

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

THE GOOD OLD TIMES

The good old times are always best. Till present times with age are best.

—Old Mother Nature. Reddy Fox and Mrs. Reddy stood on the doorstep of their den in the Old Pasture. From there they could look out over the Green Meadows to the Green Forest.

They didn't look happy. They were not happy. They were hungry. They were very hungry. Hunger and happiness do not go together.

"Where shall we hunt today?" asked Mrs. Reddy. Reddy shook his head. It was a discouraged shake. "I guess it doesn't make much difference," said he. "One place is as good as another and all are bad."

"Mrs. Reddy sighed. It was a deep sigh. "Times have changed," said she. "I never used to be like this. There were times when we went hungry for a little while, but now it seems as if we are hungry all the time."



"Where shall we hunt today?" asked Mrs. Reddy.

"When you said times have changed, you said something," declared Reddy. "Times really have changed. A lot of things are not the way they used to be. In the good old times the corn was left for some time out in the field after it was cut. That always meant good eating for us. It was good eating and easy hunting, for always there's plenty of mice living in and under the cornstalks. Now when the corn is cut nothing is left. Those big machines come along and when they leave there is nothing left for even a mouse. So there are no mice for us to eat. Nothing like that used to happen."

What Reddy said was quite true. In the old times Farmer Brown used to leave his corn standing in brown sheaves in the field for some time after it was cut. Danny Meadow Mouse and his friends used to move into the cornfield then and live in those sheaves. A smart fox had no difficulty in catching all the mice he wanted. But Farmer Brown is up to date. Now his corn is cut and ground into what is called insilage right on the field. It is blown into wagons and taken away. When the last cornstalk is cut nothing but bare

ground remains. There is nothing for the mice. And so, of course there is nothing for us, either. In the good old days there were more bushes along the fences. Yes, sir, there were more bushes. Mrs. Reddy gave him a funny look. "What of it?" she asked. "We don't eat bushes."

"Think a minute, my dear. I'll see in a minute," said Reddy. "Bushes mean hiding places for mice and rabbits and birds. That means easier hunting for us."

Mrs. Reddy nodded. "That is true," said she. "It gets a little worse every year: more and more fences and stone-walls are bare without any bushes or vines around them. I've noticed it, but I hadn't thought what it meant to us until you mentioned it just now."

"But this isn't deciding where we are going to hunt today," said Reddy.

"Let's go over to the Big River and see if we can catch a duck. I would love to have a duck for dinner," said Mrs. Reddy. She licked her lips.

Reddy shook his head. "No use, my dear," said he. "Old King King Eagle is over there. I saw him circling round high in the air."

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

A bottle unearthed in West Ham, England, bears the date 1356. Inside the bottle is a liquid matter. What it contains nobody knows. Why? Because the finders do not want to break the sealed crystal bottle.

You'll never be troubled with stomach disorders if you confine your flesh eating to bear meat. The trouble in P.E.I., is: we have no bears.

Cigarette sales in Canada and the U.S.A. have increased four per cent over last year, but tobacco companies are quick to point out that this cannot be attributed to the rise in births. It will be a year or two before the population growth can be expected to contribute much to cigarette sales, they say.

According to reliable estimates there are now 570,000 tourists visiting Dade County, Florida. The month of February is expected to usher in another 340,000. March is the month the tourists start moving out to their homes in the north.

It is remarkable what is sometimes accomplished by a guilty conscience. Dick MacAdam reports a man walked into his Moncton store during the Christmas shopping spree and paid him \$80 for goods for goods he had bought 25 years ago. And he was a visitor who was just passing through.

It's a lot easier to remember what you say when you tell the truth.

The African ant eater can break through an ant hill with its long tongue snout, even though the hill is as hard as concrete. If it were not for these strange looking creatures one could hardly live in Africa with its huge army of ants.

The water turkey dives for its food-yet its feathers are not water-proof.

PC MARGIN GREAT OTTAWA (CP)—More than four-fifths of the 17,000 eligible voters in Renfrew South cast ballots Thursday in a provincial election which gave James Maloney the biggest winning majority since a Progressive Conservative has enjoyed in the riding in 10 years.

Mr. Maloney, 52-year-old lawyer here, polled 8,204 votes to defeat Liberal Nathaniel E. Lindsay, 57-year-old feed merchant, who polled 5,923.

FRZON HYDRANTS HAMILTON (CP)—Fire Chief Reginald Scarborough said nearly 10 per cent of fire hydrants are useless in sub-zero weather. About 500 of Hamilton's 4,700 hydrants are an old type, not properly insulated against cold.

Our Boarding House Major Hoople

MY WORD, SNUFFY! DON'T TELL ME YOU LET THE RENT ITEM SLIP YOUR MIND! —LAW! JUMP INTO BED —LAW! JUMP INTO BED! THAT WOULD THROW A STAMPEDE INTO REVERSE! —SEE IF YOU CAN CALM HIM WITH SOME OIL ABOUT HIS BEIN' SICK!

