

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## ACROSS AT LAST

A mother's life is filled with woes. How many, only mother knows.

—Mrs. Grouse.

Mrs. Grouse knows whereof she speaks. In all the Green Forest there is no mother who knows better what a mother must suffer in worries and other woes. You see there are few mothers with so many children to look out for at one time. Some years Mrs. Grouse has had more than a dozen babies to watch out for. This year she had ten. No prettier, livelier children were to be found anywhere.

But each one of those precious babies was a wee and a worry. This was because mother loved all as if they were but one. Some mothers have only one child to look out for and almost always think that no other mother can possibly have so much to worry about as they do. What could one of these mothers do if she found herself with a half-dozen or more to look out for?

Mrs. Grouse is a good mother. She is a brave mother. She will run any risk for the safety of her babies. This morning she had actually stopped an automobile. To her it was the most terrible of monsters, but she hadn't hesitated to threaten to fight it, and held her own right in the middle of the road while her babies scrambled to safety.

Of course, she hadn't known that Farmer Brown's Boy was driving that automobile, and so she and her babies were not in the danger she thought they were.

Now Mrs. Grouse wanted her babies on the other side of that road. When she thought the way was clear she started to lead them across, and who should she see coming down the road but Reddy Fox. She sent the babies scrambling back where they had come from, then she actually flew right in the face of Reddy Fox.

He was so surprised he really hadn't known what to do. He had had his face slapped and slapped hard by the stout wings of Mrs. Grouse. This had confused him. But it hadn't confused him so that he failed to see some of those tiny chicks scrambling out of the road.

He pretended to run away from Mrs. Grouse. He wanted to get away from her, but he was so afraid of her that he didn't know why she had flown in his face. He turned tail and went back the way he had come.

Mrs. Grouse followed him just a little way. As soon as he had disappeared around a curve in the road, she took to her stout wings and whirred off to one side. She didn't go directly back to where Reddy had first seen her.

As for Reddy, as soon as he was out of sight he left the road and circled through the woods until he reached the place where he had



He pretended to run away from Mrs. Grouse.

seen the wee chicks scrambling out of the road. There he began to hunt, to really hunt. He has a wonderful nose and he was using that nose now trying to find the scent of those little Grouse chicks. He sniffed here and he sniffed there. He sniffed everywhere along the ground. But all he got for his sniffing was disappointment. He didn't get the faintest trace of Grouse scent. That was because there wasn't any. Old Mother Nature was doing her part to help Mother Grouse, and these wee chicks as yet gave off no scent.

Reddy was using his eyes also, but his eyes served him no better than his nose. He must have looked straight at a chick more than once without seeing it. Anyway, he must have looked right at the place where the chick was. You see those little brown-coated babies were lying perfectly still among and under the brown leaves on the ground. As long as they didn't move Reddy failed to see any of them.

At long last he gave up. All the time, unseen by him, mother was

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## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### THREE-SUIT SQUEEZE

Even though the opposing hand indicated a freak hand, West surely couldn't be blamed for doubling the final contract. How could he foresee what would happen to him?

West dealer  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ K 10 4  
♥ K Q 7  
♦ A K 8 2  
♣ Q J 6

♠ J 9 7 6  
♥ 5 2  
♦ J 10 4 3  
♣ 8 5 2

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

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ 3♥  
3 NT 4♥ 5♦ 5♥  
Dbl. Pass Pass Pass

East did a little too much bidding, on "distribution" alone.

The opening lead by West was the diamond king, and when the dummy was spread and East played his lowest diamond, West shifted to the king of trumps as the apparent least of evils.

The trump ace was played and another trump was returned. West, back on lead, exited safely with his last trump.

Declarer had already lost two tricks, and prospects were not bright, especially since there was reason to suspect that the spade king lay over South's ten-ace. Declarer could play for a club split which would permit a spade discard, but this would mean the concession of defeat, and he was not prepared to give up. Instead, he hopefully assumed that West had all the important cards missing, and based his campaign on that assumption.

