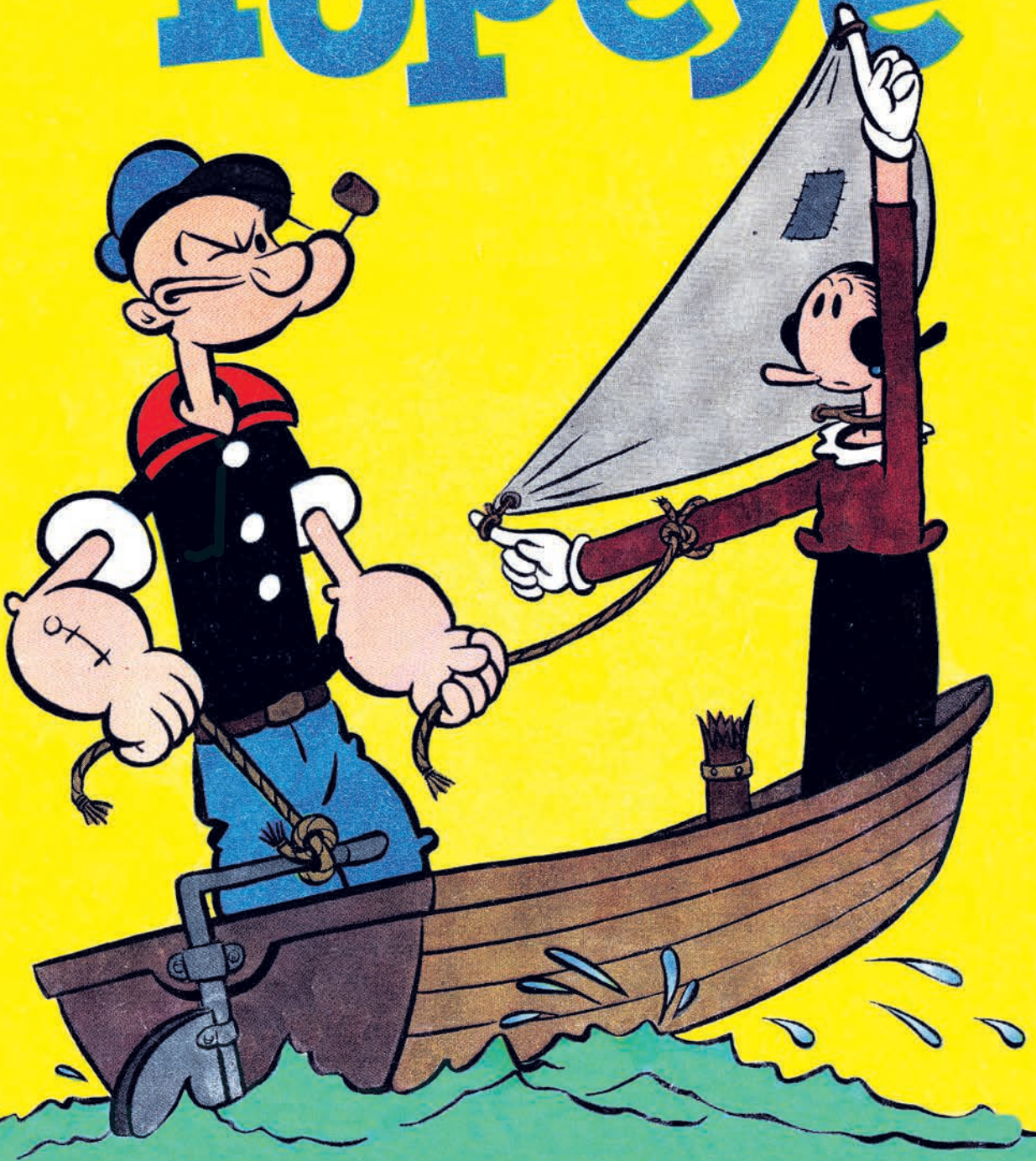




# Popeye



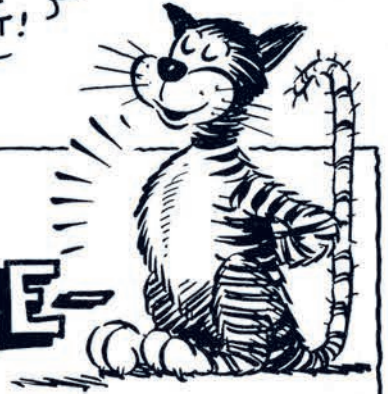
• Classic Comics •

# THE

# BIGGER

# THEY ARE-

I'M THE BIGGEST  
SO I'M THE  
BEST!



