(By Thornton W. Burgess)

HOW SCARED WAS UNC' BILLY?

What you can do just do your best
And leave to circumstance the rest.
—Unc' Billy Possum.

"He's scared stiff," declared Peter Rabbit. "If he wasn't he would try to run away."

"No such thing," declared Jumper the Hare. "He's scared, of course. That's where you're wrong Cousin Peter."

"Then why doesn't he jump up and run?" demanded Peter.

"Because if he did, that Dog would shake him to death," declared Jumper.

"Why doesn't he shake him to death anyway?" Peter wanted to know.

"Because he thinks Unc' Billy is dead already," replied Jumper.

Right in front of their hiding place beside the Crooked Little Path lay Unc' Billy Possum, and standing over him was a big Dog. He had picked Unc' Billy up once and shaken him hard, then dropped him. Unc' Billy lay in the Crooked Little Path just as he had been dropped. He was partly on his back and partly on one side. Not so much as a whisker had twitched. No dead Possum ever looked any more dead than did Unc' Billy. The Dog sniffed at him. With a big paw he rolled Unc' Billy over. He started to pick Unc' Billy up again and shake him, but didn't. You couldn't shake to death anyone already dead, so what was the use of shaking Unc' Billy? It was fun to chase somebody, catch him, and shake him to death, but there was no fun in shaking someone already dead. That is what the Dog was thinking.

"Don't tell me that Unc' Billy is doing that purposely," said Peter. "He couldn't, nobody could. He just simply is too scared to move. Folks can be, you know."

"Just you watch Unc' Billy," replied Jumper. "If he is too scared to move he won't move for some time after that Dog has gone away. He's lucky."

"Who's lucky?" asked Peter.

"Unc' Billy is lucky," declared Jumper.

"He doesn't look it to me," said Peter. Unc' Billy didn't look lucky. Most folks would have said that he looked most unlucky.

"Just the same, he is lucky," declared Jumper.

"If that is what you call being lucky, I never want to be lucky," declared Peter. "What is there lucky about him?"

"He is lucky that it is a Dog and not Reddy Fox or someone else looking for a dinner," replied Jumper.

Peter thought that over. He scratched a long ear with a long hind foot. Then he scratched the other long ear with the other long hind foot. Peter seems to think that that helps him think. Perhaps it does. A lot of people do funny things when they are thinking, or think that they are thinking. But for all the scratching of his long ears with his long hind feet Peter couldn't think of any reason why Unc' Billy was lucky. Finally he said so.

"That Dog doesn't care about anyone that is dead. He won't eat Unc' Billy. But Reddy Fox, or Yowler the Bobcat, or Old Man Coyote, would be just as well pleased with Unc' Billy dead as alive. He would make just as good a dinner if they were hungry. If they were not hungry they would carry him off and hide him away somewhere until such time as they were hungry. So Unc' Billy is lucky that it was a Dog who

"Don't tell me that Unc' Billy is doing that purposely," said Peter.

surprised him, not one of those other folks. He was unlucky to be caught but lucky that it wasn't someone else who caught him."

Peter thought it over. "Oh," said he. He scratched his long ears with his long hind feet again. Then he said "Oh," once more. "Just the same I think he is scared stiff and can't move," said he.

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in trumps than East, and a one-trick defeat became inevitable.

Getting back to the bidding—it is plain that South's cue bid of the opponents' suit forced North to make some very uncomfortable bids: for example first) North's rebid of his anemic heart suit when South bid four clubs. This action, however, was easy compared with North's following problem when South bid four spades! Superficially, North's pass to that contract seems logical since he had K-x of spades against only the singleton four of clubs, yet, keener imagination would have inspired North to take the contract to five clubs! Quite obviously, South would be forced in trumps right from the start on the opponents' diamond lead, and unless his marked five-card spade suit broke unusually well, he could not stand the force with spades as trump!

Observe that, at clubs, South could easily overcome the normal 4-2 break of the suit and make five-odd; whereas at spades, the same 4-2 break was fatal.

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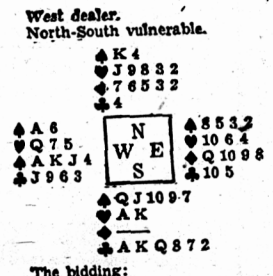
Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SHOWING PREFERENCE

Most players seem to think that it is easy to make the right "preference bid" when partner names two or three suits. Actually, however, this may call for considerable imagination. Let's look at a case:

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.



The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	2♥	3♦	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West opened the diamond king. South ruffed, cashed the club ace, then, providing a non-break of clubs, ruffed a low club with the spade king. Next, he led the spade four to the queen. West won and continued diamonds. When South ruffed this round, he was shorter

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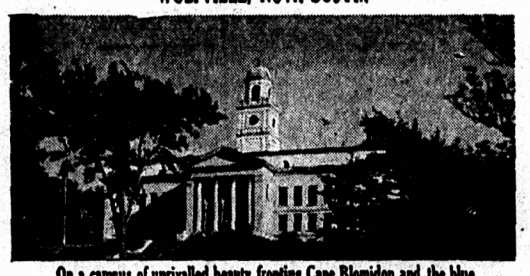

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For additional information apply to
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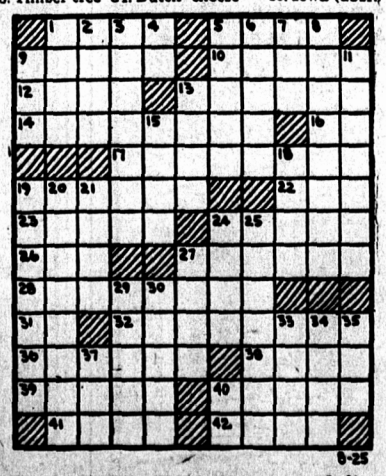
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. One of a Japanese race
5. Among
9. Mythical monsters
10. Parts
12. Tumult
13. A widow
14. Penitent
16. Music note
17. A guiding star
19. Confections
22. Part of "to be"
23. Thicket of trees
24. Servant
26. Spawn of fish
27. Irritate
28. A dreamer
31. Exist
32. More desolate
36. Followed
38. Old Norse work
39. Vents
40. Moslem religion
41. Affirmative votes
42. Ancient alloy of gold or silver

DOWN
1. Exchange premium
2. Metal
3. Stinging plants
4. Personal pronoun
5. Rugged mountain crest
6. Burrowing animals
7. River (C. Asia)
8. States
9. Grampus
11. Monk (Russ.
13. Frees
15. Method of learning
18. Timber tree
19. Public writers
20. Expressionlessly
21. Fencing sword
24. Receptacle for flowers
25. Naive
27. Female red deer
29. A soft leather
30. Yellowish clay
33. Not working
34. Dutch cheese
35. Male sheep
37. Wooden tub (dial.)
40. Iowa (abbr.)

Yesterday's Answer



6-25

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

A T E Y J T I W W B, Q W A X S W G D: A T E Y J T J W K A S W, Q W A K E A I Y S S—I W K T G V.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HE THAT DESPISETH SMALL THINGS WILL PERISH BY LITTLE AND LITTLE—EMERSON.

Distributed by King Features Syndicate

The Neighbors

By George Clark

"We can take you today, Mrs. Bilk—but we'll have to squeeze you in between a facial and a hot-oil shampoo."

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

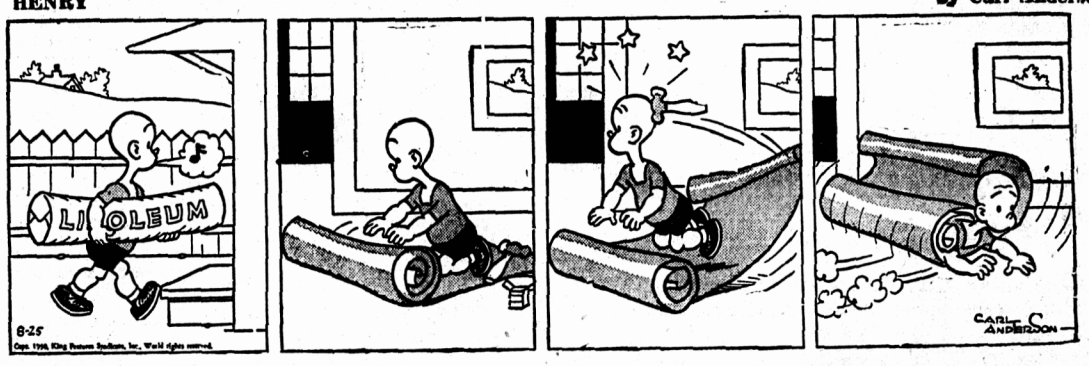
By Zane Grey

JOE PALOOKA

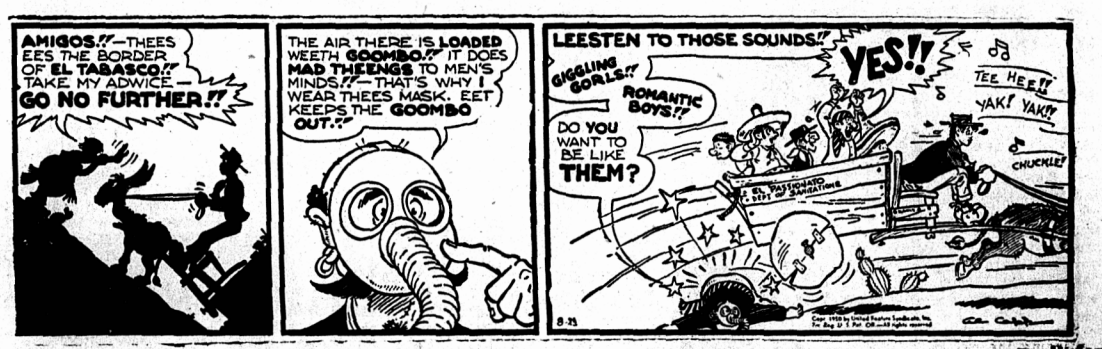
by Ham Fisher

HENRY

by Carl Anderson



LI'L ABNER

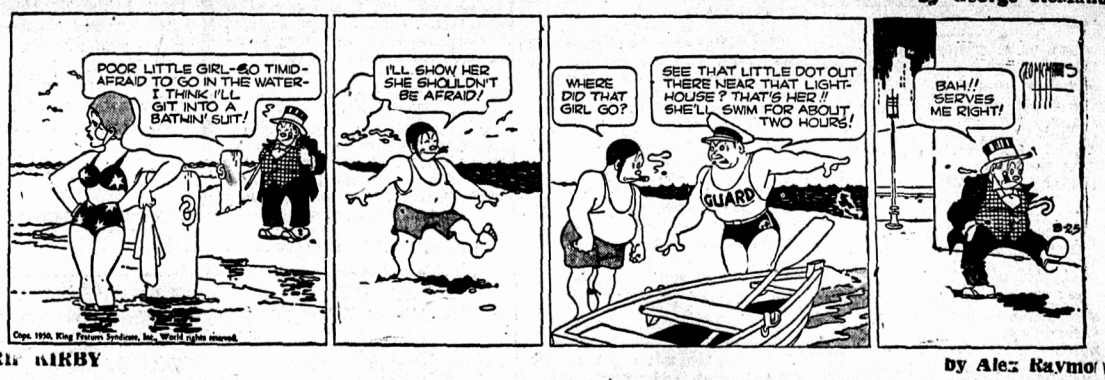


DOTTY DIPPLE

by Ruford

BRINGING UP FATHER

by George McManus



RIP KIRBY

by Alex Raymond

PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen