

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

NOT FOR FOXES

Some things you need are not for me; my needs, not yours, you will agree.

—Prickly Porky.

Prickly Porky is quite right in that little saying of his. It is especially true among the Green Meadow and the Green Forest folk. Prickly Porky lives on bark to a very great extent. Reddy Fox couldn't possibly live on bark. Reddy is a meat eater, and Prickly Porky doesn't eat meat. Prickly Porky climbs, and Reddy Fox can't climb. On the other hand, Reddy Fox is very fast on his feet, while Prickly Porky cannot run fast at all.

Two young foxes, Too-Smart and his pretty mate, Soft-Eyes, had been watching a sliding party. It was Little Joe Otter and his family. They had been having no end of fun sliding on the well-packed snow down a long sloping mound. From the top they would throw themselves headlong flat on their stomachs and go sliding faster and faster down to the bottom. Then they would scramble to their feet, and hurry back to the top by a round-about way that made it easy. They did it over and over again while the two young foxes watched in wide-eyed wonder. Never before had they seen anybody do anything like this. It was perfectly clear that those otters were having a grand time.

After a while they got tired of sliding and moved on. When they were out of sight, Too-Smart and Soft-Eyes went over to the top of the slippery-slide. Where the otters had been sliding they had packed the snow down and made it very smooth.

"Those folks were having a lot of fun. I don't see why we shouldn't have the same," said Too-Smart.

"You don't dare go down the way they did," said Soft-Eyes. Too-Smart hesitated. He was afraid to try it, yet he didn't want Soft-Eyes to think he was afraid. He sat at the very edge looking down. Finally, he squatted down and pushed himself over the edge just as he had seen the otters do. It was a long, long slide, but he didn't go at all the way those otters had gone. They had gone smoothly, flat on their stomachs.

They had known just what to do with their arms and legs. Their legs had been kept straight out behind them. Their arms had been held close to their sides. Too-Smart hadn't noticed this. Even if he had, he wouldn't have been able to hold his arms and legs in the same position. As it was, they were in the way. He didn't know what to do with them. Instead of sliding smoothly down to

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instead of sliding smoothly down to the bottom, he rolled down.

At the bottom, he rolled down. It wasn't fun at all. He was most uncomfortable, and he knew all the time that probably Soft-Eyes was laughing at him. Sliding might be fun for those strangers, but it wasn't fun for him. He looked very sheepish when he scrambled to his feet and made his way back up to the top of the slippery-slide, where Soft-Eyes was standing. "Do it again," said Soft-Eyes with a sly grin. "You try it," replied Too-Smart. "No, thanks. It may be fun for some folks, but I know I wouldn't like it myself," said Soft-Eyes. "Let's have a race," said Too-Smart, and darted away. Soft-Eyes raced after him. That was fun, fox fun.

NORTH WILTSHIRE W. M. S.

The January meeting of the North Wiltshire Auxillary of the Women's Missionary Society was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. and Mrs. Reg. Clark. Mrs. Wm. Clark led the worship period, the theme being "The Church, An Image of The Kingdom." The hymn, "The Lord Is King," was followed by a prayer.

Mrs. Ralph Noye led the study period and was assisted by other members who told of the 4 R's in Europe: relief, reconstruction, reading the Bible and reconciliation.

There were 10 members present. The Secretaries of the Auxillary gave interesting reports of last year's efforts which were encouraging.

TAILORS SHOCKED

WELLINGTON, N. Z. — (CP) — Tailors were shocked when Prime Minister Sidney Holland said formal dress for the coming royal visit would consist of a morning suit with top hat, but that a black homburg might be used instead. W. J. Lane, president of the Tailors' Association, said "a homburg would look ridiculous with a morning suit."

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

TOO AMIABLE

There is no worse fault in bridge than to be "uncooperative" with one's partner, but the idea of cooperation must not be carried to the point of bidding partner's hand for him. Consider South's performance in this deal:

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

AKQ53	J984
Q10	63
QJ8	1072
Q9	AJ64

106	72
952	83
943	1072
K1082	AJ64

N	E
W	S

AKJ854	72
K6	83
753	1072

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 4 Pass
4 Pass 5 Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

West, knowing the opponents, well, put full confidence in their bidding and opened the unbid, suit, clubs. Thus, the contract was defeated at the very start.

North was understandably displeased and said to South: "You know, if I had wanted to be in a slam, opposite that minimum holding of yours, I would have bid it, myself!"

South, all wounded innocence, pointed out that he had "only been trying to respect North's superior bidding, and that it had not seemed proper to hang at the five-level."

"Well," North rejoined, "how would you suggest that I tell you that you'd need club control for the slam? I bid spades and diamonds, and later singled hearts. If I had had a singleton club, along with all the strength my other bids showed, don't you think I would have jumped straight to the slam?"

South had no answer for this last question — for the very good reason that there was no answer.

The final slam action was indefensible, not so much because South's original opening bid had been a minimum in respect to top cards, but because he could not control the unbid club suit. As a matter of fact, if South's diamond king had been the club king — in short, if he had had the same high-card value, differently distributed — there would have been far more reason for optimism.

