

By Ham Fisher



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

WHAT WAS IT?

Christmas comes but for a day. Would it could forever stay. —Farmer Brown's Boy.

There had been a great ice storm.



There were places where he fairly flourished.

is, very, very lovely. It is so with an ice storm. It breaks down trees and bushes, and at the same time it turns them into shining silver, so that the very harm it does is made beautiful to see.

Nothing is dreaded quite so much by the people of the Green Forest and the Green Meadows as an ice storm. This is because one of the dreadful things it does is to look up all the food of many of the little people in fur and feathers. This is especially true of the folk in fur who must have meat, and of the feathered folk who must have insects, or their eggs. Only a few who have stored away food like the Squirrel folk, are sure of enough to eat to keep them from starving until the ice melts.

Buster Bear doesn't like the cold weather of winter. It isn't because it is cold that he doesn't like it. He really doesn't mind the cold at all, for he wears a warm fur coat. It is because after Jack Frost comes to stay, Buster can find little or no food. So, he wisely gives up trying and goes to sleep. Sleeping is a splendid way in which to forget your troubles. No one knows this better than does Buster Bear. Now and then he wakes up in the winter, but he doesn't like to do this. If he does wake up and he gets up, he doesn't stay up long. He soon goes back to bed and to sleep.

Now Buster had known nothing about the great ice storm. He hadn't heard Rough Brother North Wind howling and shrieking through the Green Forest. He had been covered with a blanket of snow through which Jack Frost had been unable to pinch him. He had slept quietly, peacefully, while big branches were broken from the surrounding trees, and came crashing down. Then, just at the end of the storm, Rough Brother North Wind, blowing his hardest, blew over a dead tree at the foot of which Buster Bear had gone to bed when the first snow fell. It was a poor place for anyone to have a bed. But, Buster is not fussy, and he is lazy, especially at times. This was one of those times. He was too lazy to look for a better place.

That tree fell right across Buster. Fortunately for him a thick blanket of snow covered him. Even so, it was a rude awakening. Whining and growling, he pulled himself from under the fallen dead tree. For a long time he just stood there

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluvertson

TOO RICH

South's misfortune in the following hand was that he had been dealt a king instead of a deuce!

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

Hand details: ♠ K 9 5 3, ♥ A 6 2, ♦ A K 6 4 2, ♣ A.

Hand details: ♠ A 6, ♥ K 7 3, ♦ J 8 7 5, ♣ J 9 5.

Hand details: ♠ Q J 10 8 4, ♥ Q 10, ♦ Q 10, ♣ K 10 8 7 3.

The bidding: East South West North 1♥(!) 1♠ 2♥ 6♣.

East's psychic heart bid trapped no one but his own partner—although West had to be very innocent indeed to double opposing contract. True, as it happened, the double brought West a good profit, but it should have cost him a great many points.

West led his lowest heart. South might have let this ride to his queen, since East's psychic was super-evident, but there was a chance that East had the heart king, if nothing else, so South put up the heart ace and cashed the top diamonds, discarding his other heart. He then cashed the club ace, ruffed a diamond, and led a low trump toward dummy. West ducking, the nine won. South ruffed another diamond, setting up the fifth card in the suit, while East discarded a club.

Declarer cashed the club king, throwing off a heart from dummy's hand, and then faced a problem! As the cards lay, of course, he could have led another trump, but he feared that West still had ace-small and that he would return the suit, taking out South's last trump and leaving dummy with a losing heart. So South, playing for an original 3-1 break of trumps, tried to ruff a club with dummy's five-ace and East's over-ruff was the voice of doom.

Readers will have observed that the contract could have been made in several different ways, but the truly remarkable feature was that South (a well known player, by the way) would have been virtually forced to win 12 tricks if he had lacked the club king—a simple cross-ruff would have delivered those tricks.

In what seemed like a strange world; a world of white and silver. The snow was covered with an ice crust. Everything else was covered with clear ice that made ev-

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DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1. Public vehicles 2. In a row (poet.) 3. Undeveloped flower 4. Mergansers 5. A kind of wheat 10. Citrus fruit 12. Eat away 13. Living 14. No (slang) 15. Diluted 17. Neuter pronoun 18. Kind of scarf 19. Hill in Jerusalem 21. Toward 22. Warp-year 25. Avoid 27. Not ever 29. Medieval boat 30. Note in the scale 32. Doom 33. Earliest 35. Tantalum (sym.) 36. Small crown 39. Guided 40. Fruit (It.) 41. On fire 43. Thin, round plate of metal 44. Used a garden tool 45. Dead 46. Looked at

Crossword grid with letters filled in.

Yesterday's Answer 37. Patron saint of sailors 38. Ceremony 39. Similar 42. Girl's name

- DOWN 1. Promoting cure 2. In a row (poet.) 3. Undeveloped flower 4. Mergansers 5. A kind of wheat 10. Citrus fruit 12. Eat away 13. Living 14. No (slang) 15. Diluted 17. Neuter pronoun 18. Kind of scarf 19. Hill in Jerusalem 21. Toward 22. Warp-year 25. Avoid 27. Not ever 29. Medieval boat 30. Note in the scale 32. Doom 33. Earliest 35. Tantalum (sym.) 36. Small crown 39. Guided 40. Fruit (It.) 41. On fire 43. Thin, round plate of metal 44. Used a garden tool 45. Dead 46. Looked at

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXR IS 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, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation TEDOJWNFLNQEMUGLDGU MNWRG-WFG PRNW WRPU ADYEGW RYJ EY-FWWY HRNG-OQYMCWOQL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SUNDAYS OF MAN'S LIFE, THREADED TOGETHER ON TIME'S STRING, MAKE BRACE-LETS.—HERBERT.

Pogo



By Walt Kelly

King Of The Royal Mounted



By Zane Grey

Lil Abner



By Al Capp

Rip Kirby



By Alex Raymond



By Zane Grey



By Al Capp



By Alex Raymond

Joe Palooka



Tilly The Toiler



Henry



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



Bringing Up' Father



By Bob Gustafson

By Carl Anderson

By Edwina

By George McManus

By Ruford

