

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

UNC' BILLY FINDS OUT

Life is real and life is stern; There's something new each day to learn. —Unc' Billy Possum.

Unc' Billy Possum was a scared Possum. Yes, sir, he was a scared Possum. Of course this was nothing new for Unc' Billy. He has been a scared Possum more times than he can remember. Being scared is part of everyday life, not only with Unc' Billy but with most of the little people in the Green Forest and in the Green Meadows. This time it was Buster Bear who was giving Unc' Billy a scare. Unc' Billy was in a hollow stub of a dead tree, a big, tall stub. Buster Bear had tried to pull him out but couldn't reach him. Now he was trying something else. He was trying to push or pull that dead tree over, and Unc' Billy was getting a shaking up.

You see, Buster was rocking that stub back and forth. You know he is very, very strong. Being inside Unc' Billy couldn't see what was going on and he wondered. All the time he was growing more and more scared and there wasn't a thing in the world he could do about it. So he shivered and shook as the tree was shaken. Buster Bear was getting madder and madder. Folks often get that way when they are trying to do things and can't do them. Buster was growling and snarling. Finally he stopped trying to pull that stub over. Once more he climbed up to the top and there tried to tear out great pieces. If he couldn't push it over, he would tear it apart — if he could.

Now Buster Bear had broken some of the old roots of that dead tree and he had loosened it. If he had had patience enough to keep on trying he might have pushed or pulled it over. But Buster is one of those people in whom patience never lasts long. So now here he was back up at the top of that tree trying to tear it apart. As you know, Buster is big. Only Flat Horns the Moose is bigger among the Green Forest folks. Being so big, of course, Buster is very heavy. All of a sudden Unc' Billy down inside heard a sharp cracking and snapping, then over went that tree with a crash. You see, Buster had loosened it so that with his weight at the top it could no longer stand. Of course Buster fell with the tree. That didn't trouble him much. All his life Buster Bear has fallen or dropped out of trees without getting hurt. Sometimes when he is in a hurry to get down out of a tree he just lets go and drops. So a fall like this didn't bother Buster at all, excepting that it did upset him. He scrambled to his feet and turned to see just what had happened. "Now I'll get that fellow," growl-



Buster Bear was getting madder and madder.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

IGNORING ALL WARNINGS

All experienced players know that when their own hands are "freakish," there are apt to be unusual breaks in several, perhaps in all, of the suits. This, of course, is simply a matter of arithmetic. If South, let us say, sees 12 cards of one suit in his own hand and dummy, the opponents must have extra length in other suits to make up their deficiency in the North-South suit. To know this is to allow for it whenever possible.

In today's deal, however, South had other evidence besides that in front of his eyes: he should have paid more attention to the opposing bidding!

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

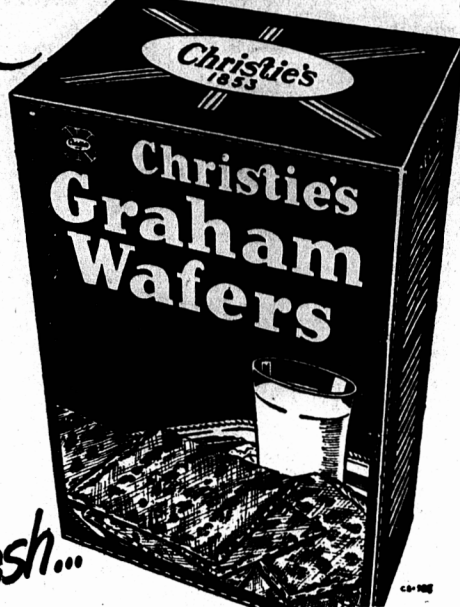
♠	A Q 9 8 5 3 2	♠	K J 10 7
♥	A J 10 9	♥	K 8 7 6 5
♦	K Q J 9	♦	10 5
♣	7 3	♣	4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	2 ♠	Dble.
Redbl.	3 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass

Sure! West's bidding should have been a strident warning to South, but, after the opening lead of the club King, South proceeded in routine fashion. Winning with the club ace, he immediately led a trump — and his contract became

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hopeless! West took his blank ace and forced dummy with a club. Now, when South cashed the ace of spades, he got the bad news that the spade suit could not be established, and he could ruff only two of his own three remaining losers in dummy.

