



By Thornton W. Burgess

OLD MR. TOAD IN A HOLE

Easy to get in, not out. Troubles waiting all about. —Old Mr. Toad.

Peter Rabbit had just warned Old Mr. Toad not to hurry too fast...



Peter Rabbit poked his head over the edge of the hole.

When he got his breath he rolled his golden eyes to look up. Just then the cloud passed across the face of Mistress Moon...

Peter Rabbit poked his head over the edge of the hole. "I told you not to go too fast," said he.

Of course, this was no comfort to Old Mr. Toad. He said nothing. He drew his stout hind legs under him and tried to hop out.

Mournfully he looked up at Peter Rabbit. "Why didn't you tell me there was a hole here right in my way?" he asked crossly.

"I didn't know it myself," replied Peter. "It was dug since I was last in this part of the garden. Anyway, I told you not to go so fast."

Peter spoke truly. That hole had been dug since Peter had been that way. In fact, it had been dug that very day. Farmer Brown's boy was planning to fill it with dead leaves, grass and weeds...

"What are you going to do now?" asked Peter. It was a foolish ques-

tion, of course. Peter is very like all too many other folks, given to asking foolish questions, without stopping to think. People who think first and ask questions afterward seldom ask foolish ones.

Old Mr. Toad didn't know what he was going to do. How could he? As yet, he hadn't time even to look around. So all he said was, "How should I know?"

As he rolled his golden eyes up at him, Peter could see in them a look of distress. "Are you hurt?" he asked.

"No," said Old Mr. Toad. "No, I'm not hurt." The look of distress was still in those lovely eyes.

"He really meant it. He and Old Mr. Toad had been friends as long as he could remember. "I'm sorry you are in such a hole, and I wish there was something I could do to help you," added Peter.

"Perhaps there is," said Old Mr. Toad.

"What?" cried Peter. "What can I do?"

"If you should see Mrs. Toad, you can tell her that I will be late in getting to the Smiling Pool and ask her to please wait for me there," replied Old Mr. Toad.

"Of course, I will do that," cried Peter. "Where did you say I will find her?"

"I didn't say," replied Old Mr. Toad. "If she isn't already in the Smiling Pool, I don't know where she is." He looked more worried than before. What a hole he was in!

"START THE DAY REFRESHED - Drink Coca-Cola"

Outlook Good For Canada Steamships

MONTREAL, April 30 (CP)—T. R. McLagan, president of Canada Steamship Lines Limited, Tuesday told the annual meeting...

Mr. McLagan said the rise in operating profit of the company from \$6,446,663 in 1950 to \$9,834,420 in 1951 resulted from the efforts of the transportation system of the company as well as its five shipbuilding subsidiaries.

"Some evidence of our progress and financial strength may be found in the fact that during the last three years we have spent more than \$10,000,000 on new ships, but only borrowed \$3,000,000 from the public," he said.

Mr. McLagan reported settlement of claims in the Noronic disaster. "The settlement was \$2,150,000 of which \$2,100,000 was covered by insurance," he said.

The steamship Noronic burned in Toronto Sept. 17, 1949, and 119 persons lost their lives.

ANCIENT COMPLIMENT The custom of throwing shoes at a wedding originated in ancient times when shoes were worn only by wealthy classes.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A BIDDING POINTER When you have opened the bidding with shaded high-card values, be very careful about raising partner's takeout suit!

North could have put this lesson to use in the following hand.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 8 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 9 4 3

♦ A Q J ♠ Q 4

♥ 10 8 4 2 ♠ K J 7

♣ K 8 5 3 ♠ 10 2 L 5

2 ♠ A J ♠ J 10 7 6 2

♣ A Q 9 6 5 3

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ (final bid)

It is true that South had a play for his contract insofar as the North-South hands alone were concerned, but it wasn't a good play — he had to find a very favorable break of the missing trumps — and as the cards actually lay, he was helpless.

It is also true that South was

pushing a shade in leaping to six hearts, but the major share of the responsibility for reaching the slam was North's.

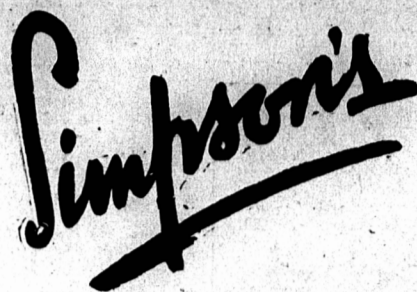
It was not North's light opening bid for which he could be criticized; it was his immediate raise of heart. Many fine players would make the same light spade opening,

but they would protect themselves (and partner) by refusing to give direct support for South's hearts takeout. Naturally, they would intend to end up in a heart contract, but they would realize that a direct heart raise would give South greater encouragement than the North cards could substantiate in

the play. Thus, as a simple slowing-down measure, they would rebid spades, knowing that if South chose to pass, there would probably be no odds-on chance for game, even at a heart contract.

Observe the difference if North merely bids two spades over South's two hearts. South then, of course,

bids three diamonds. Now North in going to three hearts, is simply giving a preference, which can hardly "excite" South. The latter might explore further by bidding three spades, but when North bids either three trump or four hearts South cannot well persist to a dangerous level.



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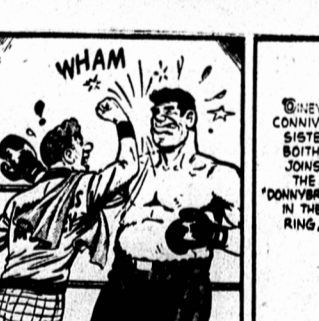
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KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



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BOE PALOOKA



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L'L ABNER



By Al Capp

BRINGING UP FATHER



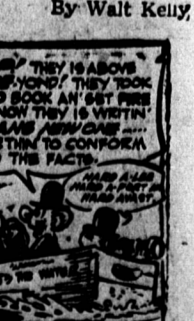
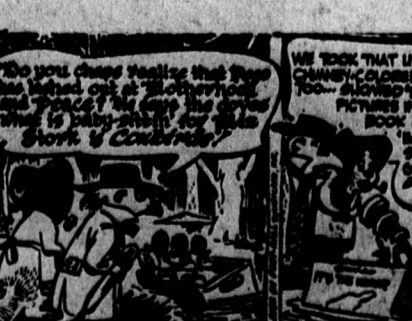
By George McManus

HIP KIRBY



By Alex Raymond

POGO



By Walt Kelly