

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

The Frightening Neighbors

Where gravest danger you may see,
At times the safest place may be.
—Mrs. Grouse.



A hunter with a dreadful gun had hurt one of the children of Mrs. Grouse. It was a wing that was hurt and the young Grouse couldn't fly. The hunter had been unable to find him. When it was safe to do so, Mother Grouse had led him deep into the Green Forest. You see it was only his wing that was hurt and he could use his legs as well as ever.

Mrs. Grouse led the way to the darkest, most lonesome part of the Green Forest. The evergreen trees, such as spruces and hemlocks grew so close together there that it was always dark under them. The sunbeams just couldn't get through to the ground. It was gloomy there. Yes, sir, it was gloomy there. The young Grouse had never been there before and he didn't like being there now. He didn't like it a bit. His hurt wing ached. And of course that didn't make him happy. Somehow, the darkness and gloom of this place seemed to make it worse.

Mother led the way to where the trees did not grow quite so close together. Where they grew closest there were no limbs until near the tops. At this particular place the trees did not grow so near together and there was room for the limbs to grow all the way up and down the trunks. One tree, a big one standing a little by itself, had branches growing almost to the ground. Mrs. Grouse hopped up on the lowest branch, then to the next one, and so on until she was several feet above the ground. He didn't like it a bit. "Come on!" she clucked to the young Grouse hesitating at the foot of the tree. That first jump up to the lowest branch was quite a jump but the young Grouse made it. Then it was easy to hop from branch to branch and he was soon beside his mother.

From where they were sitting they could peep out between the branches and see another tree quite near at hand. "We have

neighbors over in that tree," said Mrs. Grouse. "Do you see them?" The young Grouse looked, but he didn't see any neighbors. "Who are they and where are they? I don't see them," he said. "Look up in the top of that big tree. If you don't see any one there, just keep watching and you will," said Mrs. Grouse. It was some time before the young Grouse saw anybody. Then something moved up in the top of that tree and right away he saw one of those neighbors. It was a big bird, one of the biggest birds he had ever seen. He was wearing a coat of brown and had great round eyes. "Who is it?" whispered the young Grouse. Those great round eyes were yellow and it gave him a most uncomfortable feeling, as if they were looking right at him and through him. It seemed to him there was a hungry look in them. "It is Hooty the Owl," whispered Mrs. Grouse, "and Mrs. Hooty is right next him. That is their favorite tree. That is where they rest and sleep through the day." The young Grouse shivered now. Yes, sir, he really shivered. It wasn't cold that made him shiver. It was fear. He had never seen these big Owls before, but he had heard their hunting call many times. And he knew that they were enemies to be watched for at all times except in the brightest part of the day. They were frightful neighbors and he wondered what mother had brought him over there.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By F. H. MacArthur

The power of bequeathing by secret document, which we call a "will," does not exist in China. No member of a family can make disposal of any material thing which he has accumulated thus advancing the fortune of one relative more than another, or preferring a friend above family.

In China, the family is a unit, it is heir to all the credits and all the liabilities of each member. When a person leaves the homestead, arrangement must be made at the time of his going as to whether or not he will be held as separately established.

If separately established, his wages do not fall into the common fund, the homestead. He goes out to face the world with empty pockets, and he has neither voice nor liability concerning members of the family. But if he decides to remain within the family fold then his dwelling place is kept ready to welcome him until he is absent from youth until old age. And his successes or failures are common concern.

When anyone in a family breaks a law, the head of the family is to blame. By the rule of immediate succession there is always an elder to every family.

According to British regulations a British subject in China is not legally married unless there is a civil service in a British consulate. Did you know that many Chinese were exiled from the land for some misdemeanor against the emperor centuries ago? Where did they go? They took to river boats and a curious inch of flesh is cut from the victim daily until he either dies or is requested to die.

Don't call me a liar when I tell you that some species of fishes hatch from eggs laid in the sand or attached to plants and rocks, and that others are born like mammals. There are the egg-laying fish, and the live-bearers. The egg layers require special care if they are deposited by the female in an aquarium.

