

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

DANNY BECOMES CURIOUS

It's often said, but isn't true, that matters not what others do. —Old Mother Nature.

Danny Meadow Mouse, hiding under the grass in Farmer Brown's yard and a little way from the gate, was curious. The longer he peered out from that overhanging grass, the more curious he became. A number of his feathered neighbors were seemingly having a wonderful time on that big flat rock. His eyes were not good enough for Danny to see just what they were doing, but his ears were good enough for him to hear the happy twittering and chirping.

Danny had just eaten a fat sunflower seed. It had fallen into the grass right in front of him. It had been dropped by Yank Yank the Nuthatch as he was flying over the Old Orchard with it. It had slipped out of his bill and his loss had become Danny's gain. That sort of thing is happening all the time.

Danny became more and more curious. Could it be that that sunflower seed had been brought from over there those birds were? Could it be that there were more of those wonderful seeds over there? Danny felt that he just had to find out. Yes, sir, he just had to find out.

Perhaps if he waited until night when it was dark it would be safe for him to go over there. Then there would be no birds around. But there might be some of the other birds over there. How could he get over there and find out? Suddenly all the birds that were around the big flat rock took to their wings. Some flew one way and some flew another. Around the



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corner of the house came someone the mere sight of whom sent little shivers racing back and

forth from the tip of Danny's blunt nose to the tip of his short tail. It was someone dressed all in black. It was Black Pussy the Cat. Danny knew who it was at first sight. More than once when Danny had been living down on the Green Meadows, Black Pussy had come Mouse hunting. Now Danny didn't wait to see what Black Pussy might be going to do. He dropped back into the tunnel of Miner the Mole and scampered back to tell Naany Meadow Mouse what he had seen.

"If Black Pussy is around the best thing you can do is to forget all about those seeds you want so badly and stay right here where you are safe," said Naany in her squeaky little voice.

"Of course you are right, my dear," squeaked Danny. "You always are. But if we should stay home all the time just because we are safer here, we would soon get hungry. I want to get over to where I saw those birds. I'm sure there's a lot of good seeds over there. Anyway, I want to find out." The longer Danny talked, the squeaker his voice became.

"Then wait until dark," counseled Naany.

"It's a long time to wait," complained Danny.

"If you get caught by some one it'll be a lot longer," warned Naany.

"Anyway, it won't do any harm to go watch and see what Black Pussy is about," said Danny, and off he went. It was curiously that he was leading him. He just had to find out what was going on over there by the big rock.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

ONE DECLARER TRIUMPHED

Only one declarer in a duplicate match applied the correct technique to the handling of the trump suit in this deal.

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

North
N
W
E
S

♠ 8 6 4
♥ A K J 2
♦ 9
♣ K J 7 5 4

♠ A 5
♥ 10 7
♦ A 8 6 5 3
♣ Q 9 8 3

At most of the tables North-South ended up in three or four diamonds. No pair reached game, because the perfect fit of the hands was hard to determine and neither player was strong. A popular bidding sequence was this:

East South West North
1♣ 1♦ 1♠ 2♦
Pass Pass 3♠ 3♦
Pass Pass Pass

Some Wests opened a club, others a diamond, but this had little bearing on the outcome. Every South except one drew trumps as quickly as possible, cashed the spade ace and finessed to the spade king. But with one spade and four hearts left in dummy, and with only three trumps still in the closed hand, two tricks then had to be conceded.

Only one South took the proper view about trumps. He won West's diamond jack opening with the queen, led to the spade ace, and immediately finessed against the spade queen, leaving the diamond ten at large. Now he cashed the spade king, discarding a heart, and led a heart from dummy. East could not be severely criticized for going up with the king, and after that declarer could cross-ruff the hand completely, making six-odd.

The other declarers obviously feared that the missing trump was in East's hand, and that East might ruff the third round of spades. They failed to consider, however, that even if this happened, just as many tricks would be made as by drawing the outstanding trump.

Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams

MOM, WILL YOU LOOK ANY SEEDS IN THAT QUARTER IS DATED FIVE I DIDN'T LOOK AT IT BUT I'M READING IT BY FEELING IT WITH MY TOES AND IF I'M RIGHT I'LL TRY A DIME!

YOU'D BE BETTER OFF READING SOMETHING THAT USES YOUR HEAD—AND IT MIGHT BE THAT YOU AREN'T OUT SEEMS HOW FAST YOU CAN SPEND THE QUARTER AND DIME!

PERHAPS IF HE WAITED UNTIL NIGHT WHEN IT WAS DARK IT WOULD BE SAFE FOR HIM TO GO OVER THERE. THEN THERE WOULD BE NO BIRDS AROUND. BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME OF THE OTHER BIRDS OVER THERE. HOW COULD HE GET OVER THERE AND FIND OUT? SUDDENLY ALL THE BIRDS THAT WERE AROUND THE BIG FLAT ROCK TOOK TO THEIR WINGS. SOME FLEW ONE WAY AND SOME FLEW ANOTHER. AROUND THE



Our Boarding House Major Hoople



W.C.T.U. NOTES

MINORS AND DRINK

The Bracken commission gave four reasons why minors should not drink in explaining why it had recommended that, as far as liquor was concerned, a minor still be defined as any person under 21 years of age.

A child lives under the direction of its parents. In tender years, it has no basis for its own judgment and relies on the parents for decisions. There's a transition period during adolescence—generally corresponding to teen-age years—a period of uncertainty when the young person is standing between protected childhood and unprotected maturity.

As maturity is reached, the person can then be expected to make his or her own decision on the basis of considered judgment. He is both wise and fortunate if he then finds no bond of habit limiting his power of decision.

The inquiry commission listed two very serious and probable consequences of youthful drinking which make it obligatory for society to do all it could to protect youth from alcohol: Drinking to assert adulthood, which results in impairment of such judgment as has been acquired and which may lead to juvenile crime, delinquency or further complications of the already difficult problem of growing up. Establishment of a drinking pattern in which the numbing effect of drink is sought in order to avoid a painful resolution of the frustration and tensions of adolescence. This pattern is the beginning of the pattern of alcoholism.

The report shows that the commission was not unanimous on making the minor age 21. Two members wished it to remain at 21, while two others plugged for 18. Mr. Bracken offered 20 as a compromise. However since this was not acceptable to any two of the others, the chairman sided with leaving it at 21.—Winnipeg Free Press.

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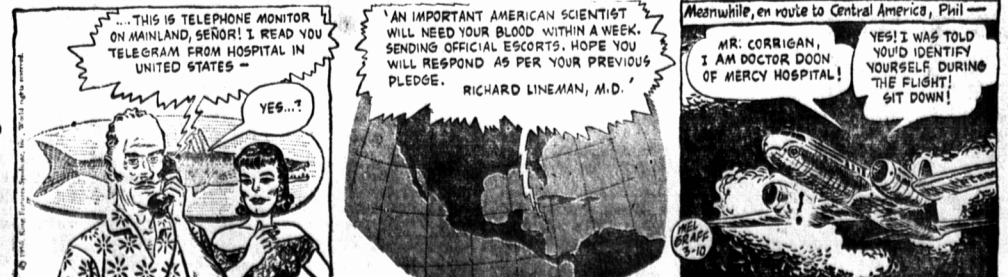
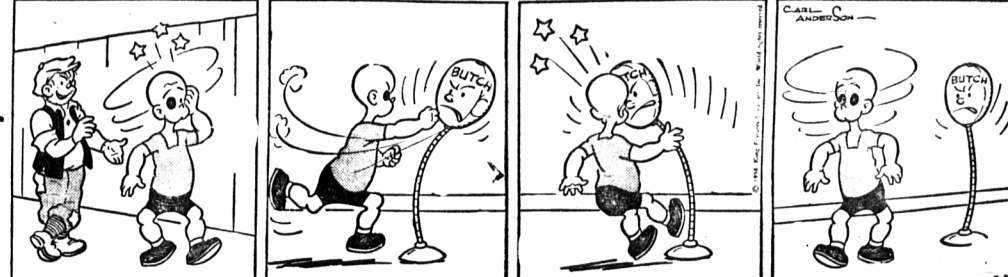
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