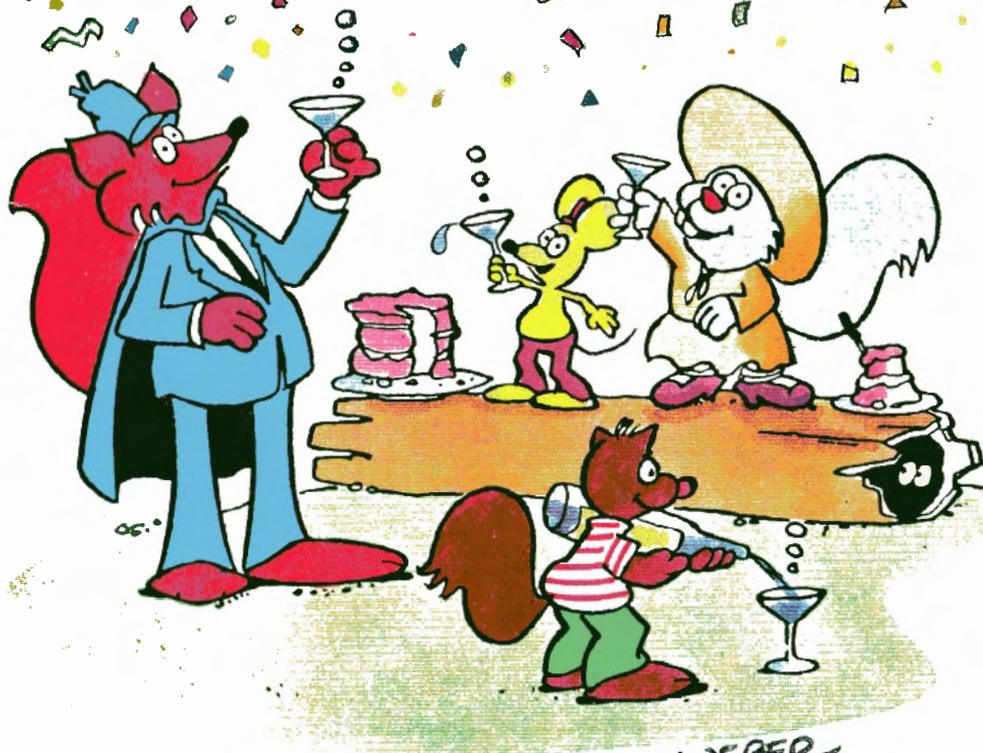


HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

VOL. 3 NO. 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



FOR THE YOUNG
MYSTERY FAN

WELCOME TO
HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Vol. 3. No. 2
For January 1992

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BILLY'S PAGE



Hey, kids! — We've just released a special Slylock Fox & Friends Magazine. As a Holmes For The Holidays subscriber all you need to do is write us and ask for it to get it free!

This is your page. send us a letter, poem, riddle, joke, puzzle or artwork and see it printed here!



HARD-NOSE AND-A-CHANDIE "SHARON"



by Sharon Campbell, age 5
San Diego, California
(for story on page 14)



HUGH DUNNIT ASKS:
WHAT IS IT?

Hugh Durnnit, our mysterious mouse detective has listed eight clues to the above question. Using your best detective skills, and a little luck, read one clue at a time (in any order) and see how many clues it takes you to solve the mystery of What Is It?

- 1) I'm born hundreds of feet in the air.
- 2) Most kids love to play with me.
- 3) Although I'm not alive, men have been made with me.
- 4) I have millions of brothers and sisters, yet none of us look exactly alike.
- 5) I look best in white.
- 6) I've been known to make winter a fun season.
- 7) I'm often referred to as a blanket, yet I won't keep you warm.
- 8) I'm very cold natured.

