

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

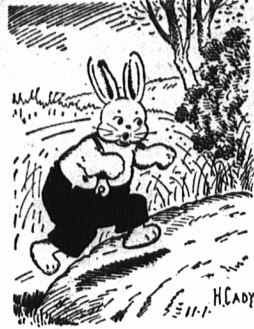
By Thornton W. Burgess

WHERE WAS MOTHER?

Another's way of life may be impossible for you or me.
—Peter Rabbit

Peter Rabbit and Mrs. Peter had just learned how little they really knew about some of their neighbors. Ever since they could remember, they had been acquainted with different members of the Snake family. Prowler the Blacksnake often had visited the dear Old Briar-patch. They didn't like him, but they were not afraid of him. They were too big for him to attack, so he let them alone. They had often seen Mr. Gartensnake, Mr. Greensnake, and Mr. Milksnake. None of these was anywhere near as big as Prowler the Blacksnake, behind

Over at the Smiling Pool, Peter often had seen Mr. Watersnake. He had seen him catching fish and frogs. More than once, he had seen Bluffer the Adder, who, because the tip of his nose is turned up, is called the Hognoosed Snake. Of none of these, had he need to be afraid, and he wasn't afraid.
Now the snake family is quite a large family and there were some who were quite near neighbors of Peter and Mrs. Rabbit with whom they had no acquaintance whatever. Ringneck was one. Ringneck is a very small Snake. He is one of the smallest members of the family. He wears a black coat, a gold collar, and an orange waistcoat. He is a very modest little fellow, and likes to keep out of sight. He and the others of his kind spend much of their time under stones, behind



Peter hopped up on that rock

loose pieces of bark, and in similar hiding places.
That is one reason that Peter and Mrs. Peter were not acquainted with Ringneck and the members of his family. In fact, they had not known there were such pretty small members of the Snake family until the day when they saw a Snake take five baby Snakes into her mouth, and then saw the babies come out again later. It was then that they discovered that each of the babies was wearing a golden collar. This was because they were baby Ringnecks. Peter and Mrs. Peter had supposed that the one who had tried to swallow them was their mother. Now they knew she was not.

The five babies, and the one who had tried to swallow them, had been on a flat rock just outside the dear Old Briar-patch. Peter and Mrs. Peter had been so excited by what they had seen, that they had not kept their eyes on that flat rock, and while their heads were turned, all those Snakes had disappeared. Where had they gone?
"They must be hiding in the grass," said Peter.

"Those were the smallest Snake babies I've ever seen," declared Mrs. Peter. "I wonder where they came from and where they have gone."
"Perhaps that bigger Snake has swallowed them again," said Peter. Mrs. Peter shook her head. "That couldn't be," said she. "I had my head turned only a minute."
"I wonder where their mother is, and why she wasn't looking after them," said Peter.

"Perhaps she is like Mrs. Spotty the Turtle. They do say that she has nothing to do with her babies. They say she doesn't even know her own babies, and that they have to look out for themselves from the time they are born. If baby Turtles can look out for themselves perhaps baby Snakes can do the same thing. Some mothers are funny; they just aren't real mothers. I would like to know myself where those baby Snakes came from. They are too small to have come from far away. It must be they are living somewhere around here. Perhaps we will see them again some day," said Mrs. Peter.

Peter hopped out of the dear Old Briar-patch and over to the flat rock. It was broad, and the top was only a little above the ground. Peter hopped up on the rock. He had often sat on that rock while he looked over the Green Meadows. Now as he sat there, he was still wondering where those baby Snakes

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton

OPENING LEADS

It is difficult enough to choose opening leads at rubber bridge, but at duplicate the difficulty is compounded by the "overtrick factor." Consider this hand, which came up in a pairs tournament.

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

♠ Q 8 6
♥ Q 7
♦ K 8 7 6 2
♣ A J 4

♠ J 5 3
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ A Q 4
♣ 9 8 2

♠ A K 9 7
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 10 5 3
♣ K

When a three-notrump contract was selected by North-South, there was nothing that East-West could do about it—the fourth-best club lead was virtually mandatory from West's hand, and the various declarers ended up with one or more overtricks.

At quite a few tables, however, the final contract was four spades by South. In these cases, most Wests opened the singleton diamond, got a third-round ruff, and eventually cashed in the heart king to defeat the contract.

Only one West who led against four spades did not defeat the contract—and the question is whether he was misguided or merely unlucky. This had been the bidding at his table:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

This West, having listened attentively to the diamond response by North and the diamond raise by South, could not bring himself to lead the singleton—it seemed all too likely that this lead would trap East's possible queen. Surely, West could not hope that East has both the ace and queen! So West, who had no reason to feel that four spades could be defeated by any lead, opened a club—and declarer sailed home.

At rubber bridge, West could be blamed severely for not making the one lead, however, desperate, that would give him a chance, but at duplicate, who can say that West's punishment was deserved?

had come from, and where they had now gone. All the time he was sitting right over them. They were underneath that big flat rock. They had been born there. Their mother was there too, but she was paying no attention to them, and they were paying no attention to her. As for the one who had tried to swallow them, she had slipped away into the dear Old Briar-patch and had hidden under some leaves.

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

MR. DESMOND, I'VE TRIED EVERY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO REACH JESSICA. HER UNCLE KEEPS PUTTING ME OFF. I WON'T WAIT ANY LONGER!

YOUR IMPATIENCE IS UNDERSTANDABLE, MR. VAN EDGE. SOMEHOW, WE MUST SMOOTH THE ROCKY PATH OF LOVE... LET ME THINK...

YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SAY IT WITH FLOWERS OR PHONE CALLS. THERE'S ONE THING LEFT... IN THE PARLANCE OF THE TRADE, WE MUST ESTABLISH A STAKEOUT!

THE MILLBANKS' APARTMENT IS IN THAT BUILDING. JESSICA OR HER UNCLE MUST COME OUT SOMETIME.

QUITE! TO PARAPHRASE GENERAL GRANT, I PROPOSE WE FIGHT IT OUT ON THIS LINE, IF IT TAKES ALL WINTER!

Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifton McBride

GO AWAY, YOU CLUMSY HOUND! YOU'VE BEEN PESTERING ME FOR AN HOUR!

JOE PALOOKA

By Harlan Fisher

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU... MOMMY SAYS YOU WERE A... "CARD" SHE USES AWFULLY FUNNY TERMS.

MOMMY? I... I THOT YOU WAS HER! MARRIE SHYDER... WHY YA LOOK JUST LIKE 'ER...

LOOKS LIKE KNOBBY WALSH.

THAT WAS MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME... IT'S FERNBILL NOW...

UH...YEAH...HOW'S MOM? I HEAR HER HUSBAND...YER FATHER, PASSED AWAY.

YES, OH, MR. WALSH... WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME WITH ME AND SEE HER... SHE'S STILL VERY BEAUTIFUL... REMEMBER?

YEAH... SAY THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WELL GIVE 'ER A BIG SURPRISE!

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina

"CAP COPIED YOUR POEMS AN' SENT 'EM TO BETTY-LOU! HE HE THOUGHT 'EM WERE SO PRETTY."

"HE WON'T EVEN ANSWER!!"

"BETTY-LOU'S GRAN-MA SAID IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO BE TH' FIRST TO READ 'EM... 'COLUNTA CAP..."

"AN' ALL TH' LADIES SAID, AFTER YOU'D LEFT TH' MEETIN'-- NO-BODY NOT EVEN LONGFELLOW COULD WRITE AS GOOD--"

"HE ANSWERED!"

"C'MON, FELLAS FOR TH' ICE CREAM! EV'RY-THING'S ALL RIGHT NOW!!"

TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson

GOOD DAY, SAMPSON.

GOODBYE, MR. HUFF-- THANKS FOR THAT BIG ORDER.

WHEN GETTING AN ORDER FROM THAT OLD CRAB LEAVES ME LIMP, I DIDN'T EVEN DARE CORRECT HIM WHEN HE HAD MY NAME WRONG, FOR I FEAR HE'D CANCEL THE WHOLE DEAL.

BOB-- H-I-- GUSTAFSON.

WHAT'S THIS?

THAT MACDOUGALL AND HIS LOVE STORY MAGAZINES!

IF HUFF HAD SPOTTED THESE HE'D NEVER HAVE GIVEN ME HIS BUSINESS.

MR. HUFF IS BACK, HE FORGOT HIS MAGAZINES AND WANTS THEM IMMEDIATELY!

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

I SAW POOR LITTLE OLD MRS. ANN CHOVE-- SHE'S ALL ALONE IN THIS WORLD-- TELL FENMORE TO CALL HER UP AND TELL HER I'M COMING OVER AND SING FOR HER!

LISTEN-- FENMORE-- CALL UP AND TELL MRS. ANN CHOVE THAT MRS. JIGGS IS COMING OVER AND SING FOR HER!

ARE YOU AFRAID TO TELL HER YOURSELF?

YES-- MRS. CHOVE-- WHAT? ALL RIGHT! I'LL TELL HER!

WHAT DID SHE SAY? REPEAT IT!

WHEN I TOLD HER YOU WOULD SING-- SHE SAID SHE WANTED THAT LONESOME!

POGO

By Walt Kautz

HAW! SINCE WE CLAIMED TO BE ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS EVERYBODY IS OUR PAL... AND NOBODY WILL CARE IF WE USE POGO'S HOUSE 'CAUSE HE RUN OUT-- WE'LL SHARE HIS GRUB...

HAW! HAW! TWIXT OURSELVES, HEN HEN!

LET'S GO IN.

COOP.

BACK ALREADY?

ALREADY!

SOME NERVE!

ARRANT ARROGANTISM.

DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford

SUPER MARKET

GOLLY!

IMAGINE THAT!

NOW!

MY HUSBAND HASN'T SHOPPED FOR GROCERIES LATELY AND HES NOT USED TO THE PRICES!

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HENRY

By Carl Anderson

PENNY

By Harry Haensgen

HOW'S SCHOOL GOING, PRINCESS?

OKAY, FATHER, BUT IT'S ALL THEORY!

THEORY! THEORY! THEORY! I WISH WE'D GET DOWN TO APPLYING THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF OUR STUDIES INSTEAD OF FOREVER THEORIZING!

HOW DO YOU MEAN, PRINCESS? (GIVE ME A FOR INSTANCE.)

WELL, FOR INSTANCE, TODAY IN CHEMISTRY CLASS...

WE STUDIED THE THEORY OF THE CHEMICAL REACTION OF THE KISS!

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

WHILE I WAS STUNNED, I HEARD ONE OF THEM MENTION CRYSTAL CAVERN. DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS, TAILWIND?

I SURE DO! FOLLOW ME!

SO YOU'RE TH' ENGINEER, EH? WHY TH' DISGUISE? I WANT TH' KNOW WHO TH' KIDNAPIN' FOR!

I'M MUCH TOO SHARP FOR THAT! NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WHO I AM.

L'L ABNER

By Al Capp

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT L'L ABNER. DOC-BAPPY'S A-HOLDIN' THAT CLOTH TO HIS SWEET L'L NOSE-- JUST LIKE YOU TOLD US TO!

FINELY!

['TWEEN THE EYER IN THE CLOTH WILL KILL HIM IN A FEW MINUTES!

AH WANTS T' THANK YO' FO' FIXIN' DAISY MAE'S BUSTED NOSE-- TWARNT SO MUCH NEAR-SELF SHE WAS WORRIED 'BOUT--

SHE WAS AFRAID TH' BABY SHE'S A-GONNA HAVE MIGHT BE BORN WIF BUSTED NOSE, TOO?

S-SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A BABY?

THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THAT BOY 'CAUSE IT ISN'T TOO LATE!

OH! MAH NOSE!

GUFF! IT BUSTED AGAIN!