

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluberston

A MOOT QUESTION

The burning question about the following hand is: Whose error was worse, East's in the bidding, or South's in the play?

North dealer Both sides vulnerable.

A K J A J 8 5 K 7 4 A Q 10

8653 Q104 Q1097 K63 2 W E QJ109 8542 972 4 86632 KJ7

The bidding: North East South West 2NT Pass 4 Pass 5 Dbl. (1) Redbl. Pass Pass Pass

East's double was certainly a little premature, to put it mildly, since the course of the opponents' bidding pointed clearly to the fact that they would go on to a slam. In the postmortem South actually said that he had the six-diamond bid on the tip of his tongue but of course when East doubled five diamonds, the redouble became a far better action.

This was a very logical conclusion on South's part, but when it came to playing the hand, he was anything but logical. West opened the heart ten. The ace won, and South laid down the trump king. West's showing out confirmed the news broadcast by East's double and now that declarer knew he would have to lose two trump tricks, he apparently decided that only a successful finesse in spades could save him. So he took that finesse — and mournfully watched the enemy score up 300 points.

South's notion that he needed the spade finesse — or, to put it more realistically, that he could not be satisfied with only two spade tricks — was unfortunate. There are paradoxes in bridge, and this hand contains one of them. Despite South's two sure trump losers, he did not have to worry about losing a spade trick!

Winning play could scarcely be easier. After confirming the trump situation, South simply ruffs a heart, cashes the three club tricks, and ruffs another heart. Now he cashes the ace and king of spades, discarding the finesse, and leads dummy's last heart. East is helpless. If he ruffs in, to keep South from making another small trump, South simply throws of his losing spade; and if East prefers to discard his spade queen on dummy's last heart, South gets in another low trump on a ruff, and the trump ace is the fulfilling trick.

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

A GOOD BREAKFAST

A hearty breakfast is the way. To start a satisfactory day. —Thunderer the Grouse.

Long ago Thunderer the Grouse, who with Mrs. Grouse lives in the Green Forest, discovered that the best way in which to start a day is with a full crop. All through the summer this is an easy thing to do. Even way into the fall there is no trouble in getting a good breakfast. It is after the last of the three-cornered sweet little beechnuts, and the acorns have been eaten, or stored away by others, or covered with snow, that there is any real trouble in getting a good breakfast.

As the days grow shorter and colder, it becomes more and more difficult to get a good meal at any time of day. Even so Thunderer and Mrs. Grouse are better off than some of their neighbors for always the trees have buds of next year's leaves all wrapped in little brown coverings. And to the Grouse these are good eating.

The same food day after day becomes tiresome, and so it was that Mr. and Mrs. Grouse had become very tired of the buds on the spruce trees, and such other buds as they could get. It was then that Mrs. Grouse remembered the Old Orchard where the apple trees grow. The fruit buds and leaf buds on the apple trees would be a welcome change.

Thunderer was for going over there at once that very afternoon, but wise Mrs. Grouse said "No!" They would go very early in the morning. They would have breakfast there instead of dinner. So it was that the next morning when jolly, round, bright Mr. Sun first peeped into the Old Orchard, Thunderer and Mrs. Grouse were already there getting breakfast.

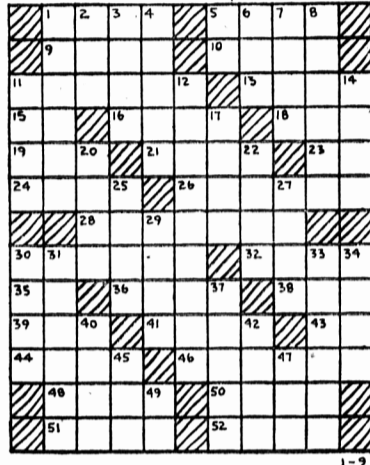
How good those buds did taste! They were a welcome change. They were sweeter than the spruce buds. I suspect that Thunderer would have smacked his lips if he had had any lips to smack. As it was he just filled his crop as fast as he could. He was greedy. Yes, sir, he was greedy. Could you have seen him you might have thought that he was afraid if he didn't get all those buds at once somebody else would.