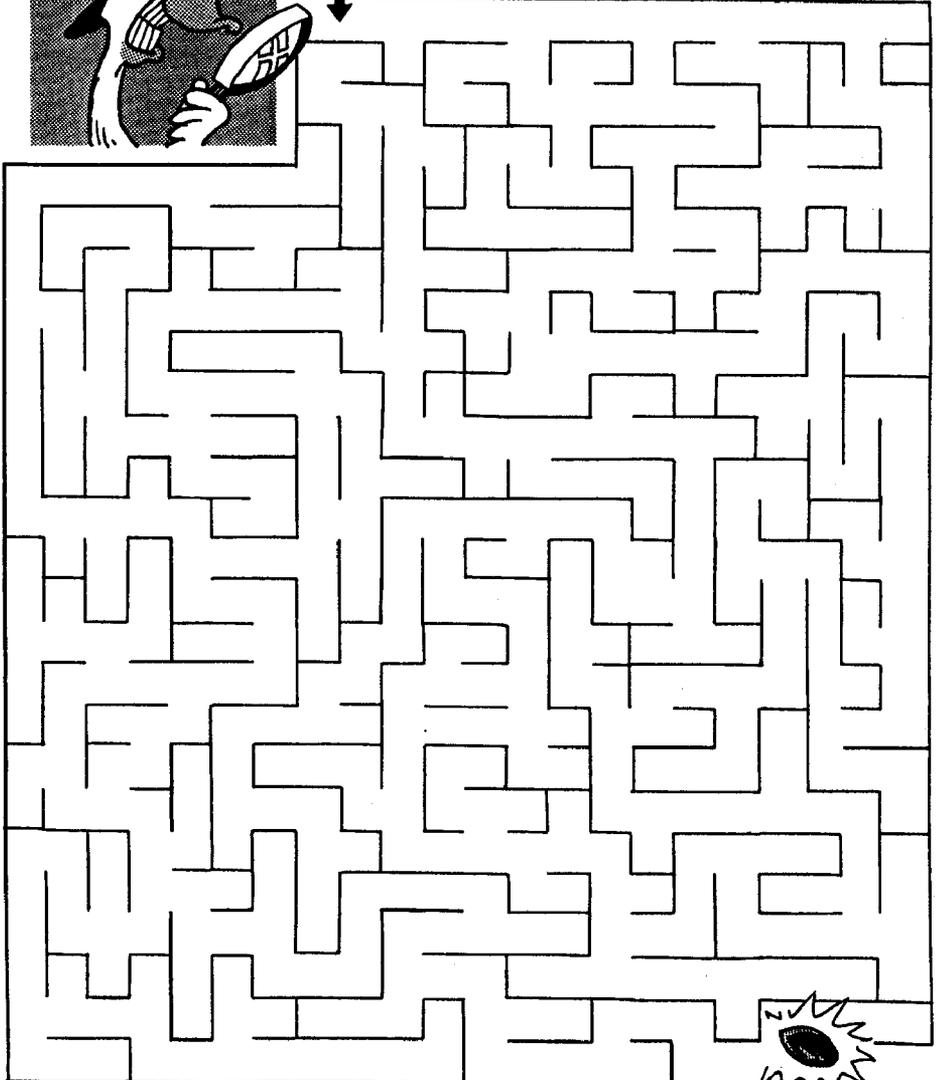
(answer on page 23)

JOIN THE CARBUNCLE HUNT

HELP HENRY BAKER'S CHRISTMAS GOOSE FIND THE MYSTERIOUS BLUE CARBUNCLE!



START
↓

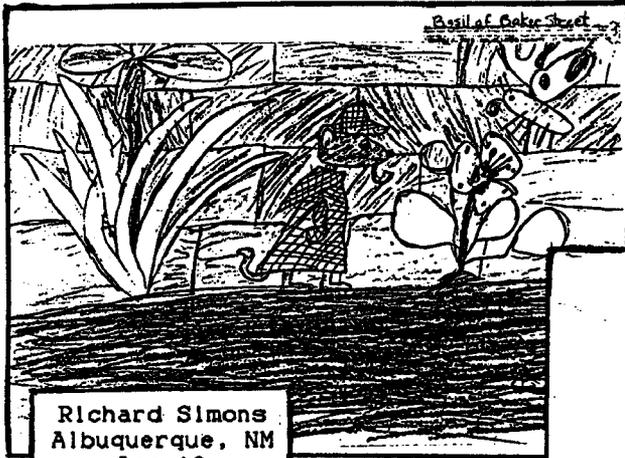


J. Decker



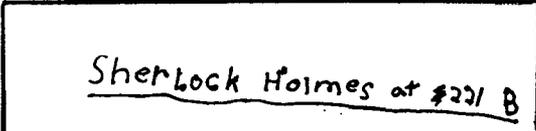
And the winners are...

We are delighted to present this year's winners of our Chester Baskerville Society's 2nd Annual Art Contest. Each participant received a copy of



Richard Simons
Albuquerque, NM
Age 10

Philip Kellogg
Alfred, NY



Kristin Berger
Sparks, NV
Age 9

Sherlock's Hat

by
Jim Vogelsang



Sherlock Holmes has lost his hat,
but just what can he do?
He can't get help from Watson for
Watson hasn't got a clue.

It's a funny little hat,
with a pointy bill that's showing
on the front and on the back.
So which way is it going?

Mrs. Hudson, the land-lady,
came to collect the rent,
but not to look for headgear
that was lost by her tenant.

He'll get no help from the bobbies
over at Scotland Yard.
To find his missing deerstalker,
for them, is much too hard.

How can he follow criminals,
or capture evil crooks,
Without his famous "topper" he
just captures dirty looks.

