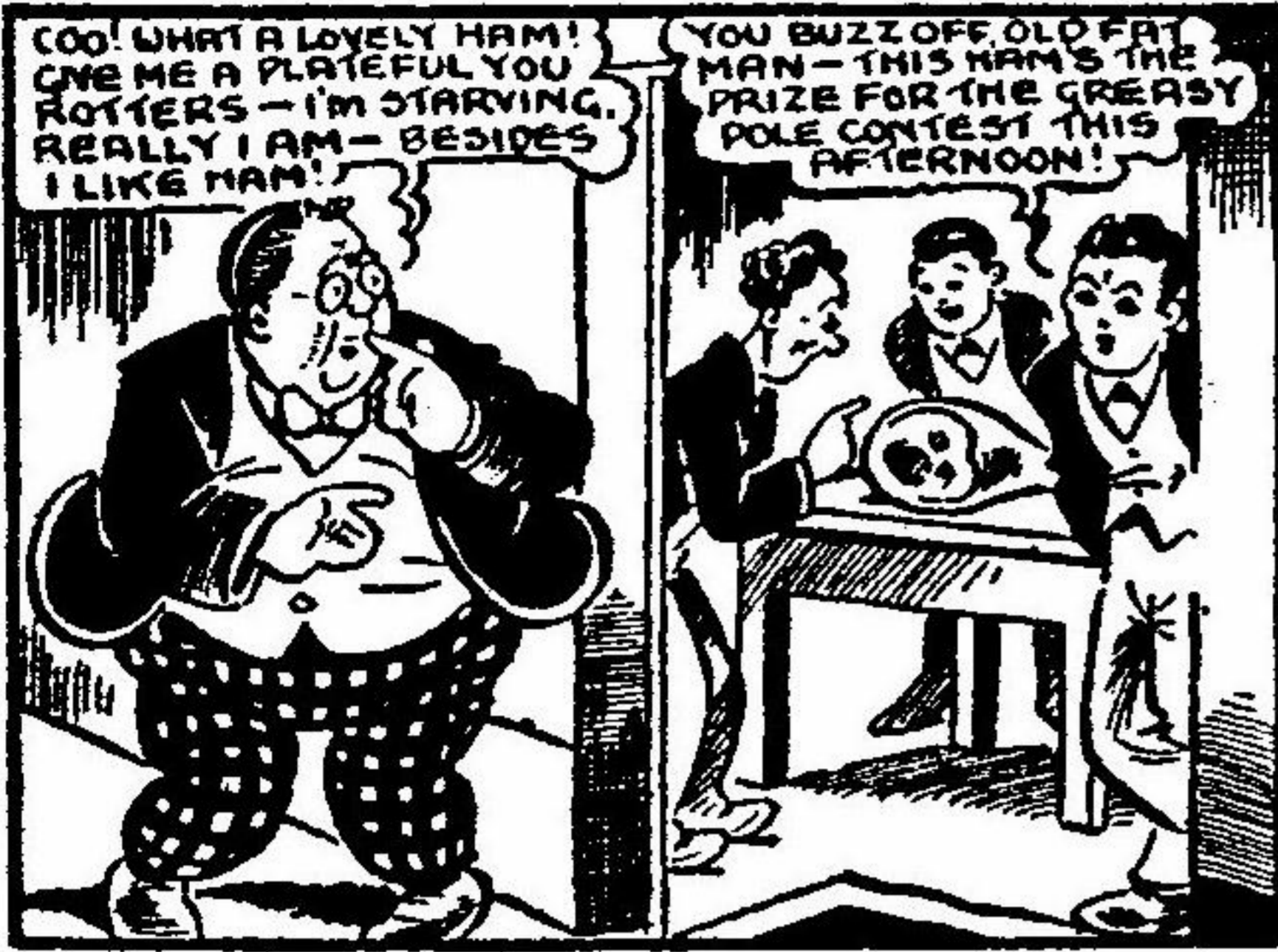




BILLY BUNTER

THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH



1. Billy Bunter was feeling peckish. No wonder—it was fully five minutes since he'd had his dinner! So he tried to snaffle a snack off the prize ham.

