

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

HAPPY ANXIETY

Frequently is worry sent, And with happiness is blent. —Old Mother Nature.

For nearly four long weeks, Mrs. Grouse had been patiently sitting on ten precious eggs in a nest at the foot of a tall pine tree in the Green Forest. She had seldom left those eggs except to get her food. Those eggs were too precious to be left except when necessary. There were times when she would have liked to leave the nest to stretch

her legs. Legs can get very stiff when not used for a long time. When she did leave the nest, she carefully covered those eggs with leaves.

More than once Mrs. Grouse had held her breath when Jimmy Skunk, or Reddy Fox, or Old Man Coyote or Gray Fox had passed only a few feet away without suspecting she was near. The rustling of a leaf might have given her away, she and her secret. High up in that same tree at the foot of which she had made her nest, Redtail the Hawk and Mrs. Redtail had been raising a family without once suspecting the nest down below. Those four weeks had been excitingly quiet.

This morning, very early, when Mrs. Grouse had started to turn her legs as is the way with all good bird mothers, she had discovered one with a tiny hole in it. Her heart had leaped with joy. That tiny hole had been made from the inside, and that meant that very shortly a baby would be out in the Great World. That baby was breaking that shell from the inside. It also meant that there would be more babies cracking shells very shortly. This was the day, the wonderful day, that Mrs. Grouse had worked and waited so patiently and so long for. It would be the birthday of ten babies. Any way, that is what she hoped.

Mrs. Grouse didn't go looking for food that day. She was too worried to do that. She couldn't bring herself to leave those eggs even for a moment, now that the babies were almost ready to come out into the Great World. Never



At long last Redtail and Mrs. Redtail left.

had she been more worried, yet never had she been happier. Her very happiness was the cause of her worry. It is always that way with mother love. A mother may be worried half to death, yet at the same time be completely happy. So it was with Mrs. Grouse.

One by one, the eggs hatched. One by one, the dandiest small bird babies in all the Great World came out of the broken eggshells, and nestled under the fluffed-out feathers of mother. With each one her happiness increased. So did her anxiety. All ten eggs hatched, for she had taken the greatest care of them. By the time the Black shadows came creeping through the Green Forest to warn that another day was over, Mrs. Grouse no longer had ten precious eggs under her. She had ten separate worries, and was also ten times as happy as she had been before.

Very early the next morning, Mrs. Grouse began to fuss about without making any more disturbance than she had to. She was making ready to lead her ten happy youngsters up into the Great World. She was waiting only for her neighbors up above, Redtail the Hawk and Mrs. Redtail to go off hunting as they did every morning. As soon as she was sure that they had gone, she would leave, and lead her precious ones away from that neighborhood. It seemed to her that those two hunters up above never would start. All the time beneath her spread constant wings there was a constant stirring. Those babies wanted to be out, and she knew they would be out shortly in spite of all she could do.

At long last Redtail and Mrs. Redtail left. Hardly had they gone before the first of the babies were running out from under Mrs. Grouse and trying out their little legs around the nest. At that very instant there was a whirl of stout wings and Thunderer, the father of all those babies, arrived in a little opening among the trees. Thunderer stood stock-still and stared. Mrs. Grouse looked very

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton

THEORY VS. FACT

The theoretically best contract does not always turn out best! That fact was demonstrated in the following hand in a team-of-four contest.

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

ed, South opened with one spade, received a single raise from North, and jumped to four spades. The opponents were quiet throughout.

West's opening lead was the six of hearts. South took East's king and immediately played the heart jack. West won and, with the idea that South might be trying for a quick club discard on the heart ten, shifted to a club. This, however, was all the better for declarer, now he could afford the. When the board was first played, South opened with one spade, received a single raise from North, and jumped to four spades. The opponents were quiet throughout.

At the other table South opened with one notrump, received a single raise, and, "suppressing" the spade suit, went on to three notrump.

Here also the opening lead was the six of hearts. South captured East's king, led a diamond to the king and let the club queen ride for a finesse. West took the trick and, to maintain communication with his partner, led another low heart. The defense was then ready to operate. East went in with his ace on the first lead of spades, and his heart return gave West three tricks in the suit.

This South could have played his notrump contract to better advantage. If he had led even one spade from dummy before touching the club suit, he would have put the defenders in a very bad position. If East put up the spade ace, declarer would find it easy to make four spade tricks, and so would not need anything else but his high cards; and if East ducked the first spade lead, declarer, with a spade trick home, could clear the club suit (or continue with spade leads from dummy) and easily fulfill the contract.

provid as she fussed over the babies. "Aren't they lovely?" she asked. "Whose are they?" asked Thunderer. "Wasn't that a foolish question?" "Yours!" replied Mrs. Grouse tartly, "and you're just in time to help take care of them."

King Of The Royal Mounted



By Alex Raymond

Rip Kirby



By Ham Fisher

Joe Palooka



By Clifford McBride

Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Walt Kelly

Pogo



By Edwina

Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



By George McManus

Bringing Up Father



By Harry Rosenfeld

Penny



You cant go ALL-OUT



These days most people work under pressure, worry more, sleep less. This strain on body and brain makes physical fitness easier to lose—harder to regain. Today's tense living, lowered resistance, overwork, worry—any of these may affect normal kidney action. When kidneys get out of order, excess acids and wastes remain in the system. Then backache, disturbed rest, that "tired-out" heavy-headed feeling often follow. That's the time to take Dodd's Kidney Pills. Dodd's stimulate the kidneys to normal action. Then you feel better—sleep better—work better. Ask for Dodd's Kidney Pills at any drug counter.

HANDS TIED?

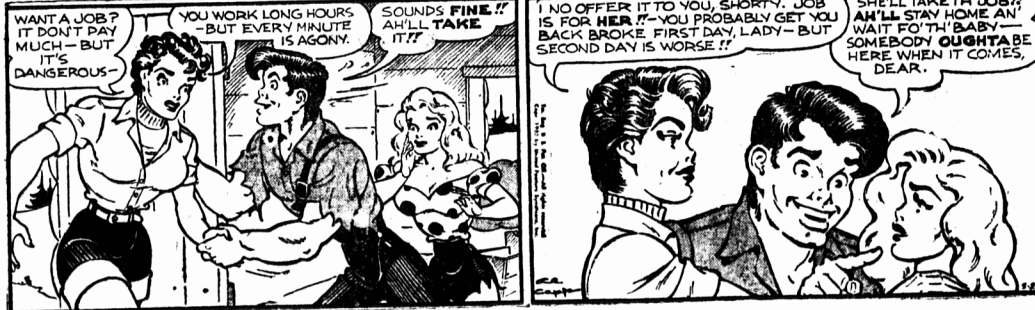
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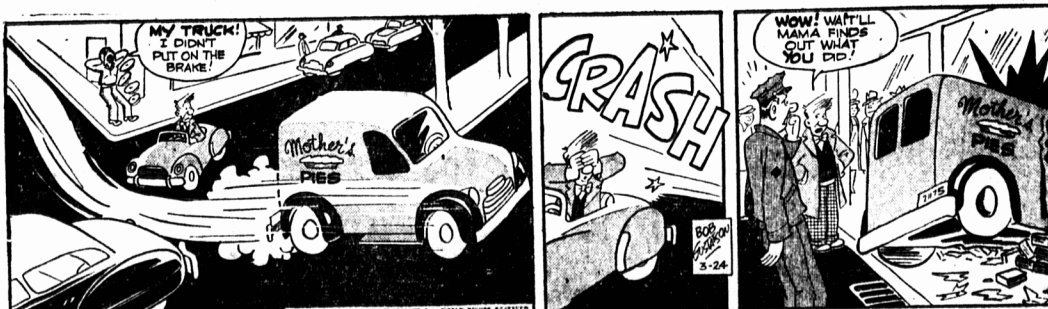
Name _____ Age _____ Address _____

Li'l Abner



By Al Capp

Tilly The Toiler



By Bob Gustafson

Dotty Dripple



By Ruford

Henry



By Carl Anderson