

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

COULDN'T HE OR WOULDN'T HE?

It is the end that always counts And nothing else to much amounts —Old Mother Nature.

Whether one fights for his life, or runs for his life, or flies for his life, or saves his life in some other way doesn't matter as long as his life is saved. Anyway, that is how it is with the little people of the Green Forest and the Green Meadows. So each has his own special way of trying to save his life in time of danger.

Lightfoot the Deer and all his family depend on their long slim legs to get them out of danger. Thunderer the Grouse and all his family depend on their stout, swift wings when danger is near. Grandfather Frog dives into the mud at the bottom of the Smiling Pool. Peter Rabbit trusts to his legs and the way he can dodge to get to a safe retreat. Longbill the Woodcock knows that if he lies perfectly still his coat looks so like the dead brown leaves around him that if he doesn't move he is not likely to be seen. If he is seen he still has a pair of swift wings to take him out of danger.

Unc' Billy Possum has legs. Of course. But they are not long and slim and swift. He can run, but not fast. He can climb, but not fast. He has wings. Of course not. Flitter the Bat and his relatives are the only furry folks with wings, the only ones who can fly. Unc' Billy cannot depend on being unseen unless he is in a safe hiding place. He cannot dodge like Peter Rabbit. He cannot dive like Jerry Muskrat and Paddy the Beaver. He hasn't quick wits like those of Reddy Fox. He cannot fight like Johnny Chuck and Bobby Coon and some others. Yet Unc' Billy Possum manages to live when and where some who think themselves a lot smarter than he fall. And it is because way back when the world was young his great-great-great-great-grandparents learned that even the smartest folks can



Unc' Billy lay just as he fell.

be fooled and how to fool them. They taught their children, and their children taught their children. By and by Possum children didn't need to be taught how to use that trick. The know-how was born in them and is to this day. Little Billy Possum, just starting out in the Green World, already had used that trick several times. Folks are funny about some things, human folks and Green Forest folks alike. You'll find that a lot of them like to think themselves smart, but are slow to admit that other folks may be just as smart or perhaps smarter. It is that way among Unc' Billy Possum's neighbors in the Green Forest. Most of them have at one time or another seen Unc' Billy pretend to be dead when caught by an enemy. But some don't agree that Unc' Billy is playing a trick. They don't believe he does it purposely. They think he is too scared to move; that while not really "scared to death" he is so scared he can't move and so looks as if dead.

Peter Rabbit and his big Green Forest cousin, Jumper the Hare, almost quarreled over the matter once. It happened that they were sitting together under a big hemlock bough beside the Crooked Little Path when Unc' Billy Possum appeared shuffling along as if there was no such thing as hurrying. Just as he was opposite them a big Dog came running along the Crooked Little Path. Unc' Billy saw him before he saw Unc' Billy. He didn't try to run. He simply fell over on his side in the middle of the Crooked Little Path. The Dog sniffed him all over. Unc' Billy didn't move. The Dog rolled him over with his paw. Unc' Billy didn't move so much as a hair. The Dog picked him up in his big mouth and shook him, then dropped him. Unc' Billy lay just as he fell. He didn't move.

"He is so scared he can't move," whispered Peter.

Jumper shook his head. "He is scared, but not that scared. He is just pretending. He can move but he won't," said he.

"He won't because he can't," declared Peter. "He is just scared stiff."

Again Jumper shook his head. "You're wrong. That's your mistake," said he.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

Quarterly Finals at various centres week beginning, Sept. 4th. County Finals week beginning, September 11th. Provincial Finals, Charlottetown, September 22nd.

PRIZES:

A first and second prize will be awarded in each County. Total value \$15.00. Federation of Agriculture, Women's Institute, and Department of Agriculture have each donated \$15.00. The first and second chosen for the Province will represent Prince Edward Island at the Maritime Winter Fair in a public-speaking contest and will compete against the best in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Prizes are awarded to the first three in this latter competition.

THOSE ELIGIBLE:

1. Participation in this contest is open to young people between 16 and 25 years of age (inclusive) who are members of Junior Farmers groups or members or ex-members of Boys and Girls Clubs on P.E.I. with the following exceptions:—
 - (a) Persons who have taken or who are enrolled now in a degree course at any University, shall not be eligible for participation.
 - (b) Persons who, at any time, have participated in the National Contests conducted by the Canadian Council on Boys and Girls Club work may not compete in this contest.
 - (c) Those placing first and second in the Provincial Public Speaking Contests from any preceding year are barred from further competition.

COTTON MILLS CLOSED

BOMBAY, Aug. 21—(Reuters)—Fifty-four of Bombay's 60 cotton mills were closed today, sixth day of a socialist-sponsored strike for a wage bonus. Only about 7,000 of the city's 250,000 mill hands were at work.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE
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Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SHADED DOUBLES

Some good players believe that very light takeout doubles are advisable, for the effect they have on the enemy. Perhaps this is true when the opponents are weak and easily misled but there can be unpleasant repercussions from such doubles when the opposition is expert! Observe this case:

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

743	8552
Q62	9743
A95	832
Q1094	85
N E	
W S	
AJ10	KQ5
AJ8	K105
10986	J74
732	AJ10

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	Redbl.	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass

West opened his top diamond. Dummy ducked. East won with the king and shifted to the spade deuce. South played the king; West won with the ace and knocked out the diamond queen.

Declarer cashed his four club tricks and West found himself hard pressed for a discard. Figuring that his partner must have something in spades, West gave up the ten in order to keep two diamonds. South, however, was ready to cope with this defense. He cashed the diamond ace and the spade queen, then laid down the heart king.

Obviously, West could not afford to duck, because South would then lead another heart toward the queen. Taking the trick, however, was no more effective, because after West had cashed his good diamond, he had to return a heart from his jack-eight. Declarer held in the 10-5 in his own hand and the Q-6 in dummy, let West's heart return come around to the ten-spot, and thereby collected the need tricks.

After East turned up with the diamond king, South could be reasonably sure that West had every other missing honor and plan his play on that basis, whereas if West had not doubled the opening bid, South would have had to do some remarkable guessing.

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SHIPPING VETERAN PASSES

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 21—(AP)—Adelbert T. Kinney, 96, one-time operator of a number of Great Lakes freight vessels, died at his home Sunday. After operating several sailing vessels, he organized the Kinney Steamship Company. Its freighters were sold when he retired at the age of 75.

Feet Killing You?

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