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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

THE UNWORRIED ONE

Independence seldom hurries;
Also very seldom worries.
—Jimmy Skunk

The two most independent people in the Green Forest and on the Green Meadows, are Prickly Porky the Porcupine and Jimmy Skunk. In two things they are very much alike. It is very seldom that either hurries, and it is very seldom that either does much worrying. The reason is that both are fully armed for defence and everybody knows it. So no one bothers them. No one interferes with them. For the most part they are left strictly alone.

Two Stripes, the very small son of Jimmy Skunk, was just like his father in this respect. He was born independent. Like Little Stripes, the small Chipmunk, he had started out in the Great World while very young. Neither had intended to leave home when they did. Both had wandered away without realizing they were doing so. They had met that very first day. Since then both had been wandering about, learning by doing. That is the best way of learning, but it can be very difficult way and sometimes the most dangerous way, especially among the little folk in feathers and fur. And for most of them it is the most dangerous way.

"I wouldn't go back home if I could," replied Little Two Stripes.

Now Little Stripes and Two Stripes had met again. The small Chipmunk had had a most exciting time and several very narrow escapes. He had even been caught by Black Pussy the Cat.

"It is a wonder I am alive," he told Two Stripes. "Yes, sir, it is a wonder I am alive. Have You ever been caught?"

The little Skunk shook his head "No," said he, "Nobody tries to catch me. I guess nobody wants to" He hadn't yet learned of Hooty the Great Horned Owl. The latter is very fond of Skunk dinners and doesn't at all mind the unpleasant scent with which Jimmy protects himself from others. If he is hungry Hooty seems not to mind Jimmy's little scent gun at all.

"Don't you think it is dreadful to have to be watching for danger every minute?" asked the little Chipmunk. Then he added, "Life is just one worry after another."

Two Stripes shook his head. "I don't worry, said he, "what's the good of worrying?"

"But just think of all the dangers all the time," replied the little Chipmunk. "The great world is a dreadful place, don't you think so?"

"It doesn't worry me. I wouldn't go back home if I could," replied Little Two Stripes.

The small Chipmunk sighed. "I would," said he.

"Why don't you?" asked the little Skunk.

"I don't know where it is," confessed Little Stripes. "Do you know where it is?"

Certainly not. How could I? I don't even know where my own home is. So why should you think I know where your home is?" replied the small Skunk.

Once more the little Chipmunk sighed. He looked about him first this way then that. He was anxious. "It must be wonderful not to worry," said he.

"What's the good of worrying. It doesn't get you anything. I never worry," replied Little Two Stripes. He pounced on a beetle that ran out across in front of him just then. It was true that he didn't worry. He didn't need to worry because of that little scent gun he carried. On the other hand the little Chipmunk did need to worry, and Old Mother Nature meant that he should worry. That was her way of teaching him the need of being constantly watchful. Even worry can be of use and in a way a blessing. Does that seem strange? It is true.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A CLEVER TRAP

A rubber bridge, any declarer who fell into the trap set by East, below, would deserve his fate. But under the actual match-point conditions, South was no more gullible than are most of us.

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
Match-point duplicate.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 N T	Pass
3 N T	Pass	Pass	Pass

West opened his lowest spade. Declarer held up the ace, but a continuance of the suit knocked out his stopper.

South cashed his four heart tricks, discarding a spade from dummy, while East discarded the three and five of diamonds. (East, it will be noted, did not "echo" to show strength in diamonds; he reasoned shrewdly, that this information would be of little value to West.)

South now led and finessed the club jack. East won with the queen but he did not automatically return his four of spades to let West cash his tricks in that suit! East saw a splendid opportunity to throw dust into South's eyes, who could not know that East had another spade unless he led it. So, setting a trap, East unhesitatingly returned a club.

South, on lead with the club ten, could not be blamed at match-point play for feeling that he should try for an overtrick. Apparently, East had no more spades, so the diamond finesse was safe, even if it lost. Acting on that false but persuasive premise, declarer led to the diamond jack—and he was not at all pleased when East took the trick with the king and then returned a spade, giving West two tricks that defeated the contract!

