

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

**FARMER BROWN'S BOY WINS**  
Punish if you feel you must  
But be merciful and just.  
—Farmer Brown's Boy.

"So you think, young man, that I was wrong in setting a trap for that thieving Owl who stole my Chickens," asked neighbor Snow. "Yes, sir, and no, sir," replied Farmer Brown's Boy respectfully. "What I mean is I think you might be right in setting a trap, but wrong in setting that kind of a trap." As he spoke he kicked a steel trap lying by his feet. He had

just removed it from the leg of a young Great Horned Owl that had been caught on top of a telephone pole at the edge of Neighbor Snow's chicken yard.

"What would you have thought had I shot that Owl instead of trapping it?" the owner of the Chickens asked.

"It would have been better than trapping the poor thing. That is it would if you were a good enough shot to kill, not merely wound it." There was a mischievous twinkle in the eyes of Farmer Brown's Boy as he spoke.

Neighbor Snow caught the twinkle and smiled. "I'll admit I'm not the best shot in the world, Tommy, but I think I could have killed that pest if I had a gun. I haven't a gun and if I had one I couldn't afford the time it would take to sit around waiting for a chance to shoot. And I can't afford to have any more of my Chickens stolen. So I set a trap. Are you telling me that you would rather that I had shot that Owl than to have trapped it?" said he.

Tommy's freckled face broke into a grin. "It is yes, sir, and no, sir, again," said he. "I'm glad you didn't kill this Owl because now I can take care of it and perhaps learn things I don't know about Owls now, but I honestly think it would have been better for the poor thing to have been shot and killed than to have hung there by one leg from the top of that pole. It must have suffered not only great pain in that leg with those wicked steel jaws clamped on it, but also terrible fright, and the awful feeling of being helpless and not understanding at all what had happened or why. I can't think of



"You may take it with you and throw it in the bottom of the ocean if you like."

anything worse." The twinkle was no longer in Tommy's eyes, and his freckled face was very sober. He spoke so earnestly that there was no doubt he meant every word.

"So you think I am hard of heart, and unjust," said Neighbor Snow. He wasn't smiling now either.

"Yes, sir," replied Tommy somewhat to the other's surprise. "But I don't think you mean to be," he added hastily. "I guess you haven't really thought about it. I don't think you mean to be hard-hearted or unjust. Please don't think that, Mr. Snow." Tommy looked anxious. "It—it—well, it must be pretty awful to hang from the top of a pole for a long time, not knowing what had happened or why, or what is going to happen, and in pain and terribly, terribly frightened and helpless and—"

"Never mind any more, Tommy," interrupted Mr. Snow gravely. "Now that you have sort of put me in that Owl's place I'll admit that I never had really thought at all how the trapped one must feel. But as I said before I can't afford to have my chickens stolen—and that pest already had stolen—"

It was Tommy who interrupted now. "But it didn't know it was stealing," he cried. "How could it? Those Chickens are just birds to an owl or a Hawk, and birds are their natural food when they can catch them. Until caught they don't belong to anybody. In so far as that Owl knows it had just as much right to those Chickens as you have. It wasn't doing anything wrong."

"I guess it knows now," said Mr. Snow drily, then added: "Tommy, you win. I don't mean to be cruel or unjust. We too often judge birds and animals by our own human standards and of course we should not. That steel trap is the only one of the kind I have. You may take it with you and throw it in the bottom of the ocean if you like." His eyes twinkled.

### MODERN TECHNIQUE

Canada after the first world war was the first country to carry out systematic mapping by means of aerial photographs.

### LOOKOUT SPOT

Cascade Inlet, an arm of Dean Channel, was the spot where Alexander Mackenzie, reached the Pacific in 1783.

### Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

#### TAKING OVER THE JOB

Proper defense by East in the following hand would have resulted in easy defeat of the contract, but with East "asleep," West had to perform a virtual sleight-of-hand trick.

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass  
3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass  
4♥ Pass 5♠ Pass  
6♥ Pass 6♠ Pass

West, feeling that the opponents had bid "honestly," opened the unbid club suit, selecting the five-spot, and East joyfully played his club king. Then, without giving the slightest consideration to the particular card West had led, or to the bidding South had done, East followed up hopefully with the ace of clubs. (Obviously, a trump shift by East had been strongly indicated by South's bidding and the nature of the dummy.)

