

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess
MRS. JERRY CHANGES HER MIND

Make up your mind, but so arrange it never is too fixed to change.
—Old Mother Nature.

There was a difference of opinion in the Smiling Pool. Listening to it, Grandfather Frog called it a quarrel, but it wasn't really that. It was between Jerry Muskrat and Mrs. Jerry. They had built a new house out in the water in the midst of the rushes at the upper end of the Smiling Pool. It had been built because Mrs. Jerry wanted it. Jerry didn't.

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thought that with a little fixing up their old house would be quite good enough. He suggested that they make it in the steepest bank of the Smiling Pool. But Mrs. Jerry had her way, and the new house was built just where she wanted it.

It was after this house was finished and there was no more real work to be done on it, that Jerry suggested they make a house in the bank. Mrs. Jerry didn't see any need for a house in the bank and she said so.

Jerry named several reasons why it would be a good thing to have a house in the bank. One of them was that if there should be a flood, it might wash away their house of rushes and mud out in the water. Or the water might become so deep that they might be flooded



"I think it is going to rain," said Jerry, changing the subject.

out of it. Mrs. Jerry still shook her head. "This isn't the time of year for floods," said she. "But the unexpected does happen," Jerry persisted. There have been floods at this time of year, and we could have another."

So they argued back and forth, and their voices grew squeaker and squeaker and sharper and sharper. Still it wasn't a real quarrel, it was just a difference of opinion. You know, folks can have differences of opinion without quarrelling. Such differences of opinion can be a very good thing sometimes.

"I think it is going to rain," said Jerry, changing the subject. "I hope it is," said Mrs. Jerry. "We need it. I've never seen Laughing Brook and the Smiling Pool with less water in them than they have now."

When they awoke, it was the time of day they liked best. The Black Shadows had come down from the Purple Hills. It was raining gently. They didn't mind that, in fact, they liked it. Like Mrs. Quack, and the other Duck folk, Jerry and Mrs. Jerry are water lovers. They went about their business just as if it were not raining at all.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

Part-score bidding

Possession of a part-score not only affects the bidding in obvious ways, since the game goal is different, but also exerts a subtle influence that changes the meaning of many calls. This latter point is not generally appreciated. Let's look at a typical case.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. North-South 40 on score.

Analysis of each individual bid does not reveal any glaring flaw, and in all fairness it must be admitted that the partners had a certain amount of "duplication"—specifically, the combined holding of the five honors in clubs with only three tricks, and the five honors in hearts with only four tricks. However, this is a danger always to be reckoned with, and South, particularly, could foresee the strong possibility of this duplication. Thus, having jumped to two notrump at the 40 score, South should not have been so quick to accept his partner's mild slam try.

The nub of the proposition is this: when a player who has a part-score jumps to two notrump, he is stating that he has something in reserve, and therefore his bid in itself is a slam suggestion, however tentative. The two-no-trump bid is made in this case on the sort of hand that would well justify a three-notrump bid at a love score; this is the point that average players do not fully understand.

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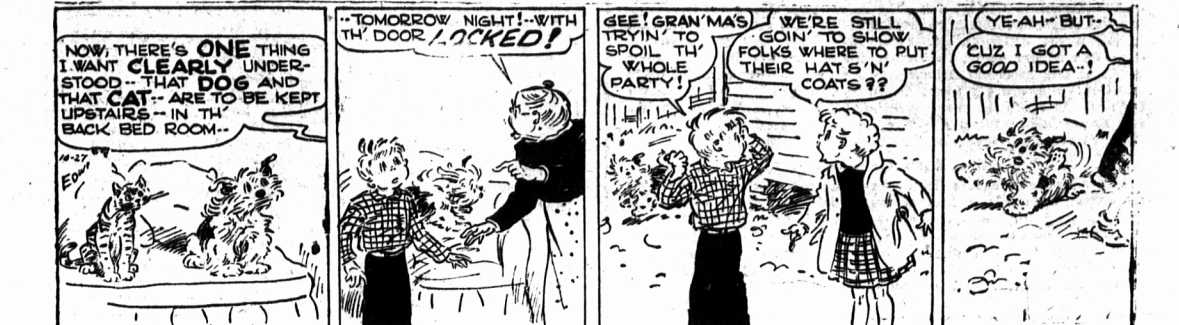
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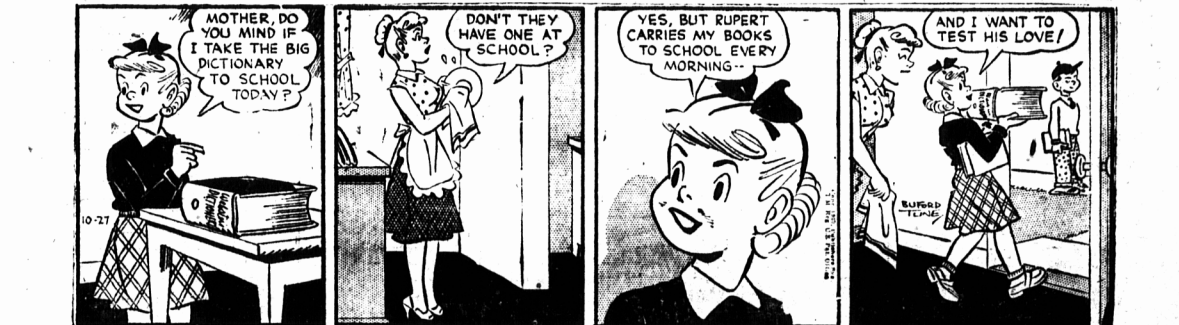
Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



Bringing Up Father



Dotty Dripple



Tilly The Toiler



Joe Palooka



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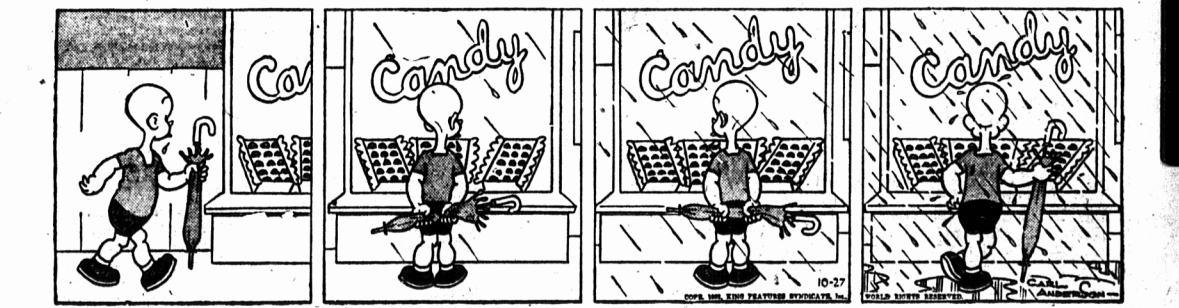
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