



By Thornton W. Burgess

JERRY'S FREE RIDE
Opportunity won't wait. Seize it now before too late. —Old Mother Nature.



Jerry was getting a free ride.

Jerry Muskrat was out adventuring. He had left home in the Smiling Pool, gone down Laughing Brook, and now was at the Big River. Jerry was taking a sort of vacation. He was on his way to his old acquaintance, Longlegs the Heron. Longlegs often

visits the Smiling Pool, and that was where Jerry had met him. Longlegs was still making strange sounds way down in his long throat. He was chuckling. Jerry had told him that he was out to see some of the Great World, and that seemed a good joke to Longlegs, for he knew how little of the Great World Jerry would ever see. He was still chuckling when he flew on his way. He was going fishing.

Jerry watched him out of sight, then jumped down from the trunk of a stranded old tree that he had been sitting on, and began to explore along the bank of the Big River. Presently he came to an old box still floating, but very close to shore. Jerry climbed up on it. It was a good place to take a sun bath. Jerry did that. He was a little tired, and it was a fine place to rest. Jerry began to doze. He didn't mean to go to sleep, but he kept closing his eyes, and presently he really did go to sleep.

When at last Jerry awoke he opened and shut his eyes several times. All he saw around him, was water, and he just couldn't believe his own eyes. Where was the shore? When he had wakened up on that box it had been almost touching the shore. Now he could hardly see the shore, for Jerry's eyes are not the far-seeing kind. And that box seemed to be moving. Jerry was getting a free ride. The box had drifted out into the current, and Jerry was on his way to see more of the Great World than he ever had dreamed of.

As you know, Jerry is a very good swimmer. His first thought was to swim ashore. But the shore was farther off than he had expected. He had to keep swimming. To him it looked very far away. Really it wasn't nearly as far as it looked. He hesitated. Should he swim, or should he stay on that old box. He decided to stay. He didn't quite dare do otherwise.

"What in the world are you doing way out here?" asked a voice overhead.

Jerry looked up. Graywing the Gull was just over his head. "I-I-I'm just sitting here," squeaked Jerry.

"So I see," replied Graywing, as he sailed along right overhead. "That was unexpected. Jerry Muskrat didn't even move his wings. Just seemed to float along. "You're hav-

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES

It cannot be said too often or too emphatically that so-called rules of play must be altered to meet the situation at hand. For example, in the following case the idea of "making declarer use up his trumps" was a very bad idea!

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 8 4 3 2

♥ 8 2

♦ Q J 8 7 5

♣ K 8

♠ 9 7 6 5

♥ Q J 7 4

♦ 3 2

♣ A 5 2

♠ A

♥ A K 10 9 6 3

♦ 6 4

♣ A Q J 7

The bidding: 1 East South West North 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Dble. Pass Pass Pass

East should have started with the prepared bid of one diamond; and West's raise was pretty far-fetched, even as an attempt at a shutout.

West led his fourth-highest spade and declarer was in with the blank ace. Analysis told South that West's double of four hearts must have been based on too prospective tricks in that suit, since it was perfectly obvious that he could not have any outside strength—East needed both diamond honors for his original bid.

All this made the contract look extremely doubtful, but South saw one hope. He led a diamond. East took the jack with the king and, as South had hoped, returned a spade. Declarer ruffed and led his last diamond. Again East returned a spade to force declarer. South was not reluctant about ruffing; indeed, he then led to the club king and ruffed dummy's last spade on his own account.

Now, reduced to the A-K-10 of trumps and three clubs, South laid down the trump ace, then ran his clubs. When the fourth club was played West had to ruff—and it didn't matter whether he ruffed low or high. If he ruffed low, dummy would over-ruff with the eight; and after West actually ruffed with the jack, he had to return a trump from the Q-7 up to declarer's K-10.

East had led too many spades; this was not a hand in which to shorten declarer's trumps!

That was question? Jerry Muskrat couldn't answer. Jerry was beginning to be a little frightened.

Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



Tippy and "Cap" Stube

By Edwin



Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



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By Al Capp



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



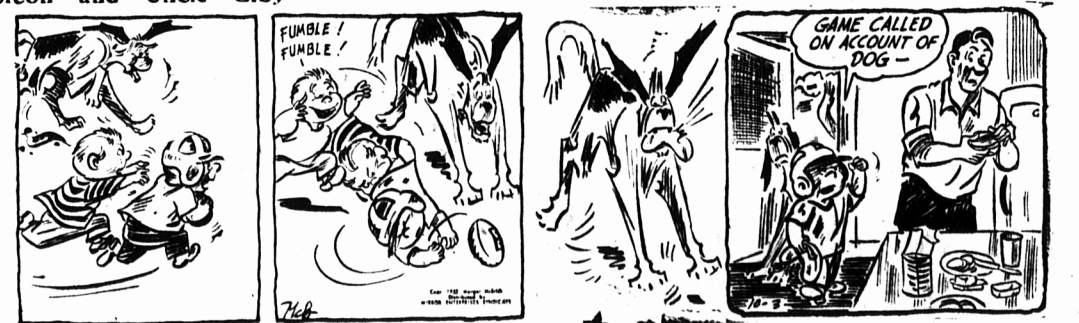
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By Ham Fisher



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



Henry

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