By Thornton W. Burgess

THE GOLDEN COLLARS

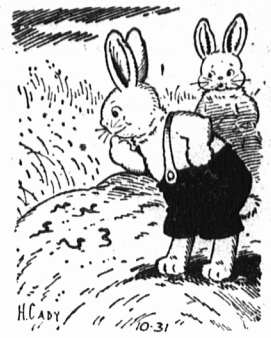
Sometimes with things quite plain to see
Still blind the best of eyes may be.
—Old Mother Nature

It happens often. The very best of eyes will look straight at things, yet not see them. All the time, all about us, are countless things in plain sight, yet unseen.

Mrs. Peter and Peter Rabbit had been looking at some baby Snakes on a flat rock just outside the dear Old Briar-patch. They had seen them come out of the mouth of a bigger Snake whom they supposed to be their mother. Mrs. Peter had seen them taken into the old Snake's mouth, and now both had seen them come out. It seemed to prove what Peter had been told, and what many believed; which was that some mother Snakes take their babies into their mouths to protect them in time of danger.

Peter had believed this all along, but Mrs. Peter had been doubtful. She had been quite sure that if big Snakes took little Snakes into their mouths, it wasn't for the good of the little Snakes. She had felt quite sure that any little Snake that went into another Snake's mouth never came out again.

Now, she didn't know what to believe, for she had seen five babies



Peter blinked and stared at the little Snakes.

come out. It did seem that it must be true that they had been taken in by mother to keep them from some threatened danger. Then Mrs. Peter had suddenly seen something startling. Those couldn't be the babies of the old Snake. No, sir, they couldn't be, because they were a different kind of Snake. They were members of another branch of the Snake family. When she told Peter this, he said she was "absurd."

"I'm not absurd," retorted Mrs. Peter, and she spoke sharply. No one likes to be called absurd.

"You are so!" declared Peter. "Of course, those babies and the old Snake are the same kind."

"Is something the matter with your eyes?" asked Mrs. Peter.

"Not a thing!" retorted Peter, and he spoke crossly.

"I think there must be," said Mrs. Peter sweetly. She spoke a little too sweetly.

Peter didn't like the way she spoke. He suspected she was making fun of him. He doesn't like being made fun of. Who does? He looked very hard at all the Snakes. "I really don't know what you're talking about," said he crossly.

"Those babies are wearing collars and the big Snake isn't wearing one," said Mrs. Peter.

Peter blinked and stared at the little Snakes. Sure enough, around each little neck was a tiny golden band. There was no doubt about it, each had a golden collar. Then he looked at the big Snake, she she had no collar at all. She couldn't possibly be their mother. Peter knew this, because he had seen fully grown Snakes like the babies They are called Ringneck Snakes. They belong to a branch of the

Continued on page 16

Clover Club

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Dodd's Kidney Pills

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

BEWARE OF "RULES"

Perhaps the most frequently asked queston concerning play is this: "I held nine cards of a suit, divided between dummy and my own hand, missing the queen. Should I have laid down the ace and king, playing for a drop, or should I have finessed, one way or the other, after laying down only one top honor?"

On a pure "percentage" basis there is an infinitesmal advantage in playing for the drop, but it is a rare hand indeed when declarer should base his play exclusively on this "rule." Almost always, there is some other feature of the hand that should be the deciding factor — for example, the sort of feature present in this case:

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

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

Assume that West, disdaining his anemic four-card suits, opens the spade ten against the three-not-rump contract, and assume further that when the queen is played, East logically holds up his ace, merely giving approval with the eight-spot.