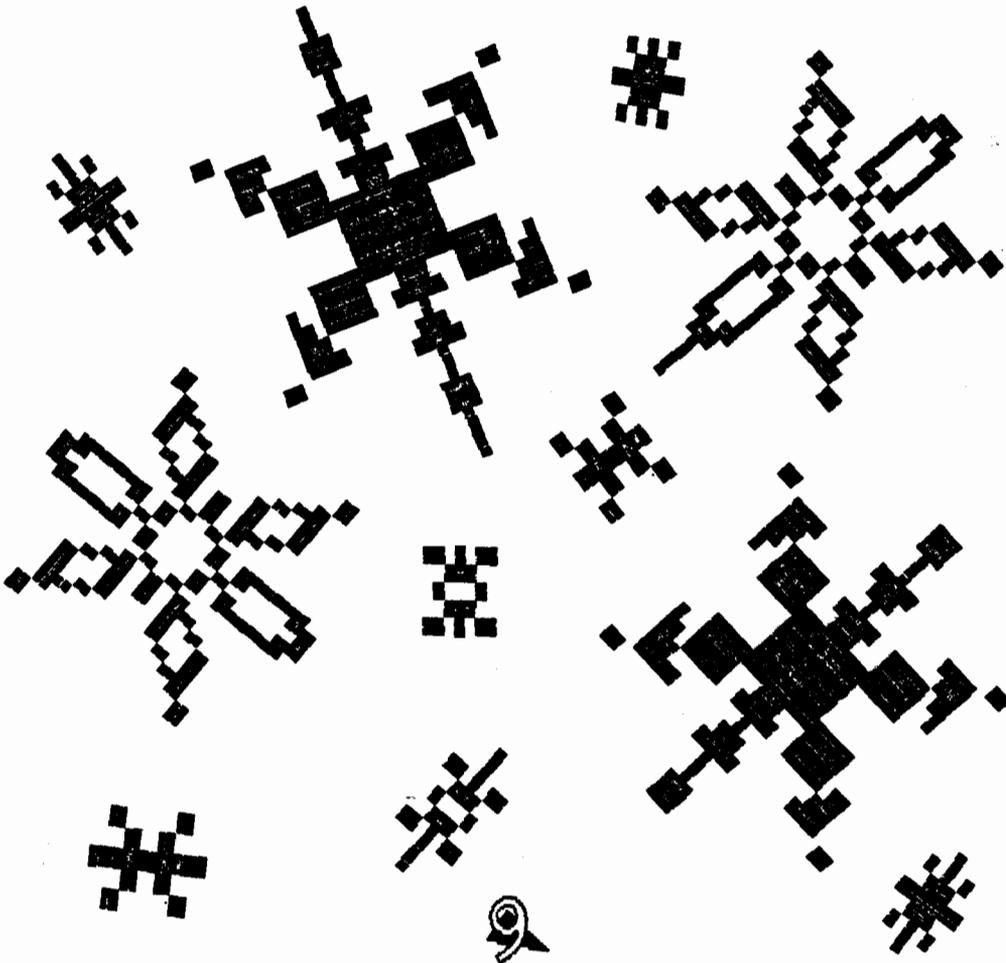
There's no one else to turn to, who,
his missing hat will trace,
so he hired The Great Detective and...
put HIMSELF upon the case!

Now Sherlock Holmes has but one gripe...
"Where can I find my missing pipe?"

Let it snow!

We have upset Professor Moriarty by revealing some of his favorite codes in our "Code Clinic" feature. Once broken, these codes are useless to him. Our super spy, Porlock, informed us that Moriarty has planted two listening devices ("bugs") on this page so he could spy on our friends. Find the devices and place an X on them - this will deactivate them.

If you need a clue to help you find them, see the message below. Good luck!



The Code Clinic

Chapter 5 -The Polybius Checkerboard Cipher-

In ancient Greece there once lived a writer named Polybius. He was one of the greatest historians, who wrote of the rise of Rome to world ruler. Polybius also is known for his interest in ciphers. He proposed a method of substituting two-digit numbers for each letter. The alphabet is written inside a 5-by-5 grid which has numbered rows (horizontal) and columns (vertical). With only 25 squares in our matrix it is necessary to place both Y and Z in the last square. After deciphering the rest of the message, it should be clear which of these two letters were intended.

COLUMNS

		1	2	3	4	5
R	1	A	B	C	D	E
O	2	F	G	H	I	J
W	3	K	L	M	N	O
S	4	P	Q	R	S	T
	5	U	V	W	X	Y/Z

To place a message in code, substitute for each letter the numbers marking the row and column in which the letter appears. Always be sure to put the row number first. For example, the sen-

tence, "Watson, Come Here!" becomes
 53-11-45-44-35-34 13-35-33-15
 23-15-43-15. To decipher the message
 simply find the letter indicated by each
 number. The first number tells you to
 find the letter at the intersection of
 the fifth row (across) and the third
 column (down).

