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BATT & McRAE

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

LONGLEGS GETS A BREAKFAST

The universal law of life is one of seeming endless strife. — Old Mother Nature.

Redwing the Blackbird stopped singing to watch Longlegs the Heron wade ashore. "Did you hear what he said?" Redwing asked Mrs. Redwing, who was looking around in the rushes at the head of the Smiling Pool trying to make up her mind whether they should build their nest there or in the near by alders.



"He said something about going hunting. My dear, where do you think we should build our nest? I just can't make up my mind," said Mrs. Redwing. It was clear that she was not interested in Longlegs the Heron.

"Don't ask me. You know very well that that nest will be just where you want it to be. What I may think will have nothing to do with the matter," replied Redwing a bit testily. "I don't think he had had any breakfast," he added.

"Who?" asked Mrs. Redwing with an absent air.

"Longlegs the Heron," cried Redwing impatiently. "He didn't catch a thing while he was here, and it wasn't because he didn't have patience."

"Fisherman's luck. I'm glad we don't have to depend on catching fish for our food. I think I'll look those alders over once more," replied Mrs. Redwing.

"Now he has gone ashore. Said he was going hunting. Said he was a fisherman, not a hunter. Do you suppose he really meant it?" said Redwing as if Mrs. Redwing hadn't spoken.

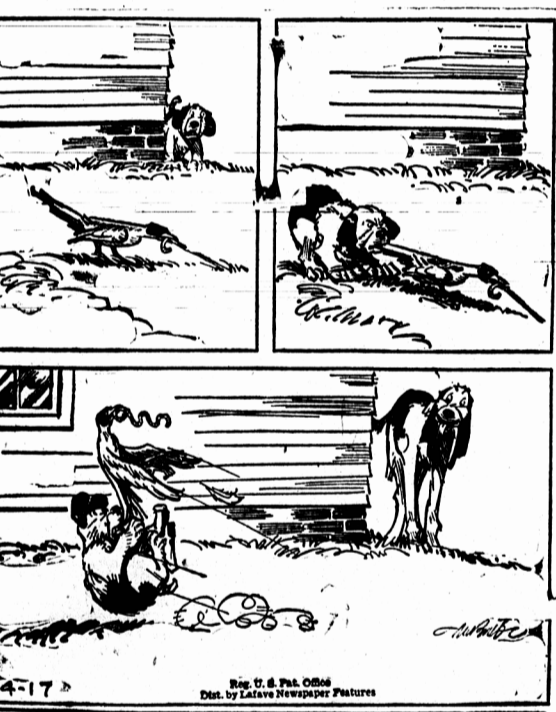
There was no reply. Mrs. Redwing was over in the alders. It was plain that she didn't care a flit of a feather whether Longlegs was a fisherman or a hunter or both. She had more important things to think about. Redwing flew over to the tallest alder and perched on the very top where he could look over the Green Meadows. Longlegs had left the bank of the Smiling Pool and was walking out on the Green Meadows. "I believe he did mean it," thought Redwing. "If he hunts the way he fishes, just standing still and waiting, I guess it will be a long time before he gets his breakfast. He'll find that Mice are not likely to come his way as fish so often do. He'll have to go where they are, hunt for them."

That was exactly what Longlegs was doing. Redwing had often seen him walking along the edge of the water watching for Frogs. He never hurried. Each step was taken slowly and carefully so as not to alarm a Frog before getting within striking distance. He was walking now in just that same careful way through the grass of the Green Meadows, his head held a little higher than when he was looking for Frogs. This was so that he could see better in the grass ahead of him. Now and then he stood still for a moment, looking and perhaps listening for the faint rattle made by tiny feet.

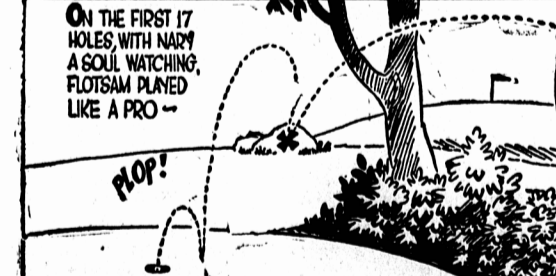
For several minutes nothing happened. Then Longlegs took three quick long steps such as only such long legs as his could take, his long neck straightened to its full length as he struck out and down with his long bill.

