Contract Bridge

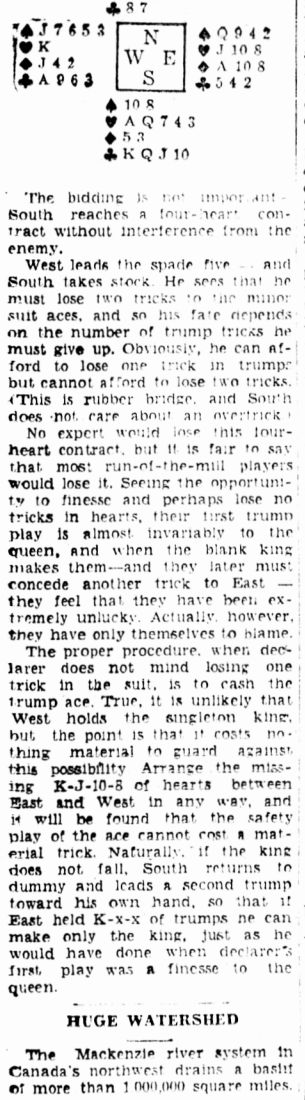
By Josephine Culbertson

SINGLETON KINGS

That old adage, "singleton kings always make," would be far less factual if more players took the pains to learn safety plays.

It goes without saying that even the greatest experts can't guess that a singleton king lies behind them when they are missing several cards in the suit, but they nevertheless can and do protect themselves under certain circumstances. The following case it typical.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.



The bidding is not important. South reaches a four-heart contract without interference from the enemy.

West leads the spade five — and South takes stock. He sees that he must lose two tricks to the minor suit aces, and so his fate depends on the number of trump tricks he must give up. Obviously, he can afford to lose one trick in trumps but cannot afford to lose two tricks. (This is rubber bridge, and South does not care about an overtrick.)

No expert would lose this four-heart contract, but it is fair to say that most run-of-the-mill players would lose it. Seeing the opportunity to finesse and perhaps lose no tricks in hearts, their first trump play is almost invariably to the queen, and when the blank king makes them—and they later must concede another trick to East — they feel that they have been extremely unlucky. Actually, however, they have only themselves to blame.

The proper procedure, when declarer does not mind losing one trick in the suit, is to cash the trump ace. True, it is unlikely that West holds the singleton king, but the point is that it costs nothing material to guard against this possibility. Arrange the missing K-J-10-8 of hearts between East and West in any way, and it will be found that the safety play of the ace cannot cost a material trick. Naturally, if the king does not fall, South returns to dummy and leads a second trump toward his own hand, so that if East held K-x-x of trumps he can make only the king, just as he would have done when declarer's first play was a finesse to the queen.

HUGE WATERSHED

The Mackenzie river system in Canada's northwest drains a basin of more than 1,000,000 square miles.

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

TO THE RESCUE

To love no cause is ever lost;
'Tis dares all things nor counts the cost.
—Old Mother Nature.

It was a dull gray morning. Both Hooty and Mrs. Hooty had hunted through all but the darkest part of the night and now in daylight were still hunting. It is a mistake to think that Owls cannot see in daylight. They can see perfectly unless the bright sunlight is in their eyes. On gray days such as this one they see perfectly. When food is scarce and they are very hungry, or have babies crying to be fed, they often hunt on such a day.

They had two children now, too big to be called babies, already out of the nest, but not able to catch their own food. Mother and father still had to feed them, and as mother said they were worn to a frazzle doing it.

"If those youngsters don't start pretty soon to hunt and try to get their own food we'll have to let them starve," grumbled Hooty to Mrs. Hooty as they started out that morning.

"The poor dear are so young and helpless," said Mrs. Hooty out of the tenderness of mother love.

"Poor dears!" exclaimed Hooty. "They are anything but poor. There no are better fed youngsters in all the Green Forest. They are spoiled. That's what is the trouble. They will learn to hunt fast enough when they have to or go hungry."

Hooty flew off in one direction and Mrs. Hooty in another. Hunting was still poor and very like work to get enough to feed those always hungry young Owls and themselves. Both went hungry most of the time that Young Hooty and Sister Hooty should have enough. They had to go farther and farther from home to hunt. This time Hooty went farther than he had been since the babies had hatched from the two eggs more than a month ago. He hunted and hunted. He was getting discouraged. He stopped in a tree to rest. He was so tired and had had so little sleep that he dozed. He was wakened by a sound so faint, from so far away that most folks wouldn't have heard it at all. But Hooty has very wonderful ears. They catch sounds too faint for others to hear. What he heard was the cawing of Crows. Those cries were faint, but there was no mistaking them.

For just a moment Hooty listened. He knew exactly what had happened. His eyes became more yellow than ever if that were possible. They fairly blazed with fierce anger.

"Those Crows have found one of the children, probably Young Hooty, and are making life miserable for him. They have found out he is alone and they know he can't take care of himself because he isn't old enough. By the noise they are making there must be a lot of them. He hasn't learned yet how to look out for himself and if he doesn't have help they may kill him, the cowards," thought Hooty. He spread his big wings.

Now, narrow wings are made for flying. Not big broad wings such as Hooty's. But there was nothing slow about the way Hooty flew in and out between the trees or just above the treetops. The nearer he got the louder became the excited cawing of Blacky the Crow and his friends. As he drew near the scene the air seemed to be filled with screaming black tormentors. A few were sitting in neighboring trees, all screaming and all so excited and intent on what they were doing that no one was keeping watch.

