

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

YOUNG REDDY FEELS BETTER

To doubt another makes one sad. To doubt one's self is twice as bad. —Reddy Fox.

The coming winter would be the first for Young Reddy Fox. Young Reddy was the son of Reddy Fox and had been named for his father because he was so like him. Young Reddy was quick to learn, and what he learned, he remembered. In this he was also like his father. So far the young Fox had done very well for himself out in the Great World.

One thing bothered Young Reddy. He had made the acquaintance of Young Jimmy Skunk. He had seen the young Skunk send a Dog home whimpering and whining. Young Jimmy had seemed not afraid of that Dog at all. Indeed, he seemed not to know what real fear was. Because of what he had seen, Young Reddy was most respectful of Young Jimmy. Really, he was a little afraid of him. It was this that bothered the young Fox. He was so much bigger than the young Skunk that he hated to admit to himself that he wouldn't dare have trouble with his small acquaintance. He didn't like to think that he was a coward. He wondered if he was.

Then one evening he happened to see a meeting between his father, Reddy Fox, smartest of all people on the Green Meadows, and Young Jimmy Skunk, father of Young Jimmy. They met on a little path in the Old Pasture. The young Fox, who happened to be where he could see them, wondered what would happen. Reddy Fox was going up the little path. It was an old cow path. Jimmy Skunk was coming down. Reddy stopped the instant he saw Jimmy. The latter, who doesn't use his eyes much, didn't see Reddy at first. He was ambling along slowly, as if he had all the time in the world. It was on this way down to the Green Meadows, Reddy gave a short little bark. Jimmy stopped. And even as he stopped, he stamped with his front feet, and threw up his tail.

Reddy Fox grinned. "You don't need to give me a warning," said he. "You know very well that you have nothing to fear from me. Where are you going this pleasant evening?"

"Down on the Green Meadows to hunt for a Mouse," replied Jimmy Skunk.

"I've just come from there, and I couldn't find a Mouse. I don't believe you can. I wouldn't bother to go down there if I were you," replied Reddy.

"If I can't find a Mouse I can dig some grubs out of the grass roots. So, if you will get out of my way, I'll go along," said Jimmy.

Reddy grinned again. "Of course I'll get out of your way," said he, and stepped off into the bushes at one side.

While I do not put forth the claim that all of our ancestors believed such stuff, there is plenty of evidence that most of them did. They believed, for instance, that certain places were haunted by the three owners. Some went so far as to claim they had actually seen the ghosts of deceased persons flitting about in these old shanties; and, told often enough, these fantastic yarns fastened themselves, to such an extent, in the minds of the people that both young and old travelled about in great fear. Hardly a forest, or lonely road on the Island was without its wandering ghost.

Even the children were permitted to listen to such tales, and when it came time for them to be put to bed, they became so frightened that big brother or mother would have to lie down beside them until they dropped off to sleep.

Some mothers objected to having their children listen in, but the fathers usually took an opposite

Pioneer Days In P. E. I.

By F. H. MacArthur

Whenever a few neighbors dropped in to spend the evening, someone was sure to bring up the subject of ghosts, witches and other bizarre and unusual tales of which our forefathers were most fond of hearing and repeating. The more fantastic and hair-raising the yarn, the better they liked it. Even the womenfolk put aside their knitting and the children sat about with their ears wide open so that not a word of the story-teller would be lost.

Ghost stories led the list of weird yarns, but the oldtimers frequently narrated breathtaking epics that mystic, tales of vampires, werewolves, strange monsters of the land and sea, as well as stories of other planets, the future and voyages between worlds.

Indeed, they were well versed in such things, and while everybody could spin a few hair-raising yarns, there was, in every district, one or more persons who so outshone the others as story-tellers that they were often referred to as "boogies."

Witchcraft, too, had its ardent supporters and while there is no record of anyone having been prosecuted for practicing the art on this Island, there was more than one person suspected of being a witch.

The superstition concerning witchcraft did not have its birth here by the first settlers. The same is true of ghost stories and other outlandish tales. They were handed down from father to son, generation after generation, until changing times caused all such tall stories to become stale and outmoded.

The spinning of weird and bizarre yarns may have supplied a need in days when facts and newspapers were beyond the reach of most families; but we are thankful that the children of our generation do not have to sit around the fireplace or stove listening and shivering with fear while someone spins a hair-raising whopper.

SUMMERFIELD C. W. L.

The regular monthly meeting of the Summerfield sub-division of the C. W. L. was held on Sunday, Oct. 16th at the home of Mrs. Joseph Hughes with a good attendance.

