

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

### THE FRIGHTFUL THING

The headstrong in the end will pay for learning things the hardest way.

—Old Mother Nature.

Blacky the Crow is canny and wily in the way of his neighbors. Billy Mink is just as canny. Both have acquired wisdom through experience, the best teacher in the Great World.

Blacky had just seen Billy Mink take one of his children away from a little piece of meat that seemed to be lying on the snow at the edge of open water in a small brook that for most of its

length was frozen over. Only here and there were stretches where the water ran too swiftly to freeze. Blacky knew that a little farther down that brook was another little piece of meat at the edge of the water. He had discovered those pieces of meat very early that morning when he started out to look for his breakfast. He had been tempted to pick them up for his breakfast, tempted as seldom before. You see, he was almost starving. But he had been suspicious because he had seen a Man stopping at each of these places where the meat was. He had finally found a breakfast over at the Big River and had returned to see if any one else had taken that meat. He was just in time to see a young Mink reach for a piece and Billy Mink drive him away.

"Billy had told Blacky what was wrong with that little piece of meat. He said there was a trap hidden there, and that explained everything.

"I almost picked that meat up myself," said Blacky.

"If you had, I would have had

Crow for dinner," said Billy Mink with an unpleasant sort of grin. "What do you mean?" demanded Blacky.

"You would have been caught in a pair of jaws you couldn't get away from. Then I would have come along," Billy grinned again. "Caw, caw, caw! Enough said," cried Blacky. "I hope that young son of yours has learned a lesson."

"I hope so, too," replied Billy "but I doubt it. He is headstrong, he always has been headstrong. He is one of those children who think they know it all and really know very little. He will learn only by experience."

"Have you been down the brook any farther today?" asked Blacky "No," replied Billy. "Why?"

"There probably is another trap at the next open water, anyway there is another piece of meat like this at the edge of it," replied Blacky.

Billy Mink made no reply. Smoothly, without a splash, he dived into the water and disappeared. He was swimming down the brook, swimming under the ice. You know Billy Mink is a wonderful swimmer, and he can stay under water longer than you would think possible.

Blacky spread his wings and headed down the little brook flying just above the treetops along the banks. When he came in sight of the next stretch of open water, the little piece of meat was still lying at the edge of it. Before Blacky could get there, the young Mink scrambled out on the snow. He saw the bit of meat. He looked hastily this way and that to see if any one was watching. He didn't see Blacky. He moved straight toward that tempting bait to pick it up he did. A frightful thing happened. A pair of steel jaws leaped up and out of the light snow that had been sifted over them and snapped together on one of the hind legs of the young Mink. He screamed with fright and pain and plunged into the water. Blacky, from overhead could see the water boil as down near the bottom the young Mink struggled furiously to get away from this dreadful thing that was holding and hurting him so.

"Caw, caw, caw!" shrieked Blacky. "Caw, caw, caw!"

The male stickleback in the breeding season constructs a nest about three inches wide from grass and twigs.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### CONCERNING CROSS-RUFFS

Cross-ruff hands are popularly supposed to be "the novice's delight," and yet the fact is that correct cross-ruffing often requires meticulous planning and timing. South in the following deal was far from being a novice, but he went wrong.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

North, having bid spades and jump-raised hearts, bid five diamonds to indicate a control. It happened to be second-round control, but that was sufficient. Correct play would have triumphed against any defense, but it was to West's credit that he found a lead which gave South a chance to slip. This lead was the deuce of trumps. Declarer captured East's ten, cashed the blank spade king, then launched a cross-ruff. He cashed the top diamonds and ruffed a diamond, cashed the spade ace, discarding a club from his own hand, then ruffed a spade with the eight of trumps. West promptly over-ruffed, and his trump return dug South's grave a little deeper!

After the trump opening, careful figuring by declarer would have revealed that a cross-ruff plan would not "reach." There was simply too much to do via this method. A far more realistic idea was to try for the establishment of dummy's spade suit, and, with the favorable spade break that existed, this plan would have had notable success. All South had to do, after cashing the spade king, was to enter dummy with a trump, cash the spade ace and, when West's jack fell, to draw West's last trump and then continue with spades, discarding if East played low. Even if this spade lead lost to the queen in West's hand, declarer would have his 12 tricks.

LIVERPOOL, N. S., Jan. 27 — (CP) — Donald Willard MacKay, 78, a former Conservative member of the Nova Scotia Legislature, died at his home here Saturday.

By Clifford McBride

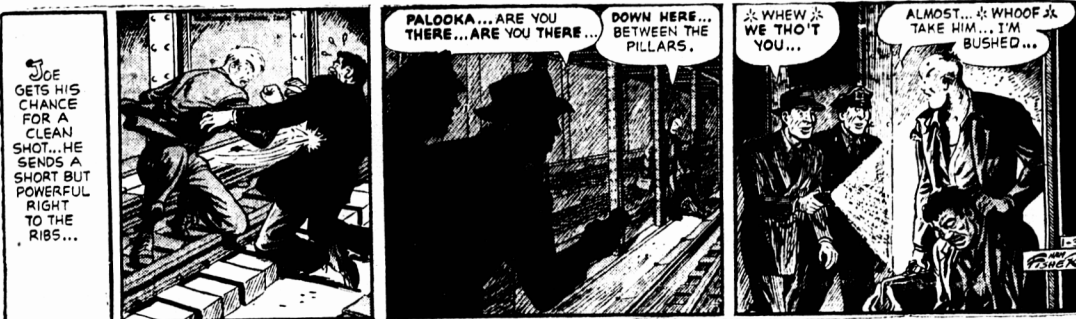
## KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zane Grey



JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



DOTTY DIPPLE

By Ruford



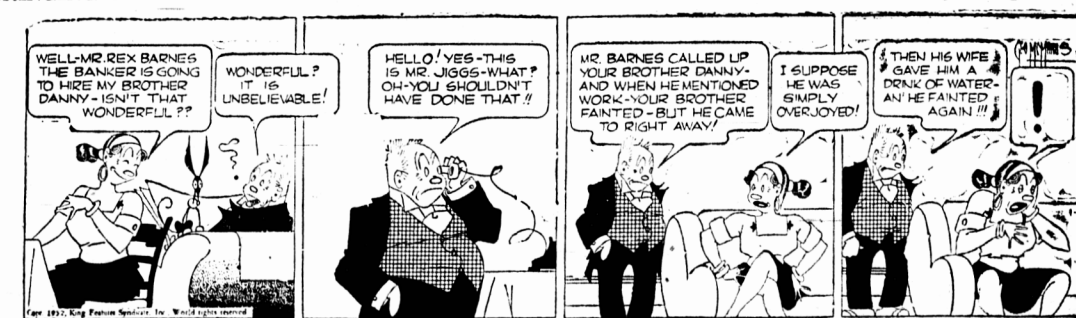
TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina



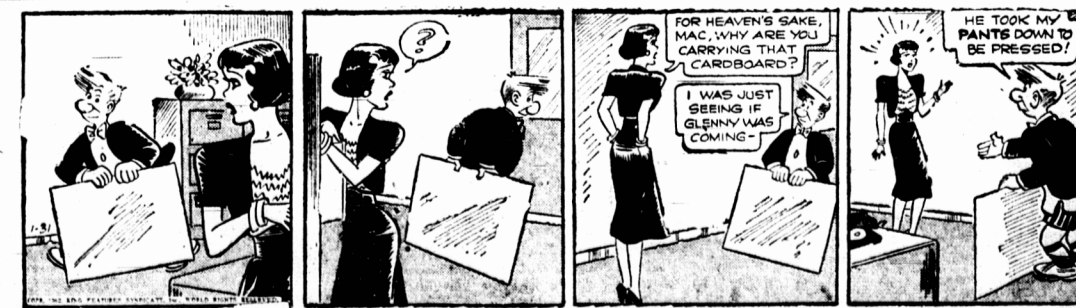
BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



PENNY

By Harry Rosenberg



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Finer Flavour

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GUESS WHAT, UNCLE ELBY: GUESS WHAT I GOT TODAY?  
Yes?  
I TRADED THOSE TWO NEW T-SHIRTS AND MY BASEBALL MITT FOR HIM! BOY, HE'S A BEAUT!

**By Walt Kelly**  
GUESS WHAT, UNCLE ELBY: GUESS WHAT I GOT TODAY?  
Yes?  
I TRADED THOSE TWO NEW T-SHIRTS AND MY BASEBALL MITT FOR HIM! BOY, HE'S A BEAUT!

**I, L. ABNER**  
AND NOW—TO BUY UP ALL THE CONFEDERATE MONEY IN THESE HILLS... IT'S WORTH MILLIONS TO ME—BUT THESE HILL-BILLYS DON'T KNOW IT—SO, I'LL PAY 'EM PEANUTS—  
SOMEBODY STUCK ANOTHER KNIFE INTO ME—ONLY—SHE'S THIS ONE FELT MORE LIKE A ICE-PICK—  
AT THAT INSTANT!—IN THE EERIE ABODE OF THE CONJURE WOMAN—NIGHTMARE ALICE—  
STICK ALL TH' PINS YOU WANT INTO IT, SCARY LOU—JEST DON'T BOTHER YOUR AUNT NIGHTMARE—  
WELL, IF NIGHT—IT'S FUN STICKING PINS INTO THIS DOLLY AUNT NIGHTMARE—  
OH, YES! A WINTER ACQUAINTANCE, BUT I'LL ANSWER HIM—HE'LL HAVE AT LEAST TWO OF THE COLDEST BIGGEST-FOOTED FEET IN THE U.S. AN!

**By Al Capp**  
AND NOW—TO BUY UP ALL THE CONFEDERATE MONEY IN THESE HILLS... IT'S WORTH MILLIONS TO ME—BUT THESE HILL-BILLYS DON'T KNOW IT—SO, I'LL PAY 'EM PEANUTS—  
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**RIP KIRBY**  
AN UNSIGNED NOTE, HONEY... IT JUST SAYS: 'COME TO 125 SANDERS STREET. IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU AND TO ME!  
OH, RIP! HERE WE GO AGAIN!  
NO! I SAID I WAS GOING TO TAKE A VACATION, AND I'M TAKING ONE! LET'S FORGET ALL ABOUT IT AND ENJOY THE CONCERT! IT'S ALREADY OUT OF MY MIND!

**By Alex Raymond**  
AN UNSIGNED NOTE, HONEY... IT JUST SAYS: 'COME TO 125 SANDERS STREET. IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU AND TO ME!  
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