

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

NIMBLEHEELS HEARS GOSSIP

Gossip picked up by the way. Often spoils the brightest day.

Little Nimbleheels the Jumping Mouse sat in the doorway of his new home. It was a new home for him, but not really a new home, for some one had lived there before him. He knew nothing about it. He didn't even know who had dug that old house down in the ground. Whoever he was, he was a good workman.



"I couldn't have done it better myself," squeaked Nimbleheels. He was talking to himself. The truth is, it was doubtful that he could have done it as well.

As Nimbleheels sat in his doorway, he could peek outside with little danger of being seen by others. So it was that he was not noticed by two Wood Mice who happened to meet right in front of the doorway. They stopped for a bit of gossip. Why is it that seldom can two folks meet and not gossip? It is so. You will find it so everywhere you go.

"I hear that some one has moved into this old house," said one squeaky voice. Nimbleheels moved back just a little to make sure he would not be seen.

"I hope he won't find it as un-lucky as others have," said the second squeaky voice. Nimbleheels pricked up his ears. He fairly leaped to go out and ask his neighbors just what had happened. Wisely, he did nothing of the kind.

"I remember when that house was first started. It was one of Striped Chipmunk's children who dug it," declared the first speaker. "Did you ever hear what became of him?" squeaked the other Wood Mouse.

"No," replied the first one. "I never did hear what became of him. He just disappeared."

"He disappeared, all right. He went away with some one," was the squeaky reply.

"Was it Reddy Fox?" asked the other.

"Guess again," commanded his companion.

"I hear that someone has moved into this old house," said one squeaky voice.

"Redtail the Hawk," was the next guess.

The pretty Mouse with the white feet and the white waistcoat who had asked the question shook his head. "No," he squeaked. "It was Hooty the Owl."

"Didn't some one else move in there later?" asked one of the two little gossipers.

"Yes," replied his companion. "In fact, there have been two or three families."

"And something has happened to each one?" asked the other in a questioning tone.

"Right," was the reply. "The same thing has happened to each one."

"Hooty the Owl?" questioned the other.

"Just so," was the squeaky reply. "Somehow or other Hooty the Owl has been bad luck for whoever has tried living in that old house. I wouldn't want to live there myself. No, sir, I wouldn't want to live there. If it were the best house in all the Green Forest, I wouldn't want to live there."

The little Mouse who said this shivered.

Nimbleheels shivered too. He half decided that he wouldn't live there after all. But if he didn't stay there, where could he go?

Nimbleheels went back to the snug chamber in the ground to think things over. It was clear that there had been much bad luck in connection with this little house. Mouse was tempted to leave at once, then wisely he lay down and curled up in his snug bed to think things over. He didn't think things over. He didn't even think of how safe that old house was. He didn't think at all. Instead, he went to sleep. When he awoke there was no one around. He was all by himself. What do you think he did then? He went straight back to bed, rolled himself up into a tight ball, tucked his long tail around him tightly, and went straight into the long sleep from which he would not awaken again until late spring or even early summer.

Swine Breeders Meeting

A special meeting of the P. E. I. Swine Breeders' Association will be held in the office of the Provincial Department of Agriculture on Tuesday, December 18th, at 1:30 P.M. to consider a proposed change in the Advanced Registry Policy.

All interested breeders are urged to attend.

COL. F. I. ANDREW, Secretary.

SHORTHORN BREEDERS

Annual Meeting of the P. E. I. Shorthorn Breeders' Association will be held on Saturday the 15th of December at 8 P.M. at the City Hall.

All interested in beef cattle are cordially invited. Matters of special interest to be discussed.

A. H. MUTCH, Secretary.

POGO

By Walt Kelly



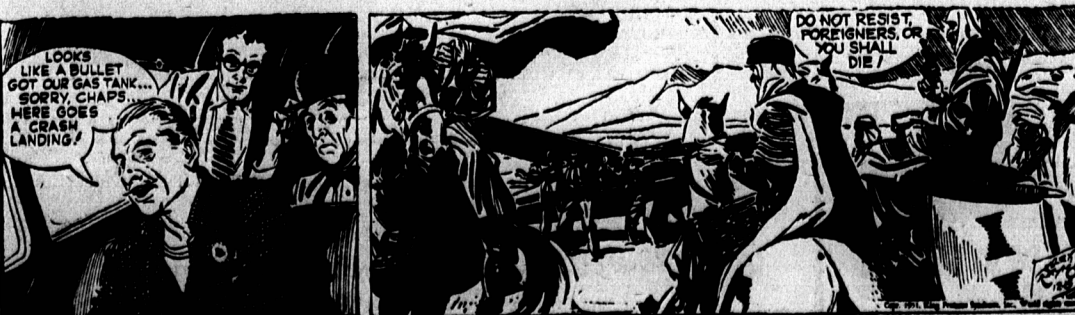
LIL ABNER

By Al Capp



RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond



KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zane Grey



By Ham Fisher

JOE PALOOKA



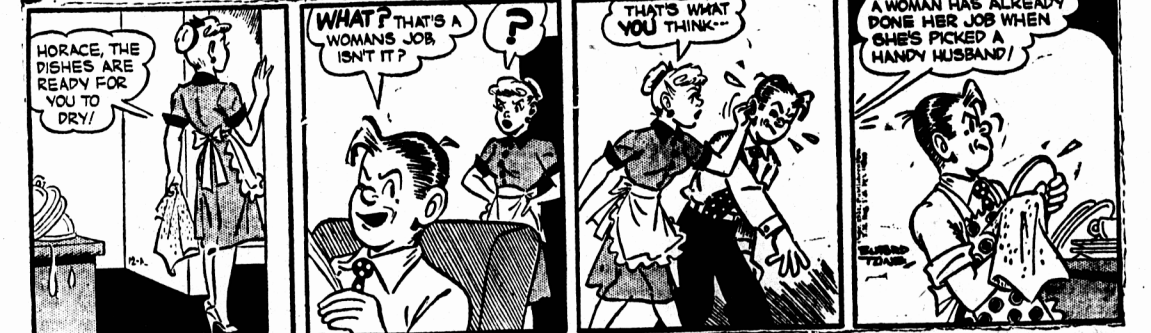
By Ruford

HENRY



By Carl Anderson

DOTTY DIPPLE



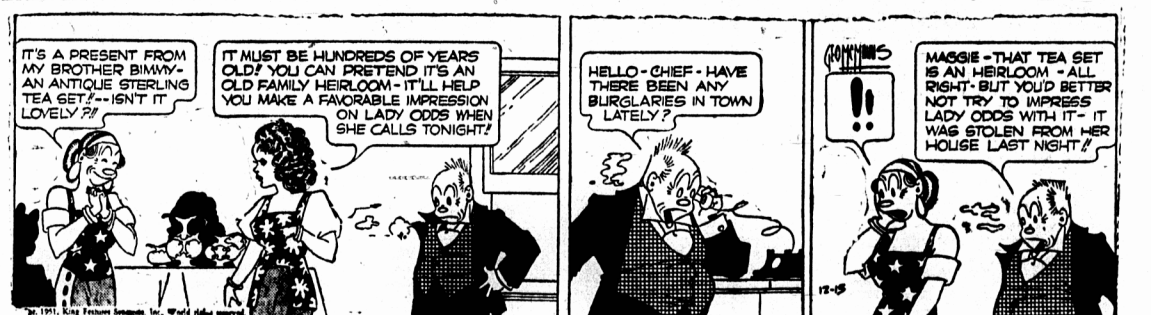
By Edwina

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Westover



PENNY

By Harry Hoenigson



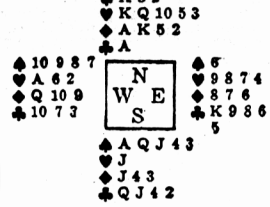
Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

PASSIVE DEFENSE

There was no true defense against the slam contract in the following hand—all East-West could do was to give declarer the chance to defeat himself.

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.



The bidding: North 1♥ Pass, East 1♠ Pass, South 2♥ Pass, West 3♥ Pass.

West felt that the opponents were prepared for a lead of the unbid club suit, so he elected to open a trump. Declarer took this with dummy's king and, for some unknown reason, cashed the ace of clubs before leading a heart to his blank jack. If West had accepted this trick it would have been all over, but West realized that and ducked. It was a play born of desperation, but it succeeded—South went wrong! Having "stolen" the heart trick, he ruffed a low club in dummy and ruffed a low heart to return to his hand. He then ruffed the jack of clubs with dummy's last trump and returned the king of hearts. When East played low, South discarded his last club, and West won with the ace.

Potato Storage Figures Compared

The following figures of storage holdings of potatoes on December 1, 1950 and 1951 have been supplied by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

	1950	1951
Inland, P.E.I.	7,534	4,027
Inland, N.S.	368	289
Halifax	8	13
Saint John	5	5
Inland, N.B.	9,140	5,893
Maritimes	17,055	10,297
Quebec	785	701
Eastern Ontario	285	170
Western Ontario	2,559	1,830
Prairies	1,516	383
British Columbia	1,396	560
Totals	23,596	13,941

last club, and West won with the ace.

West now returned a diamond, and South was faced with a difficult choice. If he won this trick in dummy, he could return to his own hand only by ruffing a heart. This would be fatal if the outstanding trumps had originally been divided 4-1. The alternative was to let West's diamond lead ride around to the jack. South decided to gamble on a favourable trump break, hence won the diamond lead in dummy. The bad trump break then defeated the contract.

It goes without saying that South was his own worst enemy in the play, but the fact remains that West's hold-up of the heart ace, at the risk of losing it, was the only defense that could give his side the slightest chance.

LEGION DANCE

A dance for Legion members and their friends will be held in the

CLOVER CLUB

Saturday night, 9.30
TICKETS 50c
Lunch will be served
Couples only admitted

NOT RECEIVING

Not receiving Live Poultry from December 19th to January 2nd.
CENTRAL EGG & POULTRY Grafton St.

POULTRY SHIPPERS ATTENTION

We give below our buying arrangements for poultry at our Charlottetown plant and O'Leary plant for the balance of this year:

LIVE CHICKEN & FOWL & CAPONS—
Dec. 17th to December 20th inclusive.
Dec. 26th to December 28th inclusive.

DRESSED CHICKEN & FOWL & TURKEYS—
Dec. 17th to December 21st inclusive.
Dec. 26th to December 28th inclusive.

DRESSED GESE & DUCKS—
Not Buying this class of poultry.

Please take note of the above dates so you will not have your poultry turned away.

SWIFT CANADIAN CO. Limited
CHARLOTTETOWN & O'LEARY PLANTS, P. E. I.