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POGO

By WALT KELLY

LI'L ABNER

By Al Capp

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

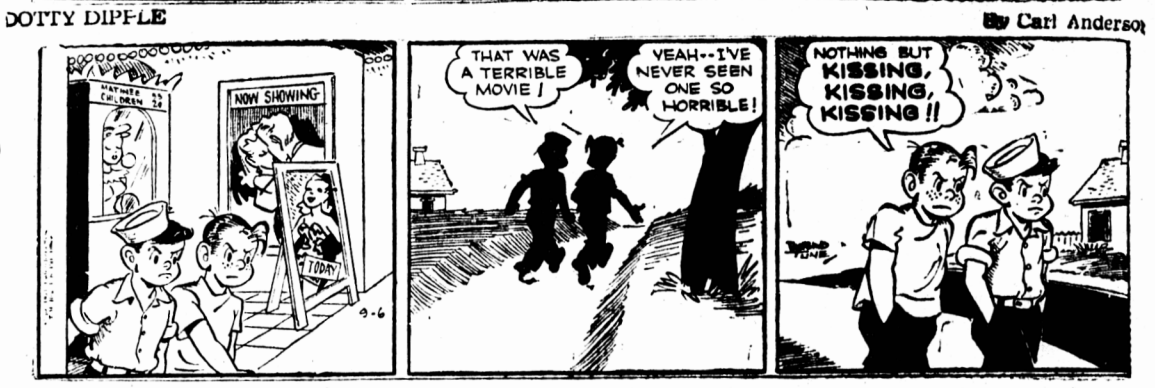
KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher

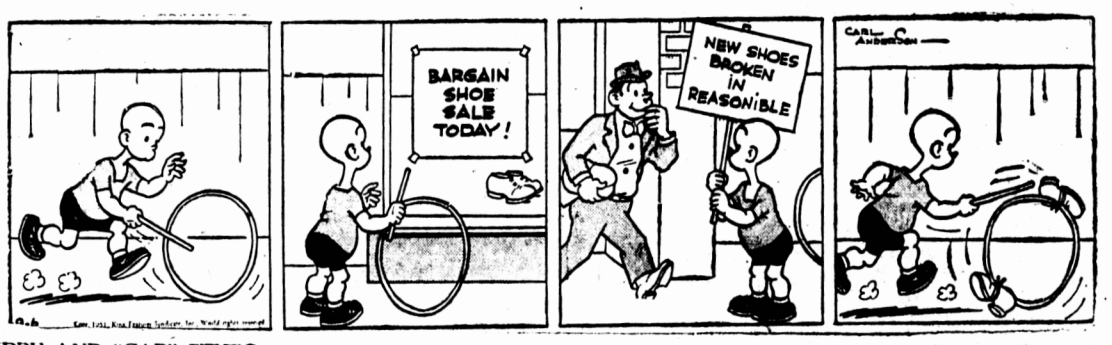
DOTTY DIPPLE

By Carl Anderson



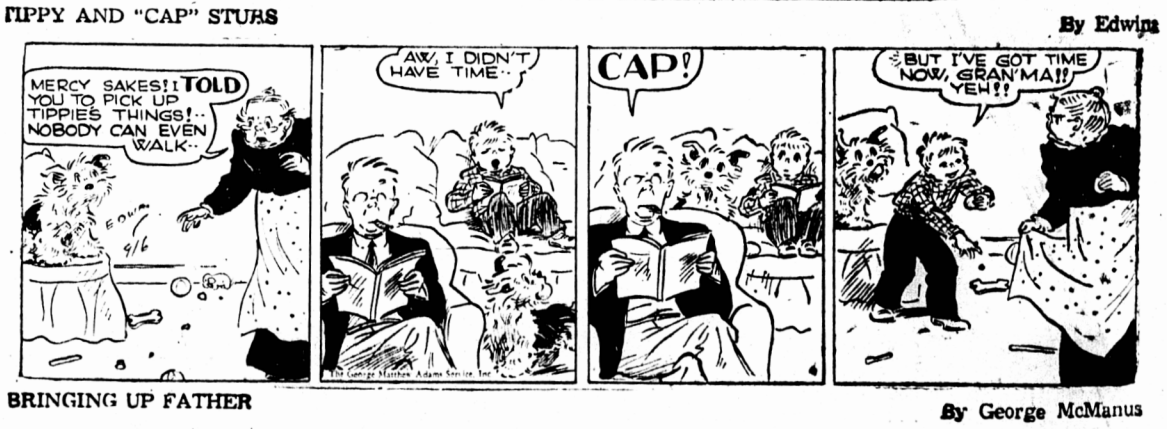
HENRY

By Ruford



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

TILLY THE TOILER

By Westover

PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen