

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

MRS. HUMMER GETS INTO TROUBLE

Headlessness is tempting fate. For it trouble lies in wait. —Old Mother Nature

Little Mrs. Hummer the Hummingbird is so very small that she cannot afford to be heedless or careless. But when no one can afford to be heedless or careless you see, trouble is always lurking somewhere around. Even the biggest folks and the strongest folks get into trouble through being heedless and careless, thinking they know all there is to know, which is something nobody knows.

Little Mrs. Hummer was patiently sitting on two precious eggs, tiny eggs no bigger than small beans. She left them only to get the food she must have. Everybody has to have food. Sitting there in her dainty little nest, which from the ground looked for all the world like a knot on the branch of the tree, she did a lot of daydreaming, as mothers are very apt to do. I suspect that when she left the nest to get some nectar from deep-throated flowers and some small insects, she carried these day-dreams with her. Probably nowhere in all the



She couldn't fly with those burrs clinging to her wings.

Great World is there any one for whom trouble is not lying in wait. Small feathered and furred folk always have hungry bigger folk looking for them. So they must always be watching for danger. But hungry folk looking for them are not the only dangers. Accidents happen just as they do to boys and girls and older folk. So they must be watchful lest they run or fly into trouble.

The Hummingbird folk are so small, so swift of wing, so quick in all their movements, that they are in less danger from hungry hunters than are many bigger feathered folk. On the other hand they have to watch out for dangers that bigger folk do not know. Moving as quickly as they do they must constantly be on watch with those tiny bright eyes of theirs lest in a moment of heedlessness or carelessness they fly into lurking trouble.

This morning little Mrs. Hummer was in hurry to get her breakfast and get back to those precious eggs. Perhaps she was still dreaming of the wee babies that would come from those tiny eggs. Anyway she flew after a tiny fly that had flown among the leaves of a big plant, a plant called burdock. Perhaps you know what the burrs are like that grow on this plant, and how they cling to your clothes if you brush against them. Perhaps you have stuck them together to make balls, or even little baskets. You wouldn't suspect them of being anything but a nuisance by sticking to your clothes. But then you are not tiny like little Mrs. Hummer. Every time she brushed against some of those burrs and they clung to her wings.

She forgot all about that escaping fly. She was in trouble, very real trouble. She couldn't fly with those burrs clinging to her wings. No, sir, she couldn't fly. She was a sort of prisoner of those burrs. It was one of the worst things that could happen to her. Yes, sir, it was so. All she could do was to flop about helplessly on the ground. She couldn't walk about. Her legs are too short and her feet too tiny for walking. They are so tiny that some folks think a Hummingbird cannot even perch. But this is a mistake, a very great mistake. Hummingbirds delight to rest perched on small twigs that those tiny feet can grasp. Often they perch on a telephone wire. Poor little Mrs. Hummer! There was nothing she could do to help herself. Work as she did she couldn't free herself of those terrible burrs that bound her wing feathers together. Not only was she in the greatest danger herself, but those precious eggs might get chilled and there would be no Hummingbirds hatched from them. She beat her wings frantically, but they couldn't lift her. All she could do was to make a rustling sound in the dry leaves. Poor Mrs. Hummer!

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

THAT "EXTRA CHANCE"
In the following deal South thought he had a grievance because a key suit failed to break. Actually, however, he should have been grateful for the good luck of the opening lead!

North dealer
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

South hesitated quite a while over five hearts, obviously tempted to try for a grand slam, but he finally decided to be "conservative." West, figuratively tossing a coin between spades and diamonds, the unbid suits, opened a low spade, and declarer reached for dummy's ace without a moment's consideration. He drew the outstanding trumps, then confidently started to establish dummy's clubs. This confidence was obviously misplaced, however — West's two stoppers in the club suit formed an insurmountable barrier.

If South had had no other chance for his contract than to set up the clubs, he would have had a valid cause for complaint against "luck," but the fact is that he did have another chance — one which amounted to a sort of safety play.

The right plan was to duck the opening spade lead! Suppose that East produced the king — what of it? South could always discard a club on the spade ace and in that way lose no club trick, and if the hoped-for 3-2 club break existed, he would set up dummy's suit via one ruff and discard his two losing diamonds. In short, the spade finesse could not cost anything, and it would give South an extra chance against the possibility that clubs were divided 4-1.

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KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



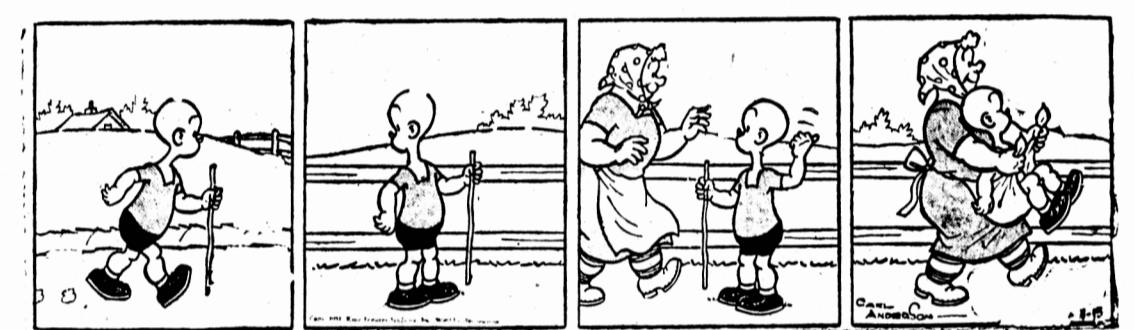
JOE PALOOKA



DOTTY DIPPLE



HENRY



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



BRINGING UP FATHER



TILLY THE TOILER



PENNY



NOTICE TO TEACHERS

Teachers who have contracted to teach for the present school year and who have not forwarded Notice of Engagement to the Department of Education, are urged to do so immediately. Salary payments cannot be made promptly at the end of this month unless these forms are received by September 20th.

L. W. SHAW,
Deputy Minister and
Director of Education.

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