

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE HAPPY CATASTROPHE

When e'er disaster shall attend
Be sure some good is in the end.
—Old Mr. Toad.

Looking from the dear Old Briar-patch across the Green Meadows Peter Rabbit could just see Farmer Brown's garden. It was quite a long distance away, but when Farmer Brown or Farmer Brown's Boy happened to be working there Peter could see them. This morning, as he sat just outside the dear Old Briar-patch, he saw Farmer Brown's Boy go into the garden and to the far corner where there was a big pit into which Old Mr. Toad had fallen. Farmer Brown's Boy had a shovel. What was he going to do with that shovel? Peter sat up as straight as he could. Then he actually stood up



He landed in a pile of sand outside.

on his feet, the better to see.

Farmer Brown's Boy jumped in that pit. "Oh!" exclaimed Peter.

"Now what is it?" asked little Mrs. Peter, coming up behind him.

"It's Farmer Brown's Boy," said Peter.

"Well, what if it is?" asked Mrs. Peter.

"He's beginning to dig in that hole," said Peter, and he sounded worried.

"What of it?" cried Mrs. Peter.

"Old Mr. Toad!" exclaimed Peter.

"That's what of it."

Little Mrs. Peter looked a bit puzzled. "Why should you worry about Old Mr. Toad?" she asked.

"He's an old friend" replied Peter.

er. "I would hate to see anything dreadful happen to him."
"Farmer Brown's Boy won't hurt him. You know that as well as I do. He never hurts anybody," said Mrs. Peter.

"He won't if he knows Old Mr. Toad is there, but he might step on him without seeing him!" cried Peter.

Just then Farmer Brown's Boy started to work. He threw a shovelful of earth out of the hole. He stopped to lift another shovelful to throw it out. Peter could stand it no longer. What if he should dig up Old Mr. Toad? He started across the Green Meadows. Little Mrs. Peter stamped. She stamped hard. Peter heard that thump and knew what it meant. He stopped and looked back.

"Are you crazy?" demanded little Mrs. Peter, and stamped a foot again.

Peter looked a little sheepish. "I-I-I just have to know what is happening to Old Mr. Toad," said he.

"You'll find something happening to you instead. There's Reddy Fox watching you this very minute," said Mrs. Peter.

Peter sighed heavily. Slowly he hopped back to the dear Old Briar-patch. It would never do to try to cross the Green Meadows in broad daylight with Reddy Fox watching. He would just have to wait to find out what had happened or what was happening to Old Mr. Toad.

Poor Old Mr. Toad. When Farmer Brown's Boy had jumped down in that pit to dig it deeper. Old Mr. Toad was partly buried in the sand at the bottom. Farmer Brown's Boy didn't see him. He dug a spadeful of sand right close to Old Mr. Toad, and threw it out of the hole. He drove the shovel into the earth again and took out another shovelful. With it was Old Mr. Toad. Was he frightened. This was a catastrophe. This great big word simply means that a terrible thing had happened, or at least something that seemed terrible had happened. Up through the air in the middle of all that sand, sailed Old Mr. Toad. It was the nearest to flying that he had ever experienced. He landed on a pile of sand outside, and then all that sand that was in the shovel came down on top of him. That would have been a terrible thing for you or for me, but it wasn't so for Old Mr. Toad. Right away he began to dig his way out. It took him almost no time at all. His fright gave way to sudden joy. He was out of that pit! And off he started, hop, hop, nipity hop, straight for the Smiling Pool and Mrs. Toad. Farmer Brown's Boy didn't see him at all.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Calbertson

THE TEST OF A PLAY

In a great many situations a defender can't tell whether or not a certain play will gain a trick, but he should nevertheless make that play because it cannot lose. Observe the following case.

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
Match-point duplicate.

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

At one table the bidding proceeded:
East South West North
1♠ Dbie. Redbl. Pass
Pass 1NT Dbie. Pass
Pass 2♦ Pass Pass
Dbie. Pass Pass
East's double of two diamonds was "brave," but properly followed up in the defensive play, it should have worked out excellently.

West opened the three of spades—the conventional lead from an honor in the suit bid by partner. Dummy played low, and East rather reluctantly parted with his ace. A low diamond return was taken by declarer, who led back a heart. East won and continued the good idea of attacking trumps, leading his other low card. South won this trick also, then ruffed a heart in dummy. South tried to return to his own hand by leading a club, but East played the jack and South's king was smothered. West then put his partner in by returning a queen, and East cashed the diamond club to prevent another heart ruff on the board. The upshot was that the defenders won seven tricks—one spade, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs—but the 300-point penalty did not compare well with the many no-trump games made by East-West pairs at other tables.

This particular East-West pair had lost top-score when East put up the spade ace at the first trick! Nothing was to be gained by that play. Observe that if East had put in the spade eight and the defenders had then strictly avoided a second lead of spades, forcing declarer to lead the suit himself at some point or other, the penalty would have been three tricks, 500 points.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zan Grey



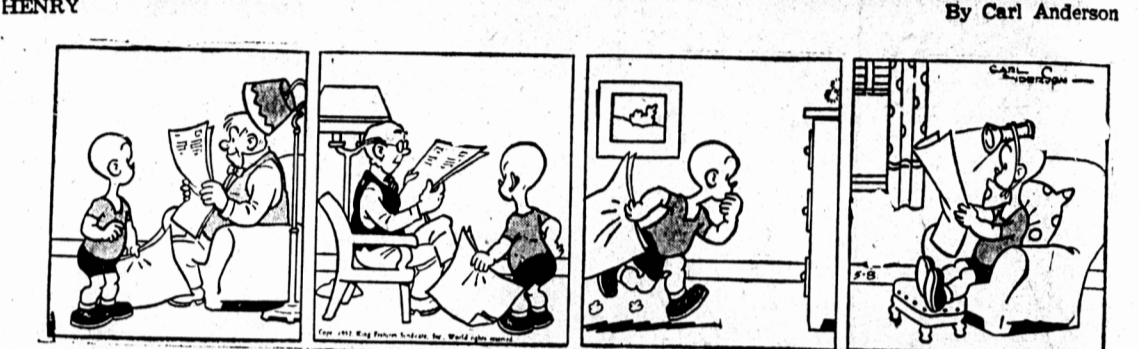
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



PENNY

By Harry Hoegen



HOLSTEIN MEETING

A meeting of the shareholders of the P. E. I. Superior Holstein Bull Club will be held in the Provincial Exhibition Office, Pickard bldg., on Saturday, May 10th, at 8 p.m.

CECIL J. STEWART,
Secretary.

Regular Monthly Meeting
GARRISON OFFICERS MESS
AT 2100 Hours,
THURSDAY, 8th MAY 52

ANNUAL MEETING
L. P. U.
Will Be Held
FRIDAY, MAY 9th, AT 7:30 P.M.
Election of Officers and Other Business.
All members are urged to be present.
BY ORDER OF PRESIDENT.

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Coca-Cola

POGO

By Walt Kelly

Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride

LIL ABNER

By Al Capp

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond