By Thornton W. Burgess

THE SUDDEN STILLNESS

Silence has a way of speaking,
Sometimes even fairly shrieking.
—Old Mother Nature.

It was a lovely morning over in the Green Forest. Jolly round Mr. Sun was shining his brightest. In their home tree, four frisky little Squirrels were chasing each other about, and playing hide and seek around the trunk and having no end of fun. The air was full of pleasant sound. Chatterer the Red Squirrel was living up to his name. He was chattering for all he was worth just to hear the sound of his own voice. Happy Jack, father of the four young Squirrels, was adding his voice to the pleasant sounds. Drummer the Woodpecker was somewhere near drumming on a dead limb. Feathered folk were singing and whistling and calling all through the Green Forest. Happy voices were expressing their joy in a lovely morning.

Then without warning there was complete silence. Not a voice of any kind was to be heard. Nobody seemed to be moving. The four young Squirrels stopped chasing each other. Each was clinging to the tree without moving. And not one of the four knew why. It was all due to a sudden and strange feeling; a feeling of dread. But what it was that was dreaded, they didn't know.

You were not aware that silence can speak? Neither were those four young Squirrels. But now they were learning that it can speak. It was speaking without sound. It was crying "danger" without saying a word. Those four young Squirrels were suddenly afraid, very much afraid, but what they were afraid of they hadn't the least idea.

It was very much the same way with others of the Green Forest folk. It seemed as if all were holding their breath; as if even the the very leaves of the trees were afraid to rustle. When Blacky the Crow holds his tongue, and Sammy Jay becomes silent, when Chatterer the Red Squirrel makes no sound, there must be a reason.

The four young Squirrels wanted to talk to each other. They wanted to ask each other why there was this sudden silence, this sudden great stillness. Most of all, they wanted to ask mother what it meant. But they didn't do this. Somehow, they were afraid to make the smallest sound. That stillness was so great it could be felt, or anyway it seemed so. There wasn't so much as the faintest sound of sharp claws scratching bark. What could it mean? They guessed it meant danger, but if so, what kind of danger?

Jolly, round, bright Mr. Sun kept right on smiling. But nowhere in that part of the Green Forest did any one or anything move. Not so much as a single Merry Little Breeze stirred anywhere. Every one and everything seemed to be waiting; for what the young Squirrels hadn't the least idea. The longer they waited, the more frightened they became.

Curiously enough, all four had the same wish. Each wished it was back in the hole in that tree which was their home. The Great World, which only a few minutes before had seemed such a lovely and wonderful place to be out in, now seemed a dreadful place, a place where dreadful things could and did happen and were going to happen. Yet there had been nothing but this sudden silence to cause that feeling.

There are times when nothing can be quite so difficult as wait-

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NOTICE

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Ratepayers of the Village of Parkdale, to be held in Parkdale Hall, Thursday, July 23rd, 1953 at 8 p.m.

The purpose of this Meeting is to decide if the Street Lights are to be installed and for any other business that may come before the meeting.

Commissioners of The Village of Parkdale.

M. V. WALTER G. SWEENEY

The above vessel will leave Montreal on July 30th, and arrive Charlottetown on Monday, August 3rd, loading for Cornerbrook, Nfld., will take place same day. For space reservations contact Nfld. Shipping Service, P. O. Box 65. Phone 8737.

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Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A MATTER OF DEFENCE

Just as a declarer must always be alert to opportunities for a two-for-one swap of tricks, so must the defenders be alert to the same danger, from their point of view—the fact that in winning a trick they may be declarer's ally.

Consider this point from West's position in the following deal.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

North: ♠ K 4 3 ♥ 8 7 5 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ A J 10 9

West: ♠ 5 ♥ J 9 4 ♦ K 7 2 ♣ Q 8 6 5 3 2

East: ♠ J 10 2 ♥ Q 10 6 3 ♦ J 9 8 6 ♣ 7 4

South: ♠ A Q 9 8 7 6 ♥ A K 2 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ K

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

As a matter of pure theory, it is inconsistent for a player to open with only a one-bid and then go slamming when partner gives a modest single raise. However, there was something to be said for South's aggressiveness—he did have quite a hand in the light of that spade raise. It is true that North had to lay down a little more in high cards than his bidding guaranteed, but, against that, South could hope for better distribution in the dummy.

West opened his fourth-highest club—a sound enough choice. Declarer studied the situation, then put up the club ace, dropping his own king on the trick. Next he led the club jack and discarded the low diamond from his own hand.