Throckmorton or Tom, as his friends called him, was the biggest cat in the world. His size was his great pride and joy and from the way he bragged about it, you would think that he and he alone was responsible for his overstuffed feline body. In truth his huge size was due to his environment, for he lived in a butcher shop. His bed in the butcher shop was on the floor beneath the meat-slicing machine. A spot like this would be a wonderful place for anyone to live, but for Tom it was heaven.

Mr. Sniff, the butcher who owned the shop, was very careless and he was always slicing off more bologna or cold cuts than his customers ordered. Because Mr. Sniff couldn't eat meat, he always tossed the extra slices to Tom. This steady stream of cold cuts to a cat who didn't even have to move to catch them was like tying a rubber balloon onto a water faucet and turning the water on. Tom just grew and grew until he was at least twice the size of any other cat.

While none of the other cats on the block disliked Tom because of his easy living, they did become disgusted with him for he got the idea that because he was the biggest he was the best. He was forever telling them that he could do anything better and faster than any other cat in the world.

Now, one day, a stray cat, that was just as thin as Tom was fat, moved into the neighborhood. The moment Tom met the new animal,

he began to laugh and poke fun at the stranger.

"WOW! Are you a skinny mess! You're not as large as my front leg!"

At first, the stranger took all of Tom's teasing in good fun but, after a while, it began to sink in that the big cat really thought he was far superior to the skinny cat.

"What's wrong with that guy?" remarked the skinny cat one day. "Hain't he ever heard that THE BIGGER THEY ARE THE HARDER THEY FALL?"

"Oh, don't mind Tom," answered one of the other animals. "He's not a bad fellow when he's not talking about his size."

"Well, that's all he does talk about," growled the skinny cat. "It's about time someone taught him a lesson and I think I'm just the cat to do it."

It was several days before the opportunity came for the skinny cat to carry out a plan he had worked out. It was a warm spring day and a gang of cats had gathered in the big field to soak up some of the sunshine.

"I've had enough sun," the skinny cat said and stood up and stretched. "Who's for playing a game?"

"Aw, games are no fun," laughed Tom. "I always win. I'm just too big and good for the rest of you."

*(Continued on inside back cover)*

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Editors: Ted Adams, Clizia Gussoni, and Craig Yoe.

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# DESERT PIRATES

A STORY OF EVIL HAGGERY  
STARRING:  
**POPEYE**

HEH! HEH!! WITH THE FOOLPROOF PLAN I'VE GOT -- THAT GOODY-GOODY SAILOR BOY IS A DEAD DUCK!



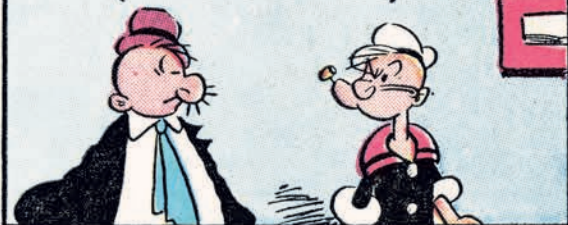
EVERYTHING'S BEEN QUIET SINCE YOU DROVE THAT OLD SEA HAG OUT OF TOWN!

YEAH, I KINDA MISS FIGHTIN' WIT' HER!



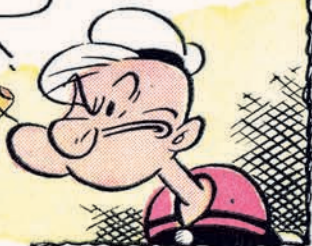
I DOUBT IF SHE'LL EVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE OF THAT, WIMPY!



HAGGY KNOWS THAT AS LONG AS I YAM ALIVE, I WILL NOT LET HER BRING BACK PIRACY TO THE HIGH SEAS!

TO STAY IN BUSINESS SHE'S GOT TO GET RID OF ME!



SHE IS AN EVIL OL' WITCH AN' I YAM SURE SHE WILL BE AFTER ME AGAIN!

'AT'S WHY I KEEPS ME SPINACH GUARD UP ALL THE TIME!

