

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

MRS. HUMMER'S SECRET

Some things too precious are to share with those who do not deeply care.

—Mrs. Hummer.

Hummer the Hummingbird is vain. He seems to know that he is a sort of living jewel. He loves the sunshine because in it he always looks his best. He delights in showing off. He knows how beautiful he is and he wants others to admire him as he admires himself. Some folks are like this.

Hummer had been showing off especially for Mrs. Hummer. Secretly she admired him quite as much as he wanted to let her know it. She pretended not to be watching him. The more she pre-

tended not to watch him, the more he tried to show off how handsome and wonderful he was. This of course was just what she wanted.

But there came a day when she no longer pretended not to watch him. She simply didn't watch him. While he was doing some wonderful stunts in flying, she slipped away unnoticed. When he had finished showing off and came to sit near her hiding place to be admired, she wasn't there.

He waited and waited. She didn't come back. He took to those wonderful wings of his, flying this way and that way and all the time using those bright little eyes of his in search of Mrs. Hummer. He didn't find her. He returned to his favorite perch on a small dead twig. He was disconsolate, which means that he was upset, disap-



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pointed and uncertain. He wanted to be admired by Mrs. Hummer and she wasn't there to admire him. Where could she be? Why didn't she return? He waited what seemed to him a very long time. It really wasn't very long. Then he darted away to the nearest flowering for a drink of nectar. That wonderful sweetness that flowers hold in their hearts. Perhaps he found some tiny insects there too, for he does not live altogether on nectar. I suspect he wouldn't live long if he tried to do that. There can be too much sweetness, you know. He flew back to look for Mrs. Hummer. He didn't find her. What do you think he did then? He flew away to look for another admirer. All the time Mrs. Hummer was watching him.

"Now that he has gone I hope he'll stay away," said Mrs. Hummer to no one in particular. "Why?" asked Peter Rabbit, who happened to be just below where she was perched.

"Because I have too much to do to be bothered by him," squeaked tiny Mrs. Hummer. It is a curious fact that it seems as if the smaller folks are the squeakier their voices are.

"What in the world do you have to do?" asked Peter.

"I have to build a nest if you must know," squeaked Mrs. Hummer.

"But this is the middle of summer!" cried Peter, as if he could hardly believe what Mrs. Hummer had said.

"What of it?" replied Mrs. Hummer. "Aren't you rather late in nesting? Most of the birds I know are through with family cares," replied Peter.

"Mrs. Goldfinch isn't through. Neither are the Waxwings," retorted little Mrs. Hummer.

"I suppose Mr. Hummer will help you build the nest," said Peter.

"He help? He never did any work in his life. If he were around he would be a nuisance instead of help. All he thinks about is himself and how fine he looks and how wonderful he is," Mrs. Hummer spoke a little scornfully. Then she added fondly, "But he is wonderful, isn't he?"

"Where are you going to build your nest?" asked Peter.

"That's my secret," squeaked little Mrs. Hummer, and darted away.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

PERFECT TECHNIQUE

South's play of the following hand was exemplary.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

♠ 10 7 5
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ A 8 5
♣ 8 6

♠ 9 4
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 10 7 3 2
♣ J 10 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

It is always questionable to lead from a four-card suit headed by a tenace, against the sort of bidding in this deal, but West was conventional. He opened the spade ace. The five was played from dummy and declarer took East's nine with the queen.

Since there was only one sure entry to dummy, declarer properly started the heart suit from his own hand, hoping that the defenders would be kind enough to take the king when it was offered to them. West, however, shrewdly held up his ace. (Had he accepted it, declarer's problem would have become easy.) A second heart lead, ducked by West, lost to East's queen, and a spade was returned, declarer ducking and the trick going to West's jack.

West now shifted to a diamond. South won with the king and led a low club, away from the ace-king. East won and returned a diamond, declarer again winning in his own hand. The ace-king of clubs were cashed and declarer's last diamond was led to dummy's ace.

Now that West's minor-suit cards had been extracted (which meant that he had no safe exit), the heart jack was played, South discarding his last club. This "fixed" West, who had to return a spade from the king to declarer's combined tenace. Since declarer had the ace-eight in his own hand, it did not matter which spade West led — if the king, declarer could cash the ace-eight if a low spade, dummy's ten would hold and the established hearts could be cashed.

LEAVE FOR NEW YORK

CHERBOURG, France, Sept. 7. — (Reuters) — Premier Alcide De Gasperi of Italy, his wife, and a party of advisers, embarked tonight in the liner Queen Elizabeth to-night for New York. De Gasperi is to attend the Atlantic Pact council meeting in Ottawa. He told reporters he also hoped to confer with President Truman in Washington.

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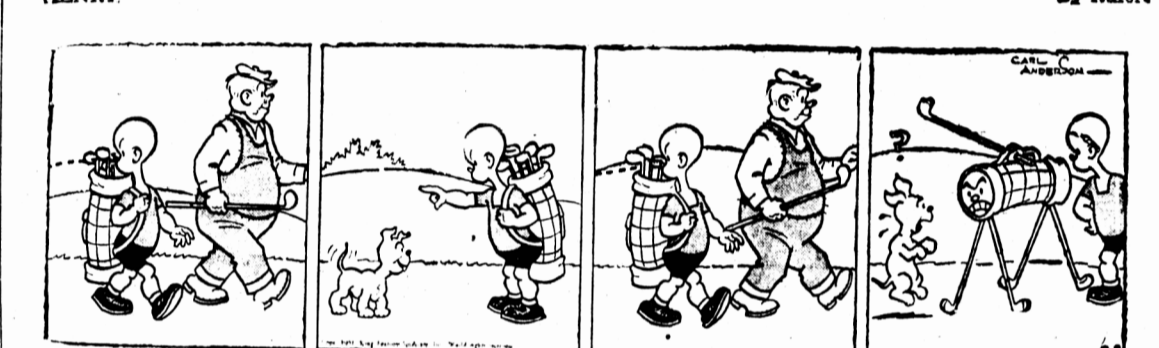
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