

= Winnie Winkle =

Winnie Winkle is an American comic strip which appeared over a 76 @-@ year span (1920 ? 96) . The strip 's premise was conceived by Joseph Medill Patterson , but the stories and artwork were by Martin Branner , who wrote the strip for over 40 years . Winnie Winkle was one of the first comic strips about working women . The main character Winnie was a young woman who had to support her parents and adopted brother , serving as a reflection of the changing role of women in society . It ran in more than 100 newspapers for several decades , and translations of the strip 's Sunday pages were made available in Europe , focusing on her little brother Perry Winkle and his gang .

Due to its originality and longevity , Winnie Winkle became a household name and an icon , inspiring even Pop Art artist Roy Lichtenstein . Winnie Winkle was reprinted in Dell Comics , and for a time her face appeared on a cigar box lid . In retrospect , Winnie Winkle is seen as one of the comic strips heralding a new , more independent role for American women after World War I.

= = Publication history = =

The Chicago Tribune Syndicate launched the comic strip on September 20 , 1920 . By 1939 , Winnie Winkle was running in more than 140 newspapers . It was titled Winnie Winkle the Breadwinner until 1943 . By 1970 , Winnie Winkle still ran in more than 150 newspapers .

Winnie Winkle ended July 28 , 1996 , after 76 years , one of the longest runs in American comic strip history . Tribune Media Services , the syndicate that distributed the comic strip , " felt that the Winnie Winkle character was not recognized as a contemporary role model for the ' 90s . " At the time , the strip was carried by only a handful of newspapers .

= = Characters and story = =

The eponymous character Winnie Winkle was a young , unmarried woman who had to support her parents , making it the first popular comic strip about working women . It was a reflection of the new role of women in society , as could also be seen in comics such as Tillie the Toiler from 1921 . Writing for the Associated Press in 1993 , Hugh A. Mulligan noted , " After women got the vote and joined the work force , family @-@ centered comics were joined by working @-@ girl strips like Winnie Winkle , Tillie the Toiler , Dixie Dugan , Somebody 's Stenog and Brenda Starr , which was drawn by a woman , Dale Messick . Almost from the beginning , politics and a social conscience hovered over the drawing board . "

During its first years , the daily Winnie Winkle evolved from simple gags to more complex humorous situations . A new character was introduced in the form of Perry , a little boy from the backstreets , whom the Winkles adopted in 1922 . The focus of the Sunday pages then shifted to the adventures of Perry at home , school and on the streets . Although compelled to wear a duffle coat and fancy clothes , he continued to frequent his old neighborhood . The local gang , the Rinkydinks , in contrast , still wore torn and patchy clothing , and were regarded by Winnie as " loafers . " One member of the Rinkydinks was the dunce , Denny Dimwit , who popularized the catch phrase , " Youse is a good boy , Denny . "

Other major plot elements were the 1937 marriage of Winnie to engineer Will Wright and the disappearance of Will during World War II , leaving a pregnant Winnie behind . This realistic and unfortunate situation was too risqué for some newspapers : The Baltimore Sun dropped the strip early in 1941 because of the pregnancy of Winnie . The comic strip changed significantly over the years ; with Winnie working in the fashion industry after the war , seemingly as a widow until her husband returned after a few decades . She took on various other jobs and endeavors over the years , including a stint in the Peace Corps .

= = Artists = =

Branner employed a number of assistants , including Royal King Cole (during the 1930s) , Rolf

Ahlson , Mike Peppe , and Max Van Bibber (1938 ? 1962) . Another assistant was the young French author Robert Velter , who on his return to Europe created the famous series Spirou et Fantasio .

From 1941 until 1958 , Branner 's assistant was John A. Berrill , who later created Gil Thorp . After Branner suffered a stroke in 1962 , Van Bibber continued the series until 1980 , later followed by students from the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art , and finally by veteran artist Frank Bolle . Bolle recalled :

I did Winnie Winkle for 20 years , and when they told me , " You have 90 days to wrap it up , " because they were discontinuing it , I felt terrible , but after I finished it , I didn 't even miss it . I was depressed because I lost a good job , but I just didn 't miss it . Maybe it was the routine of it every week I didn 't miss , but I have a lot of good memories of doing that strip .

= = International spin @-@ offs and translations = =

In 1923 , Winnie 's adopted younger brother Perry Winkle and his friends the Rinkydinks became the focus of the Sunday pages . In Europe , only the Sunday pages were translated . In Holland and France , local artists made new comics about Perry when the number of weekly pages by Branner was no longer sufficient .

The Dutch translated the strip as Sjors van de Rebellenclub which became very popular in the Netherlands , where it was the predecessor of the long @-@ running series Sjors en Sjimmi by Frans Piët .

In France , it was known as Bicot and published by Hachette in 14 albums between 1926 and 1939 .

In Flanders , Belgium the series De Vrolijke Bengels by Willy Vandersteen and De Lustige Kapoentjes by Marc Sleen were directly inspired by this strip .

The Sunday page of Winnie Winkle was the first American comic published in a Yugoslavian daily newspaper , Jutarnji list from Zagreb . It first appeared on August 5 , 1923 , and lasted until April 1941 , the beginning of World War II in that country . Perry , the hero , was renamed " Ivica " (Johnny) , and Winnie " Suzana . " The Rinkydinks were rechristened " Rantanplanci , " allegedly after a group of kids from a contemporary Hollywood film series . The title was Pustolovni Ivica (" Adventurous Johnny ") . A single Christmas episode taking place in Zagreb was published , the work of unknown local authors . Three albums collected the stories published in the newspaper .

= = Films = =

From 1926 to 1928 , ten Winnie Winkle the Breadwinner movies were produced , written by Branner and starring Ethelyn Gibson as Winnie , with Billy West as director .

= = Awards = =

In 1958 , Branner received the National Cartoonists Society 's Humor Comic Strip Division Award for Winnie Winkle .

= = Archives = =

Syracuse University houses the Martin Branner Cartoons collection of 300 original daily cartoons from Winnie Winkle (1920 ? 1957) . There is a complete week from each year represented , with additional random cartoons from each year . (There are no holdings for 1946 ? 47 .) The daily cartoons display traces of graphite , blue pencil , Zip @-@ A @-@ Tone , brush , pen and ink on illustration board measuring approximately 7 ¼ x 22 ½ inches . The Smithsonian 's National Museum of American History has 28 volumes of Branner 's proofs for the strip .