



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

JERRY WATCHES A FISHERMAN

When you don't know what to do, Keeping still is best for you. —Old Mother Nature

Out on a floating box in the middle of the Big River was a small person in a brown coat. He was so frightened that for a moment he couldn't move. It was Jerry Muskrat. From high above him a great Hawk with closed wings was shooting down with cruel claws set to catch him. Any way, that is what Jerry thought. At the very last instant he managed to move. With a squeal of fright he dived headlong into the water.

Splash! That was Jerry. Splash! That was the big Hawk. He disappeared under water, but in a second he was out again and flapping his way up into the air. He hadn't been after Jerry at all. He had been after a fish. You see he wasn't the kind of Hawk that catches little folk in fur or feathers. He was Plunger the Osprey, commonly called Fish Hawk. Had Jerry not been so frightened he might have recognized Plunger.

Jerry stayed under water just as long as he could. When he came up he put little more than his nose

above water, just enough so that he could breathe. Plunger was circling overhead, but not so high this time. As Jerry watched Plunger once more shot down. This time he checked himself just before touching the water, and again beat his way higher up in the air. Now Jerry knew who he was, and that there was nothing to fear from him. He sighed with relief, swam to the box, and climbed out to it again. Plunger flew low. "What in the world are you doing way out here, Jerry Muskrat?" he screamed as he flew past. He was beyond hearing before Jerry could find his tongue.

For the time being all fear had left Jerry. He knew that he had nothing to fear from Plunger, and he knew that other Hawks who might want to catch him were not likely to come around while Plunger was in the neighborhood. So Jerry sat on his box and watched Plunger the Osprey trying to get a fish for his dinner. He is a master fisherman, but even so he does not catch a fish every time he tries. No fisherman does.

That first plunge that had frightened Jerry so he had been out of luck. The fish had been too deep in the water. Twice, as Jerry watched, Plunger shot down only to check himself before reach-



This time Plunger got his fish, and it was a big fish.

ing the water. Once the fish had darted away. Once Plunger had seen in time that the fish was too deep. It was exasperating to look down and see a fish just out of reach. But like all good fishermen Plunger is a philosopher and an optimist. You know an optimist is always sure that he is going to get what he wants. Plunger is always sure that he will catch the next fish.

It was a long time before Plunger saw another fish near enough to the surface. It happened to be so near the box on which Jerry was sailing out into the Great World, that he could see the fish. Down shot Plunger. As so near that when he hit the water he made a great splash and the water splashed all over Jerry. This time Plunger got his fish, and it was a big fish. Anyway, it was a big fish for Plunger to lift and carry up into the air. He beat his wings with slow heavy strokes. He didn't fly high. In fact he flew low across the river to a dead tree where he would eat his dinner.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

NO RESISTANCE

One of the greatest advantages enjoyed by experts is that less skilled opponents seem constitutionally unable to resist winning kings with aces. For example:

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable

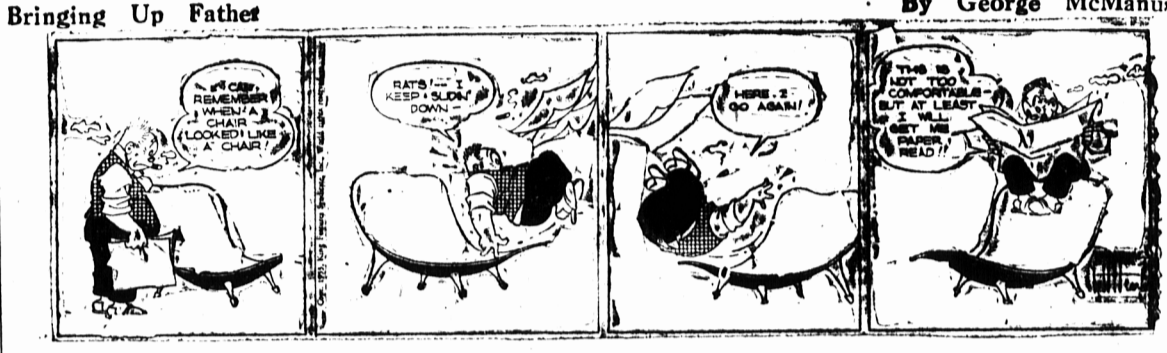
♠ K 7 6 5 3	♥ J 4	♦ J 9 8 7 4 2	♣ A 10
♠ Q 4 2	♥ 8 7 6 3 2	♦ 5	♣ K 9 6 3
♠ N	♠ W	♠ E	♠ S
♠ A 10	♠ K 8 5	♠ K 10	♠ A Q 10 7 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
3NT Pass Pass Pass

South might have made the reverse bid of two hearts over North's spade response, but there was much to be said for his actual leap to three notrump. As it happened, five diamonds would have been a far better contract, and one that would have given North no difficulty, but, in fairness, it was a difficult contract to reach. If North had persisted to four diamonds, South, with the same length in North's two suits, would have given a normal preference for the major suits, and four spades would not have been makable against the best defense.

West opened his fourth-highest heart against the notrump contract, and East smothered dummy's jack. Declarer won and correctly laid down the diamond king. East (not nearly so correctly) won with the ace and returned the heart ten. South saw that if East had a third heart there was no menace in the suit, hence the a hold-up play was not needed, so he won and led the diamond ten, overtaking with the jack to guard against the belated hold-up play by the enemy. Now it would do East no good to refuse the trick, so he won and shifted to clubs. Declarer put up the ace, cashed the top spades, then ran the diamonds. Nine tricks were in. If East had made a supremely logical hold-up on the first lead of diamonds, the outcome would have been different.

YARMOUTH, N. S. (CP)—The fireman with the longest service here, 92-year-old George Meisner was honored with a presentation by fellow-members of the Neptune Markland fire company at the annual fall outing. Meisner is leaving shortly to live in Sydney Mines, N. S.



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