



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

OLD MR. TOAD SHOWS HOW

The thing that most perplexes you The one who knows will quickly do. —Old Mother Nature.

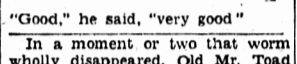
Little Toad was disgusted. He had been trying to swallow a worm.

and the worm refused to be swallowed. One can hardly blame the worm for that. Little Toad tried and tried, but as fast as he pushed that worm into his mouth with both hands and swallowed the worm pulled himself out again. Not having any biting teeth, there

didn't seem to be anything he could do about it. Little Toad was not one to give up easily; he kept on trying, but finally gave up in disgust. He just couldn't get that worm down. The worm started to crawl away.

All this while Old Mr. Toad had been looking on and in his lovely golden eyes was something very like laughter. "Didn't you like him?" he asked. "I didn't have a chance to find out," replied Little Toad. "He wouldn't stay down long enough for me to know. I don't see how anything."

"It is no trouble at all. Look, I'll show you," said Old Mr. Toad and hopped after the hurrying worm. Yes, that worm really was hurrying, but that doesn't mean that it was going fast. No earthworm can go fast. In two hops Old Mr. Toad caught up with it. One more hop took him ahead of it. Then he turned and picked up the worm and began to push it into his mouth. Little Toad watched it disappear. Old Mr. Toad kept pushing it in and swallowing.



"Good," he said, "very good." In a moment or two that worm wholly disappeared. Old Mr. Toad put a hand on his waistcoat. "Good," he said, "very good." "I don't see how you did it," said Little Toad. I tried and tried, but I couldn't make it go down." Of course you couldn't," said Old Mr. Toad. "You started at the wrong end. As I said before, never start a thing at the wrong end." "I don't know what you mean," said Little Toad. "Both ends looked alike to me."

"That is because you didn't realize your eyes, young fellow," said Old Mr. Toad. "All worms have a head and a tail end. If you can't tell one from the other, just watch which way the worm is going, then get ahead of him. Of course that will be the head end. You tried to swallow that worm from the tail end, and it could pull itself out as fast as you swallowed. I swallowed it head first, and it couldn't back out. That is all there was to it. Simple, wasn't it? Any time you find a worm and can't swallow it, I'll be glad to swallow it for you." Old Mr. Toad's golden eyes twinkled and twinkled as he said this.

It was some time before Little Toad found another worm. This time it was much smaller. He remembered the lesson he had had,

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A SOUND CHOICE OF PLANS

In the following hand the declarer had a difficult choice to make between two lines of play.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards in South, North, East, and West hands.

The bidding: South 2♣, West Pass, East 3♣, North 4♣, East 4NT, South Pass, West Pass, East Pass, North Pass.

Surprising though it may seem, not every expert would open South's hand with a two-bid — they would worry about the fact that only two first-round suit controls were present. The best analysis, however, would certainly confirm South's action, and although the matter of controls is always to be considered, South would have been raking a great deal more by opening with a mere one-bid. After all, he had an excellent play for 11 tricks in his hand alone!

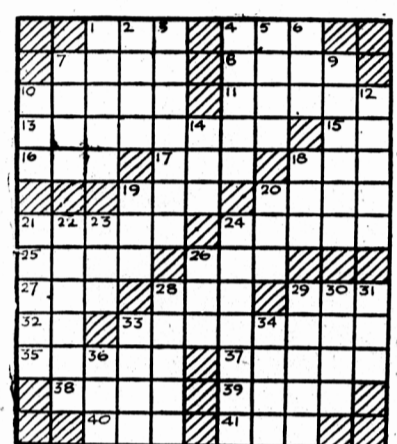
Leading against the slam, West selected the heart Jack. East played the ace of hearts. South ruffed, drew two rounds of trumps, and then laid down two top clubs, testing that suit.

When the trumps were known to break 3-2 and the clubs no worse than 4-2, South faced the critical decision. Should he go ahead and draw the last trump, depending on a 3-3 break in clubs; or should he assume a 4-2 club break and try to ruff a low club in dummy, hoping that the defender out of clubs did not have the third spade? After due reflection, South decided to draw the last trump because this would cover a third possibility — if the club suit broke 4-2, the defender who had the four clubs might also have four or more diamonds. In that event he would be squeezed. So South cashed both of his remaining trumps — and West was squeezed.

Continued on page 14

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1. Exclamations (abbr.), 4. Submarine (abbr.), 7. Percolate slowly, 8. Order under seal, 10. Place of worship, 11. Foretell, 13. Topics treated in a document, 15. Greek letter, 16. Beverage, 17. Roman money, 18. Drone, 19. Sum up, 20. Tranquillity, 21. Mine entrances, 24. Short simple song, 25. Belonging to me, 26. Except, 27. Noah's boat, 28. English tavern, 29. Place, 32. Selenium (sym.), 33. Fender, 37. Rub hard, 37. Vessel carrying oil, 38. Converts into leather, 39. Rubber trees (Mex.), 40. Golf mound, 41. Varying weight (Ind.).



Yesterday's Answer

- 31. Thrice (mus.), 33. Germanic character, 34. River (Afr.), 36. Cereal grain.

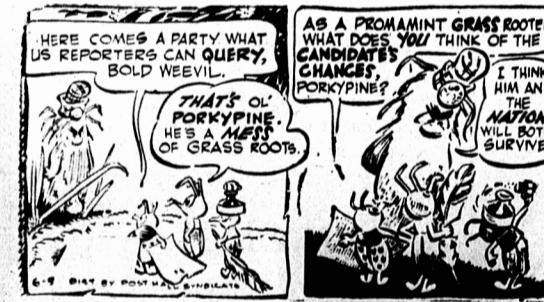
DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

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 letters, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation: R F I G I O M D I W I D M L W F D I I N C M V O M — Y I W C I W.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: SALAD AND EGGS AND LIGHTER FARE, TUNE THE ITALIAN SPARK'S GUITAR—PRIOR.

