BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(by Thornton W. Burgess)

The pipers pipe, the Robins sing,
And drummers drum to welcome spring.

—Peter Rabbit.

Peter Rabbit has spring fever. Everybody, at least everybody in the country, has spring fever at this time of year. It is catching. It is so catching that you may catch it from the Jolly Little Sunbeams, or the Merry Little Breezes, or from little sounds, happy little sounds, from everywhere. Peter has caught it from all of them, and from no one or nothing at all. He usually feels it first in his heels, his long narrow heels. It was so now. He couldn't keep them still. No, sir, he couldn't. They took him lipperty, lipperty, lip over to the Smiling Pool to listen to the happy pipers there. Peeper the Hyla and his friends. Then his long heels took Peter over to the Green Forest.

At the edge of the alder swamp at the head of the Smiling Pool he stopped to listen to the "Tra-la-la-lee" of Redwing the Blackbird. He stopped again farther on at the edge of the Green Forest to listen to the "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up, cheer!" of Welcome Robin in the top of one of the tallest trees.

"Listening to that how could anybody help but cheer up?" thought Peter. Then he kicked up his heels in his funny way and went on.

He had gone but a little way when he met his big cousin, Jumper the Hare. "Hello, Cousin Peter! How do you do?" cried Jumper.

"I've got spring fever," replied Peter.

"Who hasn't?" retorted Jumper.

Then both kicked up their long heels in the most foolish manner. Any one seeing them would have known that they had spring fever. Happy foolishness is one of the sure signs of this catching fever of early spring.

"Rat-a-tat-tat-tat. Rat.a.tat-tat.tat.tat.tat.tat." Drummer the Woodpecker was drumming as only he can when he finds a drum to suit him. "Rat.a.tat.tat.tat.tat." The sound of that drumming was carrying far through the Green forest and out over the Green Meadows.

"He's drumming a welcome to Mistress Spring. I wish I could drum like that," said Peter wistfully.

"You can thump, can't you? You can make it mean the same thing. Drumming is only thumping very fast. When Drummer drums like that everybody knows it is for love and happiness because Mistress Spring is here," said Jumper. He thumped the ground with a long hind foot. "And when I thump like that those who hear it know that I do it for the same reason. Anyway Mrs. Jumper does, and she is all I care about."

"Listen!" cried Peter. "There's a real drummer! I suppose he is drumming for love and happiness." It was Thunderer the Ruffed Grouse. The sound came rolling out from deeper in the Green Forest. It began with slow beats that quickened and quickened until they became a long roll like distant thunder.

"Of course he is drumming for love and happiness," agreed Jumper. "And for Mrs. Grouse and Mistress Spring and the joy of living," he added.

Drummer the Woodpecker rested. So did Thunderer the Grouse. It was very still there in the Green Forest. The stillness was broken by a faint, soft sound that caused Peter to prick up his ears. Someone was drumming. There was no doubt about that. It was very soft drumming but it was drumming. There was no doubt at all about it.

"Whitefoot the Wood Mouse," said Jumper. "He does it with his front feet."

"He must have spring fever too," said Peter.

"I don't know about that. He does it at other times, just as you and I thump at other times. Perhaps we thump, to warn or signal others. And it may be he is doing it now because he really is happy like the rest of us because Mistress Spring is here. I don't know," said Jumper.

"Anyway he is a drummer," said Peter.

"And it is spring!" cried Jumper, and thumped so fast with his hind feet that he was almost drumming himself.

They both kicked up their long heels in the most foolish manner

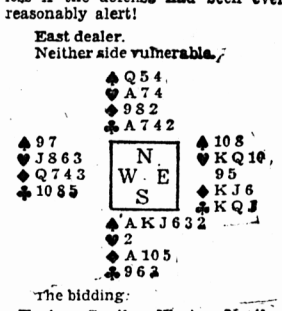
Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BAD BIDDING, BUT WORSE DEFENSE

South misused a valuable bid in today's deal and as a consequence reached a hopeless contract. That is, it would have been hopeless if the defense had been even reasonably alert!

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.



The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♥	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South's jump overcall was not justified by his holding. This bid is used by experts to announce a hand which requires only a little support from partner to make a game — a hand containing at the very least seven reasonably sure tricks, with the greater likelihood that it will produce eight tricks. Obviously, South could not count his spade suit as solid and therefore should have been content to overcall with one spade. Had he done this, North would not have raised so enthusiastically, and the partnership might well have stayed out of the game which had so little chance to succeed.

Actually, however, it did succeed because of East's short-sightedness. West opened the heart three, which was a clear announcement that he held four cards in the suit. (It was not likely that the three-spot was a singleton and that South had four hearts!) The heart ace was played from dummy and South drew two rounds of trumps. He then led and passed a club. East won and without thinking, laid down a high heart, South ruffed and passed another club. Now it was too late for East to shift to diamonds—the 3-3 break in the club suit gave declarer the discard he needed so urgently.

Surely, East had ample warning about the clubs in this case, and just as surely he should have shifted immediately to diamonds. If his partner did not have the diamond queen, that was just too bad from East's point of view!

KEEPING COOL

Did you ever notice that the people who are hard to fluster — the ones who don't get in a stew about minor troubles—are the people who keep youngest longest? Wise people know that a calm outlook on life pays off. "Fuss budgets" threaten the comfort and health of everyone around them as they work themselves up to a nervous breakdown.

TIMBER COUNTRY

More than half of Canada's land area is forested.

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NAPOLEON AND UNCLE ELBY — By Clifford McBride

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Arches
5. Asterisk
9. Manor court
10. Story
11. Ward off, as a blow
12. Banish
14. Gold (Her.)
15. River (Ger.)
17. Pinaceous tree
18. Wayside hotel
20. Organ of hearing
21. Music note
22. Oceans
24. Botch
27. Watching
29. Greek letter
32. Northern constellation
34. Valley (Eur.)
35. Territorial Force (abbr.)
37. Constellation
39. Before
40. A wing
42. Saucy
44. Water god (Babyl.)
45. Writer of fables
47. Particles
49. A valuable fur
50. Lath
51. Long-eared rodent
52. Old measure of length (pl.)

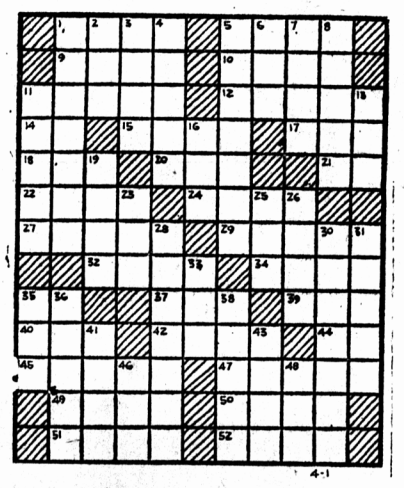
DOWN

1. Smooth, wheedling talk
2. Over (poet.)
3. Part of "to be"
4. Fashion
5. Guided
6. Duty
7. Arabic letter
8. Lit again
11. Balance
13. Silkworm (Assam)
16. Trick
19. Claw
23. Upward curving of ship's planking
25. Varying weight (Ind.)
26. Great quantity
28. Seize, as in wrestling
30. Menaces
31. Regions
33. Land-measure
35. Pagoda (Jap.)
36. Meat
38. Ascend
41. On the ocean
43. Tax over a bridge
46. Rowing implement
48. Dancer's cymbals

G	A	P	S		O	W	L	S		
R	I	O	T		F	O	I	L		
D	A	N	T	E		F	O	R	U	M
I	N		S	A	W		A	D	O	
A	G	A		M	I	L	L		G	O
Z	E	R	O		T	O	U	R	E	D
		G	I	P		A	R	A		
P	O	O	L	E	P		K	I	S	L
A	B		S	C	A	R		N	E	S
U	S	M			M	A	P		R	A
L	E	A	V	E		T	E	P	I	D
	S	T	I	R		B	L	U	L	
S	E	A	B			D	E	N	Y	

Yesterday's Answer

4-1



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is 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 letter trophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

T PKU'L EDZZ DL HSO EDFR'L EDZZ, TFR HSO HSKVASHL KQ UKVHS TBO ZKFA—ZKFAQOZZKE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SO SPINS THE SILK-WORM SMALL ITS SLENDER STORE—POPE.

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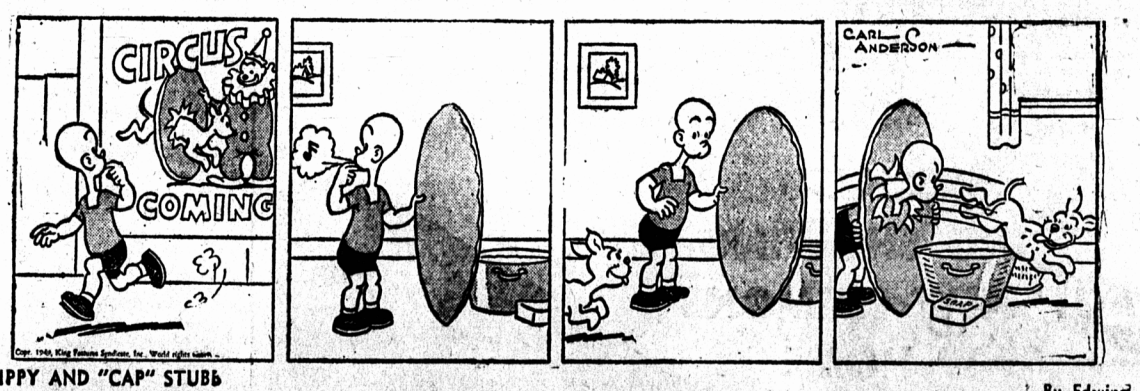
KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED — By Ham Fisher

JOE PALOOKA — By Zane Grey

DOTTY DRIPPLE — By Buford

BRINGING UP FATHER — By George McManus

HENRY — By Carl Anderson



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBB — By Edwina

TILLIE THE TOILER — By [illegible]

PENNY — By Harry Haenigsen

LI'L ABNER — By AL CAPP

RIP KIRBY — By Alex Raymond