

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

**AN UNPLEASANT DISCOVERY**  
There's nothing that is quite so rude as on a stranger to intrude.

Old Mother Nature. Foxes are great believers in fresh air. They spend very little time indoors if they can help it. Too-Smart and his pretty mate, Soft-Eyes, had a very good home in a fine location. It was in a brushy old pasture and right at the edge of the woods. Too-Smart had found it first. It was an old woodchuck den that had not been used for a long time. Too-Smart had cleaned out the entrance and enlarged it a little. This was before he had met pretty Soft-Eyes. When they had decided to make a home together, Too-Smart had

led Soft-Eyes to the old house in the ground. She had looked it over thoroughly, decided that she liked it, then she had gone to work to make all the necessary improvements. When she got through with these, it was really a new home in every respect. She had done most of the work herself. This wasn't because Too-Smart was unwilling to do his share. It was because he wanted her to have her own way in everything. She wanted to do the work herself so as to have that home just right. She was the one who would use it most. Now that the home was complete in every way the two foxes seldom entered it. Although it was mid-winter, and the ground was frozen hard and covered with snow most of the time, and although storms



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raged frequently, the two young foxes, as is the way of their kind, preferred to sleep outside. Most folks like to sleep at night, and in the dark. If they sleep in the daytime they want their rooms darkened. Not so the fox folk. The two young foxes liked to do their sleeping in the daytime, and the queer part of it is that if the day was sunny they very often chose the sunniest spot they could find instead of the darkest spot. No matter how cold it was they slept out. Their coats were warm enough for them to do this. Their bushy tails were like old fashioned comforters. They curled themselves up and wrapped those comforter tails around themselves so that their toes and their noses were covered. Thus they took short naps, their black ears always on guard. Why didn't they use that fine new home? That was for later use when there should be little cubs who needed its protection. Now and then one or the other did visit it to see that all was well. And in several bad storms they used it for shelter. It was on one of her visits to see that all was well that Soft-Eyes made an unpleasant discovery. When she entered the home she had a feeling at once that someone had been there. She entered very cautiously. Her nose told her that someone had been there and had gone way down into the bedroom. She went down very slowly and carefully. The strange scent grew stronger. But when she reached the bedroom it was empty. Whoever had been visiting there had gone. She hurried back out and went to look for Too-Smart. She was very much upset. "Someone has been in our house," she announced. "Who?" exclaimed Too-Smart. "How should I know?" snapped Soft-Eyes. "All I know is, that someone has been there." She spoke a little sharply because she was upset. Too-Smart was already heading for home. Soft-Eyes followed him.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### TWICE-TOLD TALE

A preemptive bid is supposed to "tell the whole story," and having made such a bid, the player is not supposed to tell the story again. Consider North's inconsistency in this deal:

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

♠ K Q 9 8 4 3 2  
 ♥ J 5  
 ♦ 8 4  
 ♣ J

♠ A 10 8  
 ♥ 10 7  
 ♦ Q J 10  
 ♣ 6 3

♠ A K 9 8 4 3  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ K Q 9 7 6 5

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass  
 4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

East opened the diamond queen, and North went down two tricks without having the slightest play for the contract. At four hearts, South would have lost only one heart, one diamond and one club.

In defending his four-spade bid, North argued that it had seemed that his own hand would be worthless as the dummy, but would take a great many tricks with spades as trump.

In many cases there is logic in such a contention, but in this case North did not have a leg to stand on! His three-spade opening had in itself been an explicit warning that South should not expect many ready-made tricks in the North hand. When, in the direct face of this warning, South bid four hearts, he was saying in effect, "I heard your opening bid, partner, and though I know very well you did not invite me to take any action, except raise spades if I could, I nevertheless believe that we can make four hearts. Obviously, my hand must be extraordinary, because you have already told me that I can't look to you for much support."

If North had read the four-heart message in this perfectly logical fashion, he would not have persisted with his own suit — particularly since his J-5 of hearts and singleton club were very fair support under the circumstances.

AMHERST, N.S. (CP)—The Amherst police designated a number of streets which will be reserved for "coasting" during the winter months. Warning signs were posted for motorists.

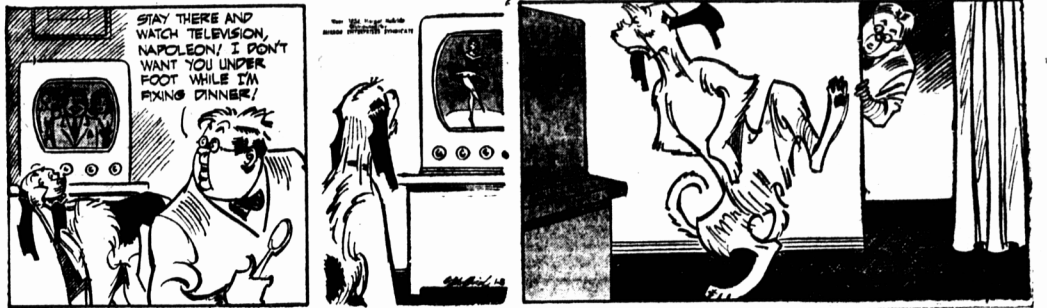
## Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



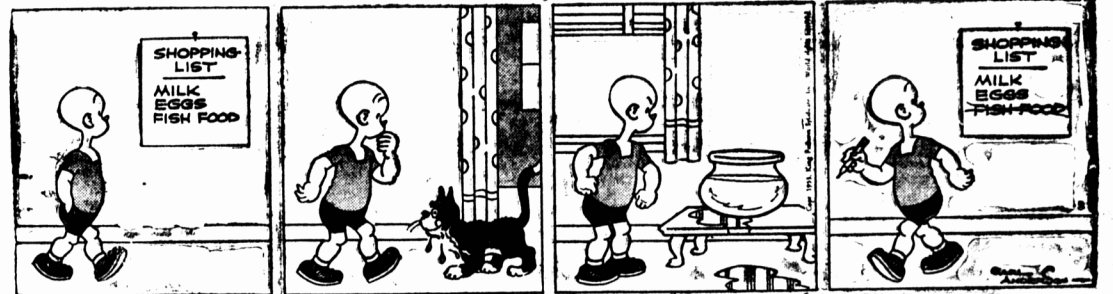
## Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



## Henry

By Carl Anderson



## Pogo

By Walt Kelly



## The Neighbors

By George Clark



## Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



## Dotty Dripple

By Buford



## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



## King of the Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



## Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



## Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



## L'il Abner

By Al Capp



## PENNY

By Harry Hopps

