

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

**PETER BECOMES DESPERATE**  
Desperation sharpens wit. Life is often saved by it. —Old Mother Nature.

Peter Rabbit was desperate. He was in a fix. Never had he been in a worse one. He was just inside the doorway of Prickly Porky's

the Porcupine's house in the ground. Somewhere back of him down below he could hear Prickly Porky shuffling and grunting about. Outside, Hooty the Great Horned Owl, who had chased him in there, was waiting. He didn't know what to do so he did nothing, which at the time was the very wisest thing he could do. He didn't pay any more attention to Hooty. Hooty wouldn't come in, so there was nothing to worry about as long as he, Peter, didn't have to go outside. But if Prickly Porky should take it into his head to come up and want to go out, there would be trouble indeed for there wasn't room for Prickly Porky to pass. There would be nothing for Peter to do but go outside, and there would be Hooty the Owl.

"If only this was a back door, I wonder if there is a back door. I wish I dared go a little farther in and see if there is a back door," thought Peter as he listened to Prickly Porky down below.

Prickly Porky sounded peevish. He is very apt to sound peevish. He is one of those complaining folks. He dearly loves to whine and grunt and complain. It doesn't mean anything really; it's just his way of enjoying life. Many people are like him. They seem to find a lot of pleasure or comfort or

South gave up any intention he might have had to fyne in hearts! Instead South first tested the club break by leading to the queen, and when he saw that East had the suit stopped, South ruffed the last club and tried the spade finesse. The queen held, of course, and it was all over.

If East had made nothing but non-committal discards, South would have to make a shrewd guess between the spade and heart finesse.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### CONCERNING SIGNALS

The average player does too much high-card signaling. In short, his defense is too similar to East's in the following hand.

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 5 Pass  
6 Pass Pass Pass

Most expert pairs would bid the North-South cards more "scientifically" but they probably would arrive at the same six-diamond contract. It might be observed that in leaping to five diamonds, South was not "closing the bidding" but was indeed inviting the slam.

South's hope of acquiring information selected the ace of clubs. East's lowest card happened to be the eight, and West hopefully led his other club. South won with the king and cashed five trumps, discarding a spade and a heart from the board and watching carefully for the enemy's discards.

South's hope of acquiring information was realized. East, as soon as the dummy was reduced to the A-Q of hearts, discarding the heart jack with a special emphasis, as though to reassure his partner about the heart suit, at any rate! If the heart jack discard had been made by an expert, South would have viewed it with deep suspicion, but he knew that East was almost naively "honest." So



He didn't see Peter

something in constantly complaining. Prickly Porky spends most of his time alone. Perhaps he gets lonesome and likes to hear the sound of his own voice. He can't sing, so he grunts and whines. It may be that it isn't complaining after all, even though it sounds that way.

Two or three times it sounded as if Prickly Porky was coming up the long hallway from his bedroom. Each time Peter's heart seemed to jump right up in his throat. Hearts are funny that way. No heart can jump up in anyone's throat, but there are times when it feels as if it was doing just that. Peter swallowed hard just as if he was trying to swallow his heart. He certainly was one scared Rabbit. But Prickly Porky didn't come up.

**OWBRIDGE'S TONIC**  
Quick Relief for  
**COUGHS - COLDS**

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## The Neighbors

By George Clark



"Just the usual family story. Murder, bank robbery—I've seen it lots of times before."

By Walt Keny

**HEADACHE?**  
**FEEL BETTER FAST!**  
**ASPIRIN**

## KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Ze... Craig



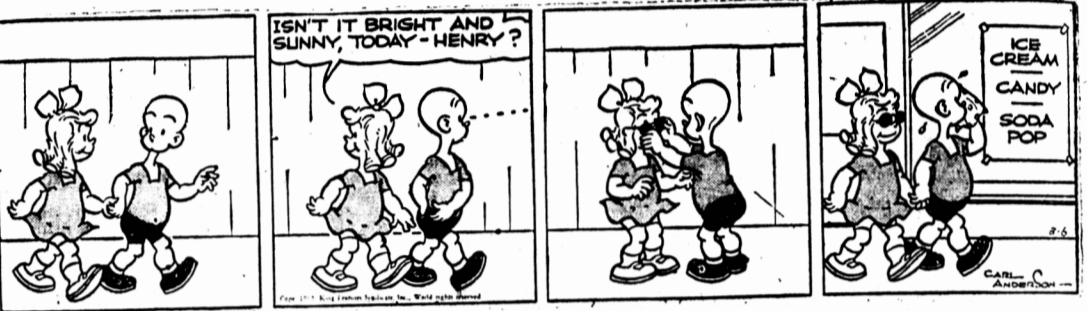
JOE PALCORA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



DOTTY DIPPLE

By Ruford



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



PENNY

By Harry Hoehnigen

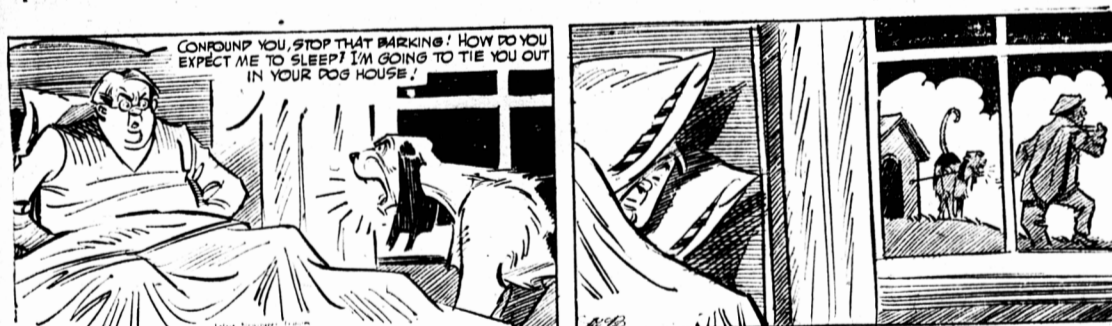


## POGO



By Clifford McBride

## Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Al Capp

## LIL ABNER



By Alex Raymond

## RL KIRBY



## PENNY

By Harry Hoehnigen

