



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess
A FOOLISH YOUNG DUCK
If you are wise you still will heed
Advice you think you do not need.
—Old Mother Nature.

Mr. and Mrs. Quack, Mallard Ducks, were proud of the family they had brought down from the Far North. They were stopping over for a rest on their way to their winter home in the Sunny South. They had reason to be proud of their family. They were as fine a looking lot of young Ducks as ever had landed splash, splash, splash, on the surface of the Big River. They had already made a long journey, and many things had happened on that journey. Some of their brothers and sisters who had started with them had not lived to get down to the Big River. Each time that something happened to one of the others learned a most important lesson in what dangers to watch out for out in the Great World.

Now, not all Ducks are alike, any more than all boys and girls are alike. In that flock some were smarter than others. Some were quicker to learn than others. Some were more curious than others. Some were more suspicious than others. I suspect that one or two even thought they knew more than father or mother did. One morning when father and mother were not with them, the young Ducks saw something rolling and tumbling on the shore in the strangest way. Curiosity led them to swim in nearer until finally one of them was almost on the shore. That rolling tumbling thing suddenly became Reddy Fox, and he caught that young Duck. It was all so startling that the other young Ducks didn't really see what had happened. They took to their wings before they saw that that tumbling

thing was an enemy to be watched out for. A few days later they again saw something rolling and tumbling on the shore, and again they started to swim in out of curiosity. But Mrs. Quack was with them then. She stopped them in time. She warned them never to be too curious about anything they saw on the shore. But there was one young Duck who wasn't satisfied. He hadn't really seen what had happened, and he still was curious. It happened one morning that he had remained behind in the rice when the rest of the flock had gone farther up the river. That very morning Little Too-Smart, young son of Reddy Fox, visited the river again. He saw that young Duck before the latter saw him. He looked and looked and looked, but there was no other Duck in sight. He was sure this couldn't be Mrs. Quack. Once more he tried that trick of rolling and tumbling and whirling as if he had suddenly gone crazy. The young Duck watched and looked long and hard. He could make nothing whatever of that queer red thing rolling about. Without knowing he was doing it he slowly swam nearer and nearer and nearer the shore. That queer, red, tumbling thing certainly wasn't a bird, and it didn't look as if it could possibly be an animal. It didn't look like anything to be afraid of. The foolish young Duck made up his mind that he would find out for himself what this queer thing was. He was sure that mother was mistaken. She was too timid. How were you to know about things if you didn't find out for yourself? "I'm not afraid," thought the young Duck. "That thing isn't anything to be afraid of. I'll go ashore and find out just what it is."

He did just that, but he didn't live long enough to know that he had found out. That day Little Too-Smart had his first Duck dinner, and it tasted all the better because he had caught it all by himself.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BLUEPRINT OF PLAY

The fact that certain players make an absolute requirement of 13 high-card points for opening in the bidding, give the opposing declarer an invaluable guide in the play. For example:

Table showing card suits and points for East and West hands.

The bidding: East 1♥, South 2♠, West Pass, North 4♠.

South was a little short of his single jump overall, but the solidity of his suit justified his choice. As a rule, this type of vulnerable overall requires eight winners, because it invites a raise from partner on less than he needs for a voluntary raise. If partner has three winners he is not apt to require urging. West opened his top heart, and East captured the queen. The heart jack was returned; the king won and declarer then ruffed a heart before drawing two rounds of trumps. South's obvious danger was, of course, in diamonds. Many players, holding the precise diamond spots held by South, would try repeated finesse against the two missing honors, on the theory that the mathematical odds strongly favor that one of the missing honors (or both) will be "right." In this case, however, with East having opened the bidding, South was not satisfied with finessses. To have 13 points, East needed every missing card above a jack, and that particular East never opened on fewer points. There was all South had to know. He led and passed the jack of diamonds and when East won and exited with his last high heart, South made him a present of the trick, discarding a diamond from his own hand. Now East had the choice of returning a diamond to dummy's tenace, or a club away from the king. When he decided on the latter play, South of course ducked, and dummy's queen won the trick.

TASTY DISH More than half the canned chicken produced in Canada comes from Prince Edward Island canneries.

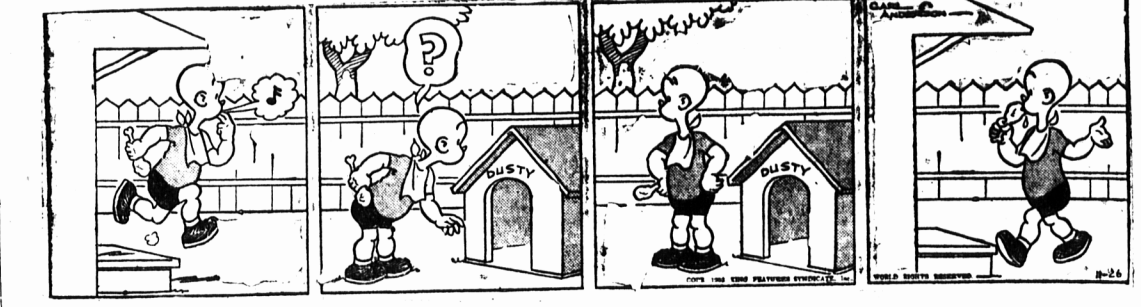
Rudolph—and the Blue Nosed Reindeer

By Robert L. May



Henry

By Carl Anderson



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



Dotty Dripple

By Buford



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



FENNY

By Henry Harrison



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



King of the Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



L'il Abner

By Al Capp

