



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE DESPAIR OF A YOUNG FOX

Nothing harder is to bear than the feeling of despair. —Old Mother Nature.

Young Too-Smart was chased by a Dog. As yet he wasn't at all afraid. It was the first time a Dog had ever chased him. He didn't know anything about Dogs. This Dog was some distance behind him, barking steadily. This meant that he was using his wonderful nose to follow the scent the young Fox had left as he ran through the frost grass that early morning.

"That fellow never can catch me," said Young Too-Smart to himself as he ran. You see, he was a little proud of the way he could run if he had to. Always he had been a little faster than any of his brothers and sisters. He thought that Dog would soon become tired. After awhile he began to get tired himself, but the Dog didn't seem to be tired. It was then that the young Fox began to worry a little.

He began to circle around so as to get back nearer home. Now his worry was beginning to grow. That Dog was catching up. His voice

enjoying what he was doing; he was enjoying the chase.

But the poor young Fox wasn't enjoying it. No indeed! Every moment he was becoming more frightened. He knew he couldn't fight that Dog. The Dog was too big. And now he had discovered that he couldn't run away from that Dog. He was beginning to despair. Despair is a form of hopelessness, and there is no worse feeling. Young Too-Smart began to whimper a little. He just couldn't help it.

"What can I do? What can I do?" he kept whimpering over and over to himself.

There wasn't any answer. The only thing he knew to do was to keep on running, and with every minute that became harder. He wished he hadn't run so far from home. He had run much farther away than he had intended. If only he could get home. Perhaps that Dog wouldn't be able to follow him down in his underground house. But that was still a long way off, and the despair of the tired young Fox was complete.

Without warning there was a sharp bang a short distance away, and something stung him as nothing had ever stung him before. One leg hurt dreadfully. Do you wonder he was in despair?

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

TOO ABRUPT

In the hand below, South's method of showing up an opposing psychic bid was spectacular but not brilliant.

West dealer
North-South vulnerable

♠ 108	♠ 76532
♥ AKJ10	♥ 9
♦ AKQ10764	♦ 1098
♣	♣ 53

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3♣	4♣	4♣ (1)	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

It goes without saying that South easily won all the tricks, and in one sense, therefore, East's desperate psychic worked out, since without it North-South might have reached their grand slam.

While implying that South was at fault for the less-than-par result, it is only fair to observe that North might have taken further action on his own account, over South's six spades, North did think about a seven-bid, but as he explained later, he was afraid that South's bid was based on a very long spade suit lacking the ace or king.

The larger flaw in the bidding was South's haste in bidding six spades. True, he exposed East's psychic, but that alone could not reassure North that South's spade suit was absolutely solid. It would have been more sensible, if less spectacular, for South merely to double four spades, with the full intention, of course, of later bidding at least six spades when East ran out, as he so obviously would run. Then, it is reasonable to suppose that the bidding might have gone:

West	North	East	South
3♣	4♣	4♣	5♣
5♣	6♣	Pass	?

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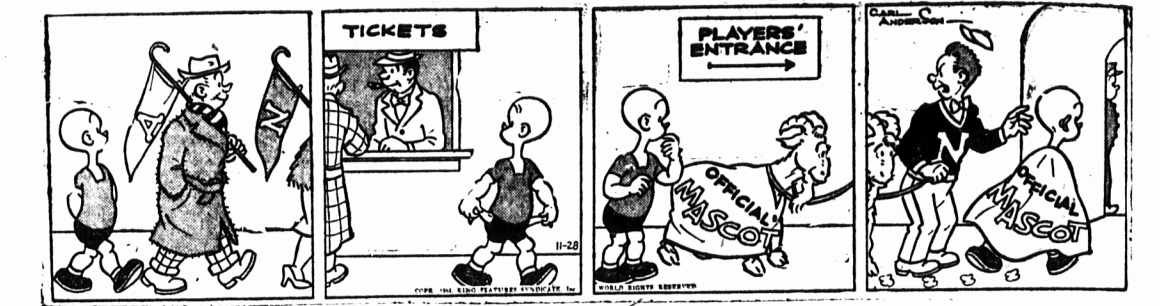
Rudolph—and the Blue Nosed Reindeer

By Robert L. May



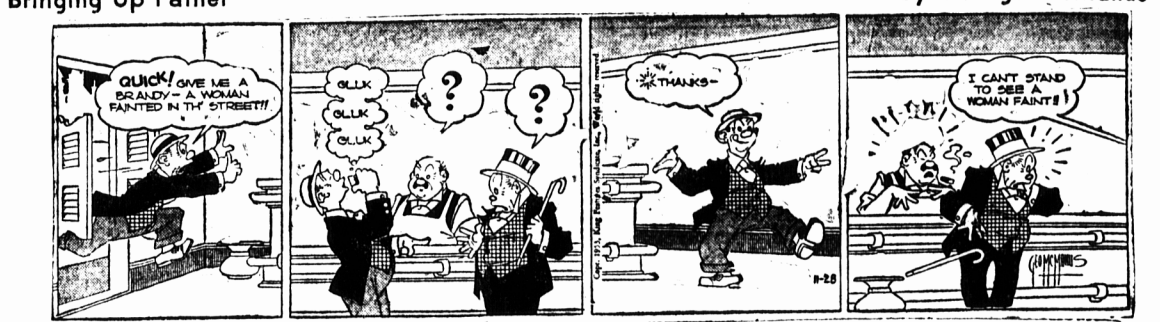
Henry

By Carl Anderson



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



Dotty Dripple

By Buford



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwin



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



King of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



L'il Abner

By Al Capp



PENNY

By Henry Hottel

