

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

LITTLE STRIPES DISOBEYS

For disobedience you may through all your life be forced to pay.
—Old Mother Nature

Little Stripes was the smallest of the four children of Striped Chipmunk and Mrs. Chipmunk. It wasn't that he was younger than the others; he wasn't. All were the same age, but for some unknown reason he was smaller than the others. And because he was smaller he was what is called mother's pet. It often is that way in a family where one of the children is smaller than the others. Mothers are very apt to spoil such.



This was fun. This was wonderful.

Now though he was the smallest Little Stripes was the liveliest of the four. He just couldn't keep still. All were now almost big enough to be starting out in the Great World for themselves, but they still had a great deal to learn. Although they didn't think so, each felt sure that he could look out for himself or herself. This was especially true of Little Stripes.

Their home was down in the ground where of course they could see and hear nothing of the Great World outside. This morning mother had led them up a long hall to a doorway that opened under the old stonewall on the edge of the Old Orchard. There were little passages among the stones of the old wall leading up to openings from which they might peep out at the Great World. Mother had warned them that they must not do more than put their small heads outside. This three of them were content to do. There was so much that was new and wonderful that they were content to just sit and look and look and look. For the first time they were seeing sunlight and blue sky and green leaves, grass and trees and flowers. It was all so very wonderful that they were quite satisfied to just sit and look and wonder. They had no thought of disobeying mother.

Neither had Little Stripes at first. But he was impatient. He felt sure that he could see more and better if he were wholly outside. He didn't ask mother if he could climb out. Perhaps he knew that she would say no. Perhaps he didn't think about it at all. Being spoiled he was in the habit of doing what he wanted to do. He wanted to climb out now. He

did. But first he made sure that mother wasn't looking. Now that he was outside he wasn't content to sit close by the opening from which he had come. He jumped over to the next stone, and from that to another stone, all the time watching mother. When she started to turn her head he dived down through an opening between the stones to get out of sight. Mother didn't see him. Perhaps she thought that being so small he was frightened by his first glimpse of the Great World and all the strange things and so had gone back down in the house where he would feel safe. Just to make sure she went to look for him.

Now all the time little Stripes was peeping out watching her. So sooner did she disappear when out he popped and ran farther along on the old wall. He didn't feel the least afraid. This was because he really didn't know what fear was. So far in his short life there had been nothing to be afraid of.

This was fun! This was wonderful! Perhaps he wondered why he had been kept down in the dark so long on the old wall as fast as his small legs could take him. He feared that mother would call him back, and he didn't want to go back down in the dark. So he was running away. He was running away from home without knowing it. By the time mother had discovered that he was not back in the snug home and had hurried out to look for him he was far along on the old wall and where she couldn't see him.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

TOO GULLIBLE

In the following deal West fell for one of the oldest "gold-brick" plays in bridge!

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

♠ K Q
♥ A K 7
♦ 10 8 8 6 4 2
♣ K 5

♠ 10 8 7 5
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ A 3

♠ 9 6 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ K 7
♣ A J 10 8 3

♠ A J 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ Q J 5
♣ 7 6 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

South couldn't afford to jump to two notrump, on the first round, but his "courtesy response" had obviously left him with something to spare, so he repeated the no-trump suggestion at his next turn. North did not go on to game without misgivings, but, not vulnerable, he felt that nothing very bad could happen.

West opened normally—the five of spades—and when the dummy appeared, South could not be very sanguine about the outcome. Even if the ace of clubs lay right, the defenders could certainly establish three tricks in the suit, and these, with the ace and king of diamonds, would defeat the contract.

South's only chance was to keep the defenders away from the club suit, and the best way to do that was to encourage further attacks in spades. So South overtook dummy's spade queen with his own ace, trying to give the impression that he, as well as dummy, had only two cards in the suit.

REFRESH! DRINK
Coca-Cola

When South led the diamond jack, West ducked. East won and returned the spade nine. Dummy's king won, and another diamond was led. West winning.

West now did exactly what South had hoped he would do—he continued with spades! Evidently, he felt that declarer was now roid, but, needless to say, that was not the case!

South's hoax was pretty feeble, and it could not have worked against any West who "watched" the spade. First, East had played the spade deuce in the opening lead, which he scarcely would have done with four to the jack. Second, East's return of the spade nine had specifically denied the jack. So South was marked with that vital card—and the shift to clubs was clearly marked for West.