It would have been a very good idea for West to refuse this trick, since he could see, of course, that if another club was led from dummy, East could ruff and thereby prevent the setting up of the board's last club. But West was not the type of player to "go to sleep" with a trick, especially against a slam contract. So he took his queen and hastily shifted to a low diamond—the suit South had discarded. That, of course, ended the matter; South now had a trick more than he needed.

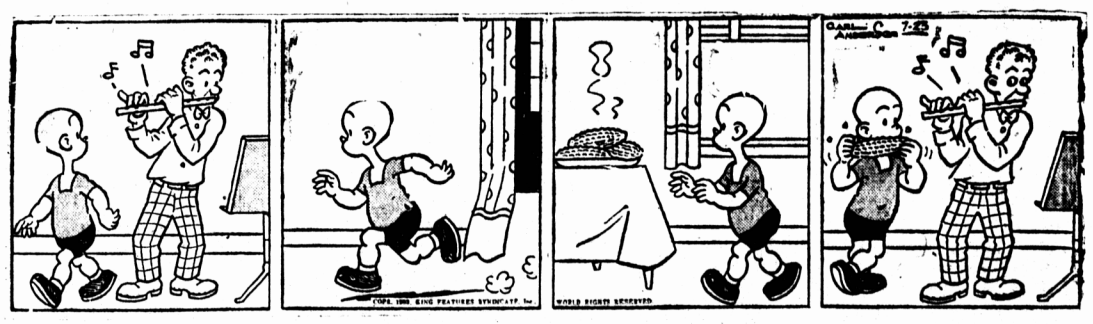
The least West should have done, after taking his club queen, was to return a club, letting East kill one of dummy's good clubs by ruffing. That also would have been effective defence.

Hundreds of different languages are spoken in the Indonesian Archipelago.

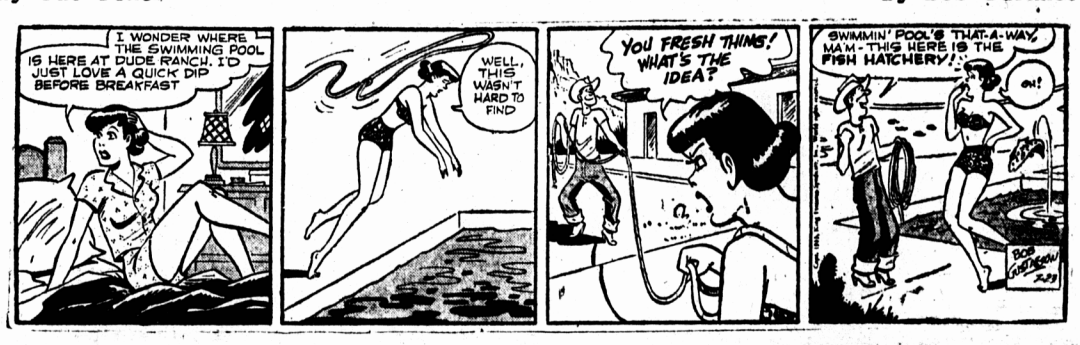
Bringing Up Father — By George McManus

Dotty Dripple — By Ruford

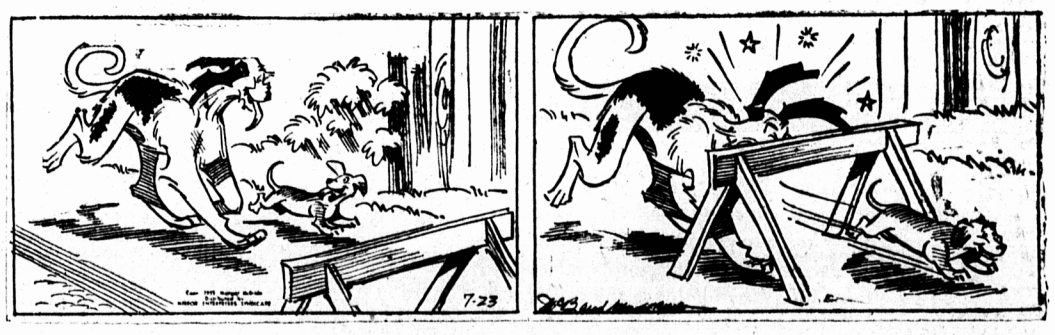
Henry — By Carl Anderson



Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson



Napoleon and Uncle Elby — By Clifford McBride



King Of The Royal Mounted — By Zane Grey

Joe Palooka — By Ham Fisher

Pogo — By Walt Kelly

Li'l Abner — By Al Capp

Tippy and "Cap" Stubs — By Edwin

Rip Kirby — By Alex Raymond

PENNY — By Harry Haenigsen