



### BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

#### BLACKY LISTENS

Who holds his tongue and listens well, Will plenty learn, but little tell. —Old Mother Nature.

Old Man Winter was on his way back to the Far North. There was no doubt about it. The snow was melting everywhere. The ice had become very thin on the Smiling Pool. On the Big River there was none, at all. Laughing Brook was gurgling and laughing again, and so were all the other brooks coming down from the Great Mountain. Snow was still banked in sheltered places where jolly, round Mr. Sun could not get at it. It would be there for a long time yet. It would be there until Gentle Sister Southwind arrived with Sweet Mistress Spring, and her soft warm breath melted it all away.

When Jumper the Hare put one of his long ears against the trunk of a maple tree, he could hear the sap mounting inside, coming up from the roots and going up the big trunk and out the branches to the tiniest twig. Sometimes, if he listened when the night turned cold, he could hear that sap running back into the roots.

In wet places in the little swamp at the head of the Smiling Pool

where Laughing Brook joined it, little brown and purple hoods were pushing up through the black mud, or had already pushed up. Inside each were tiny flowers, so tiny that had you peeped in and seen them you might not have thought them to be flowers. They were the first flowers of the year, the skunk cabbage. Those little hoods were to protect them. Peter Rabbit always feels better when he peeps into one of those little hoods and sees the golden dust, which is the pollen of those tiny flowers. He knows then for sure that Mistress Spring is here, and he refuses to be discouraged if there happen to be two or three cold days after some warm ones.

Blacky the Crow was feeling very good. He was feeling very good indeed. It was easier to get a living now with so much of the snow gone. Blacky the Crow was not at all fussy about what he eats. Food is food, and that is enough for Blacky. The result is that he eats things that other folks would turn up their noses at, if they had noses that could be turned up. It is well that it so. Blacky is really a big bird and needs a lot of food. How he finds enough to keep him through a hard winter is one of Old Mother Nature's wonderful secrets.

Blacky was sitting in the top of a tall tree deep in the Green Forest. He had been cawing at the top of his voice to let all the world know how good he felt. Other Crows had answered him from a distance. Mrs. Blacky was not far away. She was busy. She had started a new nest, and she was being very fussy about the building of it. Blacky had been helping by bringing material to



Blacky was sitting in the top of a tall tree deep in the Green Forest.

build it with. Some of it she used; some of it didn't suit her, and she dropped it to the ground. Blacky tried to fool her by picking it up and bringing it back when she wasn't watching, and laying it on the nest. She wasn't fooled. Every time it would be thrown away again. She knew what she wanted, and she was not going to be fooled into taking anything else.

Other members of the flock were building nests, too, in other parts of the Green Forest. All winter the flock had kept together, but now it was scattered. Only on special occasions would all the members get together. There was a special call that everybody knew meant that something unusual was going on. Blacky was listening to that special call now. It was coming from far over near the edge of the Green Forest. It was so far that it was rather faint. Blacky listened. He kept his own voice still. Other Crows were answering that call from different parts of the Green Forest, but Blacky kept his own tongue still. There was something about that call that didn't sound just right.

There were moments when he was tempted to spread his wings and go over and join the others whom he could see flying above the trees toward the place from which that call was coming. Two or three times he half spread his wings only to close them again. Mrs. Blacky stopped work and listened, too. Then she joined Blacky in his tree. "Whoever that is calling is excited," said she. "Let's go join the group." Still Blacky hesitated. Something wasn't quite right about that call, but what it was, he couldn't say.

### Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

#### Beware of Slam Doubles

It cannot be repeated too often that the most profitable penalty doubles are those made at low levels. This is in direct contradiction to the view which seems to be held by the majority of bridge players.

The least profitable doubles — assuming that your opponents are reasonably adept — are in the slam field. The truth of this statement is so pointed that in all-expert games, out of every 100 slams voluntarily bid, only two or three are apt to be doubled. This does not mean that in the remaining cases the contract is invariably fulfilled, but it does mean that the potential extra profit from doubling is so small and the danger so great, that the double is almost never used.

Getting down to an illustrative hand — no expert worthy of the name would follow East's example in the bidding below.

North dealer North-South vulnerable.

- ♠ KQ1085
- ♥ KQ1094
- ♦ KJ9
- ♣ A943

|   |   |
|---|---|
| N | E |
| W | S |

- ♠ 62
- ♥ 8763
- ♦ 843
- ♣ 7543
- ♠ A943
- ♥ A J 5 2
- ♦ 9 6 5
- ♣ 8 2

The bidding:

| North | East | South  | West |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| 1♠    | Pass | 3♦     | Pass |
| 3♦    | Pass | 4♦     | Pass |
| 4♦    | Pass | 4♠     | Pass |
| Pass  | Db.  | Redbl. | Pass |
| Pass  | Pass |        |      |

East's double of six diamonds, opening the way to South's redouble, was virtually senseless. East knew that his opponents were good players, which meant that they would not go down many tricks at their slam contract — in fact, East could not really hope to take more than his two aces. By doubling, East would increase his score by 100 points if he was successful — by 200 if the opponents redoubled and went down; whereas the opponents might easily score an extra 410 points by redoubling and making the contract.

In this case East's action turned out to be even a little more expensive, because West, with very little to guide him, opened a heart, and South took all 13 tricks!

#### MANY TONGUES

SASKATOON, (CP) — The University of Saskatchewan could form its own United Nations during the present term. Registered students this winter include 44 from 19 overseas countries.

### BACKACHE

For quick comforting help for Backache, Rheumatic Pains, Getting Up Night, strong cloudy urine, irritating passages, Leg Pains, and loss of energy due to Kidney and Bladder troubles, try Cystex. Quick, complete satisfaction or money back. Don't suffer another day without asking your druggist for Cystex.

### CITY IMMUNIZING CLINICS

Conducted by Department of Health & Welfare To be held as follows:

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| MONDAY, MARCH 2nd—    |           |
| Model School .....    | 1:30 p.m. |
| Prince Street .....   | 2:30 p.m. |
| TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd—   |           |
| West Kent .....       | 1:30 p.m. |
| Rochford Square ..... | 2:30 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th— |           |
| Queen Square .....    | 1:30 p.m. |
| Notre Dame .....      | 2:30 p.m. |
| THURSDAY, MARCH 5th—  |           |
| Spring Park .....     | 1:30 p.m. |
| Parkdale .....        | 2:30 p.m. |

**KING COLE COFFEE**  
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### King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



### Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



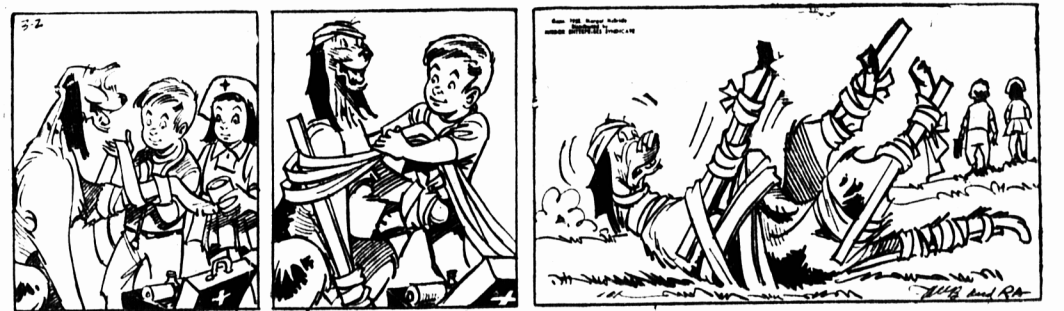
### Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



### Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



### Li'l Abner

By Al Capp



### Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



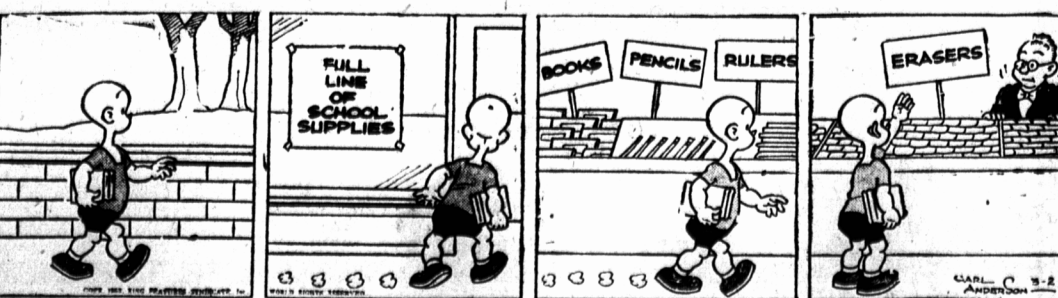
### Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



### Henry

By Carl Anderson



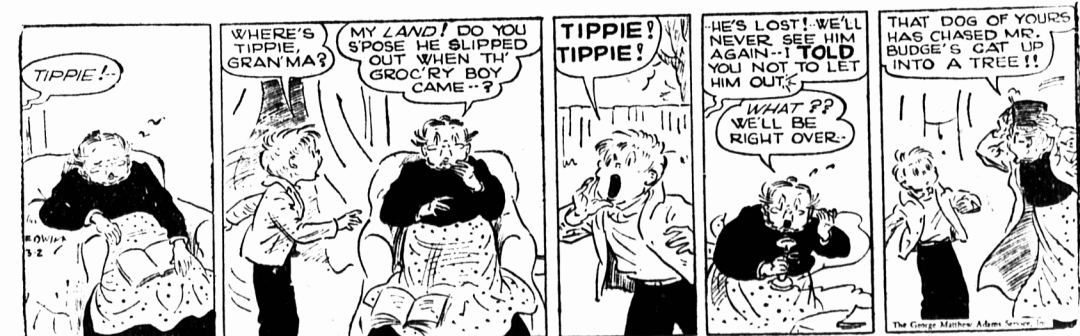
### Pogo

By Walt Kelly



### Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



### Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



### PENNY

By Harry Hoenigsen

