



By Thornton W. Burgess

THE SAFEST HOME.

Safety first in life's hard school is the most important rule. —Old Mother Nature.

This is true. Lacking safety, nothing else matters. The little people of the Green Forest and the Green Meadows learn this very early in life. It is their first lesson in living. Those who fail to heed it have short lives.

It was early fall. Spring is the time for floods, not fall. But now there was a flood. Laughing Brook was roaring instead of laughing. The Smiling Pool had become almost a pond. The water was creeping over the banks of the Big River.

All this meant fright and suffering, even an end of living, for many little folk in fur and some in feathers. Jerry Muskrat and Mrs. Jerry had plunged into the

water just in time to escape the sharp cruel claws of Hooty the Owl.

They stayed under water as long as they could hold their breath. When they poked their heads out of water, Hooty had gone. They swam back, and climbed out on the highest bank of the Smiling Pool. The water was already over the bank on the other side.

"If the water gets much higher, I don't know what we'll do," whispered Mrs. Jerry.

"The water didn't get any higher. After a while it began to go down. It went down very slowly, but it was surely going down. For the time being, Jerry and Mrs. Jerry were homeless. They would be so until the water was no longer in their house in the midst of the rushes. It was an anxious time.

When at last it was over and they once more could use their new house, Mrs. Jerry became impatient. She was for starting a new house in the bank right away.

"But you said we didn't need a new house," squeaked Jerry provokingly. He was teasing her.

"Never mind what I said, let's get that bank house started," retorted Mrs. Jerry.

They went over to the highest bank of the Smiling Pool. The water was deep there. They dived to the bottom and chose a place



When they poked their heads out of water, Hooty had gone.

which should be the entrance to the new home they planned to make. There they took turns digging. First one would dive and dig, then come up for fresh air while the other took a turn at digging.

They were digging a tunnel into the bank. It went straight in only a short distance, then began to slant up. Of course as fast as they dug it, it filled with water. The mud they dug out was pushed out into the Smiling Pool.

They were good workers, those two. There was no loafing. When a thing must be done, they believed that the sooner it is done, the better. This new home in the bank was a must. Jerry had felt that all along and now Mrs. Jerry agreed. They dug quite a long tunnel.

Came a time at last when they were above the level of the water in the Smiling Pool. They no longer were working in the water. Presently Jerry's nose was tickled by tiny roots. They were the roots of grass, and Jerry knew that it was time to make a bedroom. If they kept on digging up they would come right out into the open of the Green Meadows and that he didn't want to do. As it was now, it would be their safest home.

SAFECRACKER SOUGHT

EDMONTON, (CP) — RCMP have put out a general alarm for the arrest of Bruno Zagatal, 31, a safecracker who escaped Friday from Fort Saskatchewan provincial jail. He was to stand trial Monday on a charge of breaking and entering. Police said he is one of the 10 most wanted men in western Canada and has a long list of convictions in Canada and the United States.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BIDDING "BY EAR"

Expert players often "back into the bidding" at a relatively high level when their judgment tells them that the opponents have reached their own limit, but this is practice that demands the highest order of judgment and the keenest "ear." Even experts get fooled occasionally; their partner does not turn up with the expected honors, and one opponent (or both) turns up with much more than his bidding indicated.

Hand analysis table showing cards and points for West, North, East, and South.

The bidding: West Pass, North Pass, East Pass, South Pass.

Thus, this sort of bidding "by ear" is obviously dangerous, and the best advice to less-than-expert players is: "Don't do it!" You may suffer South's fate in this case. South went down 1400 points. West led the spade Jack; East won the trick and shifted to the ace and five of trumps. Desperate, South finessed, but this simply resulted in West's winning with his queen and soon ruffing away declarer's spade nine, which became high after a couple of leads. In the postmortem, South pointed out that West, after passing, had made the "weak" notrump response, and that East was "marked" far from strong because he had then bid only two spades. Obviously, however, South miscalculated, particularly in regard to East's rebid. The mere fact that a player does not make a jump rebid or name another suit is no proof that he is weak. South had been right in judging that he could not safely bid two diamonds over one spade; he should have stuck to that position, and not become so brave at the three-level!

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