



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

WHAT THE RAIN BROUGHT FORTH

Once the simple facts you know Mystery melts like the snow. —Old Mother Nature.

Ignorance and mystery go together. You will find it so everywhere. There is no mystery in anything once the simple facts are known. Reddy Fox was on his way home to the Old Pasture. For two or three days it had been very dry. Even at night there had been little dampness in the air. Now, as Reddy trotted across one end of the Green Meadows toward the Old Pasture, there was a shower. It had begun threatening to rain, and the clouds had grown heavier and heavier. That was one reason Reddy was going home. He knew that if it should rain hard there would be no use in hunting until after the rain was over. A few drops of rain fell. A few more, and a few more.

Then it seemed as if all the water in all the clouds was suddenly poured out at once. Certainly those clouds were being emptied of all the water they had been holding. In two minutes Reddy was as wet as if he had been swimming. Yes, sir, he was as wet as if he had jumped into the Smiling Pool.

He didn't mind too much. The only thing that bothered him was his tail. You know what a lovely, thick, bushy tail Reddy has. Now he couldn't hold it up. It was so wet that it hung against his black heels. He felt as if he would like to wring it out, only of course he couldn't.

Reddy was passing not very far from the Smiling Pool. Suddenly the ground all around him became alive. Everywhere he looked tiny Toads were bravely hopping about in the grass, each one going hop, hop, hippity hop, as if he knew just where he was going and was in a hurry to get there. Not all were going in the same direction. Some were headed this way, some were headed that way, and some were headed every other way.

Reddy stood stock-still while the rain beat down all around him. The fact is, there was hardly a place where he could put his foot down without stepping on one of those tiny Toads. Where did they come from? Where could they have come from? Reddy looked this way and that way. Finally he looked up in the sky. That must be where they had come from. Somehow they must have gotten up in the clouds and rained down. He never had heard of such a thing, but it must be so. When the first drops of rain fell there wasn't a tiny Toad in sight. Two minutes later there were so many of them that it looked as if the very ground itself was moving. When he got home, Reddy told Mrs. Reddy about it. "It just rained Toads," concluded Reddy.

Mrs. Reddy grinned. She grinned broadly. Reddy noticed this. Was Mrs. Reddy laughing at him? Like most people, Reddy doesn't like to be laughed at. "What are you grinning about?" he asked. "I was just wondering if you had combed out your coat," replied Mrs. Reddy.

Reddy looked puzzled. "Why should I have combed out my coat?" he asked. "If it really rained little Toads, some must have landed all over you, and I should think that some would be caught in your fur," said Mrs. Reddy. He eyes twinkled.

"Come to think of it," said Reddy. "I don't remember being bit by single one. That's funny. I could hardly step without stepping on one, yet I don't remember actually seeing one fall." Thoughtfully, he scratched his nose.

"Do you know what I think?" said Mrs. Reddy. "No," replied Reddy. "I never know what you think. Sometimes I wish I did, and sometimes I'm glad I don't. What do you think now?"

"I think," replied Mrs. Reddy, "that you must have been taking a nap and had a dream, and the rain woke you up." "No such thing," declared Reddy indignantly. "If you don't believe the Green Meadows are alive with tiny Toads, come with me and I'll show you."

Mrs. Reddy went with Reddy and he did show her. Everywhere in the grass tiny Toads were hopping in all directions. It had stopped raining. Mrs. Reddy looked

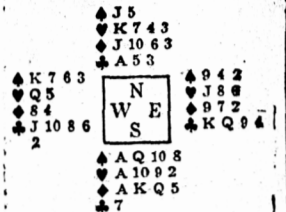
Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SLAM BIDDING

Strangely enough, it is in the field of slam bidding that the gulf between experts and lesser players is considerably narrowed. For example, there are reasons to suspect that most run-of-the-mill pairs would reach the proper contract of six diamonds in the following deal — whereas the two experts involved did not.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.



With nationally-famous experts sitting North and South, the bidding went:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

After South had collected 12 tricks without any real difficulty, he asked North why he hadn't cuebid clubs at some point to indicate his first-round control.

North's reply was that he had been "too busy showing diamond support." He argued that in "disturbing" the four-heart game contract he had made a slam try, and that South, holding such a "rock-crusher," had no earthly reason for declining the invitation.

There was a great deal of logic in North's argument and it is hard to understand why South stopped at five diamonds after North went past the major-suit game-level. There is more to this idea of "disturbing the lower contract" than may generally be known. A good player does not take himself out of a ten-trick major-suit contract for the mere purpose of playing at a minor-suit game contract. His slam aspirations, when he does this, are implicit, and with North showing even general slam motions, South was certainly in a position to "go along."

It is true that North might have been wiser to support diamonds directly (over South's two-spade jump rebid) instead of bidding the more discouraging two notrump, but this should not have been a conclusive feature of the bidding. ed at all those tiny Toads. Then she looked up at the clouds and wondered.

LONDON — (CP) — Members of youth clubs have been invited to join a "Learn how to be funny" class. Sponsored by the British Drama League, the course is intended to produce amateur comedians.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



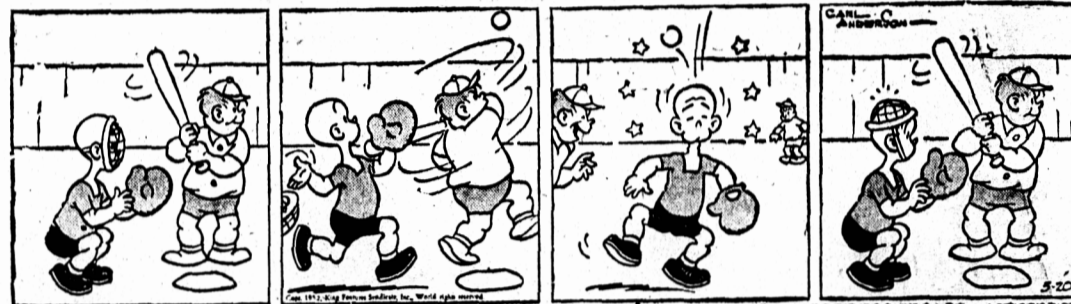
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen



NOTICE OF POLL - SCHOOL UNIT NO. 1.

TO ALL PERSONS QUALIFIED TO VOTE AT SCHOOL MEETINGS

Take notice that for the purpose of electing TWO TRUSTEES for School Unit No. 1—One Trustee to each Polling Division—a poll will be held on Wednesday, the eleventh day of June, 1952 from 12 o'clock noon to 9 P.M.

POLLING DIVISION NO. 1 is defined as that portion of School Unit No. 1 formerly known as the school districts of Spring Park and Parkdale.

POLLING DIVISION NO. 2 is defined as that portion of School Unit No. 1 outside the former school districts of Spring Park and Parkdale.

Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees shall be filed with the Secretary at any time up until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of May 31, 1952. Each nomination shall be signed by at least two sponsors who are ratepayers in the Unit. The candidate must be a ratepayer resident in the DIVISION and, unless such candidate is a parent ratepayer his or her nomination paper must be signed by at least one parent ratepayer.

GORDON M. RICE, Secretary, School Unit No. 1

POGO

By Walt Kelly



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



LIL ABNER

By Al Capp



RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

