

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

Each has his own peculiar needs That Mother Nature always heeds. —Peter Rabbit.

"I guess Mother Nature always knows," remarked Peter Rabbit. "Knows what?" barked Chatterer the Red Squirrel. "What is best," said Peter as if that explained everything. "Best for what? Best for whom?" barked Chatterer sharply. He sounded a bit impatient and a little provoked. He is naturally impatient and loses his temper easily. "Best for everybody," replied Peter mildly.



"Well, what about tails?" barked Chatterer

"So you guess that. Don't you know it?" scolded Chatterer. He loves to scold, loves the sound of his own voice. That is about all his scolding really amounts to. There are many folks just like him. Their scolding sounds a lot worse than it is. "I was thinking about tails," said Peter. "Well, what about tails," barked Chatterer. "I wouldn't want one like yours," said Peter. "What's the matter with my tail?" demanded Chatterer angrily. "Nothing," replied Peter hastily. "Nothing at all. I guess it is a very good tail—for you. But it wouldn't do at all for me."

"And goodness knows that little bunch of hair you call a tail wouldn't do for me. I should say not! I would rather have no tail at all than one like that," retorted Chatterer. "Wouldn't you look funny without a tail?" chuckled Peter, then hastened to add, "but I guess I would look just as funny with a tail like yours, and I wouldn't know what to do with it. I suppose it is just what you need and that is why Mother Nature gave it to you."

"I wouldn't trade it for any other tail I've ever seen," declared Chatterer. "Not even for that lovely big bushy tail of your cousin, Happy Jack the Gray Squirrel? He uses it the same way you use yours, you know," said Peter. "That! Wouldn't I look pretty with a tail like that! I would be all tall," retorted Chatterer scornfully. "I would be no better off with a big tail like that than with a foolish-looking tail like yours. I don't want any bigger tail than I've got it. It is tall enough, yet not too much tall. It is exactly right for my needs."

"That's what I meant when I said that Old Mother Nature knows best. She knew your special needs and gave you a special tail to meet them. I suppose it is just so with everybody. What one needs another may not need at all, but in turn may have needs that the other doesn't have at all," explained Peter. Chatterer chuckled. "What special need have you for that fuzzy thing you like to think is a tail?" he asked. Peter hesitated an instant. "It has its uses," said he. "You don't say," teased Chatterer.

"You saw that Fox try to catch me a while ago. My white tail was what he saw best, and he jumped for it and missed because it was too short for him to get hold of. If I had had a long tail he might have grabbed it. If I had had no tail at all he would have sprung at me and might have caught me. In the dark Mrs. Peter and I can keep track of each other by our tails because they are white and can be seen when no other part of us can. And the children, when they are little, can follow their mother and each other in the dark by their white tails. If that isn't meeting special needs I don't know what is," declared Peter sharply. He was tired of being teased about his funny, fluffy little tail. "See who's coming!" Chatterer broke in.

It was Lightfoot the Deer. He had lost his wonderful crown of ward, many-pointed antlers, or

horns, as so many folks persist in calling them. He had held his head proudly when he had them. Now in their place a new crown was growing, a brown, furry, clumsy-looking thing with thick rounded ends instead of sharp, hard points. Lightfoot no longer looked proud. "Lightfoot and Mrs. Lightfoot have short white tails, too. They are easy to follow, aren't they, Lightfoot?" said Peter.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

HORRIBLE DEFENSE

East made a shrewd penalty double in today's deal, but his partner's almost incredibly bad defense ruined everything.

"South Dealer. Neither side vulnerable."

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

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1♣ Dbl (!) Pass
2NT Pass Pass Dble.
Pass Pass Pass

It takes courage for a player to double a less-than-game contract, holding only an ace and a king in high cards, but East was sure that there had been something psychic about the opponents' bidding, and of course he was right! North's takeout double of one club had been so weak as to constitute almost a psychic.

