



By Thornton W. Burgess

BILLY MINK CHANGES HIS MIND

Discretion you will always find susceptible to change of mind.

Billy Mink speaks truly. He has learned from experience. Billy is a member of the Weasel family, and all members of that family are smart.

It was a long time since Billy Mink had visited the Smiling Pool. He had come up Laughing Brook from the Big River. He knew that Jerry Muskrat and Mrs. Jerry were living there. Though Billy Mink is smaller than Jerry Muskrat, and though Jerry is a hard fighter, Billy is not in the least afraid of him. The truth is Jerry was to a certain extent afraid of Billy. This was because Billy Mink is famous for his quickness. It is whispered that Billy Mink has a liking for young Muskrats for dinner. He is a famous hunter, as well as fisherman.

Now as Billy entered the Smiling Pool he was spoiling for fight. Some folks enjoy fighting. Billy Mink, and other members of the Weasel family, are just such folks. Now he hoped to find Jerry alone. He knew that Mrs. Jerry might be there too, but he felt quite equal to fighting both of them.

When he entered the Smiling Pool no one was in sight. He swam over to the Muskrat house and climbed out on the roof. He saw at once that it was being re-built in preparation for winter. All the time he had a feeling that there was something different about that house. Suddenly it came to him.



He swam over to the Muskrat house and climbed out on the roof.

"This is the biggest Muskrat house I've ever seen!" exclaimed Billy. "Now what in the world can Jerry Muskrat be building such a big house for? Can it be that he has a big family living here? If so perhaps I'll stay awhile. I haven't had a dinner of young Muskrat for a long time."

So Billy sat on the roof of the house and waited. By and by he saw Jerry Muskrat swimming out from among the rushes at the head of the Smiling Pool. He had some rushes in his mouth. Behind him came Mrs. Jerry. She also had a mouthful of rushes. Billy grinned as he watched them. "I'll give those two a scare," thought he. "I'll keep out of sight until they get over here. If I take them by surprise perhaps I can whip both of them. Then I will go in this house and find out if there are any half-grown Muskrats."

So Billy slipped back into the water. He kept the house between him and Jerry and Mrs. Jerry. He would wait there out of sight until they got to the house. Now it just happened that the two young Muskrats who were helping to build that double house, started out with some rushes just behind Jerry and Mrs. Jerry. Billy Mink didn't see them for he already slipped down behind the house. He waited until he thought Jerry and Mrs. Jerry must be very near the house. Then he peeked around. They were almost to the house, and with them were two

others, young but fully grown. It was then that Billy Mink had a sudden change of mind. He wasn't afraid to fight two but four were too many. Suddenly, he wasn't hungry at all, and he didn't feel like fighting. He dived, and swam under water to the other side of the Smiling Pool. There he poked his head out, and watched the four Muskrats working on their house.

PRODUCTION UP

OTTAWA (CP) — Canadian industry produced 9.2 per cent more last June than a year earlier, raising output in the first six months of 1955 to 6.4 per cent above the 1954 level, the bureau of statistics said Tuesday. The index of industrial production, based on 1935-39 figures equaling 100, stood at 275.7 for June compared with 252.4 for a year earlier and averaged 256.4 for the first six months this year compared with 241 for the first half of 1954.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

AVOIDANCE PLAYS

ASK THE average player to define "avoidance play," and he is apt to give you a blank stare. Yet, this is a vitally important facination, and the declarer who is always alert to the possibility of making such plays will bring home many contracts that are otherwise doomed. Yesterday's column pointed up one sort of avoidance play, and here is another example worth noting:

Neither side vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing West, North, East, South cards and bidding sequence.

The bidding: West North East South 1♥ Pass 2♣ 2♠ 3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♥ Pass 4♠ Pass

South should have taken advantage of the failure to continue clubs at the outset. Certainly, it was not hard to foresee what would develop in normal course, if South simply took the diamond shift and knocked out the trump ace. To arrest this development, South should have delayed his trump-drawing for a more vital need—communication-cutting. He should have led his singleton heart to the ace, then led the heart jack, discarding his remaining club. This would have spiked the defenders' guns very effectively.

