BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE FRIENDLESS ONE

No sadder fate may e'er attend,
Than not to have a single friend.
—Old Mother Nature.

Over at the Smiling Pool were many singers. Some were in the water, some were on the land. Those in the water were the Frog folk, those called Peeper who really are tiny Tree Frogs called Hylas, and Croaker the Green Frog, and Old Mr. Toad who is a cousin of the Frog folk. Those on land were Redwing the Blackbird, and Little Friend the Song Sparrow, and others of the feathered folk. All day long and far into the night there was a joyous chorus at the Smiling Pool. If you could have asked the little singers why they were singing so much, and if they could have replied, they would have told you that they were singing for love and joy in living. In the spring, in the lovely month of May, love and joy in living seemed to be in the very air.

Little Friend the Song Sparrow was singing too.

Peter Rabbit simply couldn't stay away from the Smiling Pool. Peter couldn't sing himself. Of course not. But people who cannot sing, can enjoy the singing of others. It was so with Peter.

It happened that Peter got over to the Smiling Pool extra early one evening. It really wasn't dark yet. Only a few of the Black Shadows coming down from the Purple Hills had reached the Smiling Pool. It was very still. Not a single Merry Little Breeze was dancing across the water to ruffle the surface, as Merry Little Breezes delight in doing. The water was like a mirror. In it was reflected the bank. Peter could see his own reflection. Peeper the Hyla and all his friends were singing as if they were trying to burst the little music bags in their throats. On the topmost branch of an alder in the little swamp at the head of the Smiling Pool was Redwing the Blackbird singing to Mrs. Redwing. She was sitting on four eggs in a comfortable nest in the rushes near by. Little Friend the Song Sparrow was singing too, and there is no sweeter song than this.

On the end of an old log which was partly in the water sat Grandfather Frog. He had been rather late in awakening from his winter sleep. He was adding his deep bass voice to the chorus. But it wasn't quite as deep and smooth as it would be when he had a little more practice. Just below Peter, and only a little way out in the water, Old Mr. Toad was blowing out his big music bag, and adding to the chorus one of the sweetest notes of all.

Suddenly a black head was thrust out of water a little way out from the old log on which Grandfather Frog was sitting. Grandfather Frog broke a note off right in the middle. Old Mr. Toad deflated his music bag. Peeper the Hyla, who happened to be only a little way from that black head, stopped singing. That was a sort of signal. The Hylas nearest to him stopped singing. They knew that there must be a reason, probably some form of danger, to have caused that Hyla to stop singing. In a moment all the voices around the Smiling Pool were still, and it was all because of a sudden appearance of that black head. It was the head of Snapper the Turtle, and save for Mrs. Snapper he hadn't a friend in all the Smiling Pool or around it.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SUPERIOR DEFENSE

If east had been one of those countless defenders who "always return their partners' leads," the result in the deal below would have been substantially different from what it was.

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

East might have bid one spade over North's one club, but the vulnerability conditions dissuaded him.

West opened his fourth-highest heart against the three-no-trump contract. East put up the king, and South false-carded the eight.

There is reason to feel that most players in East's position would now return a heart—perhaps they would hope that West could run the suit—or they might shift to a spade. The actual East, however, made neither of these errors. When his heart king held the first trick, he made the far better shift to the deuce of diamonds.

After this imaginative play on East's part, South was helpless. West, of course, forced a diamond honor from dummy by putting up the ten, and South could do no better than enter his own hand with a spade and try the club finesse. East pounced with his king and now returned his partner's suit. West, winning with the heart ace, naturally shifted back to diamonds, and East took the setting trick in that suit.

The diamond shift by East was strongly indicated for this reason: South could not have anything of value in the minor suits, and so was marked with very good spades for his two-notrump call. As for the immediate heart return—there was no need to make that return because East had the club suit controlled. If he didn't find his partner with the diamond ten, East would later lead the heart on the slim chance that West could run the suit.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Now that the men of science have informed us that flights to the moon will become a reality in 20 years, I have picked up a further bit of data. Namely: rocket travelers will be able to land on the moon by means of air locks the moon has no air. They would have to put on special diving suits to breathe in. There would have to be a special air lock, or chamber in the rocket so that when Smith or Jones stepped onto the moon the air inside the rocket would not escape. These air locks would be in the order of the pressure locks used by divers leaving and entering submarines under water.

Here's how they take a fish census: give the finners an electric shock to drive them to the surface where they can be counted.

All male and female domesticated animals except the horse have the the same number of teeth. Stallions usually have 40 teeth, while mares have only 35.

When E. C. Reed, of Halifax, N. S., sold his home to Mr. T. M. Green, Mr. and Mrs. Black moved out of an apartment in the building and Mr. and Mrs. James White moved in.

