



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE FUNNY FEATHERS

Nothing's funny or is queer when the cause and facts are clear. —Old Mother Nature.

Mr. and Mrs. Rattles the Kingfishers were busy folk. Yes indeed, they were busy folk. They had a big family. In fact, they had the biggest family of all the feathered folk far and near, even bigger than that of Mrs. Grouse. In fact, they had ten children, and you will agree that ten children of the same age is quite a family. It was a crowded nursery there in the bank of the Smiling Pool. The doorway was high up just under the edge of the bank, and a long tunnel, or hail,



He saw a touselled head poked out of the doorway.

led to the crowded nursery. The Kingfisher folk live very largely on fish. You would guess this from their name. All those fish had to be caught, and sometimes Rattles and Mrs. Rattles have hard work to get enough for themselves. With ten babies to feed, they couldn't think of themselves. From the time jolly, round, bright Mr. Sun began his morning climb up in the blue, blue sky until at night when he went to bed behind the Purple Hills, they were fishing. They fished up and down Laughing Brook. They fished along the Big River in both directions. By the time the Black Shadows drew the curtains of dusk over the Smiling Pool, Rattles and Mrs. Rattles were so tired they could hardly lift a wing. It seemed as if those babies were constantly crying for more food. Of course, like other birds, babies, they were growing very fast. And to grow fast one must have plenty of food.

At first, Mrs. Rattles had dreaded to leave the babies in order to go fishing. She couldn't forget the visit of Prowler the Blacksnake, and how she had arrived home just in time. She was afraid Prowler might come back. She knew how fond Prowler is of a dinner of baby birds. She and Rattles had driven him off with many blows of their sharp

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

DIFFICULT DECISION

A very close decision on the following hand represented the difference between winning and losing a team-of-four match in the recent national tournament at Cincinnati.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 10 8 7 5 3
♥ A J 9 6
♦ 9 6 4 2

♠ 4
♥ K 7 4
♦ 5 3
♣ J 10 7 6

W N E S
10 8 5 3
2
K Q J 8
9 5

♠ K J 9 6 2
♥ Q
♦ A 10
♣ A K Q 8 4

At both tables South reached six spades, and since the Blackwood Convention was used, with North responding five diamonds and East doubling that bid, the opening lead by both Wests was the diamond five. Obviously, the declarers now had quite a problem — how to avoid losing a diamond trick. (Whether or not they could hold their trump loss to one trick was a question for the future.)

At one table the declarer elected to lay down his three top clubs, discarding diamonds from dummy, but this plan ran into trouble! East ruffed the third club with his blank spade ace, and after that West had to make his doubleton spade queen.

The other declarer took a different view. Naturally, he could not know that a club lead would be ruffed, but even if the three leads went through, he feared that whoever held the trump ace might also have started with five clubs, and he could then let his partner over-ruff dummy by leading another club.

So this South decided to try for the heart finesse, instead, and when his heart queen held, he ruffed a low club in dummy, threw his diamond ten on the heart ace, and led a trump. The slam contract was now safe, as the cards lay.

Incidentally, a slam contract was not justified on the North-South holdings, and it is rather surprising that both expert pairs in this national tournament should have displayed such optimism. True, there was great "duplication of values" in the club suit, with North's void duplicating South's great strength, but this is one of the pitfalls which experts are supposed to avoid.

when he went home. The next time he saw those feathers, there was nothing at all queer about them. They were no longer rolled up. "Why, they are regular feathers," thought Peter, and so they were.

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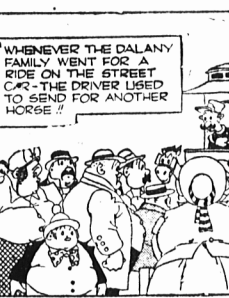
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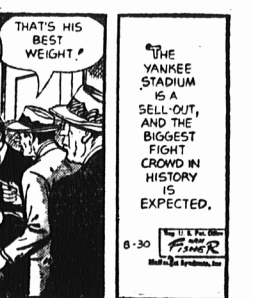
TILLY THE TOILER



BRINGING UP FATHER



JOE PALCOKA



HENRY



L'L ABNER



POGO



RIP KIRBY



Napoleon and Uncle Elby



KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



PENNY



By Ham Fisher

By Al Capp

By Alex Raymond

By Carl Anderson

By Walt Kelly

By Harry Hoehnisen