## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

### AN UNWHOLESOME CROP

In the following deal, errors of bidding and play were almost too numerous to be counted.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A Q 6 4<br>♥ —<br>♦ Q 10 7 5<br>♣ Q 10 9 6 4 | |
| ♠ J 9<br>♥ 9 8 5 2<br>♦ 6 3 2<br>♣ K 8 5 2 | N<br>W E<br>S | ♠ K 8 7 5<br>♥ K J 10<br>6 3<br>♦ 9 4<br>♣ 7 3 |
| | ♠ 10 3 2<br>♥ A Q 7 4<br>♦ A K J 8<br>♣ A J | |

The bidding went through no fewer than SEVEN rounds!

| North | East | South | West |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♠ (!) | Pass |
| 2 ♣ | Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♥ (!) | Dble. | Redbl. | Pass |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 N T | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | 5 N T | Pass |
| 6 ♣ | Pass | 6 N T | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

South, it is true, was fancy in responding first with one spade, but it was North who really "bid his head off" and, in addition was guilty of very bad tactics. North's three-heart call over South's three diamonds was extremely misleading, indicating an entirely different and much stronger type of hand, and, incidentally, this call kept North from showing his excellent diamond support. He had no right to open the bidding; consequently, he scarcely should have done any strong bidding at any time.

South's psychic spade response paid off in the play, which incidentally was not characterized by great skill on the part of West! The latter could not be blamed for opening his top heart (considering East's double of three hearts), but this was not the crucial point of the hand. South captured the heart nine with the queen, led a low diamond to the ten and tried the club finesse on the slim chance that the king might lie doubleton with East. West, however, won the trick and now committed his fatal error — he returned the heart eight! South won, cashed the club ace and diamond ace, then overtook his diamond jack with dummy's queen. The rest of the clubs were run off and East was soon in deep water for discards. When South finally led dummy's last diamond, East had to give up his spade guard or let go his high heart. Hoping that West had the heart seven, he let go the king, and South could then cash the heart seven for the vital trick.

By Thornton W. Burgess

### JIMMY WAKES UP

Time very often makes it clear
Imagination governs fear.
—Old Mother Nature.

It is true. Half our fears which make us miserable, and fill us with dread, are wholly imaginary. We imagine what can happen and are sure it will happen. Then it doesn't happen at all.

Peter Rabbit and Mrs. Peter were venturing down into an old underground den which was occupied by Jimmy Skunk. Outside, was a dreadful ice storm. They had stayed out in it until they were shivering and shaking, and were really in danger of being frozen to death. They had done this because they were afraid to go inside. They were afraid of what Jimmy Skunk might do. It had taken Peter a long time to make up his mind which was most to be feared, the storm outside, or Jimmy Skunk inside. At long last he had chosen to venture inside. With Mrs. Peter right behind him he was in the long hall that led down to the snug bedroom deep in the ground. That is where Jimmy would be if he were there at all.

Peter led the way, but not very fast. In fact, he was hardly inside before he stopped. Mrs. Peter crowded against him. "Don't crowd," whispered Peter.

Mrs. Peter said nothing, but pushed harder. Her fluffy white tail, so very like mother's powder puff, wasn't inside yet. Peter moved along a step or two. Mrs. Peter continued to push. Peter really was scared. It was one thing to meet Jimmy Skunk outside, where there was plenty of room to jump and run. It would be another thing altogether to meet him inside where there wasn't even room to turn around. Peter held his breath as he cocked his long ears and listened for some sound from below. All was still. Mrs. Peter crowded him a little harder, and he moved just a few steps more. Still there was no sound from below.

"Stop pushing!" whispered Peter a bit crossly.

"Then give me room!" Mrs. Peter whispered back just as crossly.

Both were cross, because both were scared. It often happens that way. Fear often makes folks cross. It is funny that way. Now Peter took a few steps more and little Mrs. Peter was really inside, far enough to be out of reach of Rough Brother North Wind and the freezing snow.