South ruffed the second club lead, cashed the ten diamonds and ruffed a low diamond with the heart ten. East discarding a club now, with success in sight, declared-cashed the spade ace, preparatory to ruffing a spade for entry to his own hand. At this point, however, something happened: West, an expert, was sure that declarer's distribution had been six hearts, five diamonds and two singletons, so West now dropped the spade king on dummy's ace! West knew that the trick he was giving declarer would be of no value to him, and he hoped that he would so confuse South's "count on the hand" that something favorable to the defense would ensue.

It did! South believed that the spade king had really been singleton and so he refused to risk a second spade lead which might result in building a trump trick for West. Instead, he ruffed another club and another diamond, then, for final entry, led dummy's fourth club. This did establish the trump trick for West, and the slam was doomed.

DRINK  
**Coca-Cola**  
BE REFRESHED 7

### RAILWAY TIME TABLE CHANGES

Effective Sunday

Sunday

April 27th, 1952



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GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Positions Vacant at Falconwood Hospital.

The Department invites applications for the following positions which are open on the staff of Falconwood Hospital:

- (A) Night Supervisor, Female.
- (B) Instructress of attendants.

Registered Nurses preferred.

Applications should be addressed to the undersigned.

L. O. KITCHEN, R.N.,  
Superintendent of Nurses,  
Falconwood Hospital,  
BOX 90,  
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

### KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Z... Croy



### JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



### HENRY

By Carl Anderson



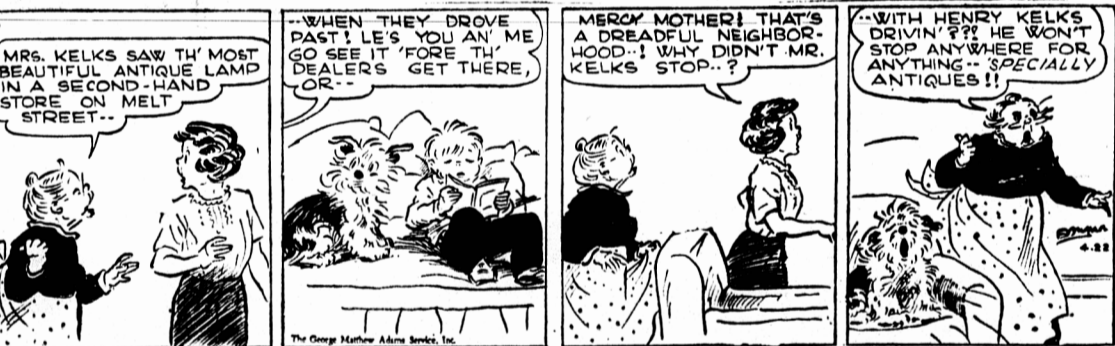
### DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford



### TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina



### BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



### TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



### PENNY

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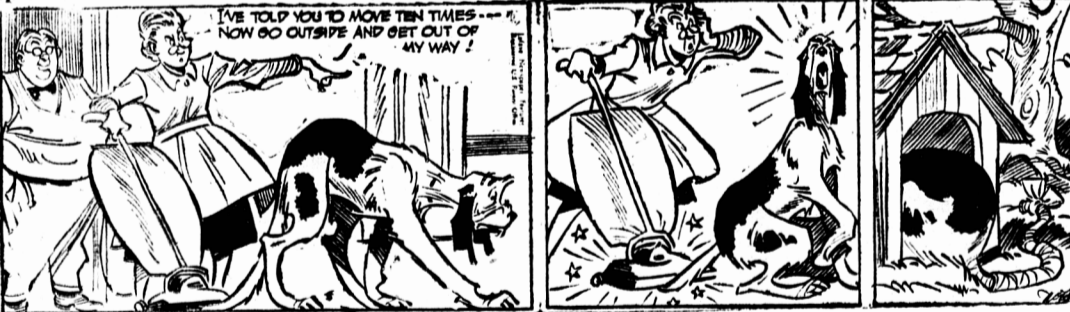


POGO



### Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



### LIL ABNER

By Al Capp



### RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

