



By Thornton W. Burgess

A COMMON TASTE

From simple food turn not away; It could be you'll have none some day.

—Jumper the Hare.

Jumper the Hare, he of the white coat in winter and brown coat in summer, and Prickly Porky the Porcupine have been acquainted ever since both were small. Both love the Green Forest. In this they have a common taste. Both want to live among the trees and not out in the open. In this Jumper and his smaller cousin, Peter Rabbit, differ. Peter likes odd pastures where there is plenty of brush and bramble-tangles. He is not fond

of the deep woods. He visits the Green Forest now and then, but he prefers more open country.

Both Jumper the Hare and Prickly Porky are out and about all winter. They do not go to sleep to avoid cold weather as some other folks do. No matter how cold it is these two are out and about. Only during bad storms do they seek shelter. Both are a little scornful of those who go to sleep through most of the winter months.

"What would you do if you could get nothing at all to eat?" demanded Bobby Coon one day when he and Jumper met as Bobby was on his way to go to bed for the winter.

"I can always get enough to eat," retorted Jumper.

"Well, I can't," said Bobby. "I have to have meat. It isn't just that I want meat. I eat fish and fruit. I just love corn when it's growing and is milky. But these things I can't get in winter."

"Reddy Fox is a meat eater, but he doesn't go to sleep for the winter," said Jumper.

"True enough," replied Bobby



"I can always get enough to eat," retorted Jumper.

Coon. "But Reddy can get around fast. I can't. I'm not made that way. Reddy can travel long distances in a short time, and he is fast enough and quick enough to catch a dinner often enough to keep him from starving. I can't run like that. I haven't been given the right kind of legs for running long distances, so I am wise enough to curl up and go to sleep. Of course, I get as fat as possible while food is plentiful. While asleep I don't need food."

"Why don't you eat the same kind of food I do? There's almost always plenty of it. It is good too," said Jumper.

Bobby Coon turned up his nose. "I suppose you mean bark and twigs. Perhaps if I had the right kind of teeth and the right kind of stomach, I would eat bark and twigs just as you do. As it is, I wouldn't live long if I tried living just on bark and twigs. They are not my kind of food. It is the same way with a lot of other folks on the Green Meadows and in the Green Forest."

"Prickly Porky gets along alright," declared Jumper. "All he has is bark and twigs in the winter."

"Mother Nature made him a bark eater just as she did you. She made Paddy the Beaver a bark eater too, but you three have something in common in the way of bark-eating teeth. We Coons

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

QUESTIONABLE SLAMS NEED GOOD PLAY

South's acceptance of his partner's slam invitation in the deal below was more amiable than sound, but his real mistake occurred in the play.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.



South: ♠K4, ♥K55, ♦KQ98, ♣KQJ4. North: ♠Q1053, ♥76, ♦A1087, ♣45.

The bidding: South 1♠, West Pass, North 2♠, East Pass, South 2NT, West Pass, North 4NT, East Pass, South 6NT, West Pass, East Pass.

In "pure" Blackwood, North's four notrump bid would be conventional, asking for aces, but in many circles (including the highest) the direct raise of notrump to the four-level is only that — a slam invitation, of course, but in no sense forcing for even one round. South said later that he had voluntarily gone on to the slam because, with three aces in his own hand he had felt that North must have great strength in kings and queens. This was a sound observation, but North had the kings and queens, and the slam contract was still questionable.

West opened the top club. The ace won and a diamond was led to the queen. When West showed out, discarding a club, it was clear to South that only two diamond tricks could be counted on. East took his diamond ace and shifted to the heart seven. Declarer's nine was covered by the ten, forcing the king, and declarer then cashed the spade king and finessed for the spade queen. The jack held, but to no avail — South was still one trick short of his contract, and the heart finesse to the jack, which he eventually led, let him down. Even if the heart suit produced three tricks, South would still need the spade finesse, so he should have cashed all his clubs, his two diamond tricks and two top hearts. East would have to hold a high diamond over dummy, hence could keep no more than three spades. Thus, having cashed the spade king, a spade finesse at the tenth trick, instead of earlier, would let South run the rest of the suit, for fulfillment of the slam.

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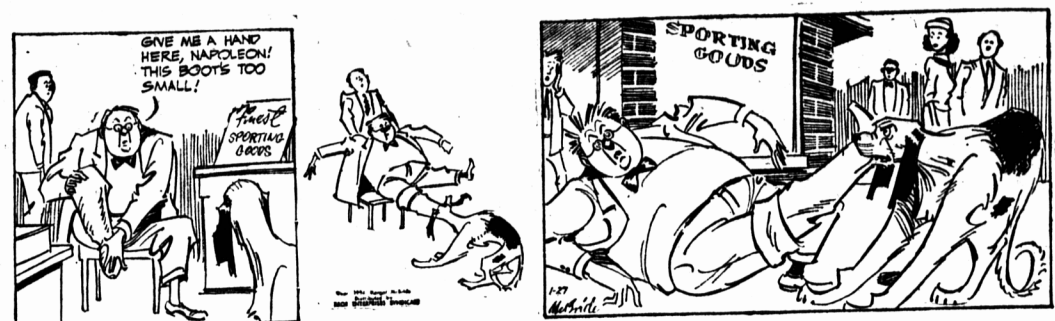
Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



