

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

TOP ON THE BOARD

The North-South "freaks" in the following deal accounted for a variety of results in a match-point duplicate game.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
J 9 8 6 3
K Q 10 9 5 2
A
7 5 4
8 7 3
Q 6
Q 10 9 5
2
AKQ
10
AJ 6 4
8 3
J 7 3
AKJ 10 8 7 4 2
K 8 6 4

Most Souths decided to open the hand with the high preemptive bid of five diamonds, and they brought this contract either doubled or undoubled - some Easts electing to pass, others to double.

The success or failing of each contract depended on West's choice of opening leads. A spade opening with a trump return by East defeated some contracts; but a heart or club lead gave South maneuverability and easy victory.

South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass Dble.
5 Pass Pass Dble.
Redbl. Pass Pass Pass

Top score on the board, however, went to the North-South who fortunately for themselves, participated in this auction.

East's double here was no sounder than it would have been if South had opened with five diamonds - in fact, it was even less sound. The fact that East had North's suit, spades, "tied up" was no reason to discount the tremendous jump rebid that South made.

Since East had made a takeout double of North's spade bid, West felt that a lead of the

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

WHO GOT THE BAIT? Alas, that some in frightful pain Must suffer for another's gain.

Blacky the Crow had seen a dreadful thing happen. He had seen a handsome young Mink, son of his oldtime acquaintance, Billy Mink, caught in a cruel steel trap. He had seen the terror and pain and helplessness of that young Mink, and the helplessness of Billy Mink to get the young Mink free. He had watched the dreadful struggle of the young Mink, and although he had in his lifetime seen many cruel things, it seemed to him that he had never seen anything as cruel as this.

The young Mink was free now, and he and his father had disappeared. On the snow behind them lay that wicked steel trap, its cruel jaws closed tightly on the foot and part of one of the Mink's legs. It had been pulled and twisted and torn and bitten off. That was the dreadful thing that Blacky had watched. All the rest of his life that Mink would have but three legs. He would have to get around as best he could, hunting and catching his food, dodging his enemies, and doing his best to live happily. It wasn't going to be easy to do these things. He wouldn't be able

to run as fast as if he had four legs. He wouldn't be able to swim as fast. He wouldn't be able to spring as swiftly. He wouldn't be able to dodge as quickly. Right now he must be feeling terribly, both helpless and hopeless. Blacky shook his head in distress as he thought of these things. He looked down at that cruel trap.

"Hateful thing!" said he. "What is a hateful thing?" asked someone. It was Reddy Fox. Blacky had forgotten all about Reddy. From the top of a tall tree, a little while before, he had seen Reddy in the distance and had warned the two Mink that Reddy was headed that way. Then as he watched that dreadful struggle to get free, he had forgotten all about Reddy.

"You're just too late," said Blacky, and nodded toward the trap. "Oh," said Reddy. He walked over to the trap and stood looking down at the leg gripped in those cruel jaws. He knew by what he saw that had he been only a few minutes earlier the owner of that leg would still have been held fast in that cruel trap.



"I'm not looking for him," retorted Reddy.

He looked up at Blacky. "Did you see it happen?" he asked. "Yes," said Blacky nodding his black head. "Yes, I saw it. It wasn't a nice thing to see."

Reddy looked back at the trap and the foot it held. "It wasn't Billy Mink," said Reddy. "Somehow I'm glad of that." "How do you know it wasn't Billy Mink?" demanded Blacky. "That's the foot of a young Mink. It must have belonged to one of Billy's children," said Reddy. Then he began looking about.

"If you are looking for the owner of that leg, you won't find him around here," said Blacky. "I'm not looking for him," retorted Reddy.

"Then what are you looking for?" Blacky wanted to know. "The meat, or whatever it was that Mink was reaching for when he stepped into the trap," replied Reddy. He meant the bait.

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By Zepp Gray



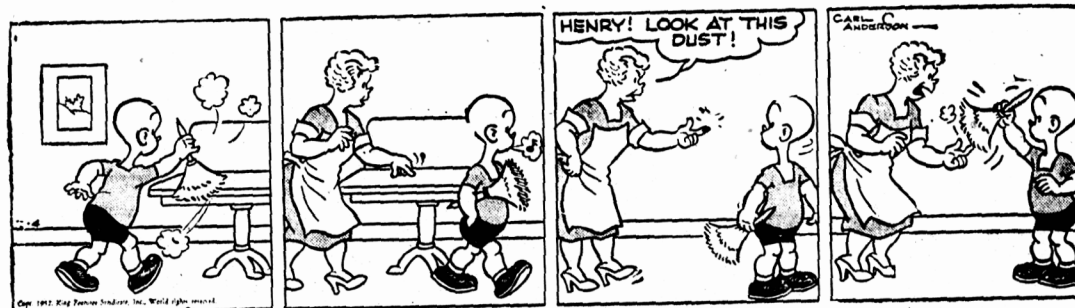
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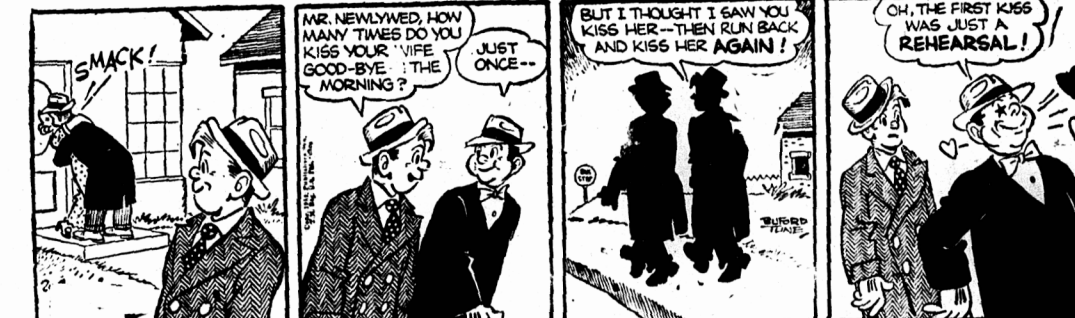
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