BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

DRUMMER BECOMES CURIOUS

Each deed of yours throughout the day.
May touch another in some way.
-Old Mother Nature.

Drummer the Woodpecker was halfway up the trunk of a certain tree in the Green Forest. He was on the south side, which was the warm side. The other side of the tree was still covered with ice, for there had been a great ice storm. Durmmer knee every inch of that tree. He had once lived in it for a whole season. He and Mrs. Drummer had raised a family in it in the summer. He had used it all the following winter to sleep in. Now he had another house, and he was visiting this tree only because he hoped he might find some grubs or borers in it to eat. So far he had had no luck.

Now Drummer's way of hunting for hidden borers is to tap and tap and tap with his stout bill, listening closely after each tap. He can tell by the sound if there is a hollow. Of course a borer in the wood makes a little tunnel as he bores in. Then too, when he is busy boring he makes a noise. You or I might not hear it, but the ears of a Woodpecker can pick it up. So Drummer hammers and listens.

He was up now as high as his old home, the hollow he had cut into the tree on the other side. Right there he heard, or thought he heard, a curious sound following his pounding with his stout bill. He put an ear close to the bark and listened. Then he hit the tree two sharp blows with his bill and listened. He was sure this time he wasn't mistaken. There was a sound from inside that tree, but it wasn't the sound that a borer makes at work. It was altogether a different sound. He tapped again and listened. Again he heard that sound. It was faint, but there was no doubt about it.

Then he hit the tree two sharp blows with his bill and listened.

"Now, what can that be?" said Drummer to himself. "It's on the other side of the tree."

He backed down a little, then he started to hitch around. But he didn't hitch far because there was still ice on the bark. However, he could still hear queer sounds. It made him more curious than ever. If there was some kind of a borer in there he wanted to get it. He tried to work around the other way. When he had hitched around to a certain point, that was as far as he could go.

The queer sounds that Drummer was getting were made by Timmy and Mrs. Timmy, the two little prisoners in Drummer's old home. He had heard the sound of their claws in the wood. He had heard the sound of their teeth as they gnawed at the edge of the doorway. Drummer sat still for quite awhile. All the time he was listening. All the time he was growing more and more curious. He changed his position from time to time, each time putting an ear close to the bark and listening. Gradually he began to guess where the sound was coming from.

"I do believe it's coming from my old home," said he to himself. "I wonder if some one is in that old house of mine. It sounds that way. It certainly does. Perhaps Whitefoot the Woodmouse is in there. I think I'll have another look at that doorway.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By F. H. MacArthur

A justice of the peace in Three Rivers, Quebec, fined a fellow $20 for a traffic violation. The defendant pleaded for time to pay the money.

The Justice of the Peace asked for security, and the man produced a set of store teeth; one week later he came back, paid the $20 and got back his teeth.

Now that this news item has seen the light of day it wouldn't surprise the writer if some of our city boys will be pasing over their store teeth to Magistrate Martin in lieu of money to pay fines.

When he proved that it was his high, tight shoes, not whiskey, that made him unable to walk a police chalk line, Bill Garbult was exonerated of an intoxication charge in court at Hamilton, Ontario.

"A survey shows that married men lie more than single ones," reports a psychologist. Another case of necessity being the mother of invention.

Statues have been erected in various cities of the world in honor of persons who never lived. Among them are the following wellknown fiction characters: Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, in Hannibal, Mo.; Peter Pan, in London; Hans Brinker, in Holland; Puck, in Washington, and Hiawatha and Minnehaha in Minnapolis, Minn.

A man in Europe walked a tight rope for 43 consecutive hours. Since then he's been spending a great deal of his spare time wondering why he did it.

Something that yields no profit and is costly to maintain is said to be a white elephant. The expression is derived from the fact that the white (albino) elephant was believed to be sacred in the East and had to be kept but could not be made to perform any work.

A man who has so little consideration for a woman's feelings that he always tells her the truth is no gentleman.

It's more impolite to speak ill of the dead than of the living, but it's a darned sight safer.

Why is it that many flowers have to be tied to a stake to keep them upright, whereas any old weed can stand alone with the greatest of ease?

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

LONDON (CP)—A new railway crane, specially designed to go around corners, has gone into service on London's subway. Previously repairs had been held up because of the difficulty in moving cranes along the tracks.

PRESERVE RELICS

NEW DELHI (CP) — Ancient Buddhist sculptures at Nagarjuna Konda will be removed to a safe site before the area is flooded by construction of a new hydro-electric reservoir. The river valley project in South India will irrigate about 3,000,000 acres.

LITTLE SANDS

The Little Sands school held their Christmas Concert on Friday afternoon, Dec. 23. A good number of parents and vsiitors attended, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent. Four of the pupils were not in attendance due to illness and were missed on the programme.

The children all did ttheir parts very well, which speaks very creditably for the teacher, Miss Sally Stewart who so patiently and painstakingly trained the children.

After the programme the pupils were treated to oranges and apples, donated by the Women's Institute and the teacher respectively. Candy was also passed around. After this, Santa appeared in his jolly good humor and distributed many gifts to the children from a well laden tree.

Congratulations and a vote of thanks were extended to the teacher for her fine success in putting on a good programme.

"The Queen", closed a very enjoyable afternoon and parents and teacher and pupils exchanged good wishes for a Happy and Merry Christmas.

The following is the programme:
Opening chorus—"Jingle Bells" by school
Recitation, "Welcome-Eileen Blue.
Song, "Away in a Manager", Linda Richards and Eileen Blue.
Recitation, "A Quick Change of Plan" - Pauline Richards.
Drill, "Christmas" by Nine pupils.
Recitation, "Specially Jim" - Dorothy Blur
Song, "Rud olph the Red Nose Reindeer", Dorothy Blue and Linda Richards
Recitation, "The Made Stocking", Linda Blue
Dialogue, "Mrs. Brown's Christmas Present" Mary MacLeod and Donnie Wilson
Recitation, "Why We Are Here", Linda Richards
Drill, "Christmas" by 4 pupils, Sonny MacLeod, Jessie Meney, Pauline Richards and Lester Richards.
Song, "First Fall of Snow", John Meney and Dannie Wilson
Monologue, "Aunt Jane's Christmas Present", Barry Stewart
Recitation, "A Shy Little Boy," Lester Richards
Song, "High on the Housetop," Dorothy and Eileen Blue
Recitation, "Trousers," Dannie Wilson
Recitation, "Poor Old Santa", Harold Richards
Song, "Silent Night", by 5 girls
Closing Chorus, "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Here Comes Santa".

Servicemen arriving home on Christmas Eve to spend Christmas at their homes were, OS. Lester White, Wood Islands East and OS. Cecil Alexander (Sandy) Blue, Little Sands. The boys planned to leave on return for their Halifax Naval base on Tuesday morning.

On Christmas Eve a lot of snow fell, and although the road here was not blocked for cars, travelling was heavy. More snow and drifting occurred on Christmas Day, continuing on Monday blocking the roads here, no cars were noticed passing through Little Sands on Monday. This being the first day this winter that the cars were at a standstill through here.

Mr. Lemuel MacLean, Little Sands, and Mr. Robert White, Wood Islands East, patients in the Provincial Sanatorium were able to be home for Christmas to spend some time in their homes with their families. All wish them both continued progress in being restored to good health.

Christmas has come and passed on again and we hope, people have had a happy time. With all the good wishes that has passed from one to the other and the beautiful sentiment on many of the Christmas cards and on the radio, it should inspire us all to better living and a closer walk with God.

C.O.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

THE UNFORGIVABLE ERROR

North committed the one type of error that experts never forgive — he "took complete charge of the bidding."

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

	♠ A 9 6 5 2 ♥ — ♦ 7 ♣ A K J 9 8 5 3	
♠ 8 4 3 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ 10 8 6 5 ♣ 6 4	N W E S	♠ K Q J 10 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ A Q J ♣ Q 7 2
	♠ 7 ♥ A K Q J 8 4 3 ♦ K 9 4 2 ♣ 10	

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Dble	Rdble	Pass
Pass	1 ♠	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West opened a spade against the heart slam, and though South put up a valiant effort, he could not salvage two diamond losers, even with the diamond ace on-side.

To players who take a certain (mistaken) view of redoubles, it will seem that this result was at least as much South's fault as North's, but unbiased analysis reveals that this was not so. The fact is that East's double of one club put South, with his freak holding, in a great dilemma. If he bid two, three or four hearts directly over this double, he would virtually be abandoning his chance for a slam, since North certainly would not read the bid as indicating a hand as strong as South held. Thus, while it is not comfortable to redouble with only a singleton of partner's suit, South's decision to make that call was beyond criticism; in fact it was the best way to ask North to step aside and let South act as captain in the subsequent bidding.

It was this message that North ignored. When South jumped over East's one-spade bid all the way to four hearts, he was making the clearest sort of announcement that he did not require any heart support, and so North should have passed, despite the extreme length of his club suit. If South had had club support, he would have gone more slowly in the auction.

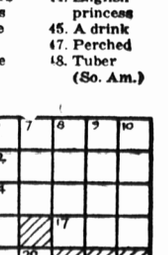
QUICK RESULTS

LONDON (CP) — Do-it-yourself advertisements in British newspapers now offer inexpensive recipes for making wine and beer. The ads call it an "exciting hobby with guaranteed quick results."

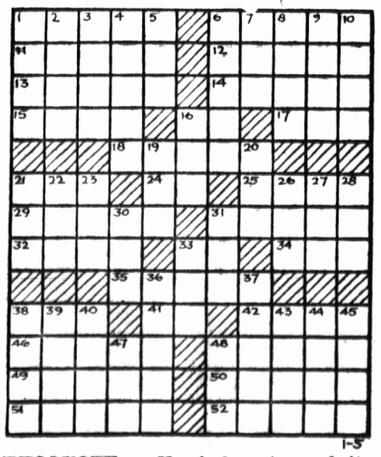
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Crustacean
2. Members of British Parliament
1. A mechanical man
2. Farewell
3. Comparative purity
4. To man again
15. Encounter
16. King of Bashan (Bib.)
17. Wapiti
18. Long-legged bird
21. Simpleton
24. Siberian gulf
25. Girl's name
29. Thrashes
31. Pointed arch
32. Destiny
33. Land-measure
34. Obtain
35. Held fast
38. Newt
41. All correct
42. Mohammedan prince
46. Sharp
48. Sheeplike
49. To wind around a pin (naut.)
50. A showy flower
51. Contest (hyphenated)
52. Inquired

DOWN
1. Stuff
2. Part
3. Skillful
4. He assassinated Lincoln
5. Pig pen
6. Slow (mus.)
7. Poem
8. White frost
9. Apportion, as cards
10. Submerged
16. Sphere
19. Goddess of dawn
20. Wooden pin
21. Away
22. A wing
23. Obese
26. Swine
27. Hail!
28. Permit
30. Opposite of "no"
31. Grampus
33. Diving bird
36. Capital (Jap.)
37. Pueblo ceremonial chambers
38. Subsides
39. Liberate
40. Slant
43. Valuable fur
44. English princess
45. A drink
47. Perched
48. Tuber (So. Am.)



Yesterday's Answer



1-5

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE — Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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

N W M K P F Q W Y K Z X F F K Z P Z P X M X J X F P K W K X Q , K W J P U Q P M . X U Q K W ; M S P — K Z P U K J W U P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NATURE'S UNCHANGING [illegible]

Our Boarding House Major Hoople

Out Our Way By J. R. Williams

TELEVISION

CKCW — Moncton
Television Programme
Channel 2

THURSDAY

2:00 p.m.—F. M. Concert Hour
3:00 p.m.—Liberace
3:30 p.m.—At Home with Helen Crocker
4:30 p.m.—Today with Arlene Holder
4:45 p.m.—Uncle Jack at the Piano
5:00 p.m.—Story Book
5:15 p.m.—Maggie Muggins
5:30 p.m.—Howdy Doody
6:00 p.m.—Barbie's Scrapbook
6:30 p.m.—CKCW—TV News
6:40 p.m.—Weather
6:45 p.m.—Sports
6:50 p.m.—CBC News
7:00 p.m.—Little Red Schoolhouse
7:30 p.m.—Spark Master
7:45 p.m.—Back Stage
8:00 p.m.—Life is Worth Living
8:30 p.m.—Jane Wyman Theatre
9:00 p.m.—Kraft Theatre.
10:00 p.m.—Oxford High School Glee Club
10:30 p.m.—International Playhouse
11:00 p.m.—CKCW—TV News
11:10 p.m.—Weather
11:15 p.m.—Concert Hour
12:15 a.m.—Sign Off.