

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE LISTENERS
It's not enough to merely hear. You need an understanding ear.

"Listen, my dear," said Reddy Fox to Mrs. Reddy, as they prepared to leave the Old Pasture in search of a breakfast. "I'm listening," replied Mrs. Reddy. "What am I supposed to listen to?" "Don't you hear that drummer?" asked Reddy. "Of course I hear that drummer. There would be something wrong with my ears if I didn't. For a small person, that Woodpecker sure can make a lot of noise," replied Mrs. Reddy. "He certainly can," replied Reddy. "But why listen to him when there's another drummer drumming?"

Drummer the Woodpecker, drumming on a dead limb, was loud. She could tell from the sound that Drummer was in a tree on the very edge of the Green Forest. When that rat-a-tat-tat ceased, she heard something that sounded very much like the rumble of distant thunder. It was coming from far in the Green Forest, and was faint because of the distance. She gave Reddy a sidelong look. He grinned, and nodded. "Does that mean anything to you?" he asked. "Not much," replied Mrs. Reddy. "Thunderer the Grouse has begun his spring drumming; that's all." "Thunderer the Grouse would make a very nice breakfast," suggested Reddy slyly. "It was Mrs. Reddy's turn to eat it," said she. "Trying to catch that fellow is a waste of time." "It is most of the time," agreed Reddy. "But there may be a chance this morning." "What makes you think so?" asked Mrs. Reddy. "My dear, listen again. Unless something is wrong with my ears, there are two drummers over there in the Green Forest," said Reddy. Mrs. Reddy listened again. Side by side, on their doorstep, stood the two Foxes listening as they



Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluvertson

A QUESTIONABLE SLAM RECORD

Most leading experts vigorously deny the charge that slam-bidding is their least-expert "department," but the records of tournaments speak for themselves. Here, for example, is a hand that occurred in a pair tournament limited to life Masters and Senior Masters of the American Contract Bridge League. Only two pairs in the field of 30 reached the virtually ironclad contract of six clubs.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

looked over toward the Green Forest. Faint in the distance sounded the long roll of Thunderer the Grouse. Almost immediately, they heard still more faintly a long roll like distant thunder. It seemed to be an answer. Reddy looked at Mrs. Reddy. "I think," said he, "we should go over to the Green Forest. We might get that Grouse breakfast we both want." "What makes you think so?" asked Mrs. Reddy. "Of course you know why Thunderer is drumming over there," said Reddy. Mrs. Reddy nodded. "Of course," said she. "He is drumming to Mrs. Grouse. I suppose it's his way of making love." "That's it," agreed Reddy, "and if I know anything about it, he's strutting on an old log, or on a rock, or some other place where he can show off. Have you ever seen him do that my dear?" "Of course I have," replied Mrs. Reddy. "I never have seen anything more silly." "Mrs. Grouse doesn't think it is silly," replied Reddy. "The more he struts, the more she admires him. She probably is watching him now. You heard that other Grouse drumming. I have an idea that those two Grouse will fight, and that we ought to be over there."

At most every table the bidding started off with one diamond by North, one heart by East, and pass by South. After that North-South had to extend themselves to reach even five clubs, and as a matter of fact, several pairs sold out to opposing four-heart contracts. Even when East trap-passed to one diamond, North-South thought well enough of his holding to bid two clubs, and when the response was actually one notrump, it became a virtual impossibility for the partnership to reach a slam. Humorously enough, the only North-South pairs which did get up to the slam level were pushed there by the opponents.

The play at six clubs, by either North or South, offered no great difficulty. With South the declarer, West's normal lead was a heart or a trump heart by East, and Dummy ruffed the heart lead with an honor, and South led a spade to the ace. Another heart ruff with an honor followed; then the spade queen was used for entry and South's last heart was ruffed with dummy's third trump honor. Now South could simply overtake the club eight, draw trumps, and discard a diamond on dummy's spade king.

An original trump lead by West was just as easy to handle. South could win in his own hand, ruff a heart, use his A-Q of spades for two entries and ruff two more hearts, then trump dummy's spade ten for another entry and draw trumps, getting back to the board with a diamond to discard on the spade king.

