

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

COOPERATIVE VICTORY

A fancy opening bid by South in the following deal led to a surprising victory—but only because a defender was extremely cooperative.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbles.
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

It goes without saying that the correct opening bid on South's hand was one diamond. However, South loves to experiment—largely to see whether he can get out of trouble! When North showed strong support for hearts, South decided—wisely, now—that he could well "superspread" the diamond suit, and even when East doubled four hearts, South stood fast.

West, after considerable hesitation, opened the ace of clubs and, reading his partner's eight as a singleton, continued the suit.

It was not the best defense! The club jack was put up and South ruffed away East's king. Declarer then led the diamond jack. East wasn't fooled—he played the ace—but his following shift to spades was futile. The ace was played and the good club queen led. It did not matter whether East ruffed this trick or discarded a diamond; in either case South would have no trouble holding his losses to two tricks. Actually, East ruffed, and South simply discarded his spade queen. After that South could

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE SAFE ONE

The secret to a longer life is simple living free from strife. —Miner the Mole.

Old Man Winter really had taken possession of the Green Forest and the Green Meadows, the Smiling Pool and the Big River, Laughing Brook, the Old Pasture and the Old Orchard. He had set Jack Frost at work early and hard. He had locked the Smiling Pool under hard black ice, then covered this with snow. He had done the same thing to much of the Big River and to Laughing Brook excepting where it ran too fast to be caught and held by his pinching fingers. Snow had turned white the Old Pasture, the Green Meadows and much of the Green Forest. On still-nights Jack Frost made trees crack with loud reports. At other times rough Brother North Wind roared and shrieked through them, tearing off branches and breaking down the weak.

With Old Man Winter come hard times, dangerous times, for many of the folk in fur and feathers. Danger and fear are with them every moment they are awake. It takes courage to live. Food is scarce and hard to find, yet they must find it or starve to death. Because it is so, they must take greater chances of

control any return, pick up East's trumps, and run the entire diamond suit.

West's desire to give his partner a club ruff was highly illogical. Since East had doubled four hearts, and since West was void of the suit, the presumption was that East had some good hearts. Why force him to waste them on ruffing? If East had something in diamonds and nothing in spades, it would be just too bad, but an immediate spade shift by West was vital to preserve the spade strength which East might hold.

being caught by equally hungry enemies.

A few there are for whom Old Man Winter holds no terror. Indeed, for just a few there is no other time in all the year when they are safer. In his snug bedroom down deep in the ground Johnny Chuck knows neither hunger nor fear. He sleeps, and not even Jack Frost, though he try his hardest, can pinch him or wake him up. It is the same way with Nimbleheels the Jumping Mouse, the only member of the Mouse family who has learned how to forget all troubles by sleeping through the cold weather.

All the Squirrel folk have snug homes in which in their extra warm coats they are very comfortable. They are smart enough to have stored away food in plenty, and to take chances they are quite safe from every one but rough Brother North Wind. He does sometimes blow over and break open a Squirrel home.

Paddy the Beaver and Jerry Muskrat have less to worry about than at any other time of year. They live under the ice in perfect comfort. In the same way the Meadow Mouse folk live under the snow. If they have the wisdom to stay there at all times they have little to worry about. At other times year they are in constant danger, for no other folk have more hungry enemies looking for them than have the Mouse folk.

But winter and summer, spring and fall, the really safe one is Miner the Mole. In these days of dreadful wars we hear much of living underground because it is safest there. If you are underground no enemy above can see you, no matter how sharp his eyes. Miner the Mole learned this long ago. Perhaps I shouldn't say that he learned it; he was born with the knowledge that this was the safest way to live. It was his great-great-ever-so-



In his snug bedroom down deep in the ground Johnny Chuck knows neither hunger nor fear.

great-grandfather, way back when the world was young, who learned that he who lives the safest lives the longest, and that he was safest when underground.

So Miner the Mole seldom comes above ground. He knows how to get his food in the ground, and he does get it there even Old Man Winter does his utmost to make life hard for folk in fur and feathers. Miner has tunnels, that go this way and that way just under the grass roots. Even when the ground is frozen he can travel along these tunnels if he wants to. His favorite food consists of Earthworms. When Jack Frost begins to freeze the ground the Earthworms go deeper and deeper, keeping out of his reach. Miner the Mole just digs his tunnels deeper and deeper after them. And all the time he has practically no one to be afraid of. He prefers to be alone. If you are alone you do not have to share things with others. That sounds selfish, doesn't it? But at this time of year there really isn't enough food to share with any one else, and Miner has to work hard for that little. Probably he sleeps a little when the weather is coldest, but there is little chance down where he is, and he has to keep busy.

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By Robert L. May



RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

POGO



By Walt Kelly

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By Har. Fisher



DOTTY DRIZZLE

By Robert



PENNY

By Harry Heenigsen

L'I L ABNER

By Al Capp



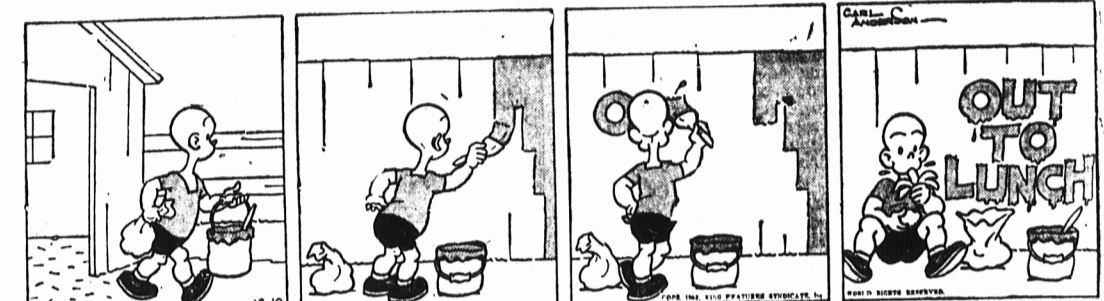
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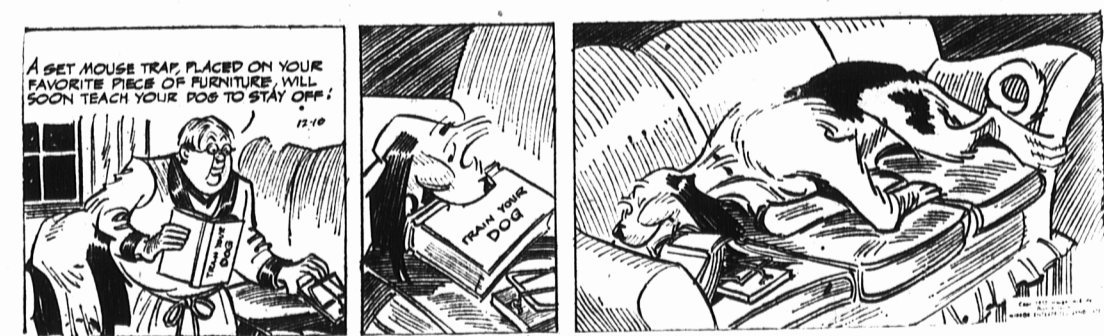
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