It was Tommy Tit the Chickadee who first discovered the visitors in the Old Orchard. "Dee, dee, dee, dee!" he cried. "What are you folks doing over here?" "Getting a good breakfast," replied Mrs. Grouse, mildly.

clared Thunderer, as he reached for another bud. "Because you belong in the Green Forest!" declared Sammy Jay, who had come along just then. "We belong wherever we please to go, just as much as the rest of you do!" retorted Thunderer. "Dee, dee, dee, dee! Of course you do, I was just surprised to see you over here," replied Tommy Tit. "I always think of you as folks of the woods." "We are," said Mrs. Grouse. "We Ruffed Grouse are truly Green Forest folk, but we have cousins. Continued on page 14

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1. Places, 5. Contained, 9. Sports group, 10. Genius of Italy, 11. Pocket-books, 13. Reality, 15. Public notice, 16. Vent, 18. Distant, 19. Sauciness (slang), 21. Jog, 23. Masurium (var.), 32. Wither, 35. Farm animal, 36. A coral ridge, 38. Period of time, 39. Permit, 41. Let fall, 43. Hebrew letter, 44. A couple, 46. Squalid, 48. Goddess of discord, 50. Burden, 51. East, 52. Weakens. DOWN: 1. Artist's workroom, 2. Ever (poet.), 3. A drinking cup (Scott.), 4. A food fish, 5. Exclamation, 6. Sprite, 7. Lounge, 8. Run away, 11. Inside of hand, 12. Wizards, 14. Shelf of a trunk, 17. Hebrew law (var.), 20. Mountain defile, 22. Male cats, 25. MIX, 27. Employed, 29. Bamboo-like grass, 30. Frigid, 31. Daisies, 33. Swift part of a river, 34. Ogled, 37. Simpletons, 40. Ancient Gaelic capital, 42. Malayan boat, 45. Excavate, 47. Dip slightly into water, 49. Therefore.



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGE FELLOW. 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 VAS VAHSM FB HWZHOBJCFTI WCLAWO MVFTIE XFWWFTI NO ZFTMSO NPTJ ZFMV BFNQWA XWCZASB—NHBAKFAWJ.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: I HONOUR THE MAN WHO IS WILLING TO SINK HALF HIS PRESENT REPUTE FOR THE FREEDOM TO THINK—LOWELL.

King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zano Grey



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



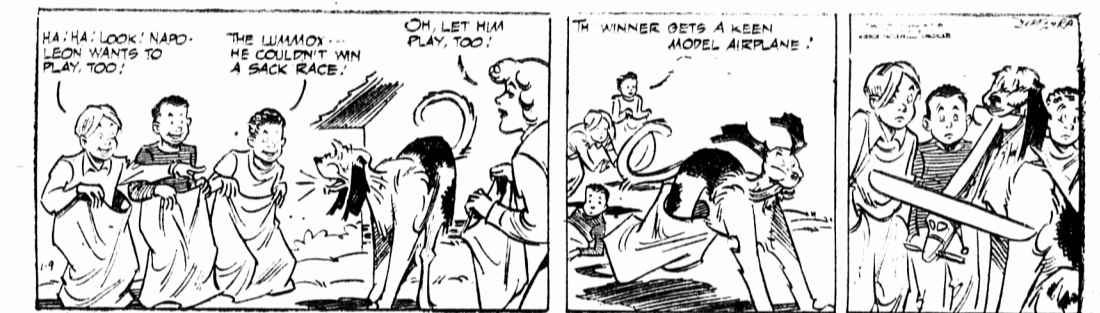
Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwin



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



PENNY

By Harry Hannigan



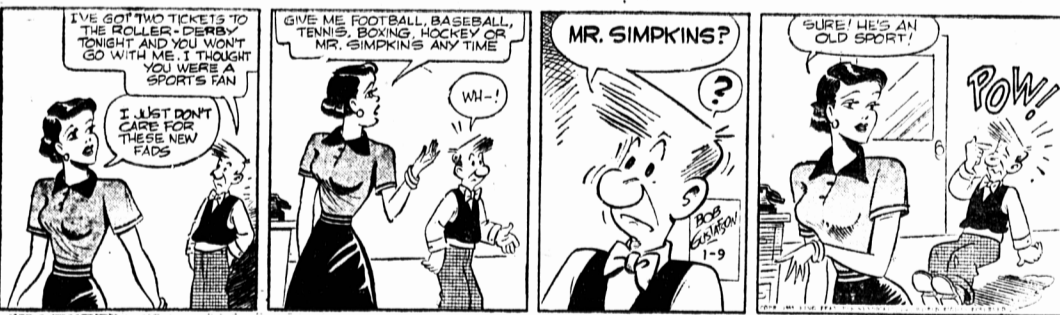
Lil Abner

By Al Capp



Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



Doty Dripple

By Ruford



Henry

By Carl Anderson