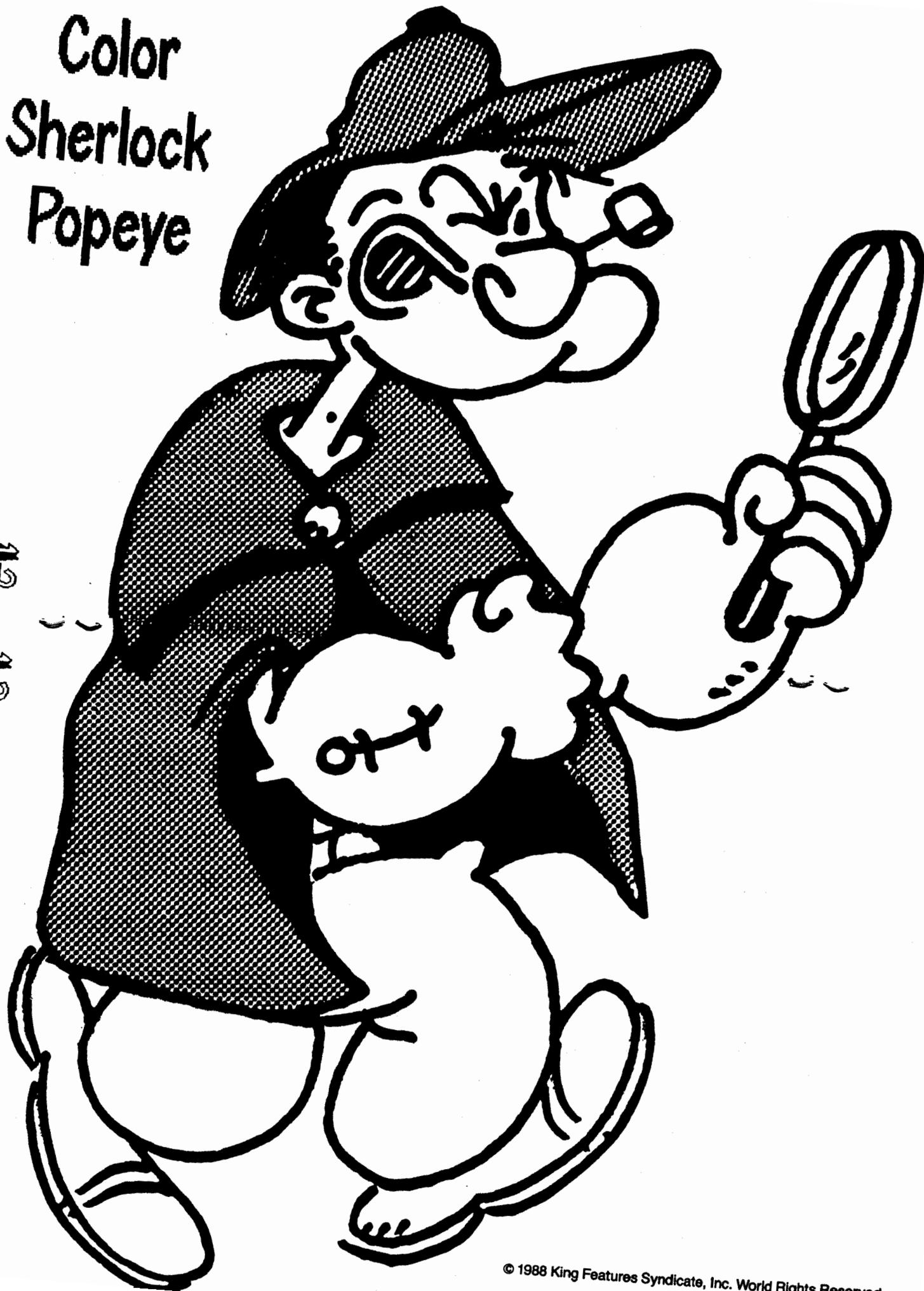
Now try your hand at solving this
 curious message.

12-15 45-23-15 21-24-43-44-45 45-35
 44-15-34-14 51-44 45-23-24-44
 44-35-32-51-45-24-35-34 11-34-14
 55-35-51 53-24-32-32 53-24-34 11
 21-43-15-15 55-15-11-43
 44-51-12-44-13-43-24-41-45-24-35-34
 45-35 23-35-32-33-15-44 21-35-43
 45-23-15 23-35-32-24-14-11-55-44



Color
Sherlock
Popeye

112
113



Harold Mouse
and the
Missing Candles
by
Ellen Campbell



Illustrations by
Glenn Campbell

Jeremy Mouse moved his last red checker and rose to throw another twig on the fire. Harold Mouse chewed on his tail, reached out a paw and jumped Jeremy's checker.

"Almost time to get some sleep. Jeremy, should I make us some toasted cheese sandwiches?" Harold asked as he headed for the kitchen.

"Just the snack I had in mind," Jeremy said as he yawned. "By the way, Harold, have you found Mrs. Bunny's necklace yet?"

Harold paused and answered, "Yes. I traced it to Mrs. Raccoon who

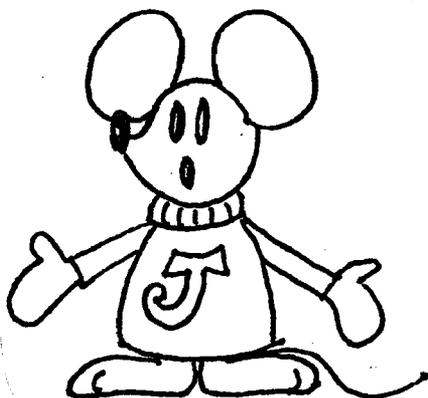
had borrowed it from Mrs. Chipmunk, who borrowed it from Mrs. Bunny's daughter, who had borrowed it without Mrs. Bunny's permission."

