

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE HANDSOME STRANGER

Too often looks for little count. To less than nothing they amount. —Old Mother Nature.

Too-Smart was jealous. There was no doubt about that. And he was growing more jealous all the time. The strange fox that he thought had left the neighborhood had done nothing of the kind. For several days Too-Smart ran across signs of his presence before he saw him. Soft-Eyes, who had seen him the first day, had said that he was handsome. When at last Too-Smart did see him, he had to admit to himself that Soft-Eyes was right.

The young fox will never forget his first glimpse of the stranger. He happened to be standing where the sun shone on him, and Too-Smart didn't know what to think. To begin with the stranger was big and young. Too-Smart had never seen a fox like him. The stranger was not wearing a red

coat, nor was he wearing a gray coat. His coat was what might be called silvery black. When the sun wasn't shining fully on him and when he was at a distance, he seemed to be dressed in just black. He was all black excepting white near the end of his tail. But in the sun, and especially when near at hand, that black coat seemed to be frosted. That is, he looked silvery. It was a very lovely coat. It is no wonder that Soft-Eyes said that the stranger was handsome. As he stood staring at the stranger, Too-Smart forgot that he was jealous. He forgot that he had declared that he would drive this stranger out of the neighborhood. He stared most impolitely, and there was something very much like admiration in his eyes.

At length he found his voice. "Who are you?" he demanded. "I'm Silver Fox," said the stranger. "What branch of the family do you belong to?" asked Too-Smart. "The same branch you do," re-



"Who are you?" he demanded.

plied the stranger. "No such thing. You can't. I'm a red fox, as any one would know just by looking at me. You haven't a red hair in your coat, so you can't be a red fox. You can't be a gray fox either. Red foxes and gray foxes are the only foxes around here," declared Too-Smart.

The black stranger grinned. "Say, you," he replied. "But that doesn't alter the fact that I belong to the red branch of the family just as much as you do. My father wears a red coat, my mother wears a red coat, all my brothers and sisters wear red coats. Underneath this black coat of mine I'm just the same as they are. I'm just a red fox in a black coat. Why Mother Nature gave me a black coat, I don't know; but she did, and that is all there is to it."

While they had been talking, the sun had been behind a cloud. Now it shone fully on the handsome stranger. And once more he had that frosted look, as if he was silvered over. Too-Smart mentioned it. "It is because the long hairs of my coat are tipped with white," explained the stranger. "You don't see that at a distance; but when I am near enough and the sun is shining, my coat looks silvery. I wish my coat looks silvery. I wish it was red like the coats of all the rest of the family," he added wistfully.

The Theatre Francais in Paris was founded in 1789 by the French actor Francois Talma.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A COSTLY PHILOSOPHY

Some players—not the very best—treat a "change of suits" by the opening bidder as an artificial means of announcing a better-than-minimum hand.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Dbie.	2♠	Pass
Pass			

Like most artificial devices, this one has an extremely serious defect. It leads to the sort of absurdity in which North-South were involved below.

It is true that South could have saved himself by running to three diamonds after West's double, but it is equally true that South could not have the faintest idea whether or not this course would be jumping from the flying pan to the fire.

The real error was in the two-heart bid—or rather, in the system that South himself had elected to play. Obviously, if his philosophy had permitted him to bid two diamonds, nothing could have happened to him, but when he felt obligated to "sign off" by rebidding the first-named suit, he was simply flirting with disaster. Certainly, North had no option but to pass over the two-heart double!

West opened the club king, then led the ace and jack. East eyed look with the club queen, and South ruffed. A spade lead to the king now gave declarer quite a shock, because East turned up with the ace and promptly sent back the nine of trumps. Declarer ducked, but put up the ace on East's following play of the heart five. South collected the ace and king of diamonds, then, hoping to get home another trump, ruffed a club. West overruled, drew South's last trump, then led the queen and ten of spades, and East accounted for the rest of the tricks. Down four, 1,100—and on a contract for only eight tricks!

By Alex Raymond

THROAT SORE?
for common ordinary sore throat
JUST RUB ON
MINARD'S
"KING OF PAIN"
LINIMENT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TUBERCULOSIS LEAGUE

FREE CHEST X-RAY CENTRE

Help to fight TB by having your 1954 chest X-ray now. All Charlottetown residents, six years of age and over, should have an X-ray.

