



By Thornton W. Burgess

THE BLACK GANG

Always heed persistent doubt. Thus make sure what you're about. —Blacky the Crow.

When a number of people go about together, they often are called a gang. This is especially true when they are engaged in mischief of any kind. Excepting during the nesting season, the Crow folk often get together in flocks. They are what is called social-minded. That is, they like company. They like to share excitement. So it is that whenever one chances to discover something exciting, a special call brings all the others within hearing. It is surprising how quickly the black gang gets together. The gang was getting together now. Blacky and Mrs. Blacky were in the top of a tall tree listening. The cawing of other Crows came to them now from all directions. The members of the gang were talking to each other as they hurried toward a distant place from which was coming the special call which meant something exciting. "Aren't we going to see what it's all about?" asked Mrs. Blacky. "Listen, my dear," replied Blacky. "Does that call sound quite right to you?"

By Special Request

Alpha Rebekah Lodge No. 10 I.O.O.F. Presents a Repeat Performance of

"THE CHIMES OF NORMANDY" PRINCE OF WALES AUDITORIUM

March 11th—8:30 P. M. Admission 50c By arrangement Carl Fischer, Inc., N.Y.

CITY IMMUNIZING CLINICS

Conducted by Department of Health & Welfare To be held as follows:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd— West Kent 1:30 p.m. Rochford Square 2:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th— Queen Square 1:30 p.m. Notre Dame 2:30 p.m. THURSDAY, MARCH 5th— Spring Park 1:30 p.m. Parkdale 2:30 p.m.



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have no season for thinking anything is wrong. I'll go over a little nearer anyway." He spread his black wings and flew after Mrs. Blacky.

It was quite a distance over to the place where the gang was gathered. Every two or three minutes a new member joined the gang, and the excitement increased. Such a racket as they were making! They were flying about in the most excited manner near a clump of young evergreen trees growing close together, but so far not one had ventured very near. Perhaps they were waiting until the whole gang got there. It was down in that clump of trees that that call was coming from. Mrs. Blacky stopped in a tree half way over to that clump. Blacky joined her there.

"My dear," said he, "don't be in too much of a hurry. Let's watch from here until we are sure that things are as they seem to be. It is a lot easier to fly into trouble than to fly out of it."

All the gang had gathered now, and there was no doubt as to what they saw, or thought they saw. Every one of the gang was screaming. "Owl! Owl! Owl!" Blacky and Mrs. Blacky flew just a little nearer. There was an Owl! There was no doubt about it. It was a big Owl, and it was perched in one of those trees in that clump from which that call had been coming.

Now, there wasn't one of that gang that alone would have dared to attack that Owl. Numbers give courage, and now the members of the gang were working up their courage to show how daring and bold they were. It would be just too bad for that Owl if all of those Crows should attack him at the same time. He didn't seem to be at all afraid. He didn't seem to be at all disturbed. He didn't move. He just sat there waiting. He didn't so much as roll his eyes. "Funny," muttered Blacky, talking to himself. "Funny."

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

DOUBLE-DUMMY?

In a great many cases the declarer is not to be blamed for losing a contract, even though he could have made it by a different line of play. That different line may have involved "double-dummy" technique, and declarers are not supposed to be clairvoyant. Yet, in some hands the real question is whether the winning plan would or would not be truly "double-dummyish" — and that is the burning question in the following deal.

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable. East-West 30 on score.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for East, South, West, and North. East: ♠ 4, ♥ 5, ♦ 6, ♣ 7. South: ♠ 10, ♥ 9, ♦ 8, ♣ 5. West: ♠ 9, ♥ 8, ♦ 7, ♣ 4. North: ♠ 8, ♥ 7, ♦ 6, ♣ 3.

Bridge bidding table. The bidding: East 1♠, South 3♠, West 3♠, North Pass. East 4♠, South 4♠, West 4♠, North Pass. East 5♠, South 5♠, West 5♠, North Pass. East 6♠, South 6♠, West 6♠, North Pass.

West was not happy out letting South play the hand at five clubs, doubled or undoubled, but he decided that persistence with his own suits might be costly, for all of his freak holding.

West opened the jack of hearts. The queen won, and since declarer felt that he could never return to dummy, once he left it, he tried to cash two more heart tricks East, however, ruffed the third heart, and that ended the matter — South took only 10 tricks, and was down one.

It is not this writer's intention to imply that South misplayed the hand, nor to suggest that a better line of play was readily available. The fact remains, however, that the contract could have been fulfilled, and further, that in view of the very revealing East-West bidding, the winning line was not nearly so double-dummyish as it may appear.

That winning line was for South to discard his spade ace on the opening heart lead, won in dummy! Now he could draw trumps, then lead his spade eight toward dummy's Q-6. West would be "fixed." If he ducked, dummy's queen would win immediately and declarer would collect two more heart tricks; if West preferred to put up the spade king, his next lead, a spade or a heart, would put dummy in for the same tricks.

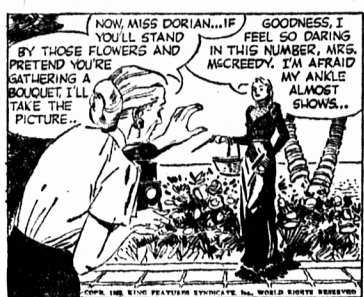
King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Li'l Abner

By Al Capp



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



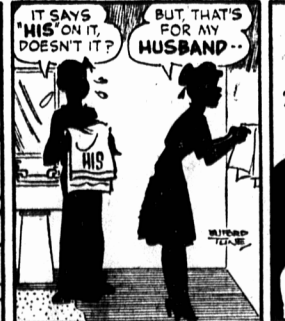
Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



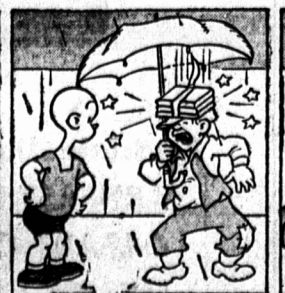
Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



Henry

By Carl Anderson



PENNY

By Harry Hoehn