"That was the third case I solved this week. Ever since I found that silver foil for my rocket costume everyone comes to me to solve their mysteries."

As Harold turned to continue his way to the kitchen there was a knock at the door. Harold walked over to the door and opened it.

"Oh, Harold, whatever will we do? All the candles for the Christmas Eve service are gone," Timothy Churchmouse exclaimed as he walked in.

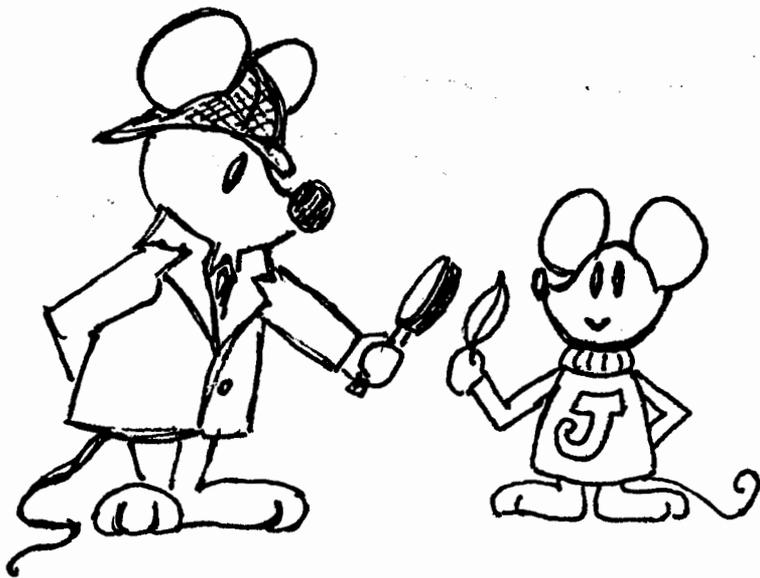
Jeremy came closer, put a paw on Timothy's arm to steer him to a chair



and said, "Timothy, calm down and tell us about it."

They all sat down by the fire, and soon toasted cheese and sleep were forgotten.

Timothy began his story, "I went to the storeroom to check on all the supplies and decorations for tomorrow night's Christmas Eve candlelight service. In the hole where I keep the candles all I found was this feather."



Harold took the feather and looked at the pattern of whites and browns. He sniffed carefully with his pink nose and his whiskers twitched with danger. He then passed the feather to Jeremy.

Jeremy examined it and placed it in one of the plastic bags they used to store evidence.

Once Timothy calmed down, Harold sent him home with the suggestion that

they meet early in the morning to examine the storeroom.

In the cold gray light of an early winter morning, Harold, Jeremy and Timothy gathered in the church's storeroom. Harold went over to the window while Jeremy followed Timothy to the storage hole.

After a few minutes Harold ordered, "Jeremy, come here."

When Jeremy got closer Harold said, "See, as I suspected, beakmarks by the latch and clawmarks by the sill."

"Those are the same ones I found over by the storage hole," Jeremy confirmed.

Harold turned to Timothy and said, "It looks like the work of an owl. The feather, claw and beakmarks and smell are all from an owl. But, why would an owl, who has good night vision, want to steal candles?"

Jeremy and Timothy shrugged.

Harold went on, "An owl would fly so there's no use looking for tracks. We'll just have to search around the church in everwidening circles."



On their fifth circuit the mice ran into a group of cold and angry squirrels. They were carrying wax covered nuts.

Harold tapped a squirrel on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, but I see that you are upset."

"Upset? Upset?" the squirrel started chattering. "You'd be upset too if

you found your house filled with smoke and your pantry covered with wax."

"Wax?" asked Jeremy.

"Smoke?" asked Timothy.

"The candles," said Harold. "It is time to ask for help."

"Squirrels, you stay here with Timothy and Jeremy until I get back," Harold ordered.

In a few minutes he returned riding on the shoulder of one of a pair of rather sleepy looking bears.

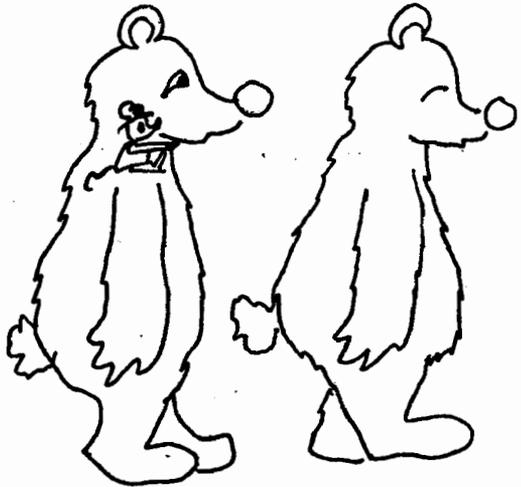
Harold had the bears lean down until they were on the same level as the mice and squirrels.

"I'd like to introduce Terry and Toby," Harold said as he pointed to the bears. "We go berry hunting together. Now, squirrels, take us to your trees."

