



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

WEE MITE GROWS FAST

Body growth you often find faster than the growth of mind. —Old Motner Nature.

This saying of Old Mother Nature's is very true. A body fully grown often has a childish mind that catches up after a while and keeps on growing while the body has stopped growing. But among some of the little folk in fur and feathers body and wits have to grow together, or their small owners will not live long.

Wee Mite, one of the children of

Danny and Nanny Meadowmouse, was born so helpless that he could do no more than kick his small legs, and could not do this very well. Not a sign of a coat covered his pink little skin. He couldn't see. He couldn't hear. Yet, by the time he was three weeks old he was out in the Great World all alone, with no one to look after him, to tell him what to do, or what not to do. Of course, that means that he grew very, very fast. By the time he was a month old he was almost as big as his father and mother. And he was less than six weeks old when he had a mate and a home of his own. Don't you think this was pretty fast growing?

His wits had grown just as fast as his body. If they hadn't, if he hadn't learned fast, and remembered what he learned, he would have been gobbled up by some hungry Wren when he first left home. He had learned nothing at all about the Great World. He hadn't even known what fear was.

He had learned in one frightful lesson the greatest terror that Meadow Mice know. It had come to the neighborhood in which he was living. It had been visited by Shadow the Weasel, who not only

kills Mice for food, but kills for the fun of killing. Where they can go, he can, and does follow. It was just chance and good luck that had saved Wee Mite.

So he had learned fear. And it was one of the most important things he would ever learn. It would stay with him all through life, and would keep him constantly on the watch for danger. No one needs to be more constantly on the watch for danger than does a Meadow Mouse, for no one has more hungry enemies, and few have as many.

Of course, Wee Mite didn't know this when he started out. Shadow the Weasel was the first enemy he learned of. A grown Mouse had found shelter with him during Shadow's visit, and so had also escaped. It was from him that Wee Mite learned that Shadow was their worst enemy.

"He doesn't come around very often, and that is a mighty good thing for us. But there are others who do come often, and if you want to grow up, young fellow, you must be on the watch for them all the time," said the big mouse.

"Who are they?" squeaked Wee Mite, and his voice shook a little.

"That you will have to find out for yourself. So, don't forget to be always on the watch, and distrust everything you see, and everything you hear which is strange to you. Most of our neighbors are hungry folk who would gobble us up at the very first chance. Always keep under cover. See, but don't be seen," said the big Mouse.

"I'll remember," squeaked Wee Mite. "Anyway, I'll try to remember."

"If you don't, it will be just too bad for you," said his new friend. "And let me give you a bit of advice."

"If you please," squeaked the little Mouse.

"When you sit still always have something behind your back so that no one can steal up behind you. We Meadow Mice have such short necks, that we cannot turn our heads easily to look behind. So when you want to stop to rest, be sure to have a rock or a bunch of grass at your back," explained the wise old Mouse.

"I'll remember," said the small Mouse. "Yes, sir, I'll remember."

"If you don't, you won't live long," declared the other Mouse. All the time he was sitting with a big stone right behind his back. Wee Mite noticed this, and backed up against a bunch of tall grass himself. He was learning fast. He was learning as fast as he was growing and he was growing very fast indeed.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluetterson

TWO BIDDING TECHNIQUES

"Approach bidding" is excellent when there is nothing to fear from the enemy, but it is not recommended for hands of the following type.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠	8 6 4	♠	A Q 10 7 3
♥	A Q 8 3	♥	10 6
♦	Q 10 9 4	♦	A 5
♣	J 7	♣	9 8 4 2

This deal occurred in a duplicate game, and at four tables this was the bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

No South fulfilled his four-spade contract, but all four of these North-South pairs received excellent match-point scores because the other North-Souths did much worse! At the other tables the bidding started off as follows:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	2♠	2♥
4♣	Pass	4♠	5♦

It did not make a great deal of difference what South did at this point, because the opponents had "found each other." A couple of South players doubled five diamonds — which was not a very good idea. Another South passed, and West went back to five hearts. This contract was also made. One North saved at five spades and paid an 800-point penalty.

It goes without saying that it was the response to the one-spade bid which made all the difference. Quite a few players, including some of expert ranking, prefer the slow approach represented by the two-club response, but surely this is a questionable technique. What happened in this case happens with great frequency. When North responds with two clubs, he extends an invitation to East to enter the auction at a reasonable level; whereas the three-spade response makes it extremely dangerous for East to "move." And the plain fact is that North in this particular deal is not so strong that he can afford to give out "invitations."

EARLY EXPLORERS

The French explorers Grosseillers and Radisson crossed the Port Arthur area in 1654.

L'L ABNER



By Al Capp

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



By Edwin

HENRY



By Carl Anderson

BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus

TILLY THE TOILER



By Bob Gowen

Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Clifford McBride

DOTTY DRIPPLE



Indr

PENNY



By Harry Hoegen

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