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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

A QUICK ENDING

He soon will find he has no rights Who runs away and never fights. —Rattles the Kingfisher.

Rattles the Kingfisher was fighting for his rights and those of Mrs. Rattles. Anyway he felt that they were their rights because he and Mrs. Rattles had had those little pools along Laughing Brook for fishing. Now another Kingfisher, a stranger from the other side of the Big River, had come over to fish there. Rattles was fighting him now.

You know some folks call a fight a scrap. This was a noisy scrap, a rattling scrap, for both fighters did a lot of rattling as they fought. They were right above the Smiling Pool and, of course everybody in and around it was watching. Jerry Muskrat was sitting on the roof of his house. Mrs. Quack and her ducklings were peeping out from among the rushes. Redwing the Blackbird was screaming encouragement to both from the topmost twig of an alder bush. Quack was not to care which one wins a fight so long as they keep on fighting.

Johnny Chuck hurried over to see what was going on. Peter Rabbit, over in the dear Old Briar-Patch heard the noise and his long hind feet fairly itched to take him over to the Smiling Pool, but it was broad daylight and he didn't dare cross the Green Meadows.

"I'm glad that for once you have a little sense," said Mrs. Peter. Peter said nothing but his long legs continued to itch as he listened to the harsh rattling brought to his long ears by the Merry Little Breezes.

Even Snapper the Turtle poked his head out of water and hoped that one or both of those scrappers would fall in the water. He never had had a Kingfisher dinner and would like to try one.

Which one was most likely to win the fight none could say. Rattles was a good fighter, but it seemed as if the other was just as good. Mrs. Quack hoped the Rattles would win. So did Jerry Muskrat. They were old neighbors.

Other folks didn't care. Now no one can fight and do other things at the same time. It just can't be done. Neither of those touse-headed, big-billed fighters had eyes for anyone but the other. Neither had thought for danger. It was not so with those looking on. They didn't forget. Not even a fight could make them forget to watch for possible danger. Who saw the danger first, no one knows. Mrs. Quack was sure she did. Jerry Muskrat was sure he did. Redwing the Blackbird was sure he did. The fact is that probably all saw it at the same time. Anyway, Mrs. Quack quacked very loud indeed when she tries. It was a warning to her ducklings to hide in the rushes and do it fast. It means danger, and while that warning was intended especially for the ducklings every one else who heard it knew what it meant.

Redwing the Blackbird shrieked a warning to Mrs. Redwing and dived down among the alders to safety.

Jerry Muskrat plunged from the roof of his house into the water and as he did so he slapped the water with his tail, and slapped it hard. Some folks think only Paddy the Beaver does that, but that is their mistake. Of course, Paddy, being so much bigger and having a very broad flat tail, makes a greater splash and a much louder slap. But both do these things. In many ways they have similar habits.

Now the two fighters had no eyes but for each, but this was not true of their ears. They heard the excited warnings. They didn't wait to find out what the danger was. They were too wise for that. The separated without waiting to strike another blow. The fight was over. Each had no thought for the other now, only for himself. Both darted down low over the water. Rattles, so close to the water that he almost touched it, flew straight for the little alder swamp at the head of the Smiling Pool. The other, flying just as low, headed down Laughing Brook toward the Big River.

Retail the Hawk screamed once, a scream of disappointment, and flew back to the Green Forest. He had been sure he was going to catch one or other of those fighters. Perhaps he would have but for the neighbors and their timely warnings.



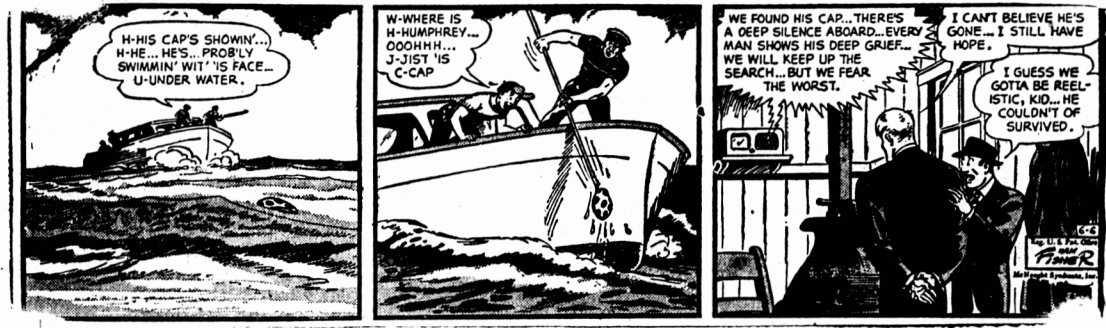
Rattles was fighting him now.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