X-RAY CENTRE WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM
Monday to Friday—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday—9:00 a.m. to Noon.
at
TB League's Office—84 Kent St.—Opposite CFCY

CLASSES BEGIN
NIGHT SCHOOL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
7:30 to 9:30 P.M.
Typewriting — Bookkeeping — Shorthand
UNION COMMERCIAL COLLEGE
Royal Bank Bldg. — Phone 3285

Rip Kirby



By Zane Grey



By Ham Fisher



LM Abner



By Al Capp

Tilly The Toiler



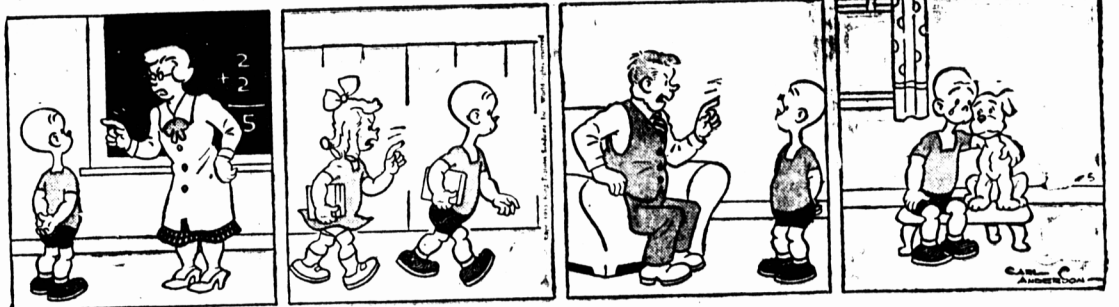
By Bob Gustafson

Napoleon and Uncle Elby



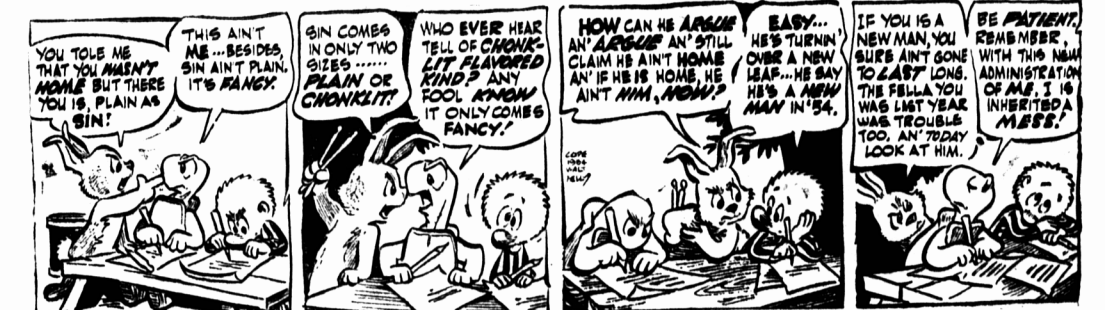
By Clifford McBride

Henry



By Carl Anderson

Pogo



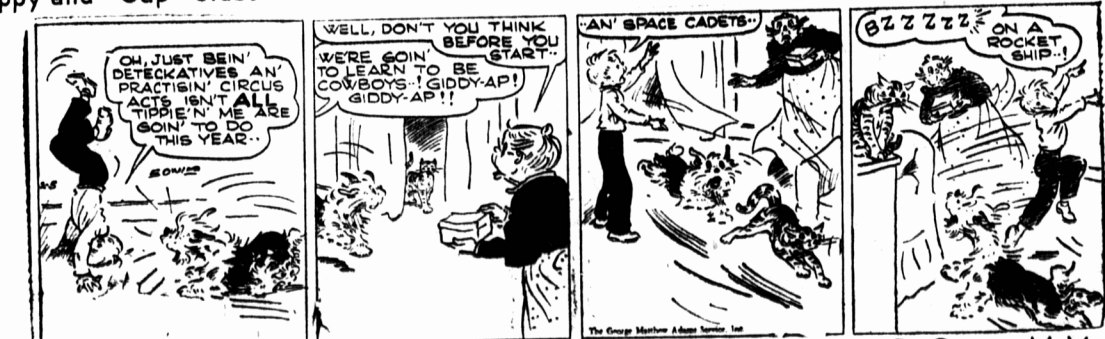
By Walt Kelly

Dotty Dripple



By Buford

Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



By Edwina

Bringing Up Father



By George McManus

PENNY



By Harry Hoenigsen