

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

TIMMY AND MRS TIMMY TALK IT OVER

Talk over what you have in mind. Think much the wisest plan you'll find.

Timmy the Flying Squirrel. How right Timmy is. Talking over before doing anything about them is the essence of wisdom. It's almost sure to bring out the hidden faults a plan may have.

Mr. and Mrs. Timmy had spent all the autumn and most of the winter in the big apartment tree in the Green Forest. They had a lot of neighbors in that tree. Others of their kind were living there. At the beginning of cold weather Killie the Sparrow Hawk had moved in. And in the middle of winter, who should take the lower apartment but Spooky the Screech Owl. They hadn't minded the little Hawk in the upper apartment; he hadn't bothered them in the least. You see, he was awake only in daytime, and they were awake and out only at night. Having Spooky the Screech Owl for a neighbor was quite another matter. He is one of the night-loving folk just

as they are, and they had to be constantly on the watch for him and be very, very careful not to give him a chance to catch them. "Are we going to continue to live here?" asked Mrs. Timmy one night as she and Timmy were opening and eating some choice nuts. Her voice was squeaky.

Timmy looked up with surprise. "I suppose so," said he. "I haven't thought anything about it, but I don't know of any reason why we shouldn't continue to live here."

"I wonder," squeaked Mrs. Timmy. "What do you wonder?" Timmy asked.

"I wonder if it is wise," replied Mrs. Timmy. "I'm just looking ahead. You understand."

"No, I don't," squeaked Timmy a bit impatiently. "What are you looking ahead to?"

"The time when we will have a household of children," replied Mrs. Timmy. "I am wondering if this will be a good place to bring them up."

"Do you know of a better place?" demanded Timmy. He sounded a little impatient, and his voice was a trifle squeakier than usual.



"He hasn't bothered us any," said Timmy.

"No," replied Mrs. Timmy, "but we could go look for one."

"But why should we?" cried Timmy. He sounded more impatient than ever. "What's the matter with this place?"

"You seem to have forgotten who is living down below," squeaked Mrs. Timmy.

"Oh!" exclaimed Timmy. "I suppose you mean Spooky the Screech Owl."

Mrs. Timmy nodded. "That is just who I mean," said she.

"He hasn't bothered us a day," said Timmy. He spoke in a doubtful tone.

"That is because we know all about him, and how to keep out of his way. But you know as well as I do that we have to keep constant watch; that we can't afford to be forgetful and careless even once. How about the babies?" retorted Mrs. Timmy.

"Well, how about them?" squeaked Timmy.

"The poor darlings, won't even know what danger is at first, so how can they look out for themselves?" cried Mrs. Timmy.

Timmy had no answer for this, so he tried to change the subject. "There are unusually nice nuts. Don't you think so, my dear?" said he.

"He would soon find out that we had children and he would be watching for them. The poor dears wouldn't have a chance once they were outside the house," declared Mrs. Timmy.

Timmy pretended not to hear this. "I wish we had stored up more of these nuts," said he.

"We are not talking about nuts," squeaked Mrs. Timmy sharply. "We were talking about what is best for our babies."

"But we haven't any!" cried Timmy.

Mrs. Timmy let this pass. "I think we should go look for a new home, and the sooner we do it the better," said she. Timmy said nothing.

LONDON — (Reuters) — Clement Attlee, parliamentary opposition leader, cancelled a trip to Philadelphia in March because budget day in the House of Commons has been brought forward to March 4. Attlee was to have flown to the United States to be guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Fellowship Commission, a group working for racial tolerance.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton
SUCCESS WAS POSSIBLE

The slam contract in the following deal was not sound, but if the declarer had taken full advantage of a lucky break of cards he would have "come home."

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

♠	A 10 7 3	♠	8 5
♥	A J 6 4	♥	Q 9
♦	9 3	♦	Q J 6 4 3
♣	A 8 5	♣	2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ (final bid)

After making the mild slam suggestion of four diamonds over North's double raise in spades, South had "nothing left" and so was not justified in jumping to five spades over North's four-heart cue bid. Since South did jump, North could not be blamed for going on to the slam.

West opened the diamond jack. South won, drew trumps, and then apparently feeling that his only chance was to find both the king and queen of hearts in West's hand, he led a heart toward dummy and put in the jack. East took the trick, and South was left with another sure loser in hearts.

Declarer was unwise in playing for both the king and queen of hearts to be held by West — a much better chance was available. South should have cashed the heart ace, drawn trumps, eliminated the clubs and diamonds from the North-South hands, and then led a heart toward dummy's J-6-4.

True, there would be no guarantee of success with this plan — the missing hearts might easily have been otherwise placed — but South would be using the best "percentage." In every case where East started with the king-small or queen-small, the opponents would be helpless. East, upon winning the trick, would have to lead another suit and give South a heart discard from his own hand, which he ruled in dummy. The play would also work if West started with a doubleton high honor and failed to unblock that honor on the ace; and it would always work if West started with K-10 or Q-10.

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KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



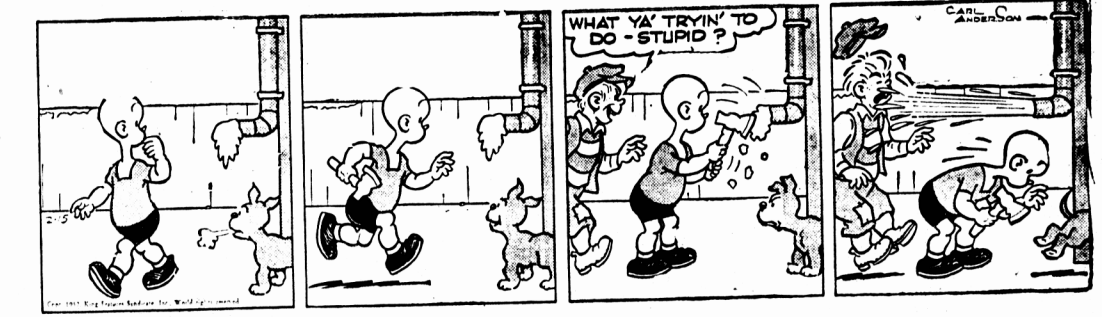
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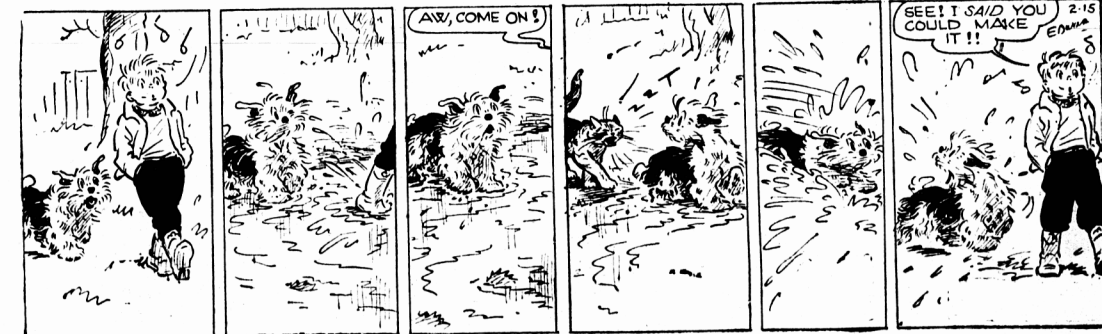
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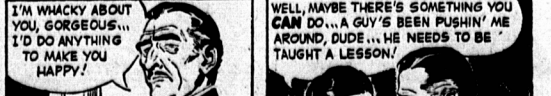
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