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**BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES**  
(By Thornton W. Burgess)  
Always for the ones who wait. Something happens soon or late. —Old Mother Nature.

Something was about to happen. Musky the Mountain Beaver knew it. Mrs. Musky knew it. They didn't know how they knew it. They just did. It was a feeling. It was a queer feeling, a scary sort of feeling. It made them want to run away and hide in their

**Contract Bridge**  
By Josephine Culbertson

**CONCERNING FINESSES**  
It is a curious fact that many players take finesse which are quite unnecessary, but shy away from other finesse which may be vital. Consider this case:

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

♠	Q 8 5 5	♠	7 2
♥	A Q	♥	J 5 7 2
♦	A K 6 2	♦	J
♣	8 4	♣	Q 10 8

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass  
2♥ Pass 4NT Pass  
3♦ Pass 5NT Pass  
6♣ Pass 6♣ Pass

underground home, yet it made them want to stay to see what it was that would happen. They were too frightened to stay and too curious not to. Perhaps they have had that kind of a mixed feeling.

For the first time in their lives they were seeing Bugler the Elk, next to Plathorn the Moose the largest of the Deer family. They hadn't dreamed that anyone could be so big. Before this they never had seen anyone larger than Yachtport the Deer. Now they had the feeling of having themselves suddenly grow small. Watching this great neighbor strutting and showing off how big and handsome and strong and unafraid of anyone or anything he was made them feel no bigger than Danny Meadow Mouse instead of being about the size of Jerry Muskrat as they really were. Bugler had pawed the ground, tearing it up, with his hoofs. He had beaten down bushes and very young trees with his great antlers. He had boasted. Yes, sir, he had boasted that he was afraid of no one, and in the pride of his size and his strength and his many pointed great antlers he had bugled a challenge to any one within hearing. Of course he didn't really blow a bugle, but the high clear notes of his voice as he dared any one to fight him sounded much like a bugle and could be heard a long way.

At first there had been no reply. Then most unexpectedly a reply had been bugled from not so far away. It had ended in a deep grunt. It was right then that Musky and Mrs. Musky felt that scary something-about-to-happen feeling and wanted to both run away and yet stay. They glared at each other, those two big members of the Deer family called Elk by white folks, but Wapiti by the Indians. That really is the best name. They bent their heads so that all the points of their great antlers were pointing forward, those of each pointing straight at the other.

Big as Bugler was, and he really was big, the other was just as big, perhaps a little bigger. Anyway it seemed so to the two furry watchers.

"What are they going to do?" whispered Mrs. Musky.

"Fight," Musky whispered back. He was trembling, but it was more from excitement than fear at each other. They bent their heads so that all the points of their great antlers were pointing forward, those of each pointing straight at the other.

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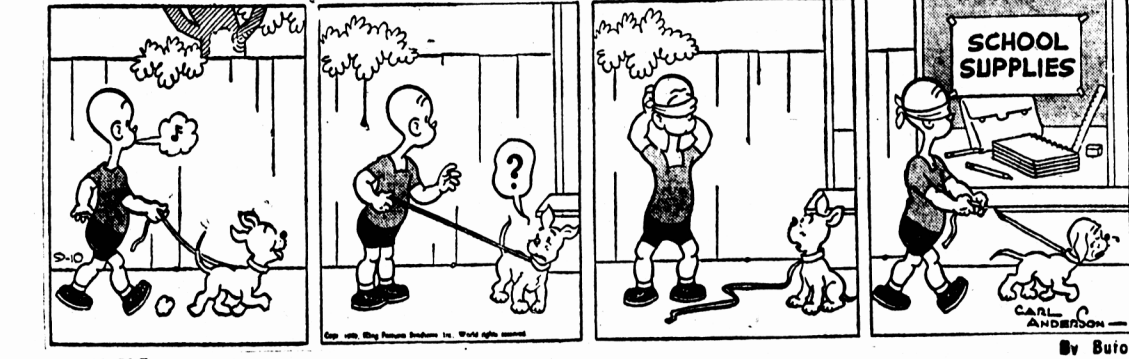
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**L'L ABNER**  
By AL CAPP

**RIP KIRBY**  
By Alex Raymond

North should have responded first with three diamonds, but it is probable that the same spade contract would have been reached.

If West had happened to lead a club, declarer would have been virtually forced to play the hand correctly, but, luckily for his own side, West chose to attack in the heart suit. After studying dummy for a moment, South saw nothing to be gained by finessing the heart queen, so he put up the ace, drew two rounds of trumps, then set out to establish the diamond suit. Obviously, he thought that he would give up a trick in that suit, and then discard his two losing clubs on the fourth and fifth diamonds. He was in for a rude shock when East showed out and it became known that West had two stoppers. Nothing could now save South from losing a diamond and a club.

South was a bit hasty, and guilty of superficial reasoning, when he declined to take the heart finesse at Trick 11. What harm could it do to play the heart queen, even if it lost to the king? Certainly, neither defender could have a singleton heart — the other, holding nine hearts in that case, presumably would have made some bid! So, to repeat, even if the finesse lost it would cost nothing. South could always discard a loser (a diamond) on the heart ace. With the heart finesse actually winning, South would not be distressed by the diamond break. He would get one discard on the heart ace, and another on the long diamond he could so easily establish.

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