2. But there was nothing doing—definitely! The only way Billy could hope to get his fat hands on that ham was to win it in the greasy pole competition that afternoon.

3. But Billy hated exercise—unless it was eating, and he waddled away! Then—clonk! He turned a corner of the corridor and barged right into a paper-hanger's ladder!



4. And lots of things happened after that! First, the paper-hanger came crashing down. Then his paste-bucket sailed through the air and parked itself on Quelchy's napper!

5. How Bunter howled at that! Quelchy did look funny with that bucket for a hat! Then his chortles changed to a gluey gurgle as Quelchy crowned HIM with the bucket!

6. But worse was to come. Quelchy grabbed a roll of wallpaper and gave Bunter what-for with it. Poor Billy, with the bucket jammed tight over his head, couldn't see to dodge.



7. He tried one way—and ran into more trouble. It was the paper-hanger he ran into, and Billy barged him with the bucket right on the spot where his bread-and-cheese were kept.

8. Ooopsadaisy! Over went the paper-hanger as Bunter ducked through his legs. And Quelchy helped with a wallop on the schnozzle that was really meant for Bunter.

9. Bunter didn't mind that, but the man did! He wasn't taking a pasting from any master, so he started handing Quelchy a real pasting—with a brush and a lot of sticky stuff.



10. Now, three's a crowd, thought Bunter, so he left Quelchy and the paper-hanger to fight it out. Another reason why he wanted to get away was because he'd had a brainwave!

11. It was the paste that had done it! Bunter had seen a way to win that ham, after all. Chortling, he waddled off to see the man who greased the greasy pole.

12. Now, Bunter is a promising lad—in some ways! Anyway, his promise of five-bob made the man agree to put paste on the pole, instead of grease, when it came to Billy's turn.

(You will find other funny adventures of Billy Bunter in "THE MAGNET" every week as well.)



13. But even at that, Bunter wasn't taking any chances. When the greasy pole event came round, Billy did a bunk round a bush, and started to plaster paste all over himself with the brush.



14. It was a bit messy, but Bunter stuck to his task—and other things stuck to him. Being a chump, he had never thought of that, and soon he had a shrubbery on his tootsies. Then Quelchy spotted him.



15. He told Billy to dish out programmes, and poor Bunter had to do it. He couldn't tell Quelchy about the paste on him, and soon he was in a state. Those programmes stuck closer to him than flies on a flypaper!



16. Still Billy stuck to his job, and his job stuck to him. In less time than it takes to say rhubarb and rhododendrons, Billy was covered from head to foot with programmes—and it needed a lot of them to do that!



17. Poof—Bunter was in a state. Finding that he couldn't give away the programmes he hid behind a bush! Here Quelchy found him, and Billy groaned in case his wheeze had been rumbled.



18. But it was only Bunter's turn to walk the greasy pole. How he chortled! Quelchy hadn't twigged his paste wheeze, and Billy thought that ham was as good as his, as he tipped the wink to the paste-putter-on.



19. Away went Billy, and the school nearly faded away with surprise. They gasped as they saw the fat lad walk along the greasy-pole as easy as if he was having a stroll in the park on Sunday afternoon.