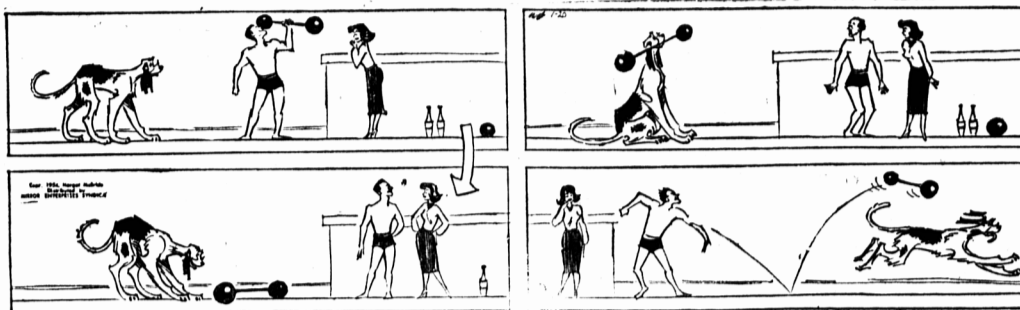
Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



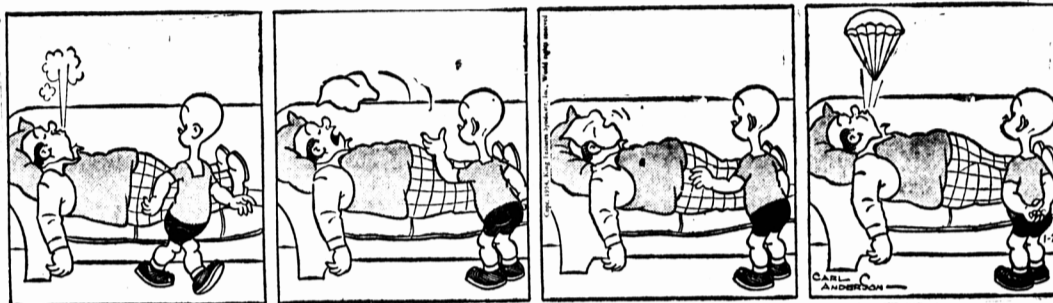
Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Henry

By Carl Anderson



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



By Alex Raymond

Rip Kirby



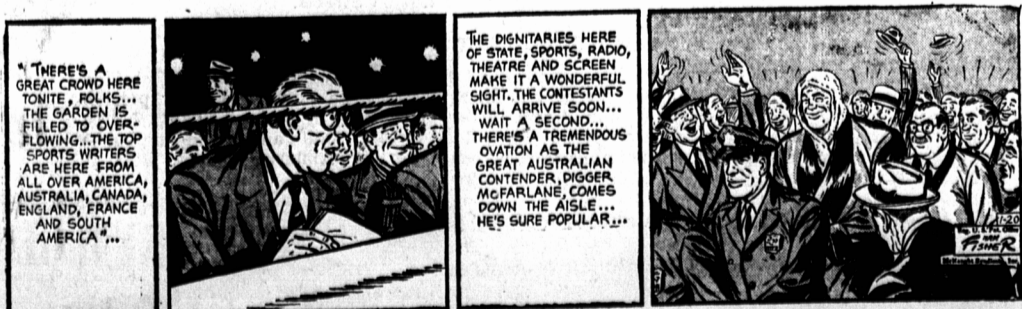
King of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



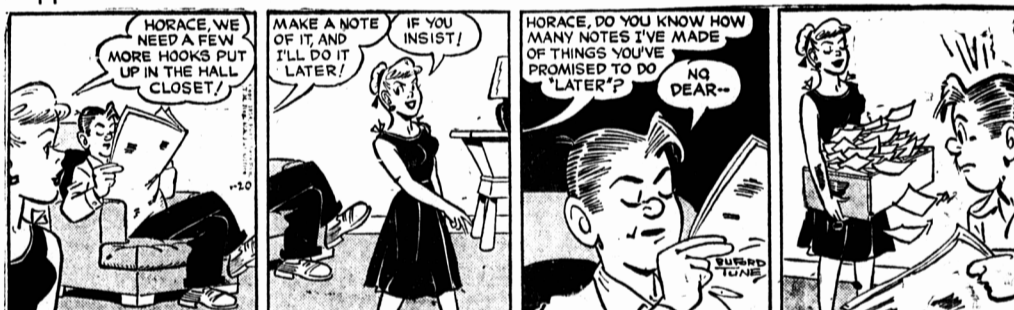
L'il Abner

By Al Capp



Dotty Dripple

By Buford



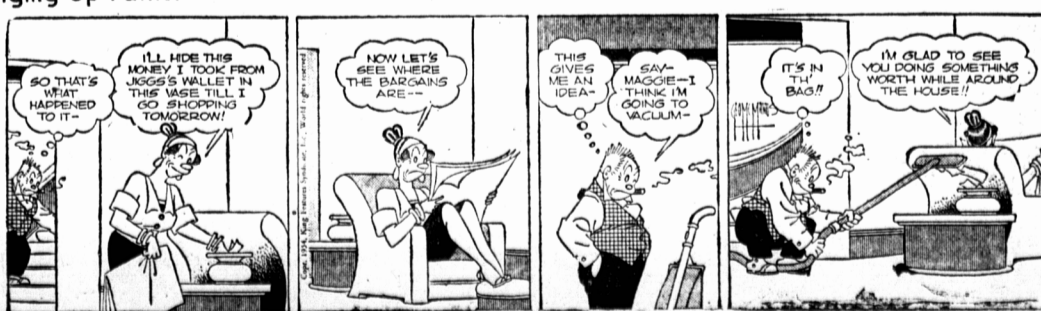
Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwine



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



PENNY

By Harry Hoegsten

