



(By Thornton W. Burgess)

OF ALL THINGS!

To every one it should be clear That each to some one else is queer.

—Old Mother Nature.

Striped Chipmunk sat on his favorite stone in the top of the old stonewall along one side of the Old Orchard. He was listening. Someone was down among the bushes that grew beside the old wall. He could hear a rustling of dry leaves on the ground, but he couldn't see who was rustling them. This was something to be looked into. Probably it was no one of whom he need be afraid, but it could be. If it was he should know it. It always is wise to know just whom you have for neighbors.

So Striped Chipmunk quietly made his way along the old wall until he reached a place where he could peep out from between two stones and see who was making those dry leaves rustle. It was Cresty the Flycatcher.

"So it is you," said Striped Chipmunk, hopping up in plain sight on top of the wall.

"Yes replied Cresty "In so far as I know it is me. Have you any objections?"

"None whatever. I heard you but couldn't see you. I was afraid you might be Mr. Blacksnake. I don't like that fellow," replied Striped Chipmunk.

"Has he been around here lately?" asked Cresty hopefully. Anyway he sounded hopeful to Striped Chipmunk.

"I haven't seen him so far this spring, ad I don't want to see him. Striped Chipmunk spoke sharply. There was no doubt whatever that he meant just what he said.

Cresty looked disappointed. He was disappointed. "Then I guess he hasn't been here," he sighed, then added: "You probably would know if it he had. He likes an old stone wall. Have you seen any of his cousins, the Green Snakes, the Garter Snakes, the Milk Snakes, Bluffer the Adder?"

"No I haven't, and what is more I don't want to see any of them," Striped Chipmunk interrupted. "I don't like any of the family. They give me an uncomfortable feeling. What do you want of them?" he added.

Cresty didn't answer that question. "Of course, if they haven't been here they haven't left anything here. They couldn't have and I'm just wasting my time looking," said Cresty.

Striped Chipmunk looked puzzled. "What could they have left here if they had been here?" he asked.

"One of them could have left his skin here, couldn't he?" retorted Cresty as if he thought that question was a foolish one. Then he added: "Of course, I mean his old skin when he changed it for a new one."

"Oh," said Striped Chipmunk. "I didn't think of that. They do leave their old skins around, don't they? I have found one once or twice."

"This year?" asked Cresty eagerly.

"I told you that I haven't seen any of the Snake family this year."



"So it is you," said Striped Chipmunk, hopping up in plain sight on top of the wall

It was last year and the year before that I found those skins. But what do you want of their skins? cried Striped Chipmunk.

"I don't want more than one. A little one would do, or a piece if a big one like that of Mr. Blacksnake," replied Cresty. "Even a little piece of one would be better than none," he added.

"But what do you want it for?" persisted Striped Chipmunk. "What would you do with it if you had it?"

"I would take it home and surprise Mrs. Cresty. She would be so pleased," replied Cresty.

"But what would she do with it?" Striped Chipmunk was still puzzled.

"Use it in our nest of course. That is all it needs," replied Cresty.

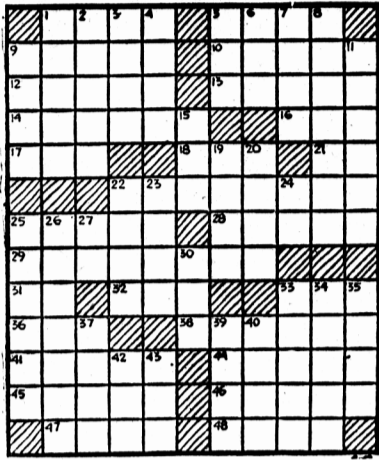
"Well, of all things!" exclaimed Striped Chipmunk. "The next story: 'The Word Gets Around.'"

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1. Clever 5. Seaport (Holland) 9. Kind of dog 10. Enchanting 12. Like an old woman 13. Partly melted snow 14. Rested lastly 16. Greek letter 17. Before 18. Slots 21. Part of "to be" 22. Steadfast 25. Happen 28. An unexpected lurch 29. Revoked 31. Erbium (sym.) 32. Cunning 33. Body of water 36. Devoured 38. A kind of small centipede 41. Ventured 44. English author 45. Sores slightly 46. Strong wine 47. Inert, gaseous element 48. River (Ger.) DOWN 1. A giver 2. Banishment 3. Dropped



Yesterday's Answer



CRYPTOQUOTE—A cryptogram quotation. ETML RLZ OU ORL EUV UK DOUZAR ORL FTEROSTSE ISV ORL EIFL—RUFALD. Yesterday's Cryptoquote: "OPRESSED BY MULTITUDE, THE BEST MAY FALL—POPE. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Quickies

By Ken Reynolds



"There goes another shoe—I tell you that vacuum cleaner you got with a Guardian Want Ad is too powerful!"

