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**BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES**

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

**MRS. HOOTY'S GOOD IDEA**

A new idea seems bad or good. According as 'tis understood.—Old Mother Nature.

Hooty the Great Horned Owl stared at Mrs. Hooty as if he didn't know just what to think of her. She was sitting on a stub of a branch half way up a big tree deep in the Green Forest. That tree was hollow. That hollow had been cut out long ago by Logcock the Pileated Woodpecker. You know Logcock is the largest of the Woodpecker family, excepting for Ivory Bill way down in the Sunny South. Later it had been made larger and at one time Bobby Coon had lived there. So the doorway was big enough for Hooty to enter. The truth is that Hooty and Mrs. Hooty are not nearly as big as they look. It is their feathered coats and the way they wear them that makes them appear so big.

Hooty looked as if he was a little doubtful that he heard correctly what Mrs. Hooty had just said. She had led him over to that tree, telling him that she was leading him



"This is our new home," said she.

to their new home. Now he couldn't see any new home or anything that looked as if it might be a home. You see always before their nest had been made of sticks, old nests of members of the Hawk family, and so always high outside in trees. There was no such nest here. When he asked her where that nest was, she chuckled and said "inside."

Hooty blinked. "Say that again," said he.

Once more Mrs. Hooty chuckled. Then she slipped inside that hollow and disappeared. In a moment her face appeared in the doorway. "This is our new home," said she. "Don't you think it is a good idea?"

"No, I don't," declared Hooty. He sounded as if he really meant it. "I think you're crazy. What sort of a place is that for a Horned Owl's nest?"

"It's the nicest sort of a place," retorted Mrs. Hooty. "You come in here and see for yourself." She came out so that Hooty could go in.

Hooty did. In a moment or two he was outside again.

"What do you think of it?" asked Mrs. Hooty.

"I don't think much of it. I don't think it's the kind of a place we should make our home in. I'm sure we can find a better place than this," said Hooty.

"So you don't think much of my idea?" said Mrs. Hooty. "Well, let me tell you something."

"What?" asked Hooty.

"This is our new home, and that's that," said Mrs. Hooty. Now Hooty really was pleased with the idea, but he didn't want to admit. "I would feel like a prisoner sitting in there," said he.

"I'll do the sitting," replied Mrs. Hooty. "I think it's going to be wonderful. Just think, when it snows, I'll be warm and dry inside here. That will be wonderful. You see the big Owl's nest before winter is over and more than once Mrs. Hooty had been covered with a blanket of snow while sitting on her eggs to keep them warm.

"Ruh!" said Hooty. He said it in a scornful way, yet all the time he was greatly pleased with Mrs. Hooty's idea. He just wouldn't say so. "I think I'll go hunting," he added.

"Go ahead," replied Mrs. Hooty. "I hope you have luck." She disappeared inside that hollow tree. Hooty hung around for a few minutes, but Mrs. Hooty didn't show herself. She was busy inside fixing a bed of dry leaves to suit her. And all the time she was thinking what a wonderful idea hers was.

**DAILY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Goddess of peace
  - City (Neb.)
  - Quarterless shoes
  - Infants
  - Greek letter
  - Treats with respect
  - Bone (anat.)
  - Fashion
  - Southeast (abbr.)
  - Smallest state of U.S. (abbr.)
  - Unaccented part of a measure (Mus.)
  - At home
  - Archery mark
  - Skill
  - Respects
  - Division of a play
  - Lifted
  - Barium (sym.)
  - To pasture at a certain sun (Law)
  - Greek letter
  - Hebrew month
  - A gem surface
  - Part of "to be"
  - Wooden shoes
  - Tree
  - Harden
  - Government and court (Turk.)
  - Ventures
  - Accumulate
- DOWN**
- Significance
  - Union
  - High priest
  - Neon
  - East by south (abbr.)
  - An attic weight (pl.)
  - Heavy hair on horses' necks
  - Finnish seaport
  - District ruler (Mediev. Nor.)
  - Agree
  - Uncontrolled emotional outburst
  - Neon
  - Droops in the middle
  - Allowance for waste (Comm.)
  - Soak flax
  - Donkey
  - Comfort
  - Hand covering
  - Mortified seaport
  - Small bathroom
  - Lives
  - Plates
  - Before
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  - Before

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

35. Movable barriers  
41. Frickly envelop of a fruit  
42. Constellation  
44. Father  
45. Ejaculation (Hindu)

**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:**

A X Y D L B A A X R  
M L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**A Cryptogram Quotation**

Q W S B E Q W I X B V F R W P. H J W K J  
S R Z G K P S X C J E X B R W M C Q H E P S Y  
E H Q F C.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: NAY. THEN, LET THE DEVIL WEAR BLACK, FOR I'LL HAVE A SUIT OF SABLES—SHAKESPEARE.

**Contract Bridge**

By Josephine Culbertson

**MORE ABOUT END-PLAYS**

Yesterday's hand showed that defenders can't be too careful about avoiding "end-plays." Today's deal is further evidence to this effect.