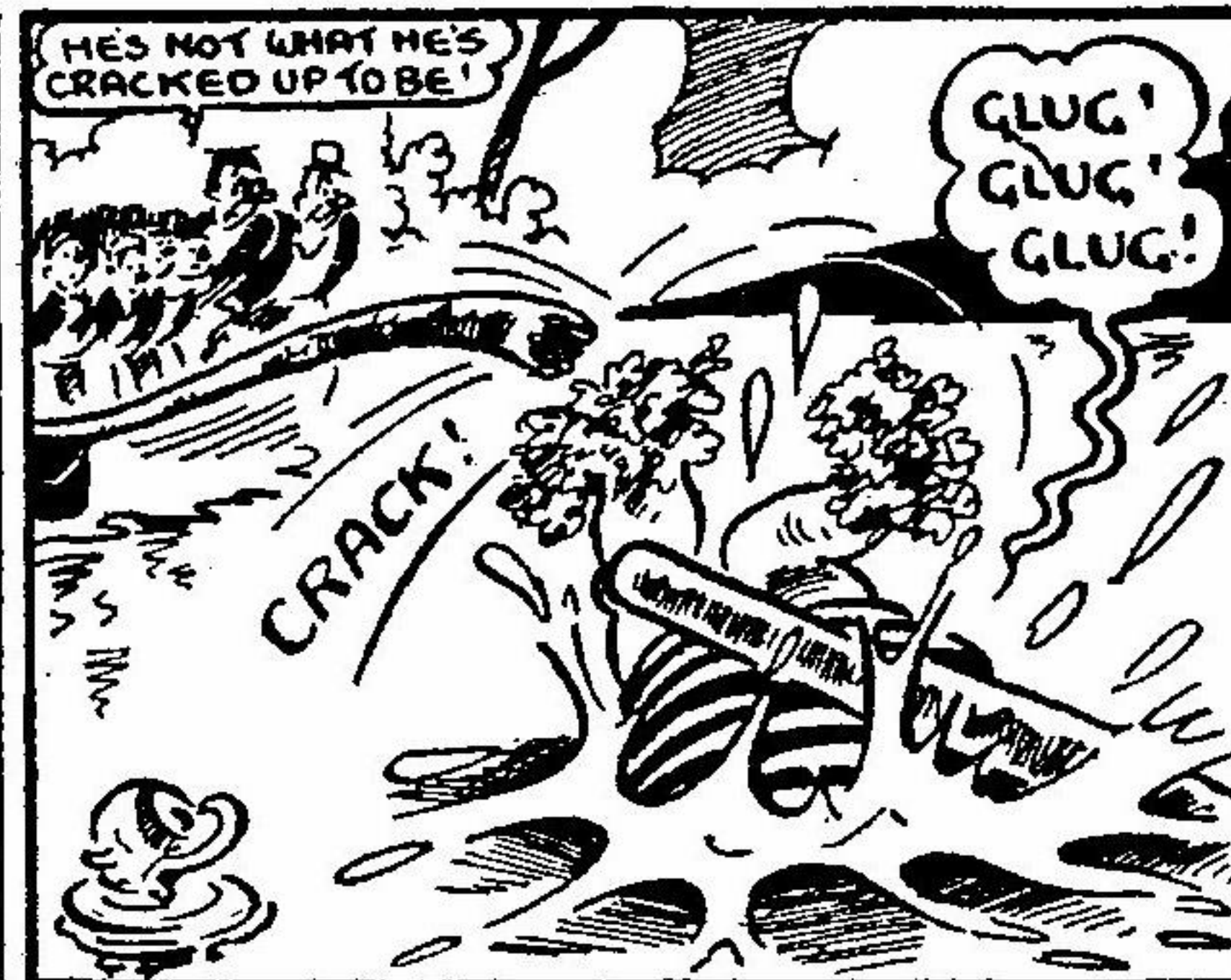
20. The paste on the pole was just nice. There was enough to keep Billy from slipping, and yet not enough to stick him firmly. He had the rest of the school licked, he knew, and he licked his lips at the thought of that ham.



21. And, by gum, he had! It was money for old getting that ham now, thought Bunter. How the boys cheered as he waddled along to the end of the pole—and how Bunter chortled as he got ready to grab the prize!



22. But Bunter's wheezes have a habit of coming unstuck—even when he uses paste! That pole was built for boys, and not baby elephants. It couldn't take Billy's weight! It began to crack like anything!



23. Everybody noticed it except Bunter. The fat lad was too busy watching that ham. At last he had it! What a feed he would have! He wouldn't let any of these rotters have any! Then—Creak! CRASH! The pole broke!



24. It looked as though a tidal-wave had hit the river when Billy went in, and Quelchy looked like a hurricane when he came out. He had seen through Bunter's trick and, instead of the ham, poor old Bunter got a hammering!