

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

NOTHING BUT THE BEST

May the best your efforts bless,
Be not satisfied with less.
—Old Mother Nature.

Jimmy Skunk had crawled under the fence into the Old Pasture. The first person he met there was Old Thumper, father of Mrs. Peter Rabbit. Jimmy Skunk was a gray old Rabbit who had lived in the Old Pasture all his life. He was born there. When he saw Jimmy Skunk he thumped with his stout hind feet. He has long been famous in the Old Pasture for the way in which he can thump, and does. "Howdy," said Jimmy Skunk. He didn't have to be polite to Old Jed, but he was. Jimmy believes in politeness. He says it always pays in the end. Probably he is right. Certainly he doesn't lose anything. Just try it.

"Howdy," replied Old Jed Thumper. He was polite, too. But nobody with any sense is ever impolite to Jimmy Skunk. "What are you doing over in the Old Pasture at this time of day?" asked Old Jed.

"Looking around. Just looking around," replied Jimmy Skunk. "Where are you living now?" Old Jed Thumper asked.

"Oh," replied Jimmy Skunk, "I'm living around. I'm looking around and living around too. These days home is where I curl up."

"But I thought you were living somewhere over in the Green Mea-

down," said Old Jed Thumper. Jimmy Skunk grinned. It was a rueful sort of grin. "So I was," said he.

"Then why aren't you living there now?" demanded Old Jed Thumper.

Jimmy Skunk grinned again. "There isn't room," said he. "I'm not-wanted."

"Huh! What do you care?" said Old Jed Thumper.

"I don't care," replied Jimmy Skunk. "In fact, I'm glad of it. Now I can do what I please. While I was at home I never could. No one at home can ever do just what he pleases when he wants to."

"Have you a big family?" Old Jed wanted to know. Once more Jimmy Skunk grinned. "I don't know," he confessed. "I had to leave before I found out."

"Are you looking for someone or something special over here?" asked Old Jed.

"Yes," replied Jimmy Skunk. "I'm always looking for something special."

"What?" Old Jed Thumper wanted to know.

"The best," replied Jimmy. "The best of what?" he asked.

"The best of everything or anything," replied Jimmy. "I believe the best is none too good and I'm always looking for it. But I'll take what I can find. How about the berries up here in the Old Pasture?"

"Berries," repeated Old Jed Thumper in a wondering sort of voice. "How should I know? I don't eat berries."

"Some folks don't know good things when they see them," said Jimmy Skunk.

"Do you mean me?" asked Old Jed Thumper. He thumped with his stout hind feet.

"Don't that to me!" replied Jimmy Skunk. He spoke rather sharply. At the same time he lifted his big plummy tail.

"I wasn't thumping at you," replied Old Jed Thumper hastily, his eyes fixed on that lifting tail.

"I'm glad of that," said Jimmy. "I don't like being stamped at. When there is any stamping to be done I do it myself."

This was quite true. Jimmy does stamp, and when he does it means something. He stamps with his little black front feet and it means for anyone near to watch their step. Jimmy turned now and started up an old cowpath through the bushes. "Good-by," said he over his shoulder.

"Good-by," grunted Old Jed Thumper, and he sounded as if he lectured his king and ace, but he was then reduced to clubs, and when he led a low card of that suit, declarer ducked and won the trick with dummy's queen. The important contract was fulfilled.

West should have foreseen and provided against the end-play that trapped his partner. There was no hurry about cashing the spade ace: the far better play was to return a heart or a trump. This would have led East cash all of his hearts and exit safely in spades, and eventually South would have had to lead the club suit, himself.

It is true that East could have saved himself from West's error by cashing all three high hearts before exiting with a spade, but he could not be blamed for his actual defense. It was quite possible that South had K-Q-x or K-J-x in spades, and East would then need a second heart entry for a second spade lead through the closed hand.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

EXITING

All bridge players of experience know the importance of entries, but they are not so knowledgeable regarding exit plays. Consider this case:

South dealer
East-West vulnerable.
North-South 60 on score.

985	AKQ
1042	A109
A109	Q975
Q975	AK3
AQ7	N E
853	S
763	K64
18	2
KJ10	J97
J97	KQ84
KQ84	A10

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
Pass Pass

In view of North-South's 60 score it might seem that East-West should have done some competing, but the fact was that neither of these players could well risk any action.

West felt that a trump lead was least likely to do harm, so he opened his top card in the suit. South drew a second round of trumps, then led a heart from dummy. He hoped to have the enemy "break" spades and/or clubs.

East, in with the heart queen, led his top spade, and West took declarer's jack with the queen. Now, without much thought, West cashed the spade ace and exited with a third round of the suit. Declarer, after winning with the spade king, drew West's last trump and led another heart. East col-

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wanted to add, "Good riddance." Jimmy went on his way looking for the best.

MULTISYLLABIC RULER

The ruler of the Asiatic state of Nepal is Maharajadhiraja Tribhubana Bir Bikram Jung.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1. Movable barriers
2. Plat
3. Conform
4. Revive
5. Cash
6. Immature seed
7. Sea eagle
8. Branch
9. Diocesan
10. Color, as cloth
11. Expression of disgust
12. Fresh pound
13. Fall in drops
14. Hindu garment
15. Roman pound
16. You (Old Eng.)
17. Therefore
18. Close to
19. Theater box
20. Yowl
21. Crisply envelope of a fruit
22. A machine part
23. Rivers (Dial.)
24. Shield
25. Robust
26. Booth
27. God of the sea
28. Artist's stand
29. Estimate
30. Egyptian god (poss.)
31. Unrolls

DOWN
1. Sports
2. Worship

3. Browed in
4. Fencing sword
5. Inflamed spot on eyelid
6. Thin soup
7. Rant
8. A woman graduate
9. Sick
10. Color, as cloth
11. Soak up
12. Exclamation of disgust
13. Period of time
21. Humor
22. Alcoholic liquor
23. Plant
24. Linen vestment (Ecol.)
25. Coin (Fr.)
26. Weep
27. Lubricate to him
28. Alliance
29. Quarter pints
30. Arrange in a line
31. Withers
32. Secluded valley
41. Pile of water
42. Body of water
43. Scotch cap (short.)
44. Past

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it!

AXYDLBAAXE
IS LONG FELLOW

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

OU LQNTUA NQ IQOU DNEYSF-NIA
NPP OSL WUI PEEBUANQ UNFO
BQUJ XSQO JW XSPA LMJWSLU
EUNQL

Yesterday's Cryptogram: TORN FROM THE GLITTERING BRIBERY SCORNFUL EYE—JOHNSON.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

WELL, HERE'S THE SPEED—MAYBE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MORE TROUBLE THAN JUST A LITTLE FEMININE COMPETITION!

PERHAPS—BUT IT'S ANYWAY!

LOOK, GLORIOUS! THE HALEY CAR HAS A MONSTER WITH IT! I DON'T LIKE THIS! THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS! NONE! UNDERSTANDS!

DON'T WORRY, DEARIE. I KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO YOU—AND TO MY ROCKETBOON! YOU'LL LEAVE IT TO GLORIOUS PAUL. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT WE WIN!

I TOLE YA 'T TAKE IT EASY, YA JOEK... YA GOTTA LOSE TO 'EM? HOLD BACK!

WHAACK!

THEY ALL OUT-ROVE ME!!

By Carl Anderson

By Ruford

By Edwin

By George McManus

By Westover

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