Assigned the job of discovering the murderer of Henrietta Schmerler, a white student of Indian customs whose body was found in an Arizona canyon, J. A. Street faced what appeared to be a blind alley — an impossible task.

Street, an Indian agent, learned that the murdered person was last seen alive in the company of Galney Seymour, an Apache Indian. When questioned by Street, Seymour and several other Apaches who lived in the vicinity denied all knowledge of the crime. Street felt that Seymour was guilty, but how to prove it was the big question confronting him.

The Indian suspects were brought to the local courthouse. From a drawer in his desk, Street drew a medicine bottle.

"In my hand I hold a bottle of magic water brought from across the sea," he said. "I will pour some of it on the hands of each of you. It will tell me who speaks the truth."

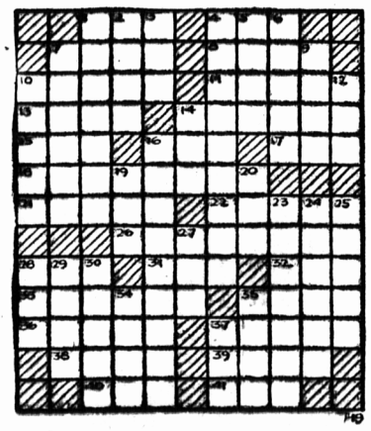
Earth is one of the nine major planets, the others being Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Yesterday's Answer

ACROSS
1. A falsehood
4. Common level
7. Heap
8. Regrets
10. Cup-like spoon
11. Mountain nymph (Myth.)
13. Man's nickname
14. A life saver
15. Churn
16. Exclamation
17. Even (poet.)
18. Perceiving through the nose
21. Having ears
22. Sudden blasts of wind
24. An absent one
26. Female sheep
31. Help
32. Keel-billed cuckoo
33. The "praying" insect
35. Boy's jacket
36. Up to the time of
37. Dried plum
38. Withered
39. Islands in rivers (Eng.)
40. Man's nasty
41. Tiny

DOWN
1. One who plays a fiddle
2. Badly
3. Honey-gathering insect
4. Drawn-out
5. Subtle emanation
6. To become rancid (dial. Eng.)
7. Famous ship canal
9. Identical
10. Let slide
12. Man's name
14. Greek letter
15. Principal criminal court of London (2 words)
19. Marshy meadow
20. Fire-arm
23. Legislative enactment
24. Joins securely
25. River (Fr.)
27. Little girl
28. Ostrich like bird
29. Grows pale
30. Come in
31. Novice (var.)
35. American Indian
37. Animal's foot



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
L O N G F E L L O W

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, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

A X H D V V J J A T K F H D D, D H B A
F V E A T A L C T V K K, C T W F G M X A T O
M D A J E A W G K D O — M D V G E G K.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I AM HERE WHO HAVE DONE ILL, TURN YOUR SWORD AGAINST ME—VIRGIL.

Bottled in P. E. I.

TIRED FEET
Soothe them with
MINARD'S LINIMENT

STRAWBERRY CONTRACTS

We have already contracted for a greatly increased acreage of strawberries for 1956. Our proposed refrigeration facilities will only handle a few additional acres. If you are interested in growing strawberries for a guaranteed minimum price act now. Remember plants can be supplied and there will be no charge made until you have your first harvest. Contracts may be obtained from the following:

Chessel Irving, Murray Harbor
Mgr., Montague Co-op, Montague
Mgr.,. Souris Co-op, Souris
Mgr., Eastern Farmers Co-op, Elmira
Mgr., St. Peter's Co-op, St. Peter's Bay
Mgr., Morell Co-op, Morell
Mgr., Tracadie Co-op, Tracadie
Mgr., Vernon River Co-op, Vernon River
Mgr., Cherry Valley Co-op, Cherry Valley
F. W. Cutcliffe, Fredericton
Mgr., Kensington Dairying Co-op, Kensington
Mgr., Summerside Co-op, Summerside
John R. McCabe, Kinkora
Mgr., Wellington Co-op, Wellington
Island Co-op Services, Ch'town, 58 Fitzroy St.
Mgr., O'Leary Co-op, O'Leary
Mgr., Tignish Co-op, Tignish

Additional information may be had by writing to Box 36, Charlottetown or by calling at I.C.S. between 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING

Our Boarding House — Major Hoople

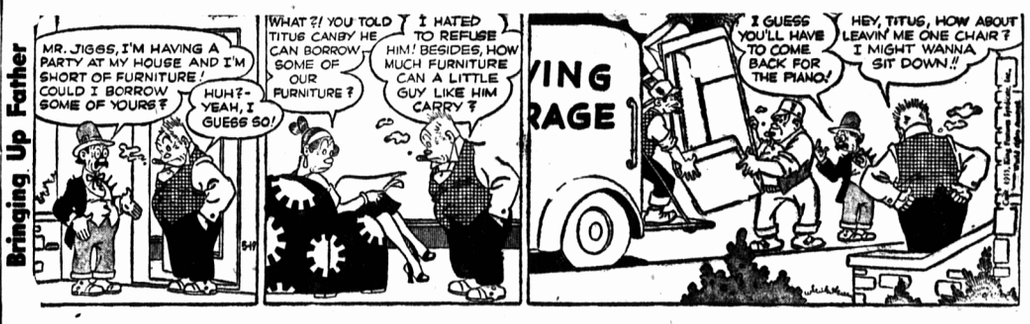
Out Our Way — By J. R. Williams

Tilly The Toiler — By Rob Gustafson

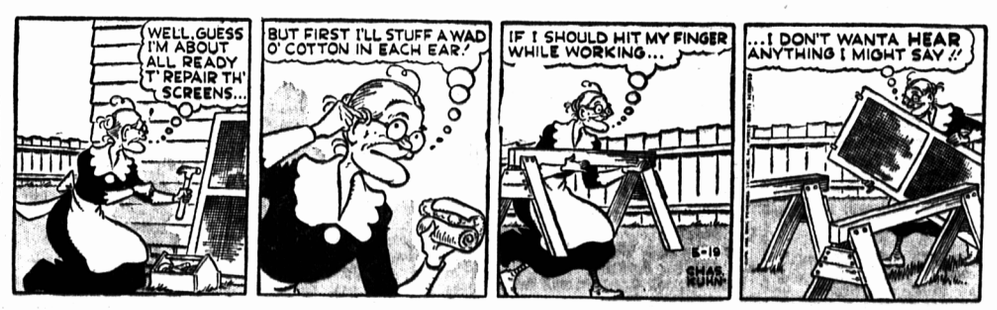
Etta Kent — By Paul Robinson

Muggs and Skeeter — By Wally Bishop

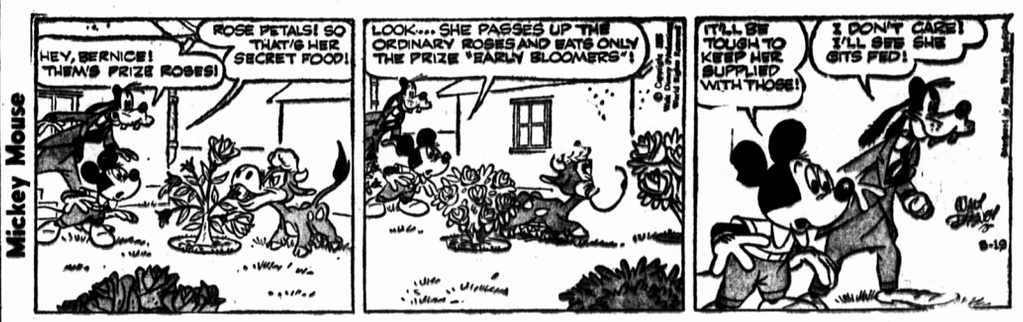
Bringing Up Father — By George McManus



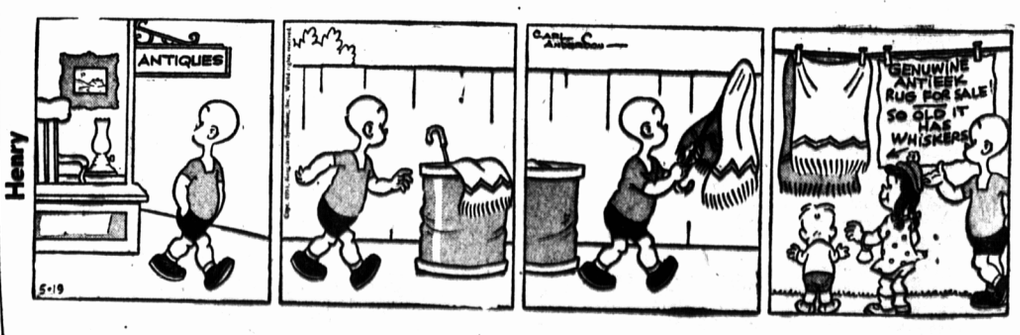
Grandma — By Charles Kuhn



Mickey Mouse — By Walt Disney



Henry — By Carl Anderson



The Lone Ranger — By Joe Paloka

Secret Agent X9 — By Ham Fisher

L'il Abner — By Fran Striker

By Al Capp