In view of the "freak" which West's bidding had clearly disclosed, South should have thought matters over more carefully. Presumably, he was afraid to lead a spade immediately because an opponent might ruff, but surely, only West, not East, could be void of spades on this bidding! That being so, declarer's second-trick play

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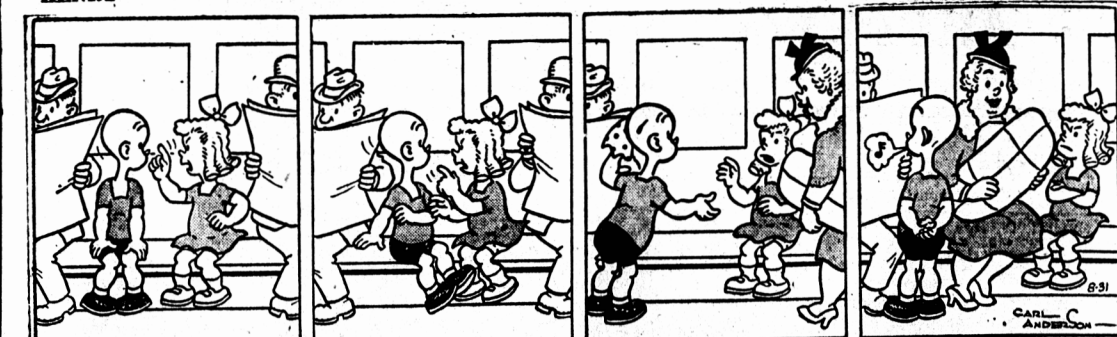
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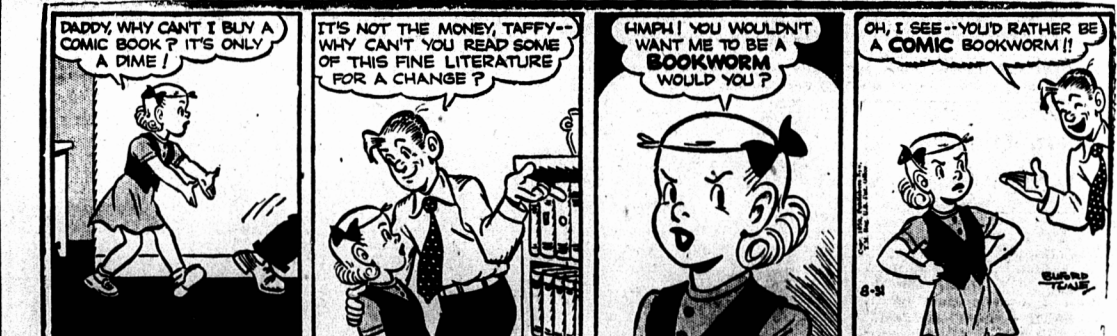
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The Neighbors By George Clark

Back when boys called on us they had to wait while we settled ourselves up.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Largest of parrots
6. Apple seed
9. Capital (Cuba)
10. Wild ox of Celebes
12. Hebrew letter
13. Stone-mason's bench
15. Distress signal
16. Stop
17. Species of Polynesian tree
18. Liberal
20. Little girl
21. Expression of disgust
22. Confront
23. Steeply
26. Heavenly joy
27. Kettles
28. A genus of grasses
29. Unit of work
30. Conspirator
34. Land-measure
35. Wet thoroughly
36. Island (Fr.)
37. English painter
39. German river
40. Portico (Gr. arch.)
41. A woman's geometric
43. Weaken
44. Garb

DOWN

1. Chief magistrate of city
2. Dispatch boat
3. Container
4. Indefinite article
5. River (U. S.)
6. Fluid
7. Writing
8. Rules and principles of poetry
9. Book clasp
11. Springs forth
14. Malt
16. Immense
19. Animal pelts
20. A capuchin monkey
22. Apartment
23. Slender stalks of grass
24. Brightly-colored birds
25. Low pasture
26. A volume
28. Engaged, as in a game
30. American poet
31. Money drawers
32. Island (N. E.)
39. One who excels
42. Biblical city
35. Brittle cookie
38. Extinct bird
39. One who excels
42. Biblical city

Yesterday's Answer

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y Z B A X K
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
"ORGLC" WIZ ERDS CIJWFRWE
WLEMC LGG WLEM LWF FIIV—GM
BLOGRMWWM.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: DANGER DEVISETH SHIFTS; WIT WAITS ON FEAR—SHAKESPEARE.