WITTEN DOWN THE HATCHES, MAJOR! HERE COMES MY LANDLORD, PHINEAS CABBIDGE, WITH A LOOK ON HIS MUG THAT WOULD THROW A STAMPEDE INTO REVERSE! —SEE IF YOU CAN CALM HIM WITH SOME OIL ABOUT HIS BEIN' SICK!

THE ONLY ONES BACK TO OCTOBER

YOU GOT WIN, YOU WAS PART OF THE PLOT! —PART OF THE EVIL SCHEME! —HOW KIN YOU BE OVERCOME WITH FAMILY LOATHING? —ANY YOU GOT NO OWN KNOWERY? —I GOT PRIDE TO BURN!

NO MATTER HOW I SHUFFLE MY HAND IT STILL COMES OUT WITH TWO CARDS OVER!

SOMEBODY DEALT ME A PIECE OF BREAD AN' I'AM 'STEAD OF A CARD.

YOU IS FREE TO EAT IT AN' I'AM A NEW CARD.

PHUNPH! —YOU'S LUCKY! YOU'S GOT PEANER BUTTER ON PUMPER-NICKLES THAT TIME.

WHEN I STOPS AN' REALIZES THAT YOU TWO GANGED UP ON ME AN' TRIED TO CHEAT ME OUTEN THE NOMINATION FOR THE PRESIDENTY WITH FAMILY LOATHING.

WE TOO.

YOU GOT WIN, YOU WAS PART OF THE PLOT! —PART OF THE EVIL SCHEME! —HOW KIN YOU BE OVERCOME WITH FAMILY LOATHING? —ANY YOU GOT NO OWN KNOWERY? —I GOT PRIDE TO BURN!

WE INVESTIGATED THEM. THEY'LL BE PERFECT FOR WHAT A LIFE!

THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE REAL REASON THEY'RE COMING TO HOLLYWOOD! THEY'RE ON FLIGHT 13 — AND THEIR BLOOD ENEMIES THE SCRAGGS?

DID YOU GET THEM? —YES, THEY'RE ON FLIGHT 13. TOOK 'EM BEEN A MERE MISTAKE!

proof. They must be dried in the sun after each dive.

A church bell in Dewsbury, England, is tolled only on Christmas day of each year. Because the bell was donated by Sir Thomas Southill as atonement for the murder of a boy. The crime was committed on Christmas day.

Queen Elizabeth's coronation gown had numerous brilliants, seed pearls, and shiny shell on it, but not a single diamond.

Did you know that milk left standing in the hot sun for half an hour loses all the vitamin C it contained. You can prove this by putting some salt on a hot stove and watch it jump. It is the steam from the water that makes the salt jump.

Crickets fighting is a favorite sport among the Chinese people. Before every fight the bugs are weighed in and each is classified as a heavy, middle or light weight, the same as we chalk up boxers in this part of the world.

Safety experts say this, about a good car driver: "He should think of nothing else when he's behind the wheel."

In Lincoln, Nebraska, it is illegal to kiss a gal or hold her hand while driving an automobile.

The first actual camera was invented in 1553 by Baptista Porta, but it was almost three centuries after this before Daguerre made public his famous photographic process to photograph a human face.

A thunder storm accompanied by rain is more dangerous than one without rain. Why? Because lightning strikes a wet surface more often when everything is wet.

An old fish can swim in more positions than either airplanes or birds can fly. Besides being able to move forward, backward, and sideways, a fish can swim with its head down or up at will.

The red blood cells in our bodies never seem to get any rest. They carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body, and on the return trip, carry carbon dioxide back from the tissues to the lungs.

The powerful hind legs of a jack rabbit enables it to run faster up hill than down. In fact, it can't run down hill at top speed because if he did it would turn a somersault at every jump.

In the city of Orlando, Florida, the natives eat black rattlesnake meat, canned and otherwise. Indeed, it is eaten in many parts of the south as hors d'oeuvres. My wife and I sampled a can of the stuff the other evening and it was delicious.

FIRE LOSS \$100,000 CORNER BROOK, Nfld. (CP)—A three-alarm fire early Saturday destroyed one of Corner Brook's oldest business establishments causing damage estimated by the owners at more than \$100,000. Fire Chief Mike Smith said the two-story building owned by T. Coombs Ltd. was a mass of flames when his men arrived on the scene.

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CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

A MUCH-DISCUSSED HAND

The hand below was the much discussed feature of a team-of-four match and, as a matter of fact, had quite a lot to do with determining the victory and defeat. Both South players ended up in heart contracts, with this paradoxical result: the declarer who was doubled at two hearts went down only one trick, whereas his opposite number was doubled at one heart and paid twice as big a penalty!

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

Hand diagram showing cards for East, South, West, and North.

This was the bidding at one table:

Bidding table showing East, South, West, North, Pass, Double, Pass.

