BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

JIMMY SKUNK LOOKS AROUND

The independent keep prepared,
And thus from needless fear are spared.
—Jimmy Skunk

Jimmy Skunk is one of the so-called seven sleepers. He is supposed to go to bed in the beginning of winter and sleep until spring, just the way Johnny Chuck does. But Jimmy doesn't sleep as soundly as Johnny Chuck, nor does he go to bed for the winter as early as Johnny does. In fact, Jimmy is very apt not to go to bed as long as he can find anything to eat without too much trouble.

When Jimmy goes to bed for the winter he likes company. Johnny Chuck, on the other hand, seems to prefer to be alone. Jimmy likes to have several of his familiar friends with him and often does. He long ago found out that it is a splendid way of keeping warm. When several are snuggled up together they keep each other warm.

This winter Jimmy had four of his grown children with him. It was Jimmy who had picked out the place where they would sleep and you would never guess where that place was. It was under Farmer Brown's henhouse. Yes, sir, that is where it was. They had dug a hole in the ground under the hen-house.

Now that would have been just the worst place they could have chosen had it been anywhere but on Farmer Brown's farm. Skunks are supposed to be as fond of chickens as Foxes are. And when they are found around henyards and henhouses they are very likely to be trapped. It wasn't so at Farmer Brown's. Somehow Jimmy Skunk knew it. Farmer Brown's Boy knew all about those sleeping quarters under the henhouse and he used to chuckle when he thought of those Skunks sleeping down there underneath that house with the Hens sleeping above them every night. But Farmer Brown's Boy had long ago found out for himself that Jimmy Skunk and his friends were not the chicken killers that they were thought to be. They didn't make a business of trying to catch adn kill Hens as their cousin Shadow the Weasel does. All that was necessary was to keep the Hens shut up at night. So, no traps were set for Jimmy and his children. They were as safe down below as the Hens were above.

It was in the middle of the winter that Jimmy awoke and decided to go out and have a look around. He had been in the habit of doing that every winter. Sometimes he had done it two or three times in a winter. So he left the warm bedroom down under the henhouse and went up outside. Jack Frost was waiting for him. He tried to pinch Jimmy's nose. He couldn't get down through the warm fur of Jimmy's coat. He couldn't make Jimmy shiver as he tried to do. Jimmy yawned. He stretched. He was a little stiff. You see he had been curled up for a long time. There was a little snow on the ground. Jimmy began to wander

Presently Jimmy found some footprints in the snow.

about aimlessly, just looking around.

Presently Jimmy found some footprints in the snow. They were fresh footprints. They had been made that very night. He knew it because there was still a little scent in them.

"Now I wonder what Bobby Coon is doing over here this time of year. He ought to be asleep," thought Jimmy. He didn't think that he himself ought to be asleep. He followed Bobby Coon's tracks. He followed them by means of his nose rather than his eyes. He really didn't know why he was doing it. He would have said he was just looking around.

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TELEVISION
CKCW — Moncton

Television Programme

Channel 2

FRIDAY

2:00 p.m.—FM Concert Hall
3:00 p.m.—Florian Zabach
3:30 p.m.—At Home with Helen Crocker
4:30 p.m.—Today with Arlene Holder
4:45 p.m.—Uncle Jack at the Piano
5:00 p.m.—Roy Rogers
5:30 p.m.—Howdy Doody
6:00 p.m.—Puppet Theatre
6:15 p.m.—Playtime with Panda
6:30 p.m.—CKCW-TV News
6:40 p.m.—Weather
6:45 p.m.—Sports
6:50 p.m.—CBC News
7:00 p.m.—This Week in Sports
7:15 p.m.—Mr. Fixit
7:30 p.m.—Bob Cummings Show
8:00p.m.—Wayne & Shuster
8:30 p.m.—The Plouffe Family
9:00 p.m.—Ford TV Theatre.
9:30 p.m.—Star Stage
10:00 p.m.—Celebrity Playhouse
10:30 p.m.—This Is Your Life
11:00 p.m.—CKCW-TV News
11:10 p.m.—Weather
11:15 p.m.—Wrestling
12:15 a.m.—Sign Off

two million Dewey votes went to swell the electoral vote for Truman.