Zebra fish are among the swiftest swimmers. This sleek and active little creature darts about so rapidly that it is almost impossible to get a good look at one. It is marked with four gold stripes which alternate with the blue of the

body. At times the colors change, so as to appear black and silver instead of blue and gold. The lower part of the body is shaded with yellow.

Then there's the "head and tail light" found in the Amazon River. The body of the Head and Tail Light is almost transparent. These curious little creatures grow to a length of about one and one-half inches.

A spot in the upper half of the eye and another near the base of the tail reflect the light and shine like two little red lanterns, making this fish one of the most interesting citizens of the deep.

Remember always to wet your hands before touching any live fish which you would take home and keep alive. Why? Because the tiny scales are delicate and so sticky that some of them are sure to be pulled off. And the loss of even a scales will often result in the death of a fish.

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CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

LUCK NOT REALLY NEEDED

South had some reason to be-wail his luck in the following deal, since two finesses went wrong, but a keener job of analysis and "percentage-figuring" would have erased the luck factor.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

North's jump to three notrump was a shade light, but it had the virtue of helping the partnership reach precisely the right contract. Incidentally, for the benefit of readers who have been misled on this point, the jump to three notrump, far from being a game-closing bid, is actually a slam

try. Since it shows (or should show) the equivalent of a one-notrump opening bid, no other usage or interpretation makes sense.

West's lead against the slam was the queen of hearts, and since South knew very well that West wouldn't have led from the ace, he ducked in dummy. West followed up with the heart jack, and South ruffed.

Declarer now drew trumps and ruffed another heart, but when the ace failed to appear he had to rely on the spade finesse. Needless to say he was an unhappy player when that finesse failed and he was down one.

South should have given a little more thought to the situation. With the heart ace marked offside by the opening lead, it was very unwise to put all his trust in the favourable position of the spade king, particularly since a much better chance was there for the taking. The layout of the North-South hands fairly begged for dummy-reversal treatment. After ruffing a heart at Trick 2, South should have led a trump to the ten, ruffed a second heart, then gone back to the trump jack and ruffed dummy's last heart with his own last trump. Now, with the outstanding trumps breaking normally 3-2, it would be elementary to return to dummy with a club and cash the trump queen, drawing the last adverse trump while discarding the spade five from the closed hand; and then the rest of the club suit and the spade ace would wind up the matter.

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JOSEPH E. BERRIGAN, Secretary.

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Grandma

By Charles Kuhn

Panel 1: "I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ELSE GOOFY! YOU FIX UP A BOX LUNCH!"
Panel 2: "YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YUH WANT?"
Panel 3: "YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YUH WANTED, MICKEY... A BOX LUNCH?"
Panel 4: "SURE I WE'RE ROUGHING IT... AREN'T WE?"
Panel 5: "SO MANY KIDS COME IN FOR BETWEEN-MEAL SNACKS..."
Panel 6: "NO FOOD EVER HAS A CHANCE TO SPOIL AT MY HOUSE, ANYWAY!"

Mickey Mouse

By Walt Disney

Panel 1: "DID ZIGGY LAND A JOB YET? WHY DOESN'T HE ADVERTISE?"
Panel 2: "HE IS!"
Panel 3: "BUT, GEE, DAD! MAYBE YOU CAN HELP HIM? HE'S SO UTTERLY SHY AND SELF-CONSCIOUS!"
Panel 4: "HERE'S A GOOD AD! 'AMBITIOUS, INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN WITH EXECUTIVE ABILITY'— I'D HIRE A LAD LIKE THAT, MYSELF!"
Panel 5: "THANKS! THAT'S MY AD."

Erta Kent

By Paul Robinson

Panel 1: "ROOFER FREE ESTIMATES"
Panel 2: "OH, THE GOOD FRIENDS WE COULD OF BEEN— WE WAS TWO OF A KIND— FULL OF ROBUST GOOD HUMOR— THERE WE WAS, HAVIN' FUN FIGHTIN'— (WE WINNIN' A LID) ... AN' YOU SPIRITS ..."
Panel 3: "NO TIME FOR A FEW KIND LAST D'YIN' WORDS— YOU IS SEIZED SUREN BY A SEIZURE ... YOU TURNS TO ME, YOUR PAL, AN' 'ESS' YOU GOES ... 'MISS-ESS' YOU HISSSES AT ME!"
Panel 4: "YOU MISERABLE DOG!"

Henry

By Carl Anderson

Panel 1: "SAY, SKREETER! I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!"
Panel 2: "WHAT IS IT?"
Panel 3: "I OVERHEARD YOUR TEACHER TELLING ANOTHER TEACHER SHE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE YOUR CLASS ANY HOMEWORK TONIGHT!"
Panel 4: "OH, THAT IS GOOD NEWS!!"
Panel 5: "AND I WAS AFRAID SHE WAS MAD BECAUSE NOBODY FINISHES ALL THEIR HOMEWORK LAST NIGHT!"
Panel 6: "WELL, THAT EXPLAINS IT ..."
Panel 7: "...IT SEEMS SHE'S GOING TO KEEP YOUR CLASS TWO HOURS AFTER SCHOOL, TO MAKE SURE YOU ALL FINISH YOUR ASSIGNMENT TONIGHT!!"

POGO

By Walt Kelly

Panel 1: "WHERE'S MR. SINKING, TILIP?"
Panel 2: "CALL THE HOSPITAL! I MUST SPEAK TO HIM! THIS IS VERY URGENT!"
Panel 3: "YES, WALLY!"
Panel 4: "BOSS? GRADY AND CO IS GIVING US FOR 500,000 DOLLARS. BOSS? BOSS?!"

Mugs and Skeeter

By Wally Bishop

Panel 1: "CROOKS TAKE MAX TO A DEBOLATE SHACK ON WATER FRONT."
Panel 2: "IS THIS LITTLE BUM STRONG AS WILLS ..."
Panel 3: "HOW MUCH DOUGH IS THERE ... COUNT IT OUT ..."
Panel 4: "WE CAN'T KEEP 'EM LONG ... WE GOTTA GET OUTA TOWN FAST ... AN' LEAVE 'EM BEHIND ..."
Panel 5: "JOE ... LOOK ... MISS POTTER WAS ROBBED AND, AND LITTLE MAX IS SUSPECTED ... IT'S TERRIBLE ..."
Panel 6: "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT ... NOT LITTLE MAX ... PLEASE LET ME SEE THE PAPER ..."

Tilly The Toiler

By Fran Striker

Panel 1: "NEAR HERE, HE SURE WE FOLLOW MEN WHO ROB STAGE."
Panel 2: "BUT WHEN WE CAUGHT THEM, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY, TONTO!"
Panel 3: "THEY HIDE IT SOMEPLACE, ME SURE!"
Panel 4: "THEY'LL TELL THE SHERIFF THAT."
Panel 5: "WE'LL RIDE TO TOWN AN' TELL THE BOSS WE HAD THE MONEY AS HE TOLD US TO."

Secret Agent X9

By Mel Graff

Panel 1: "I WANT TO SEE THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR, COLONEL—THE ONE ON DUTY LAST NIGHT!"
Panel 2: "SURE!"
Panel 3: "THEN I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH REBOTCO. I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S OUR MAN!"
Panel 4: "MEANWHILE ..."
Panel 5: "HOP IN, ROXBY! I HAVE TO GO TO KARS-TOWN FAST!"
Panel 6: "DE REBOTCO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO BARELY!"

Bringing Up Father

By Al Capp

Panel 1: "MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, DEAR—I'LL GET YOUR NEWSPAPER!"
Panel 2: "WHY DON'T YOU DROP IN AT DINTY'S TODAY, SWEETHEART?— BUT FIRST HAVEN'T A NICE CUP OF TEA!"
Panel 3: "THIS IS WONDERFUL! MARGIE MUST HAVE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF!"
Panel 4: "MY GOODNESS, THERE'S AN EXTRA LARGE BATCH OF BILLS THIS MONTH, MR. JESSE!"
Panel 5: "I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN."

L'il Abner

By Ham Fisher

Panel 1: "AM IS TH' ONLY PERSON IN TH' WORLD THAT KNOWS THEY TH' STATCHOO O' GENERAL JUBILATION J. CORNPONE ..."
Panel 2: "— NO — ER! CLAMB IN IT!"
Panel 3: "WHY ARE YOU ...?"

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