They soon came to a semi-circle of five trees. Harold and Jeremy found a candle stub at the roots of each tree. Timothy confirmed that they were the ones from the storage hole. The bears looked in the holes and woke up five owls.

Toby growled, "What are you doing in the squirrel's homes?"

Blinking in the sunlight the owls answered, "Our own homes are gone. People cut down our trees."





Timothy spoke, "So you stole the candles and used them to make the squirrels leave and then you moved in."

"Yes," answered the owls. "We didn't know what else to do."

"Harold can help you," Jeremy added to the conversation. "He's

great at finding things. He'll help you find new homes."

All eyes turned to Harold. He began to chew on the end of his tail as he looked back and forth from the owls to the trees and back to the owls.

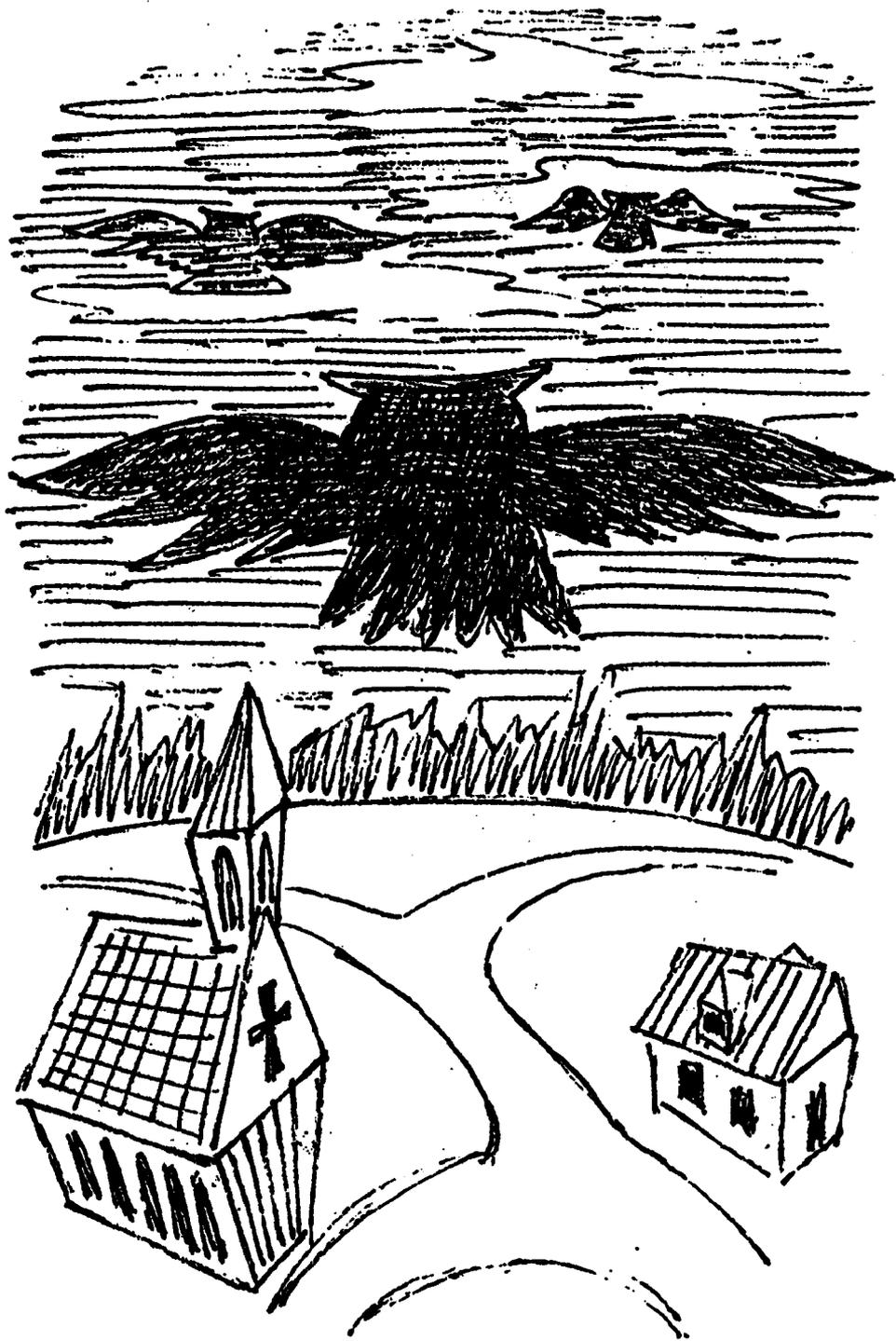
Slowly, he pulled his tail between his paws and said, "I've got an idea. On my last trip into the city I remember seeing a large park with lots of big old trees. No one is allowed to cut down those trees."

One owl immediately flew off in the direction Harold indicated. The other four owls stood in a small group with their heads low.

Shortly, the scout returned and reported, "Many of those trees will make good homes."