"I wonder if he caught one!"

napoleon and Uncle Elby By Clifford MacBride



THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW! By Fagaly and Shorten



BUT ON THE 18TH RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CLUBHOUSE...



TIP KIRBY



Contract Bridge By Josephine Colburn

"A MIND WITH BUT A SINGLE THOUGHT"

The contract in today's deal was lost because declarer had only one thought—to draw trumps.

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. North-South 60 on score.

♠ 6 3 2	♥ A 10 9	♦ Q J	♣ Q 10 8 5 4
♠ A 8	♥ 8 4	♦ N	♣ K 7 5
♠ 9 8 4	♥ 5	♦ W	♣ 3
♠ A K 9 7	♥ 6 2	♦ S	♣ K 10 7 6
♠ 6 2	♥	♦ E	♣ 4 3
♠	♥	♦ K J 10 9 4	♣
♠	♥	♦ 8 7 2	♣
♠	♥	♦ A 5 3 2	♣
♠	♥	♦ J	♣

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Dble.	2♦	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass

West opened the club king, but when he saw the dummy, quickly shifted to the heart queen. Declarer ducked, but won the heart continuation with the ace. Now, obviously with the thought of getting out the trumps with as little loss as possible, declarer led a spade from dummy and finessed against the queen. West did not delay in taking his ace, and then for want of a better return, he led back the spade eight.

This let declarer capture East's spade queen, but he was still a long way from success. He led a low diamond to the jack. East won, determined to prevent diamond ruffing, returned his last trump. That was South's undoing. He could not avoid losing another diamond trick and the low heart he still had, and this was one trick too many.

South's first consideration, upon taking the lead with the heart ace, should have been diamonds, not trumps. The right play from dummy at that point was the diamond queen. If it lost, the diamond jack would be another entry for the lead of trumps, and a diamond ruff would both save a trick and produce a third entry. On the lead of the diamond queen it would not matter whether or not East covered; declarer could hold his loss in that suit to one trick at most, and his total losses to one spade, two hearts, one diamond and one club. Thus, he would have fulfilled the contract which meant a vulnerable game.

By Alex Raymond

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTAIN By Zane Grey



JOE PALOOKA By Ham Fisher



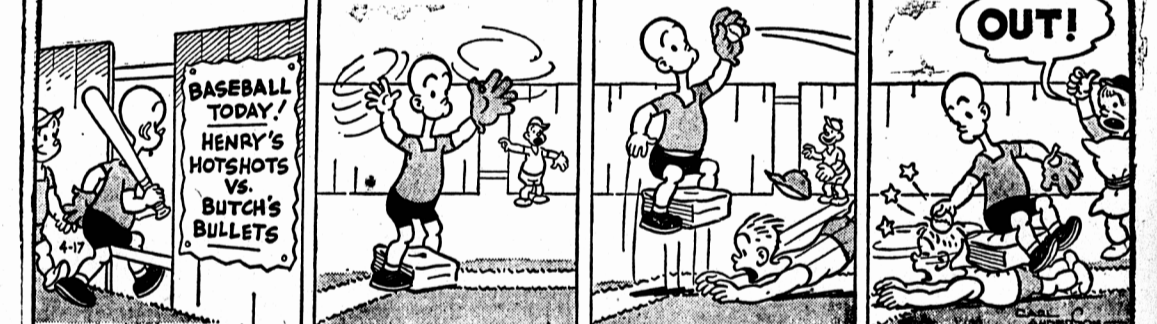
DOTTY DRIPPLE By Bufon



BRINGING UP FATHER By George McManis



HENRY By Carl Anderson



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBBS By Eowin



TILLIE THE TOILER By Webster



PENNY By Harry Hoenigson