POGO



Contract Bridge



Contract Bridge



KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



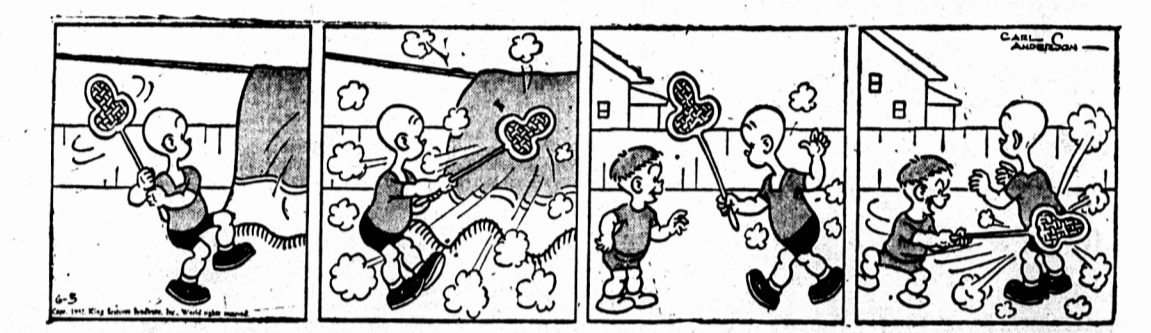
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



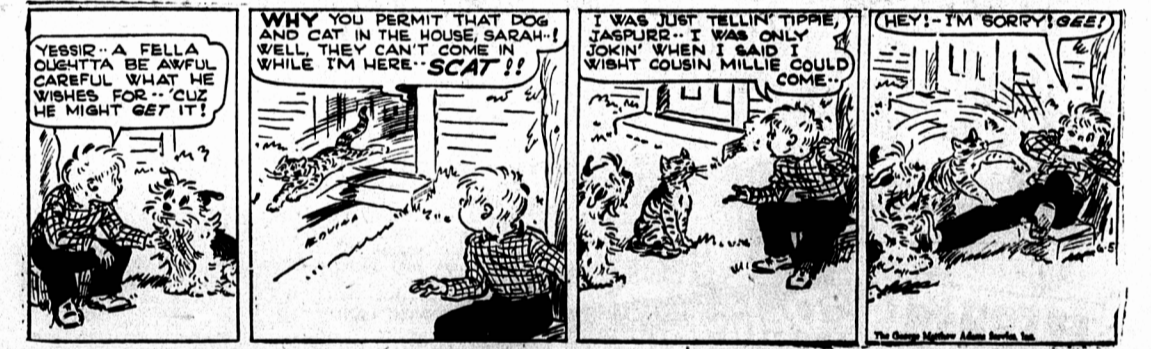
DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford

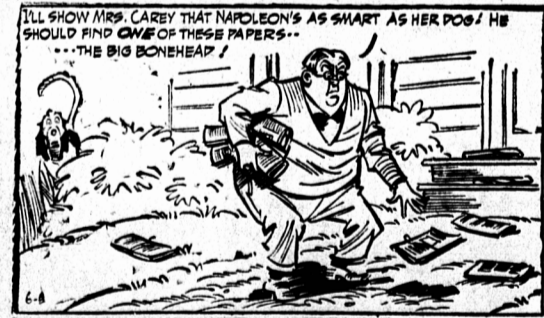


TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

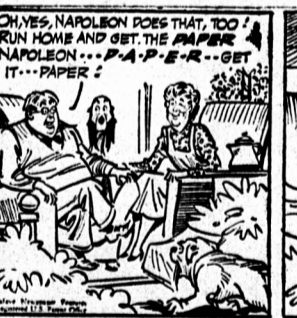
By Edwin



Napoleon and Uncle Elby



Contract Bridge



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BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



LIL ABNER



Contract Bridge

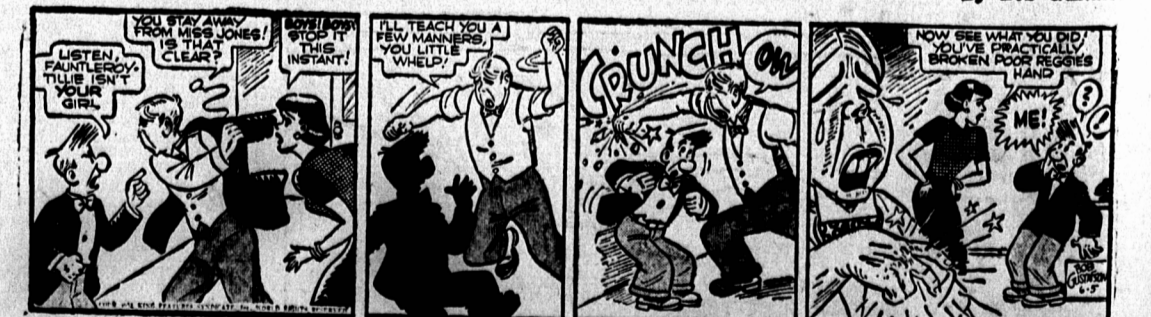


Contract Bridge



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



RIP KIRBY



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PENNY

By Henry Hoenigsen