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ 10 8 4 3  
♥ 10 7  
♦ J 5 3  
♣ J 9 6 3

♠ Q 7 6  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ K 10 8 7 4  
♣ A Q

The bidding:

North East South West  
1♥ Pass 3NT Pass  
4NT Pass 6NT Pass  
Pass Pass

South's bidding was rather un-restrained, as he was the first to acknowledge after the play. However, his partner was known to be ultra-conservative, and South therefore took the liberties which experts so often take under these circumstances. In this particular case, North was not timid—in fact, his four notrump bid was a "push."

West did not want to make things easy for the enemy by leading away from his honors, so he chose the neutral lead of the top heart. South won the king, led a diamond to the ace and returned the diamond nine. After some reflection, he played the king on this trick. He then led his low heart to the jack, returned a heart to the queen, and in the knowledge that the defenders could not find a safe exit in hearts, at any rate, South led the diamond ten.

West, thrown in with the diamond queen, was now "fixed." A club return would go directly up to South's major tenace; and when West actually chose to lead a low spade, South let it come around to his own hand. The twelve tricks were now in clear sight.

It was not easy for West to avoid the throw-in play in this case, since he could not be sure about the diamond situation. Declarer's hesitation on the second diamond lead might have been due to a holding of a six-card suit headed by K-J—i.e., he might have been thinking about a finesse. This, however, was rather a remote possibility in view of the bidding, and thus, rather than run the serious risk of being thrown on lead and forced to return a black card West would have been wise to unblock the diamond queen, on the sound hope that his partner had the jack.

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**KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED**

BABY, YOU MAY AS WELL KNOW THE TRUTH!... I FOLLOWED YOUR DAD'S PARTNER IN THAT OIL-WELL DEAL TO THIS TOWN!... I WAS IN HOPES HE'D LEAD ME TO SOME CLUE TO THE FATE OF A MOUNTIE-FRIEND WHO DISAPPEARED WHILE TRYING TO EXPOSE MEAD'S LAST OIL SWINDLE!

**KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED**

HEADY! THAT MOUNTIE IS WISE TO US!... DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE, BRAND... I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE MOUNTIES!

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**JOE PALOOKA**

SEE WHAT I MEAN? THERE IT WAS... THE REASON HE'S THE GREAT FIGHTING MACHINE... HE MAKES 'EM ALL FIGHT HIS WAY... SO HE CAN COUNTER-PUNCH.

**JOE PALOOKA**

BUT WHAT BEAUTIFUL COORDINATION... PALOOKA HAS SUCH GRACEFUL FOOTWORK AND THINKS AS FAST AS A MACHINE-GUN... HE'S GREAT, PAPPY!

**JOE PALOOKA**

I'VE STUDIED 'EM IN EVERY FIGHT... HE NEVER CAME ACROSS ANYBODY WITH YOUR WIMBLY STYLE... LIKE IN THAT SECOND REEL... PINKNEY HAD PALOOKA ON THE ROPES... HE WAS HURT... PALOOKA COULDN'T GET OUT THE WAY AS PINKNEY COVERED 'EM WITH A FLURRY OF BODY BLOWS...

**HENRY**

LEARN THE LATEST DANCE STEPS COMPLETE COURSE 50¢

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**DOTTY DIPPLE**

BUT UNCLE HORACE— YOU PROMISED TO REFEREE OUR GAME!... WELL, UNCLE, I'M VERY BUSY TODAY, WILBERT!

**DOTTY DIPPLE**

HE'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT SOME OTHER TIME, WILBERT!

**DOTTY DIPPLE**

SAY WHAT ARE YOU— MAN OR MOUSE!... YES!

**Quickies by Ken Reynolds**

"Well, well! We must have read the same Guardian Want Ad—I ordered fuel oil too!"

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**TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS**

BYE, CAP!... ETHEL SEEMED IN QUITE A HURRY!... YESSIR! GRANMA'S MAD!

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**BRINGING UP FATHER**

WHAT AN ODD CHILD!... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES!... HIS FATHER IS ECCENTRIC TOO!

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**TILLY THE TOILER**

BUT, TILLY, THIS IS THE MOST MARVELOUS INVENTION OF THE AGE!... INVEST IN IT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT IS YOU'RE A SUCKER!

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**L'L ABNER**

NANCY O WAS HERE—JUST LIKE IT SAYS IN THIS NOTE! WHILE YOU WAS SHOWIN' ME HOW BOOTHFUL YOU IS—SHE WAS SHOWIN' ME HOW BOOTHFUL SHE IS—RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

**L'L ABNER**

NANCY O WAS HERE—JUST LIKE IT SAYS IN THIS NOTE! WHILE YOU WAS SHOWIN' ME HOW BOOTHFUL YOU IS—SHE WAS SHOWIN' ME HOW BOOTHFUL SHE IS—RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

**PENNY**

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY ROOM SINCE IT'S BEEN RE-DECORATED PENNY?... SUPER DREAMY!

**PENNY**

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**PENNY**

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY ROOM SINCE IT'S BEEN RE-DECORATED PENNY?... SUPER DREAMY!

**RIP KIRBY**

I TELL YOU, MR. SEVEN, KIRBY KNOWS NOTHING! I TRAILED HIM STEADY FOR 48 HOURS!

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