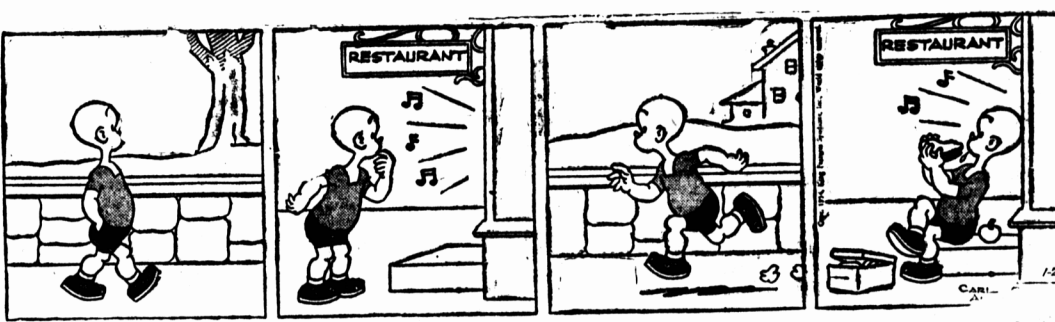
Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Henry

By Carl Anderson



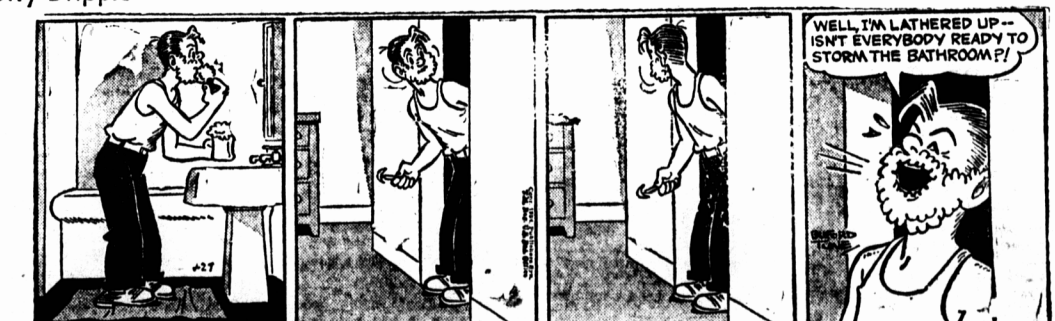
Pego

By Walt Kelly



Dotty Dripple

By Buford



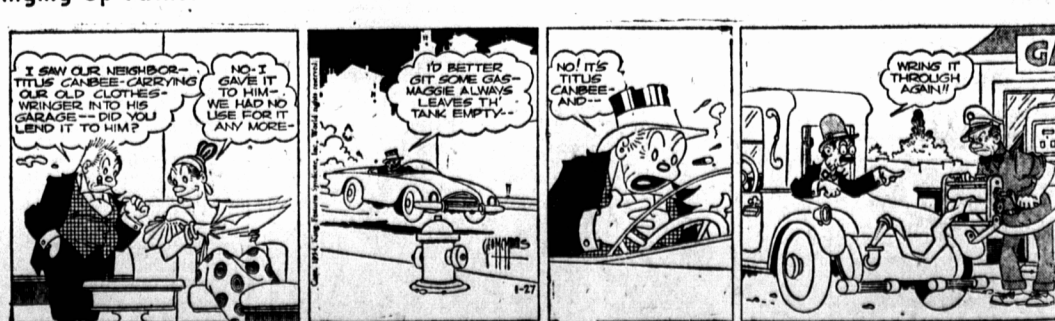
Tippy and "Cap" Stubbs

By Edwina



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



PENNY

By Harry Haehnigen



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Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



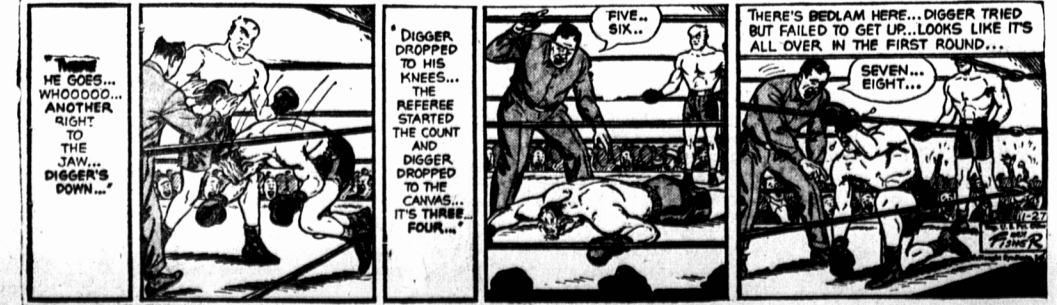
King of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



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By Al Capp