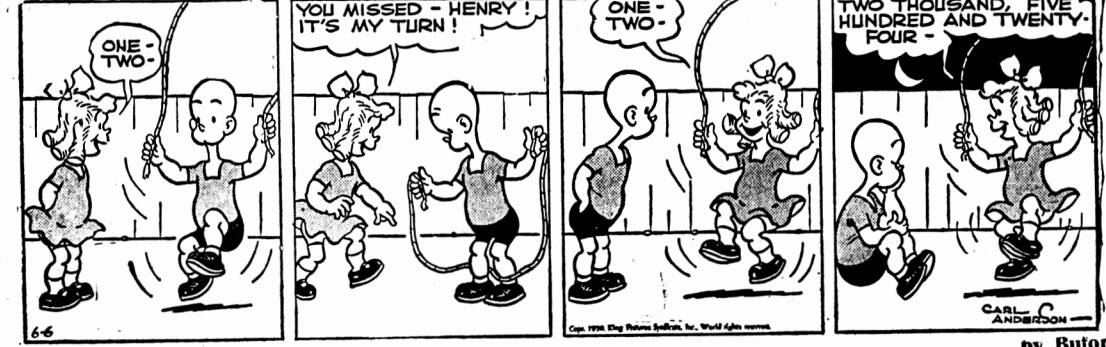
by Lane Grey

JOE PALOOKA



by Earl Kress

HENRY



by Carl Anderson

DOTTY DIPPLE



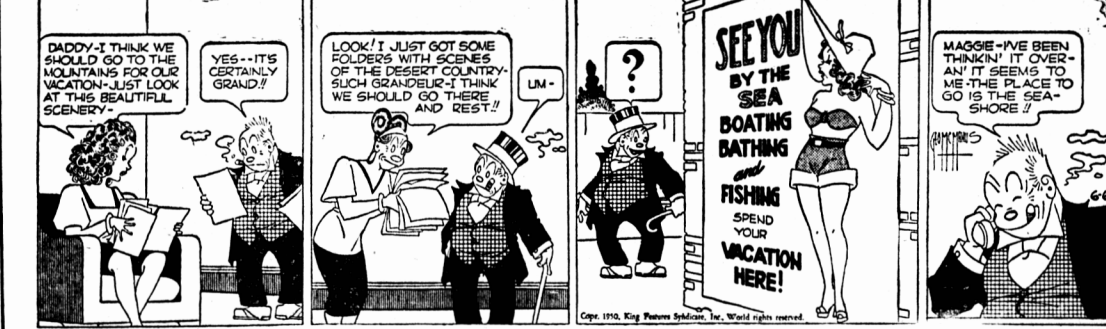
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TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



by George McManis

BRINGING UP FATHER



by George McManis

TILLIE THE TOLLER



By Harry Hoehnigen

PENNY



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DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Movable barrier
- Tab
- Taste
- Helped
- Foreboding
- Flattened at the poles
- Hebrew month
- Hallowed
- Sun god
- A painting
- Chief deity (Baby.)
- A single thread
- Chums
- Often
- (poet.)
- Project
- Fasting period
- Veherent ill will
- Grow old
- Gruffly
- Biblical city
- Male cats
- Note of scale
- Depart secretly
- Incite
- Shop
- Accumulate
- Male descendants
- Rave

DOWN

- Chees open-
- Hail!
- Heavy weight
- Comparative suffix
- Story
- Large, showy flower
- Girl's name
- Strong-winged sea bird
- Covers with soap
- Apportions, as cards
- A base silver coin (Neth.)
- Search after
- Ugly old woman
- President of U. S.
- A lot
- Makes a play on words
- Shakes
- Praises
- Heron-like birds
- Sloping roadway
- Of greatest age
- Peasants (India)
- Dwellings
- Mountain pool
- Cry of a dove
- Wine receptacle
- Forbidden
- Land-measure

Yesterday's Answer

36. Cry of a dove
37. Wine receptacle
38. Forbidden
40. Land-measure

This deal came up in a team-of-four match. At one table North-South bid only two hearts; at the other table, this was the bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

West opened the spade eight. South studied the dummy, and he could not feel very safe. There was a strong chance that the club king lay over the queen (because of East's bid), and if that was the case, there were quite a few losers!

Well, South had to try! He cashed the diamond ace and ruffed a low diamond, then led and passed the spade queen, discarding a club from dummy. East, after taking the trick, thought long and hard over what to return. It was obvious that declarer had the ace and would discard another club from dummy; then, since he was also marked with the club ace, he would be able to cross-ruff the hand. To prevent this, East laid down the ace and six of hearts.

East's plan bore bitter fruit! Dummy's heart ten won the second trump lead, and South now led and passed the diamond jack. West took his queen, but he was now helpless.

East should have realized that his trump leads would let declarer establish the diamond suit. He should have returned a spade, after taking his king, and then it would have been South who was helpless. He could indeed discard another club from dummy on his spade jack, but the cross-ruff of clubs and diamonds would then not go quite as far as South required.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
 A X Y D L B A A X R
 I S 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

K Q N S V H U K I H C H U N I N H A D I
 M K S S D I V H U N I N H A — U. D E Z K S N E I
 D A G H A N A E L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A MIND CONSCIOUS OF RIGHT LAUGHS AT THE FALSEHOODS OF RUMOUR—OVID.

L'I' ABNER

by Al Capp

RIP KIRBY

by Alex Raymond

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

HELP NEEDED

The declarer in the following deal had only one chance: to coax help from an opponent.

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 8 7 5	♥ Q 9 3	♦ Q 9 3 2	♣ 10 8 5
♠ K 10 8	♥ A J 10 7 5 4	♦ Q 6 2	♣ K 10 6
♠ N	♥ E	♦ S	♣ W
♠ Q J 9	♥ J 7 5 4 2	♦ 6	♣ A 7 4 3

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