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

THE BETTER CHANCE

It is a too-common sight to see a declarer pin his hopes to a certain finesse, when, by exploiting the possibilities in a different suit, he would have doubled or even tripled his chances. Today's deal offers a typical illustration of the wrong and the right approach.

Bridge deal information including South dealer, Both sides vulnerable, and card distributions for South and North.

The bidding: South West North East 1NT Pass 2NT Pass

West opened his fourth-highest heart, and South won with the jack. Now, apparently in a great hurry to find out whether the spade suit broke, declarer cashed the ace and dummy's king-queen. Both opponents followed suit for three rounds, thus establishing dummy's fourth spade, which declarer promptly proceeded to cash, discarding a diamond from his own hand. After much thought he then decided that his best chance for nine tricks was to finesse against the club jack, so he led a low club from dummy and put in the ten-spot. He never recovered from that bit of miscalculation! West won and laid down the heart king. Declarer won and led the club nine to the king. East took his ace and shifted to a low diamond, and now the best declarer could do was cash the diamond ace and the club queen for the seventh and eighth tricks. The vital ninth trick was not to be found.

Obviously, South staked his chances on a successful finesse against the club jack. How much more logical it would have been to try for at least two diamond tricks! Declarer's diamond holding was such that if either or both the king and queen were in East's hand, successive finesses toward the A.J.10 would produce at least two tricks. Declarer had only a 50 per cent chance to guess the club jack, but it was a 3 to 1 that at least one diamond honor would be under the A.J.10.

ANTI-SKID

If lemon quarters slide over the plate when you use them with fish cut off the corners and they will stay put.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Major Hoople



RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond



KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



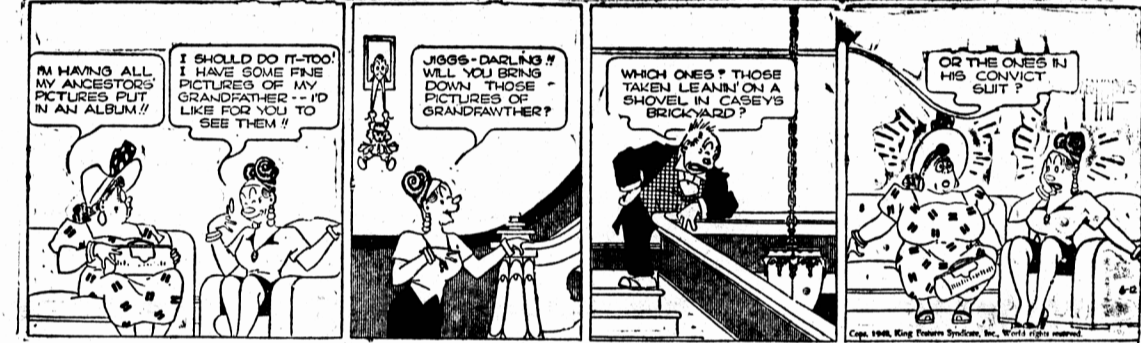
DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Buford



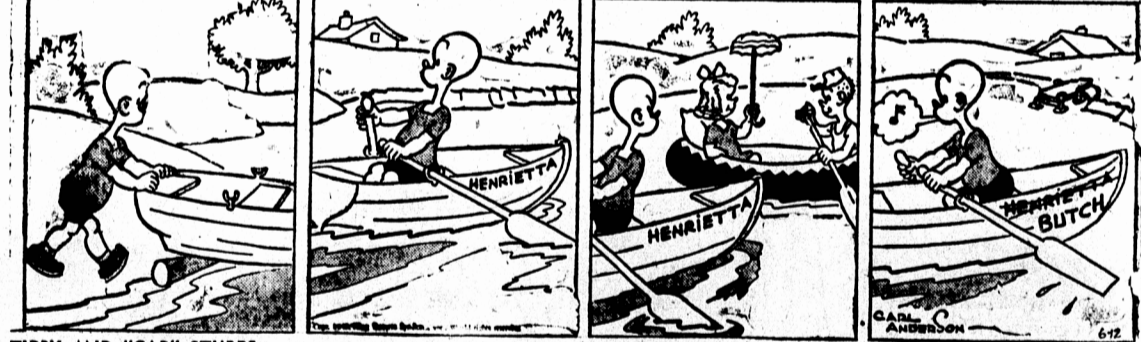
BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBBS

By Edwin



TILLIE THE TOILER

By W. Foster



PENNY

By Harry Koenigsberg