The owl leader stepped forward and said, "We're sorry for the trouble we caused. We knew it was wrong, but we didn't know what else to do. Here are the extra candles. Please forgive us."

The squirrels nodded and then ran back to their homes. The owls took flight for the park. Terry and Toby



Bear gave Harold, Timothy and Jeremy a ride back to the church before ambling back to their hibernation caves.

All the mice had lined up at the church door for the Christmas Eve service. Timothy quickly opened the doors and went to the front of the church.

Harold and Jeremy slipped into a back pew. Harold held his candle high as he sang, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come".

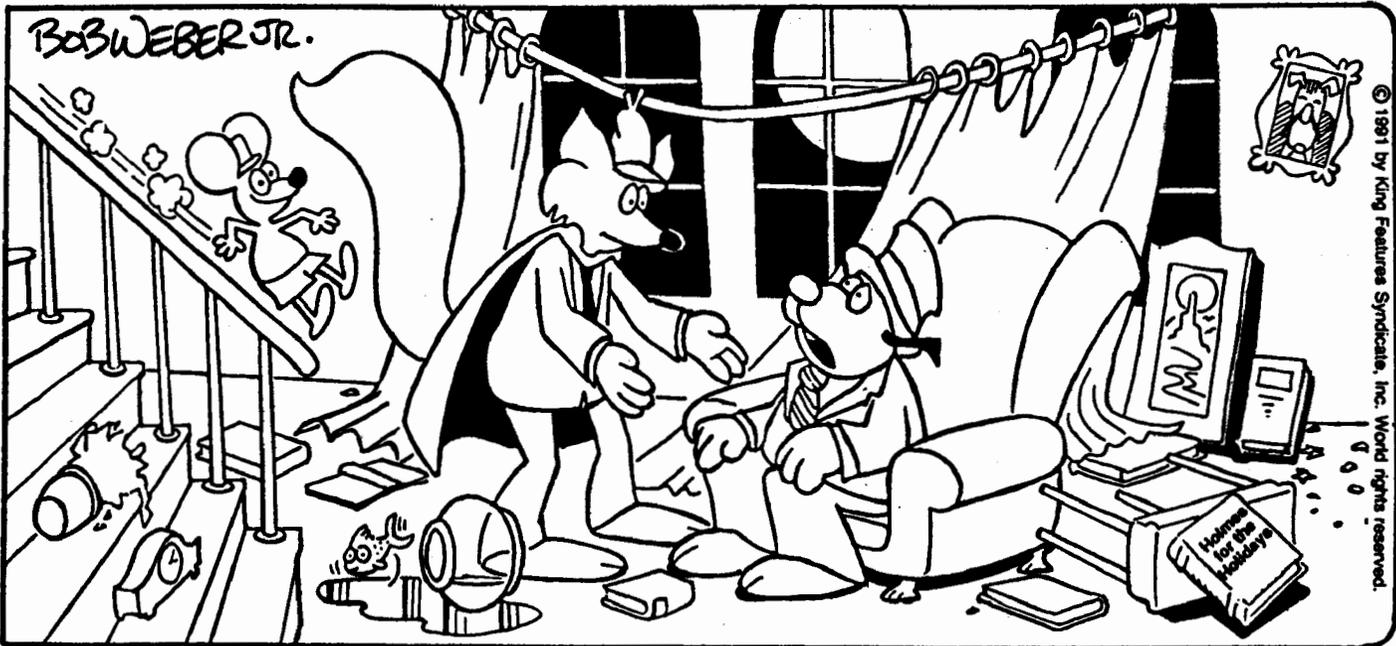


Slylock fox

Sir Hound has just returned from a two-week visit with his brother. While he was gone, someone robbed his house. Sir Hound is very sad because the burglar stole a gold watch that once belonged to his grandfather. Slylock Fox says the

robbery occurred just moments ago, and if he acts swiftly he will catch the burglar and retrieve the watch. Why does Slylock say the robbery occurred just moments ago?

Solution - The burglar knocked over the goldfish bowl. Since the fish is still alive, Slylock knows its water was spilled very recently.



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IT'S ELEMENTARY
-Our Answer Page-

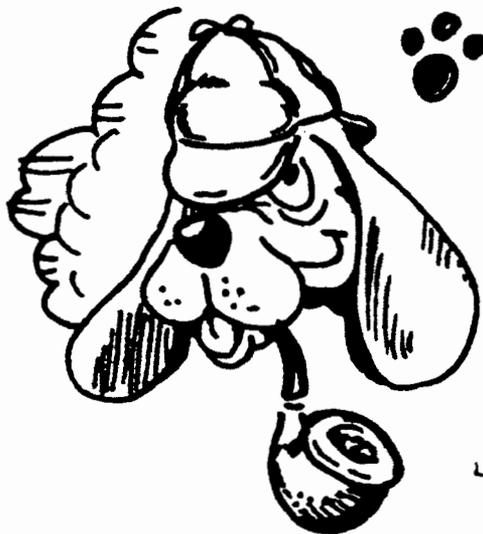
Hugh Dunitz Asks: "What Is It?" (page 4)

Our cool mystery subject is snow. Each snowflake is unique, for there are no two that are exactly alike! Sherlock knew this fact, and was able to solve our riddle by using only 2 clues (#4 & #7). Watson used three (#6, #7, & #8) and Inspector Lestrade thought the answer was "food" after reading clue #2. Oh well, it's back to detective school for him!

