

POPEYE- The underdog with bulging forearms, a mean uppercut and a love for canned spinach, this iconic hero was inspired by a Chester native, Frank “Rocky” Fiegel. Elzie C. Segar replicated his “tough to the finish” neighbor when he designed the one-eyed sailor and introduced him to the readers of his Thimble Theatre comic strip in 1929. Does Popeye love Olive Oyl more than spinach? The debate continues!!!

WIMPY- J. Wellington Wimpy is the world’s most notorious hamburger-obsessed moocher. Although a friend to Popeye, his deceptive tactics to secure nourishment often caused many problems for his friends. The likeness for this character was patterned after Chester’s Opera House owner, William “Windy Bill” Schuchert ... who also happened to be the young Elzie Segar’s boss!

OLIVE OYL, SWEE’ PEA and the JEEP- Olive Oyl is Popeye’s “sometimes” flighty, flirty girlfriend. Her looks were borrowed from another Chester local that Segar knew well, a general store owner named Dora Paskel. Swee’Pea is Popeye’s adopted “infink”, and proved quite a handful to raise. The Jeep is a magical creature with strange powers.

BLUTO- This hard-headed brute is always trying to ruin Popeye’s life and steal Olive’s affections.

CASTOR OYL & WHIFFLE HEN- Castor Oyl is Olive’s “little” brother, and it was his 1929 adventure with Bernice, the Whiffle Hen, that motivated Segar to add Popeye to the cast. Shortly after his first appearance, Popeye and Castor bought a detective agency and they continued to solve cases together until Segar’s death in 1938.

SEA HAG & BERNARD- The evil Sea Hag is both a witch and pirate, and became one of Popeye’s early antagonists. She uses a magical flute for some of her spells, and to control her main ally, the vulture, Bernard.

COLE OYL- Cole is the father of Olive and Castor, and the husband to Nana. His appearance owes its inspiration to Chester’s early 1900s patriarch Charles Briggs Cole.

ALICE the GOON & her child- Originally introduced as a fearsome monster, Popeye almost tossed Alice off a cliff before realizing that she was a mother ... her child’s appearance saved her life. She had been under the spell of the evil Sea Hag. Alice quickly became one of Popeye’s closest friends and allies.

POOPDECK PAPPY- Popeye’s father is a crusty, cantankerous old sailor that liked to pretend he did not like his son, but he would help when things got rough, although it was his sneaky schemes that would often have created the problems initially.

PROFESSOR O. G. WOTASNOZZLE – This creation personified Elzie Segar’s interest in science fiction, but the Professor never quite got his inventions to a successful or marketable stage.

ROUGHHOUSE – He is the much beleaguered café chef and owner of the diner where Wimpy’s infamous pledge was oft repeated, “I’ll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!”

POPEYE’S FOUR NEPHEWS- Pipeye, Peepeye, Poopeye and Pupeye were first introduced as Popeye’s look-alike “children” in Olive’s dream sequence, but soon returned and assumed their roles as the quarrelsome quadruplet nephews of the one-eyed sailor.

KING BLOZO- As the ineffectual ruler of Nazilia, he was often seeking detective Popeye’s help in restoring order to his kingdom. Blozo was always worrying about everything, even when things were going his way!

NANA OYL- Nana is the mother of Olive and Castor, and the long-suffering wife of Cole Oyl. She and her family are the original cast of Segar’s Thimble Theatre ... over nine years before Popeye joined the troupe.

POPEYE’S PUPS- Snits and Fido are early canine cohorts of the Thimble Theatre thespians. Hy Eisman, the current artist in charge of the Popeye newspaper comic strip, named Chester the dog as a tribute to Segar’s hometown.

SHERLOCK & SEGAR- Elzie Segar had a compelling passion for the literary detective, Sherlock Holmes. He introduced hundreds of deerstalkered detectives into Thimble Theatre, and in the mid-1930s, was working on a stand-alone Sherlockian detective release when he passed at the young age of 43. His new project was never pursued by Hearst Syndicate. We have clothed our statue of Segar in the full regalia of his favorite sleuth in honor of his ardency and unfinished work.

TOAR- The 20,000 year old caveman debuted as Popeye’s foe but soon became one of his most trusted friends.

HAROLD HAM GRAVY- Ham is one of the four characters to be introduced in the first published Thimble Theatre cartoon on Dec. 19, 1919. He was the on-and-off-again boyfriend of Olive Oyl, and was quickly written out of the script once Popeye arrived on the scene.

OSCAR- Often used for extra comic relief, Oscar was Popeye’s balding, buck-toothed friend whose help always seemed a bit less than helpful! **Coming in 2022**

POPEYE & FRIENDS CHARACTER TRAIL

Chester, IL



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|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Popeye (1977) | CHESTER BRIDGE | 9. Poopdeck Pappy (2013) | COHEN COMPLEX |
| 2. Wimpy (2006) | GAZEBO PARK | 10. Prof. Wotasznozzle (2014) | CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL |
| 3. Olive, Swee'Pea & Eugene the Jeep (2007) | RANDOLPH COUNTY COURTHOUSE | 11. Roughhouse (2015) | REID'S HARVEST HOUSE |
| 4. Bluto (2008) | BUENA VISTA BANK | 12. Four Nephews (2016) | CHESTER GRADE SCHOOL |
| 5. Castor Oyl & Whiffle Hen (2009) | CHESTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL | 13. King Blozo (2017) | MUNICIPAL BUILDING |
| 6. Sea Hag & Bernard (2010) | WAL-MART/ MCDONALDS | 14. Nana Oyl (2018) | MANOR AT CRAIG FARM |
| 7. Cole Oyl (2011) | CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY | 15. Popeye's Pups (2019) | CHESTER FIREHOUSE |
| 8. Alice the Goon & her Child (2012) | CHESTER CENTER ON ROUTE 3 | 16. Sherlock & Segar (2019) | BASKERVILLE HALL |
| | | 17. Toar (2020) | ST. NICHOLAS LANDMARK |
| | | 18. Harold HamGravy (2021) | FKGC LAW OFFICE |
| | | 19. Oscar (2022) | COLE MEMORIAL PARK |

For more information please click the Popeye Trail tab at www.baskervilleproductions.com



ELZIE CRISLER SEGAR was born December 8, 1894 in Chester, Illinois. He worked as a youth at the local Opera House and showed an early talent for illustrating. He took a mail order cartooning course and eventually joined Hearst Syndicate as an artist. Segar created "THIMBLE THEATRE" under their tutelage ... a comic strip that featured cartoon characters posing as "actors" in daily skits. Eventually the strip centered upon the misadventures of the Oyl family until Popeye took center stage following his Jan. 17, 1929 debut. Elzie Segar passed away on Oct. 13, 1938 at the young age of 43. His incredible legacy has grown to a Guinness World Record holding phenomena of iconic proportions!

Each year a new granite statue is added to the Popeye & Friends Character Trail. To keep current with the Character Trail visit www.baskervilleproductions.com and click the Popeye Trail tab.

Check out Popeye's Fall Festival held in October www.chesterill.com