"Who's in my house?" came a fretful voice from down below. Peter held his breath; Mrs. Peter held her breath. They didn't make a sound. Then they heard that fretful voice grumbling. Jimmy was talking to himself. At long last Peter ventured to change his position. He loosened a small stone that rolled a little way along the dark hall. It didn't make much of a sound, but Jimmy must have heard it, for again he called, "Who's there?"

"It is only us," replied Peter in a shaky small voice.

"Who is us?" called Jimmy, in that same fretful tone.

"Just Mrs. Peter and me, Peter Rabbit," replied Peter.

"Oh!" said Jimmy. "So it is just you. Well, what are you doing in my house?"

"We've come in here to get out of the dreadful storm. We are not doing any harm," quavered Peter.

"So, there's a dreadful storm, is there," replied Jimmy. "I didn't know it. I must have been asleep." As a matter of fact, he had been asleep for a couple of days.

Peter held his breath, Mrs. Peter held her breath.

"It is dreadful," said Peter. "We just had to come in here or freeze to death. We won't bother you."

"Who said you would?" demanded Jimmy Skunk. "I'm glad you had sense enough to come in out of the cold. You would have been silly if you hadn't."

"Then you really don't mind our being here?" said Peter.

"If I did, I'd drive you out," replied Jimmy Skunk.

So it was that Peter Rabbit found out what he should have known, that in times of common danger, or suffering, neighbors have nothing to fear from each other. Peter and Mrs. Peter, happily settled themselves to wait for that dreadful ice storm to end.

### SEARLETOWN MISSION BAND

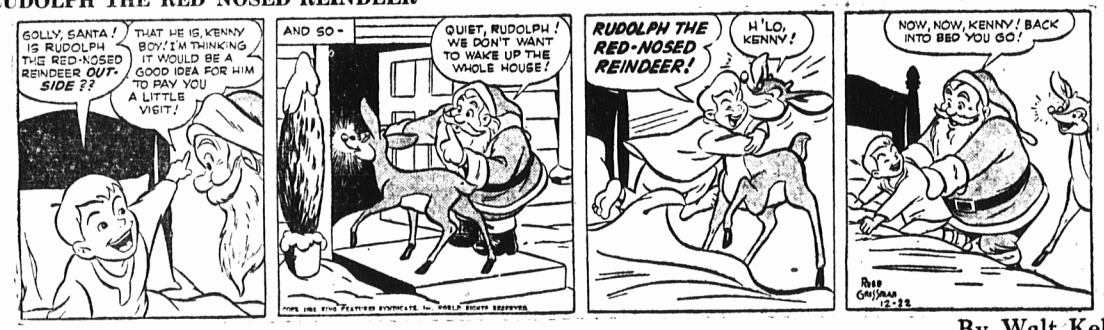
—The "Banner of Peace" Mission Band of Bedeque United Church held its December meeting on Thursday afternoon, December 11, at the home of the leader, Mrs. Kenneth Muttart.

The theme of the Christmas worship service, taken from "The World Friends", was Bethlehem with a setting of lighted candles and manger scene. Following this service which was interspersed with Christmas carols, the second chapter of the Study Book, "Nyanga's Two Villages", was read and discussed.

Minutes of last meeting were read and adopted and roll call was responded to by thirteen members. A special offering was taken for the "Milk for Korea Fund". A pleasing feature of the meeting was the opening and dedicating of the mite boxes from which the gratifying sum of $10.98 was raised. The meeting closed with games, lunch and "The Queen".

### RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

By Robert L. May




Pogo — By Walt Kelly

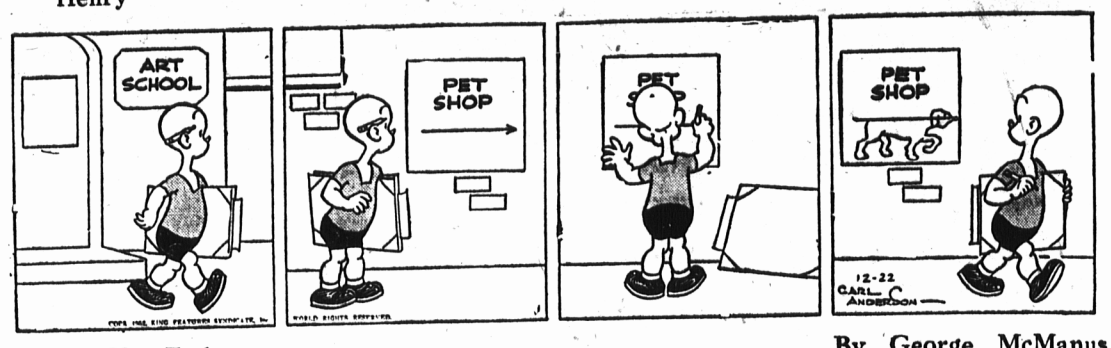
King Of The Royal Mounted — By Zane Grey

Li'l Abner — By Al Capp

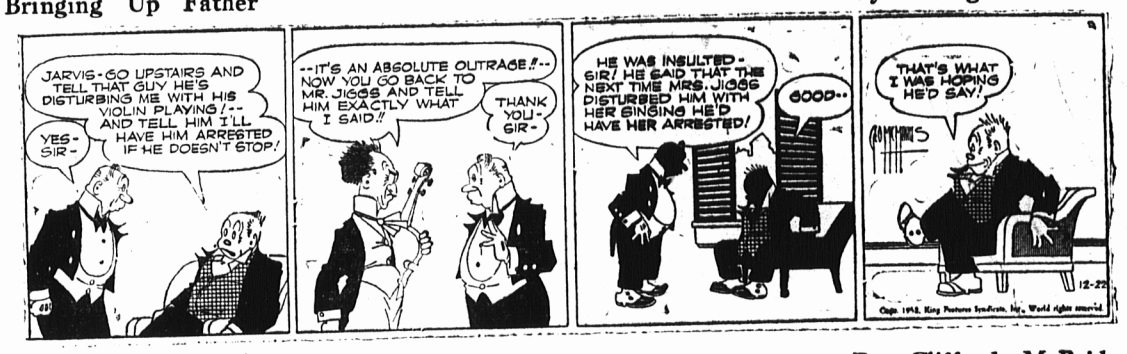
Rip Kirby — By Alex Raymond

Joe Palooka — By Hamlin Fisher

Henry — By Carl Anderson

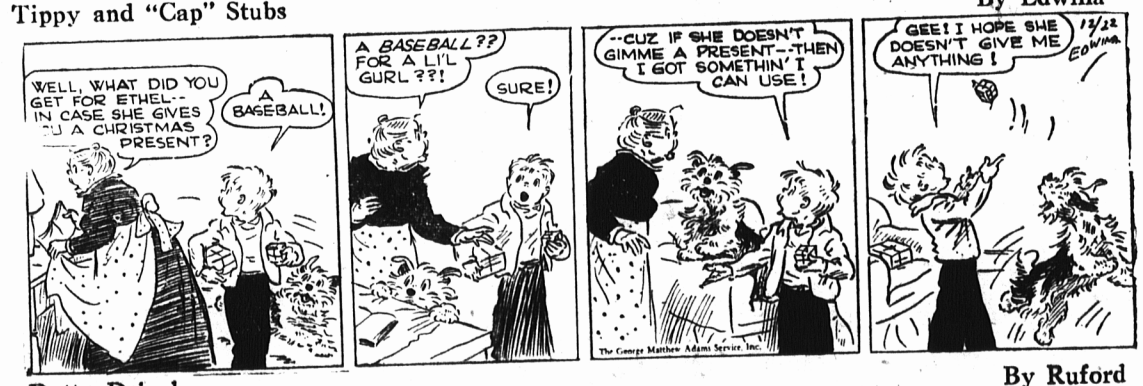



Bringing Up Father — By George McManus




Napoleon and Uncle Elby — By Clifford McBride

Tippy and "Cap" Stubs — By Edwina




Dotty Dripple — By Ruford

Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson

PENNY — By Harry Haenigsen