



CELEBRATING THE
INTERNATIONAL
MUSEUM OF
CARTOON ART
COLLECTION



almost every sale. At the same time, the Museum presented more ambitious exhibitions, featuring rare and valuable artwork from private collections. When the *Fantasia* show was over, I decided not to borrow any more artwork until the Museum's security was upgraded.

After more than a decade in Ward's Castle, we were becoming increasingly aware of its limitations. The building continued to deteriorate and we did not have the funds for ongoing restorations.



Chester Gould, 1900-1985.
Dick Tracy.
April 7, 1957.
Detail.

Opposite page:
Frederick Burr Opper,
1857-1937.
Happy Hooligan.
July 3, 1909.

started talking to town officials. Other groups, including the Stamford Historical Society, also expressed interest in using this space. Word leaked out about our negotiations and we were soon approached by the city of Norwalk, Connecticut. They were seeking a public institution to take over an old warehouse next to the Maritime Center in South Norwalk, which was struggling to attract visitors. They thought the Museum might be the answer to their problems. Not long after meetings were held to investigate the possibility of moving to Norwalk, one of the Museum's members called from Florida. He told us that Palm Beach County was anxious to attract cultural institutions to the area. A contingent of Museum representatives took a trip to Florida to look at sites in Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton.

Mort officially announced the board of directors' decision to move the Museum to Florida in January 1991. The site that was chosen, Mizner Park in Boca Raton, was a multi-use development that included upscale shops, restaurants, a movie theater, a book store, offices and condominiums. An acre of land at the south end of the palm-lined esplanade was leased to the Museum for \$1 a year. The new building, which would be built in the style of architect Addison Mizner with pink stucco walls and a

The neighbors, who had built new homes on the 6.5 acres surrounding the castle which was originally part of the Ward estate, were complaining about the crowds that were flocking to the Museum. Although we were in the New York metropolitan area, we knew we could get even more traffic and press coverage if we were in an urban location. On January 4, 1989, the nearby city of Stamford, Connecticut announced that they were planning to create a museum in the Old Town Hall, which had been vacant for many years. My father thought we should consider moving there.

We looked at the building, which needed extensive repairs, and

Why does our friend Hooligan again
and he hasn't changed a bit!