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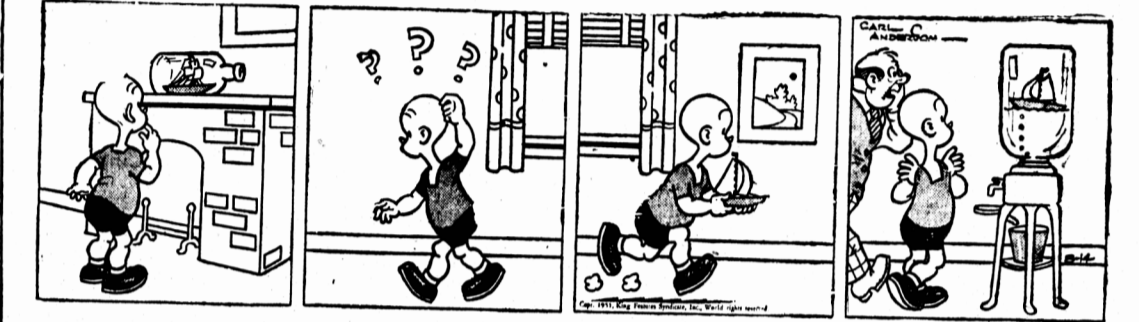
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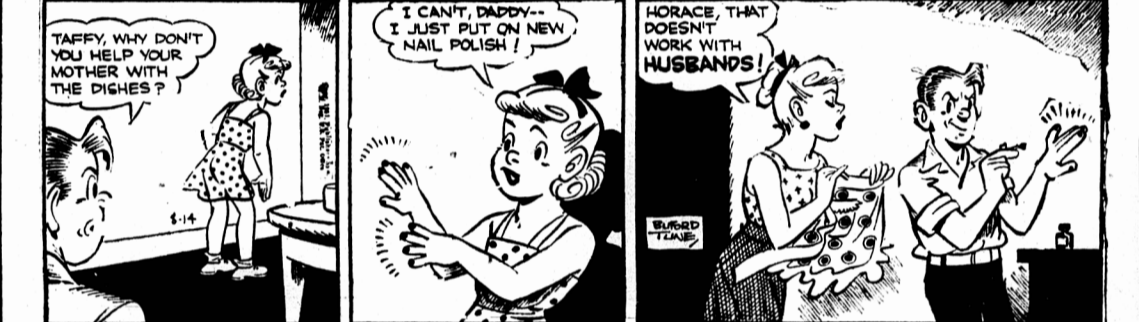
Quickies

by Ken Reynolds



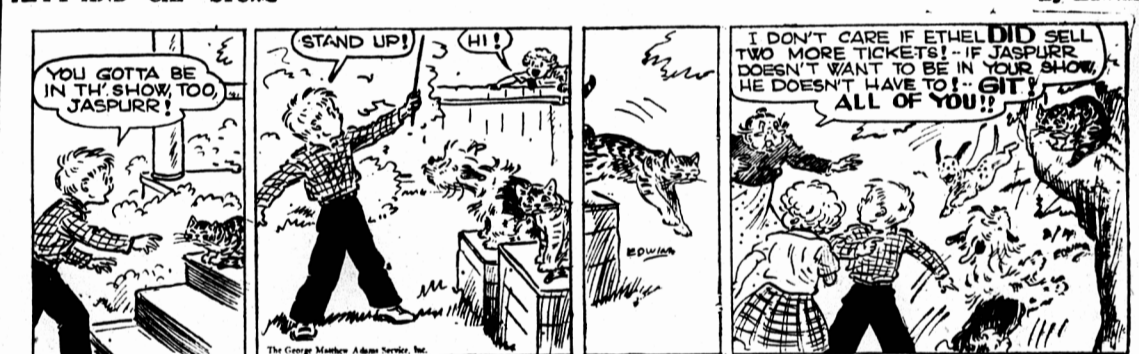
"Isn't that cute, Alvin—I taught the hunting dog you got in The Guardian Want Ads to bring you the dish towel!"

DOTTY DIPPLE



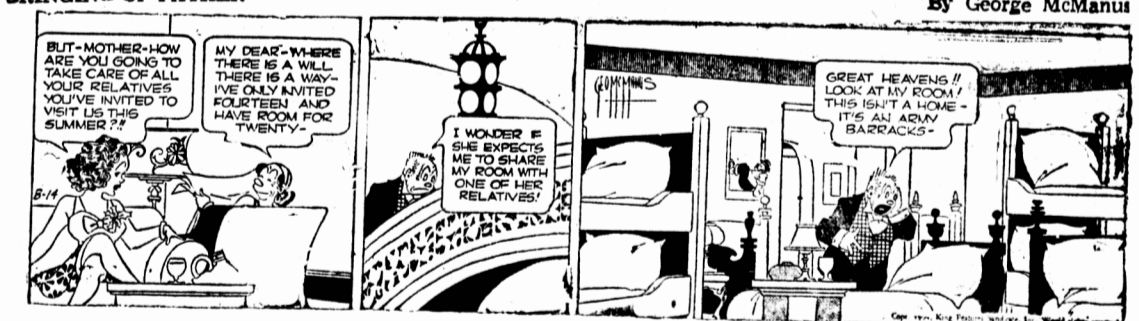
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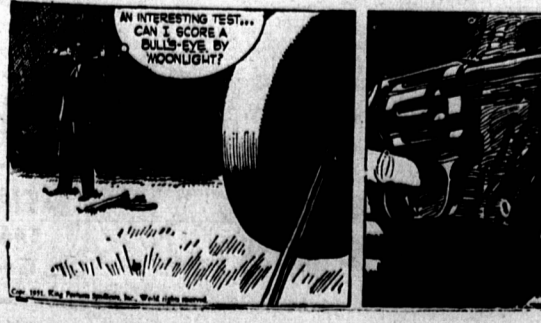
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