When the founding fathers wrote the U. S. constitution they did not reckon in terms of today's brand of democracy. There was limited faith in the average citizen's ability to vote wisely. Constitutional convention delegates were chosy of giving one and all a shot at the ballot box. As a result of this antiquated system, millions of Americans eligible to cast their votes remain at home and don't bother to vote every four years because of the winner-take-all system.

When a voter votes he wants his vote to count. He has no assurance under the present set up. So it is quite obvious to citizens of the United States as well as to Canadians across the border, that a more sensible and equitable way be found of electing the presidents of the world's leading Republic.

Almost 70 million Americans belong to no church whatever.

Charles Darwin was not the first to advance the theory of evolution. In writings by Prof. Constantine Rabinesque, found after his death, it was discovered that he too had expressed a theory of evolution - more than 35 years earlier!

The prehistoric paintings of the walls of the cave of Altamir, near the Spanish coast are still tracable after many centuries.

The 2½ million angora goats now in the U. S. A. are descended from the herd of 20 sent to the United States by Turkey in 1884.

America is now the largest producer of mohair in the world, with Turkey second.

To preserve a friend, honor him present, praise him absent, and assist him in time of tribulation.

Forgetfulness is a virtue only when you forget the grievance you have against other people.

Don't worry about your thinning dome. Think how bad it would be if it ached and you had to have it pulled.

Kentucky has the largest cave in the world, with more than 32 miles of passageways. The second largest cave is in Switzerland.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Did you know that the people of the United States do not elect their president? The political sages have brooded over this for a century and a half. The Electoral College is nothing but a rubber stamp; in fact it elects no one and it is too decrepit to be collegiate. Its usefulness ended even before there were torchlight parades and hard cider campaigns.

The way things have been going on the political front work out something like this. If half the voters in any state, less one, vote for Candidate W, Candidate W gets all of that state's votes in the electoral college. All those who voted for candidate X are ignored, just as if they never had voted.

In states either the Republicans (as in New England sometimes), or of the Democrats (as in the south) traditionally gain a proponderance of the votes, those in the minority are discouraged even from voting. In other words, their minus votes have no effect on the electoral college. This is an obsolete way of choosing their presidents in the congress.

In 1948 Harry S. Truman's close to three million votes in New York counted for Thomas Dewey, who captured the state's total 45 elect-

Britain And Malaya Sign Agreement

By RANALD MACLURKIN

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain and Malaya signed an agreement Wednesday which will give the terrorist-ridden federation immediate self-government as a prelude to complete independence next year within the Commonwealth.

As the agreement was signed, the rich tin and rubber federation's chief minister, Prince Abdul Rahman, immediately called on the Communist terrorists to honor a promise to stop fighting once self-government was granted.

He said that in recent negotiations Communist leader Chin Peng told him: "If you obtain control of internal defence and security we shall lay down our arms."

"I have now obtained that measure of control." Rahman commented. "It only remains to be seen whether the Communist terrorists will honor their words."

He added that the results of the three-week conference which preceded the signing ceremony "should leave no doubt whatsoever in the minds of the Communists that I now am qualified to speak as the leader of the federation government as well as the people of the federation."

HOPES FOR PEACE

In such a position," he said, "I have every confidence of restoring peace to my country."

The guerrilla war waged by the Communists for the last eight years has tied up Commonwealth forces and taken a toll of more than 4,000 lives, including soldiers, policemen and civilians.

A 9,000-word report on the independence plans signed by Rahman and Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd needs only approval by Queen Elizabeth, the British government, and the sultans and potentates who rule Malaya's nine princely states.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

AN EFFECTIVE OPENING LEAD

One of the most remarkable facts about bridge is the extent to which the opening lead is apt to affect the whole course of play. Here's an illustration

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In view of the result, North-South would have been better off in this case without the Stayman Convention (North's takeout to two clubs) that located the excellent major-suit fit. A three-notrump contract would have been practically foolproof, whereas South could and did lose out at four spades.

West did not select the lead that would be chosen without a second thought by most players—that is, he did not lay down the king of hearts. He elected to open a diamond. Dummy won and declarer promptly tried out the trump finesse. West won and led another diamond. This too was won in dummy, and after drawing another round of trumps, South led a heart toward his own hand, apparently with the idea that he would have to find A-J or K-J at his right. The heart ten forced the king, but West simply exited, and South eventually had to lose two more heart tricks.

South neglected a vital move before touching the heart suit: to strip out the diamonds and clubs from both hands before leading the heart to his own ten-spot. Had he done this, the defenders would have been helpless.

Getting back to the opening lead, observe how easy it would have been for declarer if West had opened the heart king. He could shift, of course, but South would have no other play except to lead a heart from dummy and put in his own ten on the sound supposition that West had led from the A-K but did not necessarily have the jack.

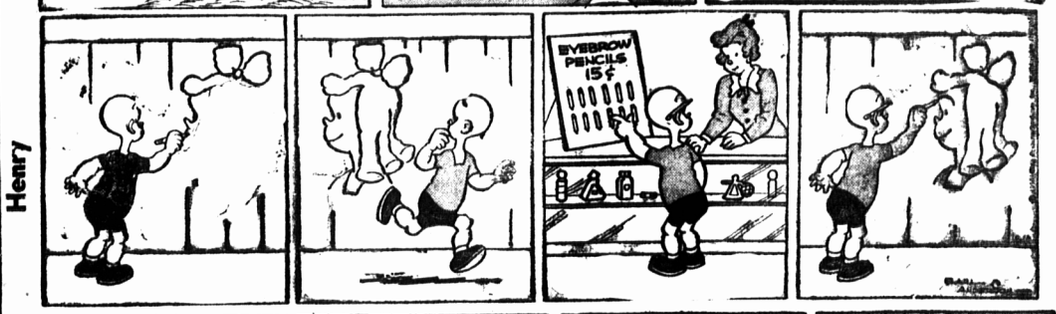
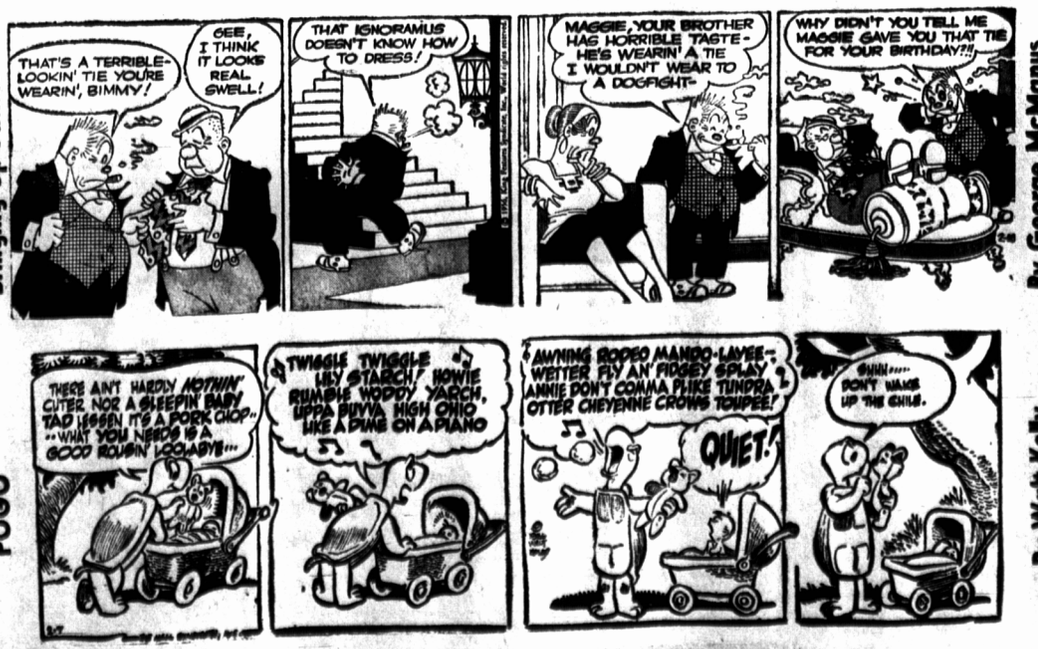
DON'T WANT KING

MADRID (Reuters)—Students of the Madrid faculty of law Tuesday staged a demonstration against plans by Gen. Francisco Franco, the Spanish head of state, to restore the monarchy at some time in the future. Don Carlos, 17-year-old son of Don Juan, pretender to the Spanish throne, now is studying in Spain to prepare himself for a possible restoration of the monarchy. Don Juan is expected eventually to renounce his claims in favor of his son.

NATIVE SENATORS

South Africa's enlarged senate of 89 members includes four elected by native Bantus.

Out Our Way — By J. R. Williams

Our Boarding House — Major Hoople

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