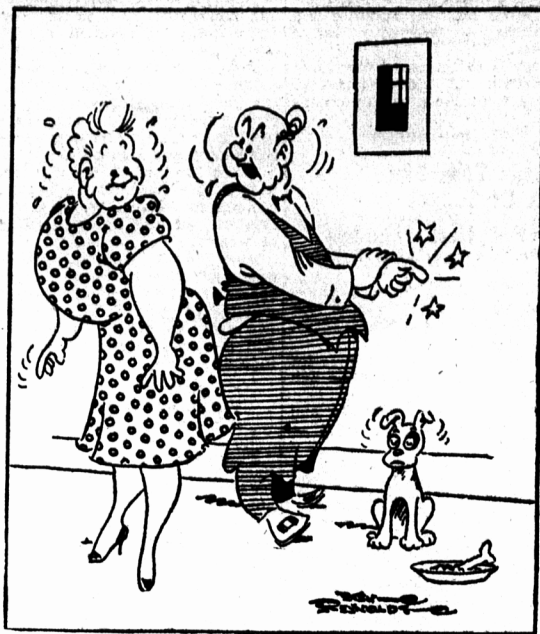
West opened the club deuce—a doubtful choice, but one which should not have been costly. East's jack was taken by declarer, who then blandly returned the club three toward dummy. West gave his right-hand opponent a suspicious glance and then ducked! The club eight won, and East discarded the diamond deuce. Now a club to the queen knocked out West's ace.

West was probably in a panic over his own failure to put up the club nine at the second trick — at least, his next play seemed evidence that he was not quite calm! He laid down the king of spades! When he then led the spade jack, successful defense was no longer possible, and South, to his own astonishment, found himself with a game for having made the doubled contract.

Perfect defense in this deal, involving West's taking the club nine when able and shifting to the spade eight, with East winning and returning a diamond, was rather difficult, but almost any sensible defense would have beaten the contract at least two tricks.

QUICKIES

BY KEN REYNOLDS



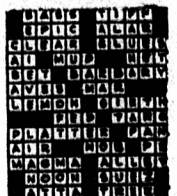
"This dog we got with a Guardian Want Ad is smart alright—said he was already like one of the family, and he bit me!"

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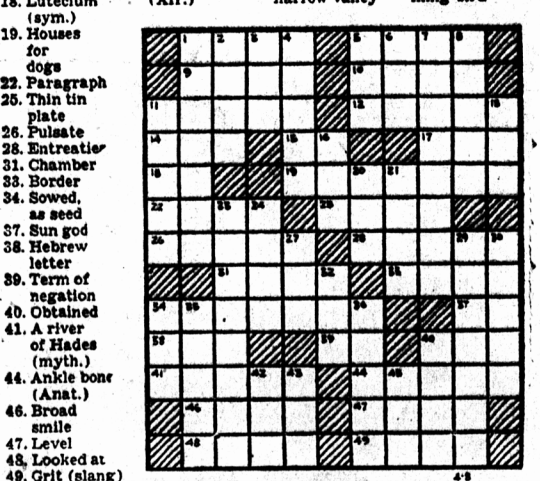
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DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1. Java tree, 6. Healing ointment, 9. Silk waste, 10. One of the Great Lakes, 11. Tally, 12. Flavor, 14. Small explosive sound, 15. Type measure, 17. Sailor (colloq.), 18. Luteicum (sym.), 19. Houses for dogs, 22. Paragraph, 23. Thin tin plate, 26. Pulate, 28. Entreatie, 31. Chamber, 33. Sowed, as seed, 37. Sun god, 38. Hebrew letter, 39. Term of negation, 40. Obtained, 41. A river of Hades (myth.), 44. Ankle bone (Anat.), 46. Broad smile, 47. Level, 48. Looked at, 49. Grit (slang)
- DOWN: 1. Unrefined, 2. A ship's deck, 3. Smooth, 4. Wager, 5. Constellation, 7. Harkened, 8. Mettle, 11. Cleave, 13. Bitter vetch, 16. Encountered, 20. Short sleep, 21. River (Afr.), 23. Conduct characteristic of knights-errant, 24. Satellite of the earth, 27. Larva of beetle, 29. Stranded, 30. Chairs, 32. Male adult, 34. C'm on, 35. Faithful, 36. Is foolishly fond of, 38. Secluded narrow valley, 43. Stated, 45. Conclude, 48. Topaz humming-bird



Yesterday's Answer



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X E
I S L O N G F E L L O W
One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
A Cryptogram Quotation
F Q R X U X H T R Y O G L R Y O J Y B R X I R
Y U I G O R I H O R T M F Y C Q F L Y C Y X J -
Q Z L U P R.
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HENCE THE UNHAPPY REPORT IS COMMUNICATED THROUGH ALL THE CITY—VIR—
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By Ham Fisher



By Zane Grey



By Buford



By George McManus



By Carl Anderson



By Edwin



By Westcott



By Harry Hoehnigen

L'L ABNER



By AL CAPP



By Alex Raymond



By Kirby



By Alex Raymond



By Westcott



By Harry Hoehnigen