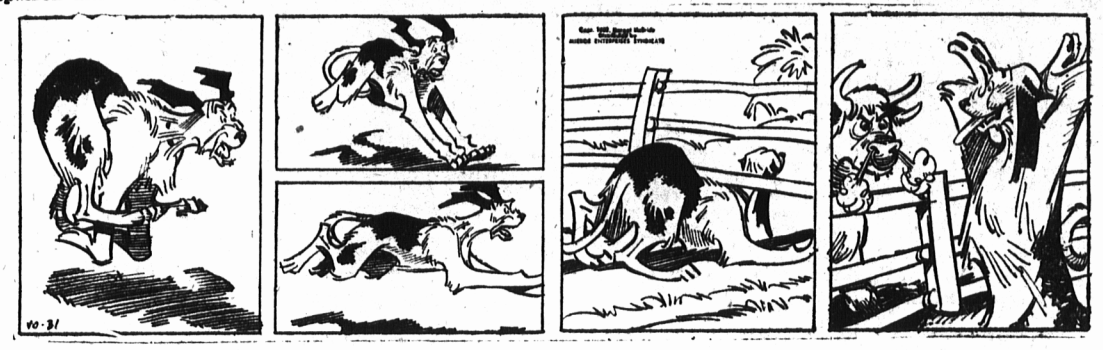
If declarer works on the idea that he should play to drop the club queen because he has nine cards of that suit in the combined hands, he merely proves that he is a slave to "rules" and unable to do independent thinking. After he leads to the club king and sees East's ten, he should most certainly not follow up with the club ace — he should take the finesse to the club jack as an elementary safety measure. Let East get in with the queen, if he can — what harm can East do? The very obvious danger is that by playing for the drop, it may be West who will get in with the club queen, and the spade continuation from his side is not to be countenanced.

RED IS OFFICIAL

MONTREAL — (CP) — Unauthorized vehicles displaying red light flashers are increasing in number and a protest has gone to the Provincial Highway Department. Garage tow cars were named as chief offenders using the devices which are recognized as for emergency use.

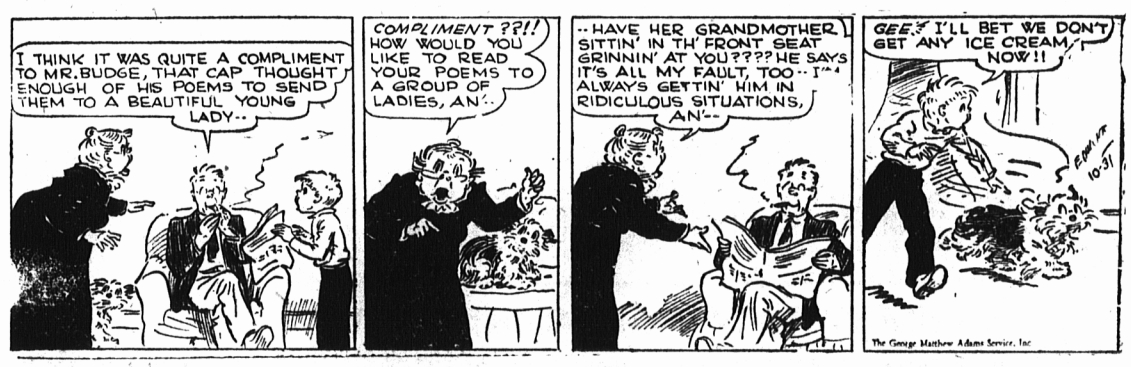
RIP KIRBY — By Alex Raymond

Napoleon and Uncle Elby — By Cliff. t McBrid



JOE PALOOKA — By Harr Fisher

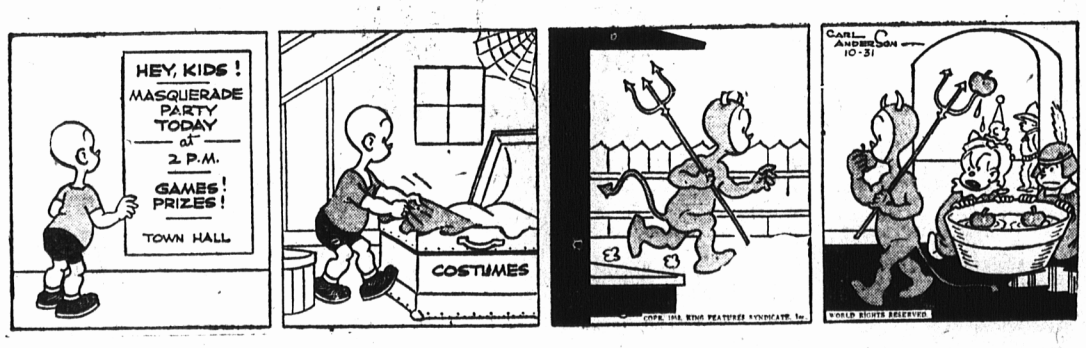
TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS — By Edwina



TILLY THE TOILER — By Bob Gus'afson

BRINGING UP FATHER — By George McManus

HENRY



By Harry Haenigsen

PENNY

POGO — By Walt Kelly

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED — By Al Capp

DOTTY DRIPPLE — By Ruford

LI'L ABNER