

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

OLD MRS. TOAD IS PEEVISH

Love sometimes takes queer ways to show. So queer indeed, you do not know it.

—Old Mr. Toad.

Old Mr. Toad had been in the Smiling Pool for days singing his heart out. That is just what he had been doing, singing his heart out. You see, Old Mr. Toad's song was a love-song. It is only when his heart is filled with love that he sings at all. His singing is all for the benefit of Old Mrs. Toad. He does not care for anyone else. He just sings and sings for her. It is his way of telling her how much he loves her. She doesn't sing back to him. She is not a singer, but she is a very good listener. I suspect she teases him a lot by telling him to sing and sing, yet not letting him know that she is listening or where she is. Folks in love do things like that.

Old Mr. Toad had been singing without even knowing if Old Mrs.



"Well," said she, "where have you been?"

but taking care that he shouldn't know it. She kept out of sight. You see, Old Mrs. Toad was a bit peevish. She had reached the Smiling Pool before Old Mr. Toad had. He was late. He hadn't awakened as soon as she had. In other springs, he had always been in the Smiling Pool first, waiting for her. This time when she reached the water, she listened in vain for his lovely little song of love.

Why wasn't he there? Why wasn't he singing to her? Had he forgotten her? Had he perhaps gone off with someone else? The more she thought about it, the more peevish she grew. So, when at long last she heard his voice, she decided to make him wait awhile just as he made her wait. She was getting even. Anyway, it looked that way. She knew he was worried. She knew by the anxious notes in his song. And she knew or guessed anyway, that

Toad was in the Smiling Pool. She was. She was there all the time, he was anxious and worried because she hadn't let him know that she was anywhere about. Love does funny things like that. So she waited and waited, keeping out of sight, and listened and listened, and right down in her heart was sure that his love-song was the sweetest song in all the Smiling Pool.

Old Mr. Toad had gone looking for her at the lower end of the Smiling Pool. There he had had a bad scare from Bandy the Water Snake and had left there in a hurry. He isn't a fast swimmer, not as good a swimmer as his cousin Grandfather Frog. But he gets about in the water very well. He was still hurrying, rolling his eyes back to make sure Bandy the Water Snake was not following him, when he almost bumped into Old Mrs. Toad. It was a question which was the most surprised. It was Mrs. Toad who found her tongue first. "Well," said she, "where have you been?"

"I've been right here looking for you, and singing for you. I would like to know where you have been," retorted Old Mr. Toad. "I've been waiting for you, and I don't like to be kept waiting. I know nothing so provoking as to be kept waiting, and you've kept me waiting all this time."

"But—but—" began Old Mr. Toad. "Forget your but's," snapped Old Mrs. Toad. "You've kept me waiting, and that's all there is to it." Old Mr. Toad opened his mouth to say something, and closed it again without speaking. A shadow had just come moving swiftly across the Smiling Pool. Both Old Mr. Toad and Old Mrs. Toad sank down, down to the bottom. They had seen that swift flying Hawk just in time. When they came up to the surface again that Hawk was nowhere in sight. Right away Old Mr. Toad began to sing, all the time rolling his lovely golden eyes toward Mrs. Toad. Mrs. Toad forgot her peevishness. Once more all was well at the Smiling Pool, and there was only love and joy and sweetness in the song of Old Mr. Toad.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

UNJUSTIFIED PESSIMISM

It is sometimes the course of wisdom to "give up" on a contract because everything points to a big penalty in the offing. (Points saved are points earned.) But in the following deal the declarer was far too pessimistic!

North dealer. North-South vulnerable

♠ A J 5
 ♥ J 9 7 3
 ♦ K
 ♣ K J 10 4

♠ Q 10 6 3
 ♥ A 8 7 4
 ♦ A Q 9 6
 ♣ 2

♠ K Q 10 8
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ 10 9 6
 ♣ 8 7 5

♠ K 9 8 7 2
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ A Q 5 3 2
 ♣ 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

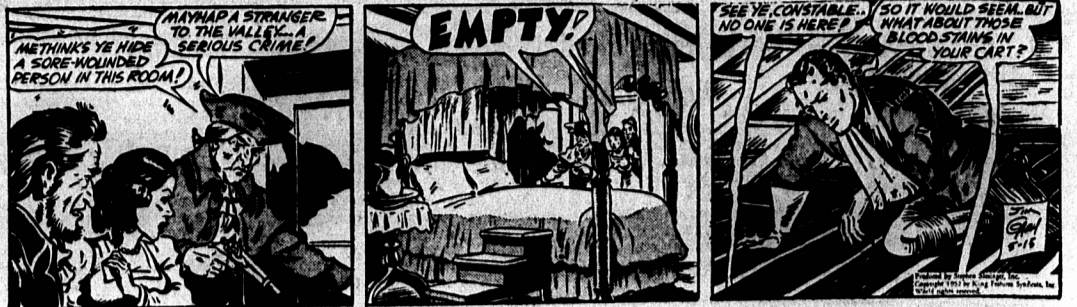
In view of the outcome, South should have accepted his partner's three-notrump contract, which would have been a laydown.

West opened the heart ace, then shifted to his top diamond. Dumpty's king won and declarer led a low spade to the king, then finessed successfully to the spade jack. After cashing the spade ace South led the diamond jack, and he should have overtaken it in his own hand so as to lead a club toward dummy. However, as he explained later, South was afraid that the diamonds wouldn't break 3-3, and that he "might incur a big penalty by overtaking the jack."

So, making what was what really a give-up play, South now led the club jack from dummy—perhaps in the wild hope that East had the queen without the ace and would not cover. Needless to say, however, the play was not successful! It was absurd for South to give up the contract without a real effort! The heart situation was marked because of West's failure to continue the suit, and there was a good chance that West had the club ace. Thus, South should have played two rounds of diamonds immediately, before touching trumps, overtaking the diamond jack so as to be able to lead the club toward dummy.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Ze-Croy



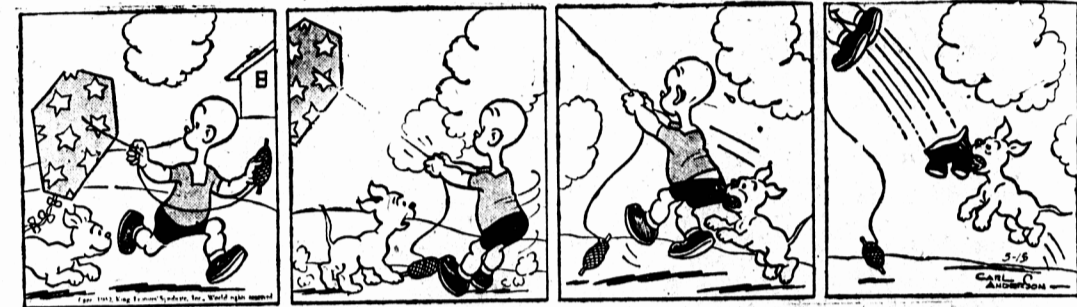
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



By Carl Anderson

HENRY



By Rulord

DOTTY DRIPPLE



By Edwin

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



By George McManus

BRINGING UP FATHER



By Bob Gustafson

TILLY THE TOILER



By Harry Neenan

PENNY



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the P. E. I. Division of the Canadian Cancer Society will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 7.30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Charlottetown.

All contributors and the public generally cordially invited to attend.

Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan, O.B.E. President
Ralph M. Jones Secretary

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