



# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## PETER IS ELATED

Be slow to take another's word, Or to accept that merely heard. —Old Mother Nature.

Peter Rabbit was troubled. You know how full of curiosity Peter is, and you know how provoking it is to have curiosity not satisfied. Peter had heard that some mother snakes swallow their babies to protect them from danger. It seemed like a crazy thing to do, but crazy things are being done all the

time. He just couldn't imagine a mother swallowing her own babies. That seemed like a funny kind of mother love. Mrs. Peter didn't believe it at all, and she said so. She said it was all nonsense. She said that if they swallowed their babies they must have eaten them, and that was perfectly dreadful. Peter had to admit that he never had seen baby snakes swallowed, but he had so often heard of it that it must be true. "To believe everything you hear is silly," declared Mrs. Peter. "I



My dear, guess what I've just seen?" he cried.

I should see a little Snake being swallowed by another big one, I would know that I would never see that little Snake again."

From that time on Peter was always watching for some of the Snake folk among his neighbors. He hesitated to ask them if they swallowed their own babies, but sometimes he asked them where their babies were. The mothers never knew. Anyway, they said they didn't know. What is more, and worse, some of them said they didn't care. That sounded pretty heartless. But it was all the satisfaction that Peter could get.

However, he did find some other friends of his who declared they had seen a mother Snake swallow her babies, and they were sure that this was done to protect them. You may not believe a thing you hear just once, but when you hear a thing repeated over and over you are pretty sure to believe it in the end. It was so with Peter. All Mrs. Peter would say was, "You've got to show me." It was plain she didn't believe a word of it. But Peter was different. He was very apt to believe what he was told.

Then came a day when Peter saw something that sent him hurrying home, hipperly, hipperly, hip, as fast as his legs could take him. He burst into the dear Old Briar-patch.

"My dear, guess what I've just seen!" he cried. "Do tell," said little Mrs. Peter. "I'm not good at guessing."

"I've seen it done!" cried Peter. "What have you seen done?" asked Mrs. Peter.

Continued on page 14

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton

### BAD BIDDING

North and South in the following deal collaborated on some very bad bidding.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable

♠	A 7 5 4	♣	6 3
♥	10	♦	8 5 4 2
♠	10 9 8	♦	7 4 3 2
♣	K Q 9 5 3	♦	K Q J 8 1
♠	K 9 8	♦	Q J 10 2
♥	K Q J	♦	A 7 3
♠	9 6	♦	K Q J 8 1
♣	A	♦	2
♠	A 8 7 4	♦	2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♠ Dbie. 2♣ Pass  
2NT Pass 3NT Pass  
Pass Dbie. Pass Pass

West made his obviously correct lead, the heart king, and the outcome was that South went down two tricks — 500 points. This was unpleasant in itself, but the real loss suffered by North-South was much greater, since they could have made four spades.

The first bidding error was South's — his opening bid should have been one spade, not one diamond. Then South would have been prepared for any response. If North bid a notrump, South then of course could mention his diamonds, and he could make the same rebid if North's response were clubs. If North responded in hearts, South would have a simple raise.

The next mistake was made by North. There was no good reason for him to make what was in effect a rescue of the diamond bid; North had a pretty good holding, and so he should have passed over West's double to await developments.

The most glaring error, however, was produced by South, when he bid two notrump. North's bid over the double had certainly not announced strength, and therefore South should not have considered launching out into notrump, especially with a singleton in partner's suit.

The only reasonable bid — i.e., reasonable in view of what had gone before — was North's raise to three notrump. To repeat, he had not shown strength; so, if South was strong enough to bid two notrump on his own hook, North was strong enough to bid game.

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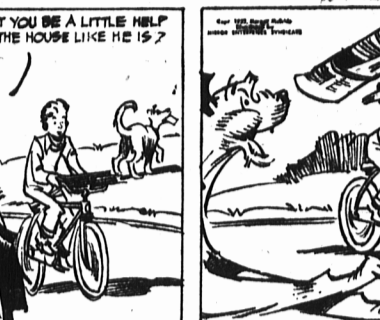
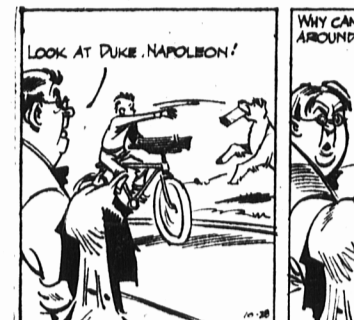
RIP KIRBY



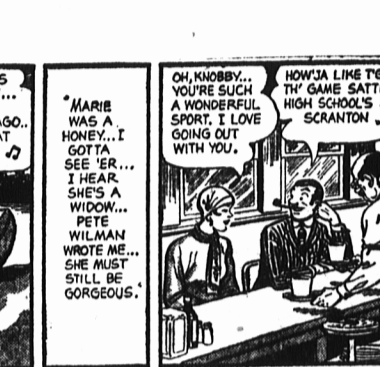
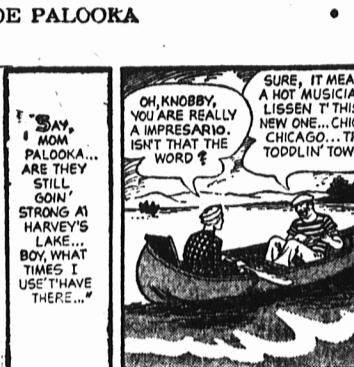
Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Cliff McBride



By Ham Fisher



By Edwina



By Bob Gustafson

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AT

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## KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



By Al Capp

## LIL' ABNER



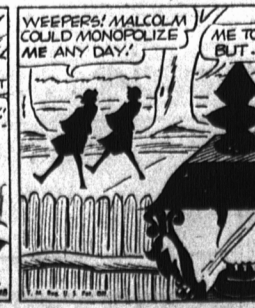
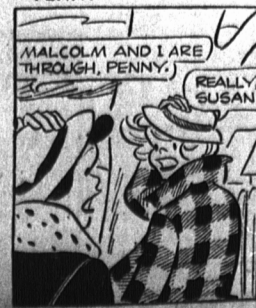
By Walt Kelly

## POGO

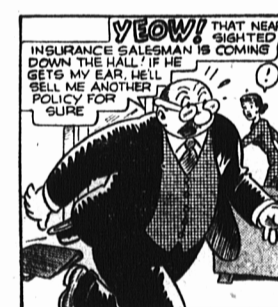


By Harry Hoehnson

## PENNY

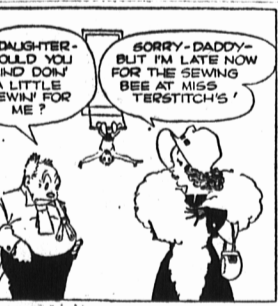


## TILLY THE TOILER



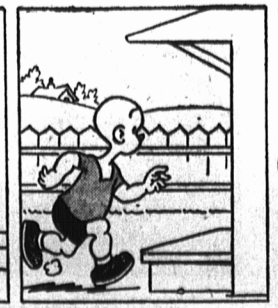
By George McManus

## BRINGING UP FATHER



By Carl Anderson

## HENRY



By Ruford

## DOTTY DRIPPLE