East should have jumped straight to four hearts on the first round with the specific hope of shutting out spade competition, but as it happened, he could not have succeeded—South's holding

West: ♠ 8 7 4 ♣ A J 7 3 ♠ 10 6 4 7 S: ♠ K Q 10 7 3 ♣ K 6 4 3 ♠ 10 9 8 5 2 ♣ A Q J 9 8 ♠ 4 3 2 ♣ K 10 2

Yesterday's Answer: 20. American Indians 30. Partic - humid 32. Cereal grains 37. Bird 38. Sick 40. Narrow inlet (geol.) 41. Licentiate in medicine (abbr.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1. Young of a cow 5. Point on a wire fence 9. Means of communication 10. Bay window 12. Jewish month 14. Freeth animal 16. Doctor (abbr.) 17. Book of the Old Testament 19. High priest 20. Social insect 21. Birds as a class 23. Tempered, grouchy person 25. Top of a wave 26. Definite length of yarn 27. Male cat 28. What in the world can Jerry Muskrat be building such a big house for? Can it be that he has a big family living here? If so perhaps I'll stay awhile. I haven't had a dinner of young Muskrat for a long time. 29. A pirate 30. New Hampshire (abbr.) 34. A color in the French flag 35. Plaything 36. Large or important towns 37. Method of learning 38. Magistrate (Rom.) 41. Beans (chick)

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE

Here's how to work it: AXYDLEAAKX LONGFELLOW 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, acronyms, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

WBN RLKN NLGF SBYLN GKJL WNLCE SNE, U JSTBM VHN RGTY KRDO HBN - CHBNLGF.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: KEEP ME AS THE APPLE OF THE EYE - PSALMS.

Pioneer Days In P.E.I.

By F. H. MacArthur

When Mr. and Mrs. John MacRae took up land at Argyle Shore they had two cows and a pair of sheep but very little pasture as most of their farm was covered with timber. Like other pioneers, John and Laura were determined to see their venture through, come what might. Day after day, John felled the trees that grew tall and thick near their shack. Only at mealtime was he to be found in the house, and his wife, Laura, cooked the meals, tended the cows and sheep, and did the hundred and one odd chores that needed attention in and around their new home.

Thus, this hardy pair toiled on and on, proud in the knowledge that each day came to a close with something worth while accomplished. The winter months drew to an end, and the first spring rains began to fall upon the roof of their humble home. In a short time the little plot of land they had laboriously cleared the year before would be ready for cultivating and seed. The spring and summer would bring longer days, and longer days would bring more toil to this couple who already were bearing the yoke of countless hardships, but they were always courageous and full of hope; that hope which "springs eternal in the human breast."

That year, the little crop which they'd planted and cared for so

NATURE'S POWER

An average thunderstorm releases 50 times the energy of the first atomic bomb.

John rushed to the spot, axe in hand, ready for any eventualities, and just as he reached the clump of alders he was horrified to see his wife attacking a large bear with nothing but a stick in her hand. "Be off, you rascal of a thief! You've just killed our fattest sheep!" John rushed at the bear, but already the frightened animal had turned tail and was starting to slink off through the woods. "Laura," said her husband, "you scared the critter most to death with nothing but a stick."

John shouted his thanks to the stranger. Then, turning to his wife, he said, "Let's round up our sheep, Laura, lest the bears devour them!" It was growing dark when they'd reached the tiny sheep pasture and suddenly Laura called out loudly: "O John! I see some black objects moving about among the alder bushes."

Advertisement for DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS with a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman.

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Our Boarding House Major Hoopie

Comic strip panel showing a man in a bed and a woman talking.

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Advertisement for EXPORT CANADA'S FINEST CIGARETTE with a woman's face.

Advertisement for MINARD'S LINIMENT with a cartoon illustration of a man.

Advertisement for Secret Agent Xy with a cartoon illustration of a man.

Advertisement for a product with a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman.

Tilly The Tiger

POGO

Muggs and Skeeter

Henry

up - atter

Grandma

Mickey Mouse

John Crabsby

L'il Abner

By Ham Fisher

By Walt Kelly

By Walt Kelly

By Wally Bishop

By Carl Anderson

By George McManus

By Charles Kuhn

By Walt Disney

By Al Capp

By L'il Abner

By Ham Fisher