Let It Snow! (page 9)

Here's the secret to "de-bugging" your magazine: Look for two snowflakes that are exactly alike. As you may have learned from this issue's "Hugh Dunitz Mystery", no two snowflakes ever look the same. By finding the two that match you can stop Professor Moriarty and his diabolical scheme!

SHERBARK HOUND

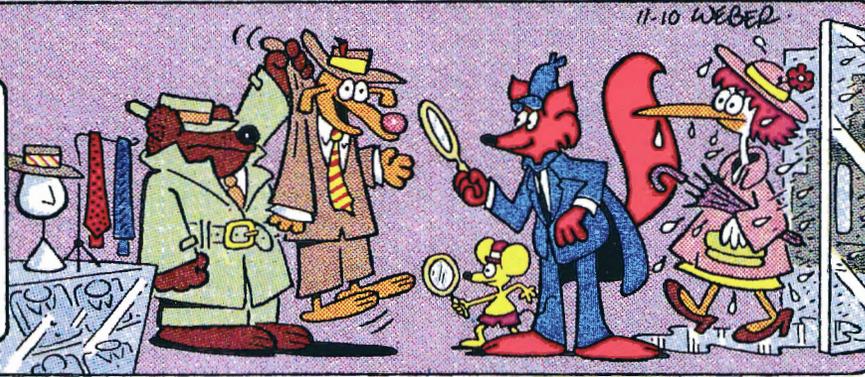


J. HUDD

Slylock fox

The security guard says this dog tried to walk out-of-the store wearing clothes he didn't pay for. The dog claims the clothes are his and he entered the store only seconds ago to return a tie. Slylock Fox believes the guard. Why?

Solution - The dog's clothes are dry. If he just came into the store they would be wet. The dog tried to steal the clothes and the tie.

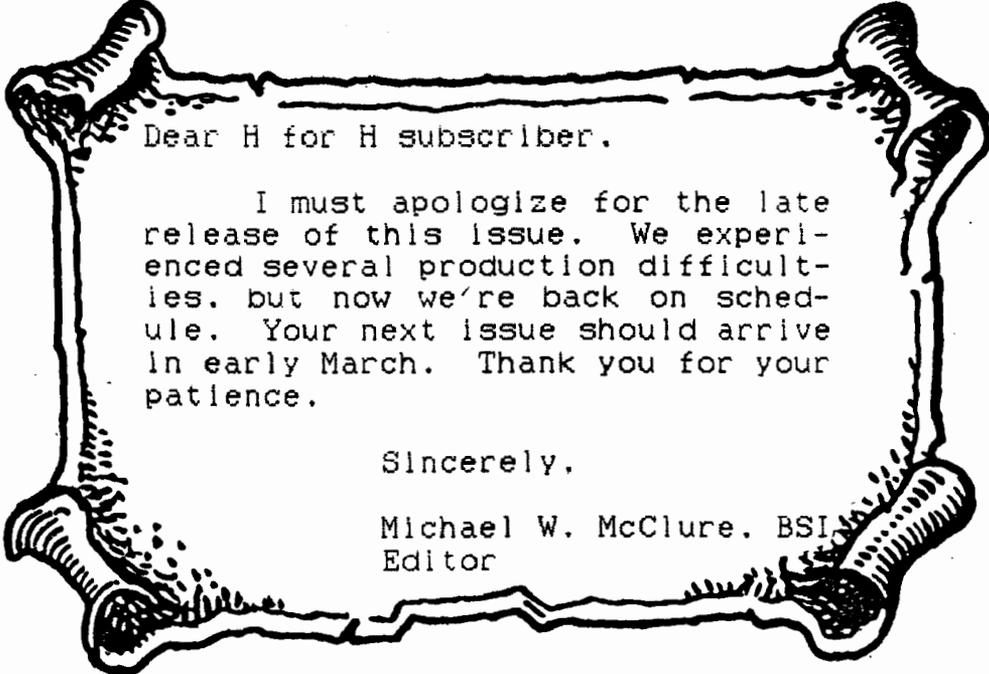


Slylock fox

Granny Squirrel's glass candy jar was shattered on her back porch one hour ago. Shady Shrew insists he couldn't have done it because he's been ice-skating for the last four hours. Slylock Fox says despite his alibi, Shady could be guilty. How is that possible?

Solution - Shady could have filled the candy jar with water before going to the pond. Later, while he was skating, the water would have turned to ice on the cold porch. Because water expands when it freezes it would shatter the glass.





Dear H for H subscriber.

I must apologize for the late release of this issue. We experienced several production difficulties, but now we're back on schedule. Your next issue should arrive in early March. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Michael W. McClure, BSI
Editor