South cashed three more trumps, discarding two diamonds and one spade from dummy. So far West was in no great trouble—he gave up two diamonds and a spade. But then South laid down the last trump, and now West was in dire straits. If he gave up the spade ten, South would cash the ace and queen, continuing the squeeze on West. If the latter relinquished a club, dummy's four clubs would be good. And finally, if West parted with the high diamond, dummy's queen would become another trick and squeeze—card when South cashed the ace and king of clubs.

BEDFORD, England. (OP)—Academic standards required of student nurses are too high, says the Bedford group hospital management committee. Two committee members, both doctors, said they were unable to answer questions on the final nursing examination papers.

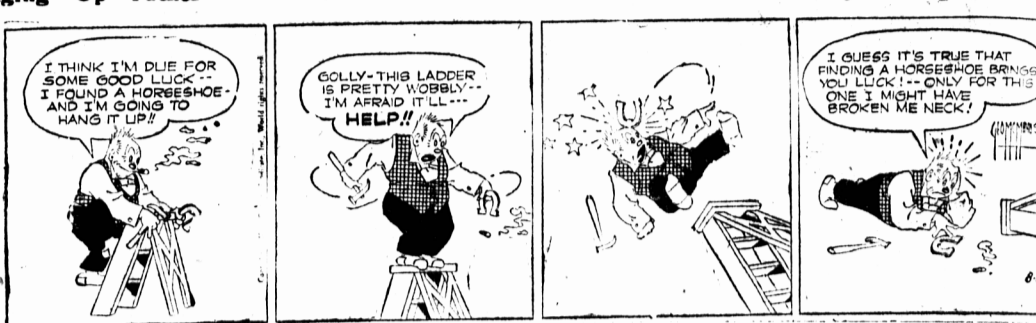
## Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



## Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



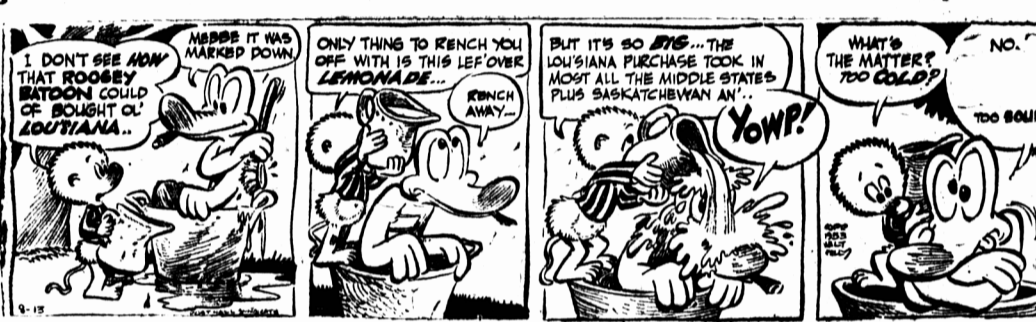
## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



## Pogo

By Walt Kelly



## Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



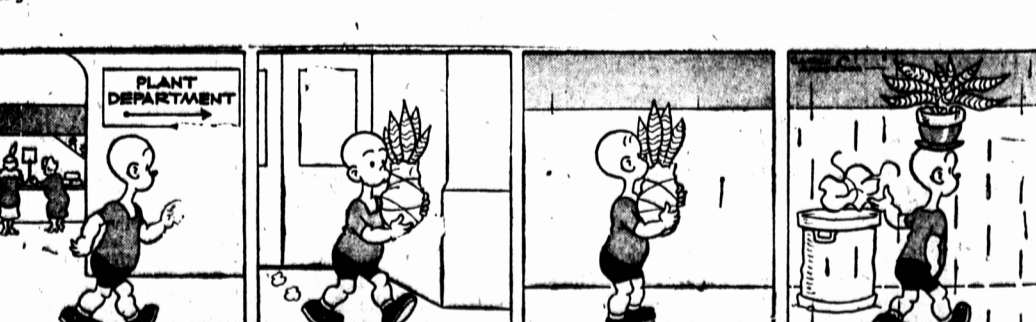
## Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



## Henry

By Carl Anderson



## Penny

By Harry Manigault



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## King Of The Royal Mounted

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