

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



(By Thornton W. Burgess)

WELCOME ROBIN IS SHOCKED

That which to us seems shocking may to others be the proper way.

Tiny little Mrs. Hummer was just about the busiest of all the feathered folk anywhere around. Most of the other birds were through with home cares. It was quite the other way with the little hummingbird. She had two fast growing babies to feed and care for, and she had no one to help her. Hummer the Hummingbird is a living jewel, delightful to watch as he darts from flower to flower. But Hummer is a poor father. Yes, sir, he is a poor father. He thinks only of himself. He leaves the care of their babies wholly to mother. I suspect that sometimes he doesn't know that he has any babies. You will agree that is a

poor sort of father! But don't be too sorry for hard-working Mrs. Hummer. There is work, even hard work, that is a never-ending joy. And that is the kind of work that mothers know. This is especially true of many bird mothers. Baby birds must have a great deal of food every day. Often they need more than their own weight in food, and every bit of that food must be hunted for and often has to be caught. This is why bird mothers must work so hard. It was quite by accident that Welcome Robin discovered little Mrs. Hummer's home on a slender branch of a maple tree. He happened to alight on that branch close to the dainty little nest and was greeted by two tiny open mouths begging for food. A moment later little Mrs. Hummer arrived. She paid no attention to Welcome Robin. She wasn't afraid of him. She knew that Welcome would not hurt the babies. Had Sammy Jay been in Welcome Robin's place she would have darted at him, fiercely stabbing with that needle-sharp bill of hers. She paid no attention to Welcome Robin. She had come home to feed those babies and while she did Welcome Robin looked on in wide-eyed astonishment. He was shocked by what he saw. Yes, sir, Welcome Robin was shocked. Never before had he seen babies fed in quite this manner. Little Mrs. Hummer stood over one of these wee birds and thrust her long needle-like bill in that open mouth and down the throat of the hungry little birdling. She did it so quickly that it looked as if she were stabbing him. It looked for all the world as if she were trying to stab that long bill right down through him. It gave Welcome Robin a queer feeling. Yes, sir, it gave him a queer feeling. Had you been in his place it would, I am sure, have given you a queer feeling, a shivery sort of feeling. "Oh!" cried Welcome Robin. "Don't do that!" Little Mrs. Hummer withdrew her long bill from that throat and looked up at Welcome Robin. "I would like to know why not?" she squeaked sharply. Like so very many other small people, she squeaks when she talks. "Are you trying to kill one of your own babies?" demanded Welcome Robin. "No, I'm not doing anything of the kind. I'm trying to keep them alive, not kill them. I'm feeding them if you must know." Without waiting for Welcome Robin to reply she thrust her bill into the other wide open mouth and down the little throat and once more Welcome Robin had that uncomfortable shivery feeling. He was still shocked. He shook his head. "I've never seen babies fed that way before," said he. "How else should I feed them?" squeaked little Mrs. Hummer. "I'm just putting the food where it will do the most good." She really was.



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Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

ERROR FOR ERROR

A serious error on South's part gave the defenders a good chance in today's deal, but East did not rise to his opportunity.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

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

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

The bidding: North East South West 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

South's second-round jump to three spades was a bad bid. True, he had a good suit, but it was only five cards long, and South had values in two other suits, hearts and diamonds, which the spade jump virtually denied. Two notrump would have been a substantially better call at this point, and three notrump a substantially better contract.

However, South should have done well enough at his actual four-spade contract. West opened the five of diamonds. East put up the ace and, correctly concluding that the situation was desperate, shifted to his jack of clubs.

Declarer should have had no doubt that this was a singleton return on East's part, and indeed, South probably did read the club situation accurately. But his method of countering the club menace left a great deal to be desired! After cashing dummy's spade jack, South led a diamond from the king and promptly gave his partner a ruff in clubs for the third defensive trick.

Now, all East had to do was to return to the heart king, to kill the dummy, but he unthinkingly led a low heart, and South made a full recovery by putting up the heart queen and drawing trumps. South did not need this help from the enemy. He should have overtaken dummy's spade jack with the queen and "banged out" three more rounds of trumps.

FATHER JAILED

TOWCESTER, England (CP)—Two children testified in court in this Northamptonshire town that they sold their candy coupons to buy food, then had to hide the food from their father because he would snatch it. The father was given four months in jail for neglecting the children.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



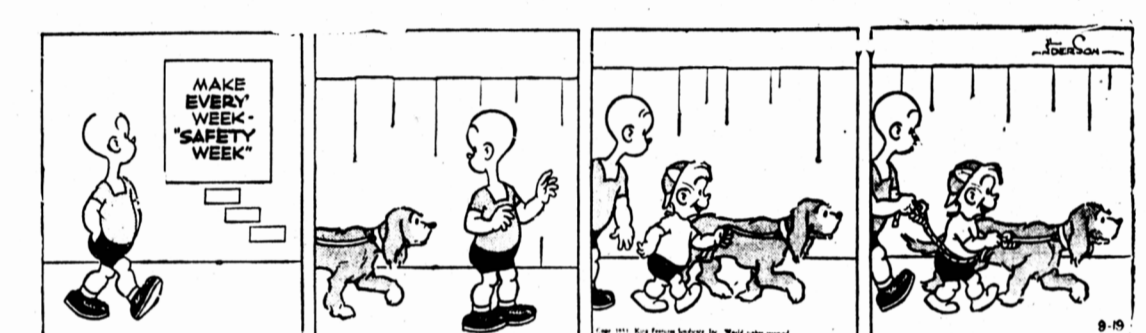
JOE PALOOKA



DOTTY DIDDLE



HENRY



QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds



"Want to see the bathroom set the neighbors bought in the Guardian Want Ads?"

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FOR SNACKS IT'S SO HANDY!

SO CRISPY-AND CRUNCHY!

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The Honey-Flavor Coated Cereal

A Product of General Foods

By WALT KELLY



By Al Capp



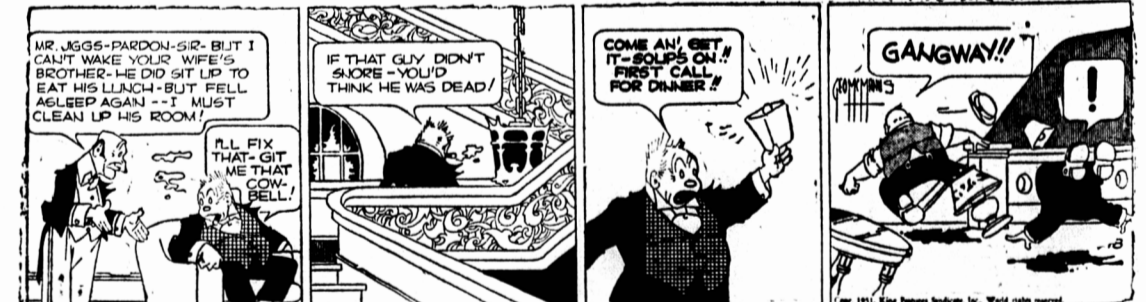
By Alex Raymond



TIPPY AND "CAP" STURS



BRINGING UP FATHER



TILLY THE TOILER



PENNY