No one saw Hooty and no one heard him. His great wings made no sound. He was in among those Crows before they knew he was anywhere about. Just a moment later Mrs. Hooty arrived. Such a frantic flapping of black wings followed as those Crows flew in all directions trying to get away. There was a sudden silence for they had no breath for screaming. They needed all they had for flying. They were as frighened a lot of Crows as ever wished they had

He was in among those Crows before they knew he was anywhere about.

kept their tongues still. Two of them didn't get away. Some folks had crow for dinner. Can you guess who?

B-H PAINTS last longer!

Rheumatic & Arthritic Pains

If you are suffering from arthritis, rheumatism, sciatica or neuritis, you may now hope to get fast relief from pain and discomfort. Thousands and thousands of men and women report they now enjoy long-lasting relief—thanks to DOLCIN tablets. Get DOLCIN from your druggist today.

DOLCIN Best-known Product for Relief of Pains of Arthritis, Rheumatism

SERVE Coca-Cola TRADE MARK REG. when friends drop in

THE MUSICAL TREAT OF THE YEAR
Coming To
Holy Redeemer Community Centre
St. F. X. Choral and Dramatic Society
in
"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"
APRIL 17 and 18
Complete Operetta — Original Costumes
For Reservations — Phone 86
All Seats Reserved Admission $1.50

POGO By Walt Kelly

Napoleon and Uncle Elby By Clifford McBride

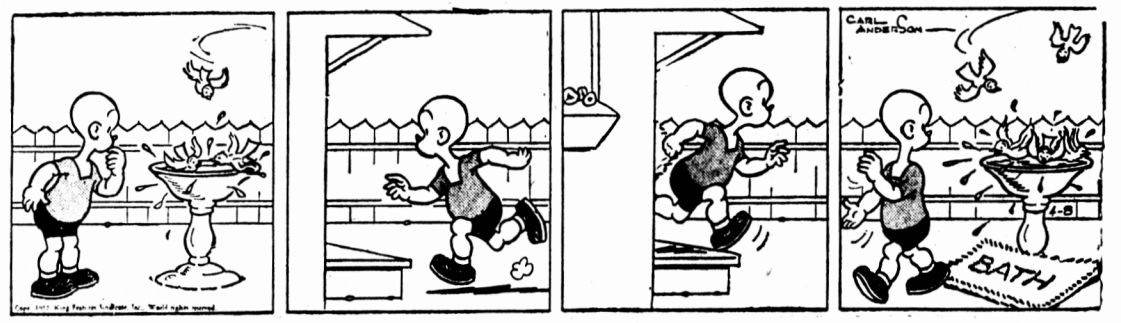
LI'L ABNER By Al Capp

RIP KIRBY By Alex Raymond

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED By Zane Grey

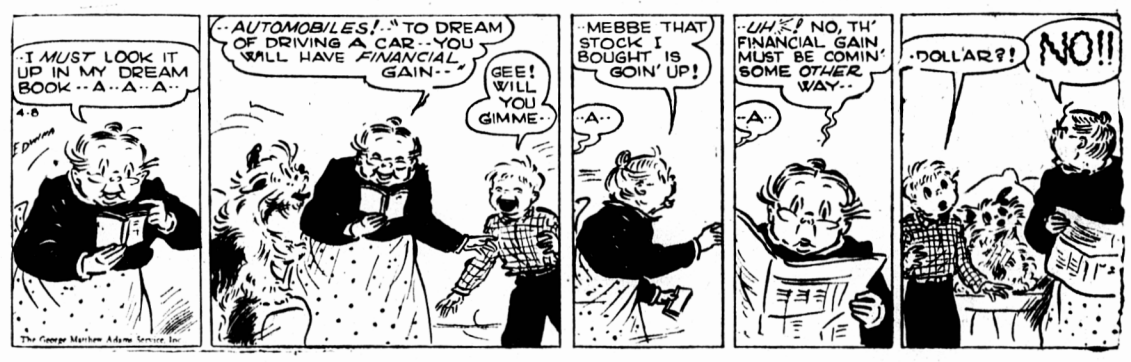
JOE PALOOKA By Ham Fisher

HENRY By Carl Anderson

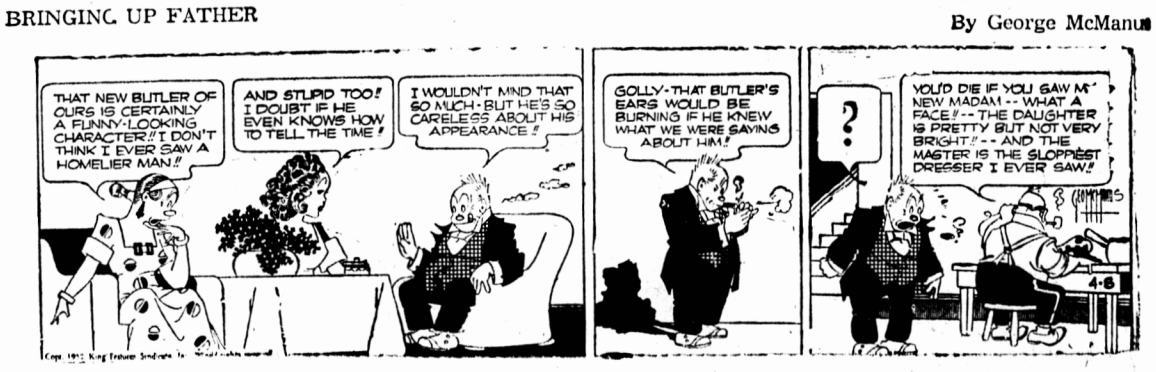


DOTTY DRIPPLE By Rufore

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS By Edwina



BRINGING UP FATHER By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER By Bob Gustafson

PENNY By Harry Haenigsen