West could have bid two no-trump over South's one heart, but he hoped that if he simply bid a spade, South would be encouraged to rebid, and then perhaps a worthwhile penalty could be gouged from the vulnerable enemy. As it happened, "West got his wish," but he did not enjoy the outcome as he had expected. When West opened 1 diamond king, South ruffed and led trumps at almost every opportunity, and the result was that East-West collected only six tricks, for a 200-point penalty.

At the other table West felt that it was too optimistic to hope that South could bid twice, and so he doubled the one-heart overall, hoping to collect 500 points, which would be more than the value of a non-vulnerable game. What's more, this bit of reasoning on West's part turned out beautifully with the declarer's co-operation!

As before, the diamond opening was ruffed by declarer, but, evidently hoping to get in some side-suit trick, this South led the spade king. East won and returned a diamond. South ruffed again, cashed the spade queen and tried to cash the spade jack. East ruffed and led his singleton club; West put up the ace and gave his partner a club ruff. On another diamond lead, West overruled declarer and gave East still another ruff. At the end, West simply handled his own trumps properly, and declarer was down two.

EXPORTS TO RUSSIA UP

MANCHESTER, England (Reuters)—Britain doubled her exports to Russia in 1955 compared with 1954 and increased her imports by nearly a third, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was told Monday. British exports during the first 10 months of 1955 reached an annual rate of £28,700,000 compared with a total of £14,100,000 pounds in 1954. Imports from Russia up to the end of October were at an annual rate of £57,000,000 compared with £41,800,000.

Wrigley's Spearmint Chewing Gum advertisement with image of a pack.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1. Military life, 2. Out of, 3. Frost (Sib.), 4. Flower, 5. Leave out, 6. To mark, as with spots, 7. Diving bird, 8. Guido's highest note, 9. Spire, as on a church, 10. Lake, 11. Author of "The Star-Spangled Banner", 12. Discharge, as a gun, 13. Cooked, as in fat, 14. Wards off, 15. Earth, 16. Snake, 17. Public notice, 18. Soldier, 19. Vitality, 20. Fortify, 21. Coin (Swed.), 22. There are five large ones on the earth, 23. Break sharply, 24. Valued, 25. Fencing, 26. Minus, 27. At one time, 28. Shooting star, 29. Anart.
- DOWN: 1. Shooting star, 2. Anart, 3. Encountered, 4. Father, 5. Fish-drying rack, 6. Tear, 7. Leather flask for oils, 8. Duck, 9. Biblical name (poss.), 10. Type of architecture, 11. In a due manner, 12. Mimicked, 13. Picked out, 14. Terror, 15. At home, 16. Taste mental (sym.), 17. Indian rack (sym.), 18. Shape, 19. Stripes, 20. Magicians' sticks, 21. Type of architecture, 22. Silk scarf (Ecol.), 23. Twisted fabrics, 24. Apportion, 25. Roman money, 26. Male, 27. Twisted fabrics, 28. Buddha (Chin.).

Cryptogram grid for the word ASYD NXRZEYL KGJDXJN QXEE.

ASYD NXRZEYL KGJDXJN QXEE
DSKXL WJNJK ASJ SYIK WKKH
XHOZTKO DJ LLYG-VMLJH.

Saturday's Cryptogram: BUT YET BEWARE OF COUNCILS WHEN TOO FULL; NUMBER MAKES LONG DISPUTES — DENHAM.

Grandma comic strip panels 1-4.

Mickey Mouse comic strip panels 1-4.

Henry comic strip panels 1-4.

Mugs and Skeeter comic strip panels 1-4.

Bringing Up Father comic strip panels 1-4.

Tilly The Toilet comic strip panels 1-4.

Etta Kent comic strip panels 1-4.

The Lone Ranger comic strip panels 1-4.

Joe Fatouka comic strip panels 1-4.

Secret Agent X9 comic strip panels 1-4.

Met Graft comic strip panels 1-4.

KIDNEY ACIDS

Rob your Rest... Many people never seem to get a good night's rest. They turn and toss—blame it on "nerves"—when it may be their kidneys.

Healthy kidneys filter poisons and excess acids from the blood. If they fail and impurities stay in the system—disturbed rest often follows. When the rest will not get and use Dodd's Kidney Pills. Dodd's help the kidneys so that you can rest better—and feel better.

Dodd's Kidney Pills

TIRED FEET

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YOUR BEST MARKET FOR

Iron and Steel Scrap, per (2000 lb. ton) 15.00, Car Batteries, each 1.60

Bring in your lead, car radi, brass, copper, rope, beer bottles, hides, horse hair. You will receive highest cash prices.

Truck scale weighing for your convenience.

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By Charles Kuhn, By Walt Disney, By Carl Anderson, By Wally Bishop, By George McManus, By Bob Gustafson, By Paul Robinson, By Fran Striker, By Ham Fisher, By Met Graft