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**BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES**

(By Thornton W. Burgess)  
**HUMMER TAKES A BATH**  
 A shower taken every day in health and happiness will pay. —Hummer the Hummingbird

Hummer the Hummingbird, of the lovely ruby throat and exquisite green coat, is very proud of this fine dress. He takes the utmost care of it. He spends much time preening his feathers. Each feather must be in place just so. Now anyone who is fussy about his appearance takes care to bathe often. It is so with Hummer. He thinks bathing is as important as eating. Of course it isn't quite so important, but Hummer acts as if it were. Of course it is the same way with Mrs. Hummer.

Perhaps you have watched Welcome Robin, or Tommy Tit the Chickadee, or Sammy Jay, or some other of the feathered neighbors, take a bath in a puddle of water or in the bird-bath. Perhaps you have watched a Canary in its own little bath-dish in the cage. You know how they go into the water and flutter their wings so as to throw the water all over themselves.

Neither Hummer or Mrs. Hummer does that. They take a bath as fairies might. They take it in dew when it lies heavy on the leaves of trees. They take it in raindrops, a real shower-bath. But they never take it in Laughing Brook or Smiling Pool or the bird-bath. They want shower-baths, not baths in still water. They do not go into water as some of the birds do. When the leaves are wet, as they often are from heavy dew or in the time of fog, smart little Mrs. Hummer takes her shower regularly. She flies in among the leaves and flutters so that the



Smart Little Hummer takes her shower regularly.

little drops of water fall on her and give her the shower she wants. Of course there are times when the grass dries up and the plants in the garden wilt. Then there are no shower-baths among the trees.

It was a dry time now. It had been dry for too long. That is what Hummer thought, anyway. He missed his shower-bath. He missed it very much indeed. He wanted it for two reasons. He wanted it to keep his feathers clean. They were not really dirty, but he felt as if they were. He wanted it to help him keep cool. There is nothing like a shower-bath to cool one off on a hot day, but where was he to get a shower-bath? There hadn't even been a heavy dew for several mornings. Hummer was disconsolate.

Then one morning Hummer was late in visiting Farmer Brown's flower garden. He usually visited it quite early in the morning, but this morning he was late. When he got there Farmer Brown's Boy was busy among the flower beds. He was picking off the faded flowers and pulling a weed here and there. Hummer visited the flowers in another part of the garden, but all the time he kept a small watchful eye on Farmer Brown's Boy to see what he was doing. Farmer Brown's Boy stooped and picked something from the ground. Suddenly the air just in front of him filled with tiny drops of water like raindrops. They were so small that they almost a mist. Farmer Brown's Boy was watering a flower-bed. Hummer didn't hesitate even though Farmer Brown's Boy was one of those two-legged giants that most of the Green Forest and Green Meadow folk distrust.

Hummer didn't hesitate a second. His wings never moved faster than they did now he shot across the garden straight into the spray from the hose Farmer Brown's Boy was using. In the middle of that spray Hummer stopped abruptly for a moment or two. Then he darted out, turned and was back in a jiffy. He paid no attention what ever to Farmer Brown's Boy. Here was a perfect shower-bath and he was making the most of it. Never had he enjoyed a bath more. And never had Farmer Brown's Boy enjoyed more watching his little jewel of a neighbor darting this way and that.

**Contract Bridge**  
 By Josephine Culbertson

**HE DIDN'T GIVE UP**  
 South had four "sure" losers in the following deal, and so his game contract at spades did not look very promising. But he was a resourceful declarer!

North dealer.  
 Both sides vulnerable.

♠ KQ985  
 ♥ A643  
 ♦ 932  
 ♣ 42

♠ J1084  
 ♥ Q75  
 ♦ 1086  
 ♣ A J 10 7 3

♠ A 6 2  
 ♥ 9 8 2  
 ♦ K 5

The bidding:  
 North—East—South—West  
 1♠—Pass—1♠—Double  
 4♠—Pass—Pass—Double  
 Pass—Pass—Pass—Pass

East-West could have made four hearts, and so North-South would have had to bid the same four spades, if only as a sacrifice measure.

West's opening lead was the king of hearts. South won, ruffed a heart in dummy, and led a trump to his own hand and ruffed his last heart. He drew another round of trumps and then blindly led a low diamond from dummy.

It was no disgrace to East that he failed to perceive what was brewing. Putting up the diamond queen, second hand, was not an easy play! At the same time, however, the low diamond play by East was fatal to his own side. West had to win the trick, and he was now helpless. Sensing that South had the king of clubs, West refused to break that suit, but his actual return of the diamond jack was no more effective. South knew that his only chance was (first) a 3-3 break of the missing diamonds and (second) keeping East off lead, so he now put up dummy's diamond ace and then forced West right back on lead with a third round of diamonds. Now dummy's fourth diamond was set up for a club discard, and the contract was safe.

It was worth observing that South could not afford to lead the first diamond toward dummy, because East would be sure to get in with his queen, then or later, and would of course shift to clubs. (West could and probably would unblock in diamonds, to help his partner.) The crux was to lead low from the board and hope that East wouldn't be so alert or so inspired as to go right up with his honor.

**KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED**



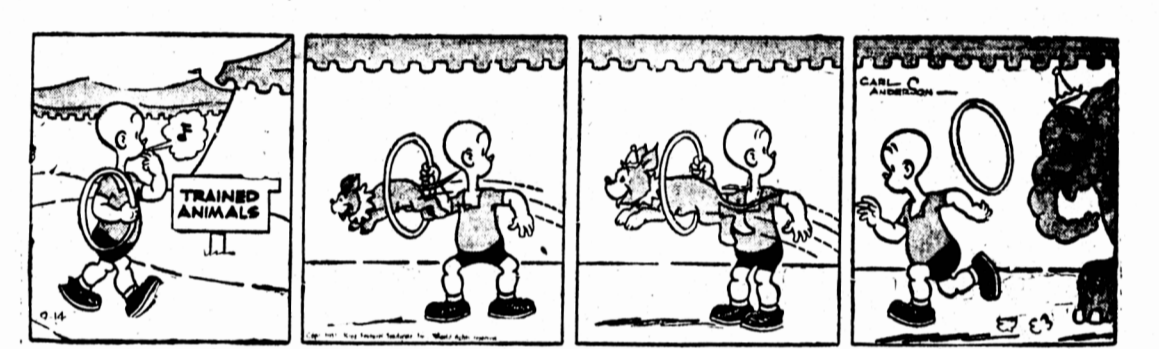
JOE PALOOKA



DOTTY DIPPLE



HENRY



TIPPY AND "CAP" STURS



BRINGING UP FATHER



FILLY THE TOILER



PENNY



**Napoleon and Uncle Elby** By Clifford McBride



POGO



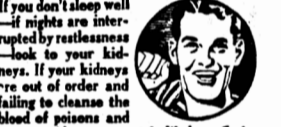
L'ABNER



RIP KIRBY



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