The president, Mrs. Everett Clow presided and opened the meeting with the League prayer. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as read. Correspondence consisted of a letter from Miss I. Arsenault re Regional Conferences and "thank you" messages from Mrs. C. W. Croken and Mrs. Maurice Croken.

In the absence of the treasurer, the financial statement was not read. The membership convener Mrs. Leslie Trainor reported eighteen membership fees received. It was moved by Mrs. Louis O'Connor and seconded by Mrs. Austin Murphy that a high mass be said for the recovery of one of our sick members and that a spiritual worker be forwarded to same.

Arrangements were made for card parties to be held in the parish during the fall and winter months. Next place of meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Everett Reeves.

On Wednesday evening October 19th an executive meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Cash at which directors and members from North Rustico, Kinkora and Ingham River sub-divisions were in attendance. It was decided to hold the Nov. 20th regional conference at North Rustico.

WILLIAMS LAKE, B. C. (CP)

One of two mailbags accidentally lost when a plane's freight door swung open was found in the bush here.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

AN EXTRA VALUE

A LONG trump suit has a value that is quite apart from the number of good solid tricks it produces. It forces the defenders to make many discards—and whenever that is the case, there is an excellent chance for them to go wrong.

Observe how very wrong West went in this deal:

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♥	4♣	Pass	Pass

South was rather aggressive when he jumped all the way to four spades over the one-heart opening, but his action was not wholly illogical.

West opened the queen of his partner's heart bid, and East

overlook with the king. South ducked—and note that he did so without any hesitation. (This becomes important later.)

East shifted to the ace of diamonds and, when West gave encouragement with the seven, followed up with the diamond eight. West won, and now with three tricks in, West led his remaining heart, sure that East would win with the ace for the setting trick.

It was South, however, who won the trick, and who now took time out for some concentration. South knew that East was a good player, while West was weak. East's shift to diamonds had convinced declarer that East was trying for a diamond ruff—that he had started with a doubleton—but obviously, West had failed to interpret East's message. If West could be kept in the dark, South might win out.

Declarer cashed one trump, and when the nine fell from East, ruffed his last heart in dummy. Now, with the trump ten located (West could have ruffed the heart if he had had the trump ten), South did not make a futile effort to ruff a diamond—he simply ran off every trump. As he hoped, West discarded diamonds to guard the club queen, and the queen and nine of diamonds became perfectly good.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

EXPERT DEFENSE REQUIRED

VERY few partnerships would defend successfully on the East-West cards below, because the winning defense involves a play that goes against the habit of almost all players short of the expert class.

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass

North, with 24 high-card points, might well have opened with two notrump (or even three notrump), but he obviously had hopes of reaching a slam—hence his two-diamond bid.

West, on lead against the actual three-notrump contract,

opened the jack of spades. The low card was played from dummy, and East put up the king and knocked out the ace of spades. Declarer then led the club king. East won and, for want of a better play, led his last spade. Declarer's queen took this trick and the diamond ace was led and passed. East won, but that was the end of the defense, and the contract was fulfilled with an extra trick.

It may be thought that the defenders were helpless, but let's scrutinize East's play a little more carefully. He should have ducked the opening lead! He knew from the lead of the spade jack that the spade queen was held by South, and it was too much to hope for that it was either singleton or doubleton. Actually, South could counter by refusing to win the trick, but this would require sheer clairvoyance—the opening lead could be from a five-card suit headed by the K-J-10. Any declarer would win with the spade queen and take the diamond finesse. Now, on getting in with the diamond king, East should lay down the spade king, deliberately sacrificing that card to unblock the suit for his partner, and after that it would be South who was helpless.

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Shell out with Wrigley's Spearmint Gum!

DAILY CROSSWORD

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1. Fireplace projections | 2. Constellation | 22. Little children |
| 3. Female parents (animals) | 4. Tired | 5. Moisture in early morning | 6. Wine receptacle |
| 7. Flat-topped hill | 8. Arrange | 9. Inland sea (Asia) | 10. Ostrich-like bird |
| 11. Arrange | 12. Stinging insects | 13. Division of a play | 14. Shut |
| 15. Likely | 16. June bug | 17. Thus | 18. River (Ger.) |
| 19. Attitudinise | 20. Conjunction | 21. Native of Tyrol | 22. Exchange premium |
| 23. Concoct | 24. Example | 25. Perform | 26. Leading actor |
| 27. Leg joint | 28. Type measures | 29. Native lead middle | 30. Gives out, as aims |
| 31. Female fox | 32. Part of a church | 33. Always | 34. Young oyster |
| 35. Bird's home | 36. Exchange premium | 37. Concoct | 38. Example |
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