Value of cheques cashed in Canadian bank clearing centres in 1952 was 125 billion dollars, triple the 1938 total.

King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



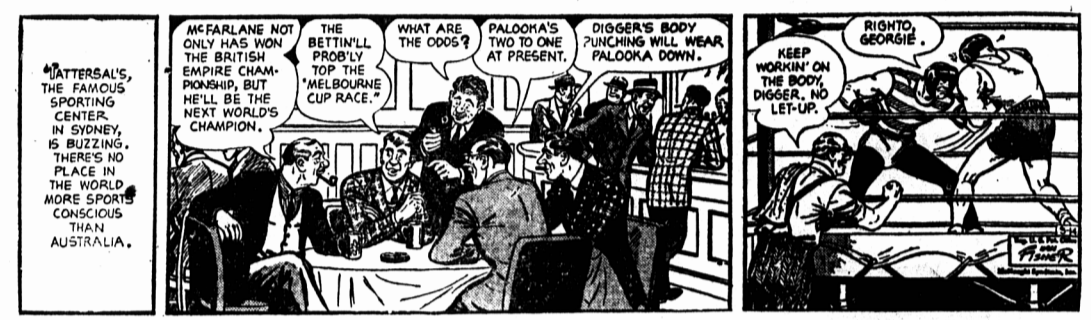
Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



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Li'l Abner

By Al Capp



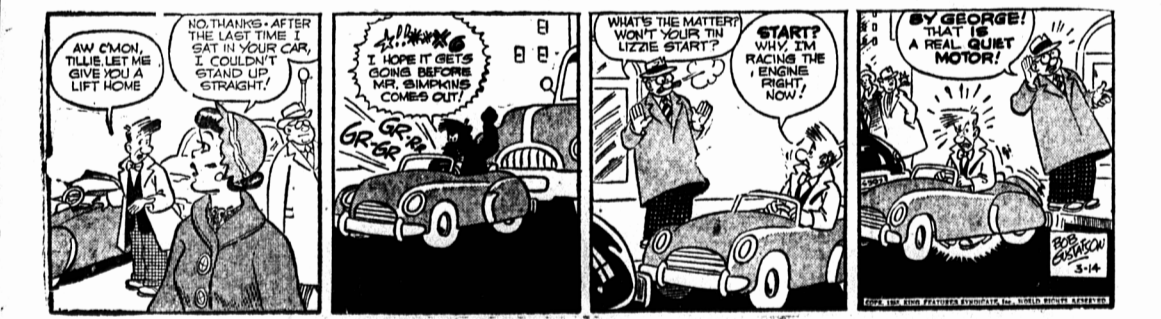
Pogo

By Walt Kelly



Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwin



Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



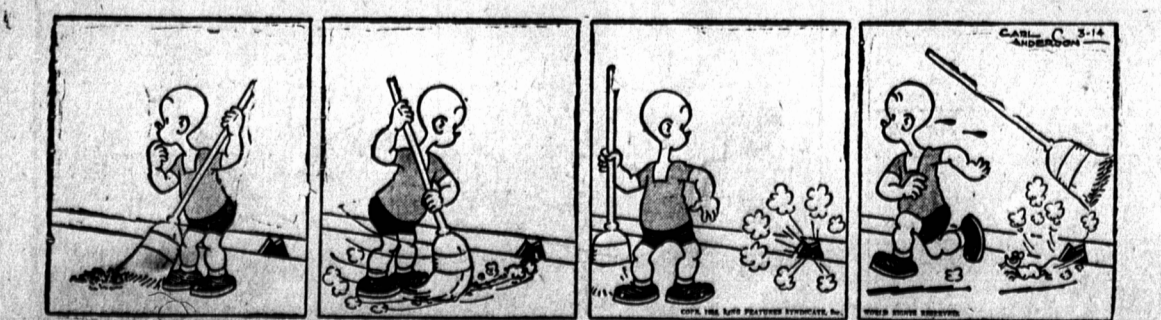
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Henry

By Carl Anderson



PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen

