



# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## TOMMY'S FEATHERED HELPERS

Sowing seeds of kindness pays in a dozen different ways. —Farmer Brown's Boy

Tommy Tit the Chickadee landed on the feeding shelf at the kitchen window of Farmer Brown's house. He picked up a seed. He tossed it to one side. He picked up another seed. He tossed it to the other side. He picked up a third seed, and tossed it over his back. The fourth seed suited him, and he flew away with it.

"You fussy little rascal!" exclaimed Farmer Brown's Boy, who was watching through the window. "Nothing but the best for you." Yank Yank the Nuthatch landed on the edge of the shelf. He looked the sunflower seeds over carefully. He picked out one. He held it in the tip of his bill and flew over to a neighboring tree. There he hunted for a crack in the bark. Into this he wedged that seed, then hammered it with his sharp-pointed bill until he had hatched it open. It is from this habit of

hatching open seeds and nuts that he gets his name "Nuthatch." Meanwhile, Tommy Tit the Chickadee was opening the fat seed he had chosen. He was holding that seed with his feet and at the same time holding on to a round twig while he hammered the seed open with his little bill.

"Some trick," said Farmer Brown's Boy, as he watched. "How in the world can he possibly hold a smooth seed on a round twig, and pound it open?" Just then the seed did slip out from under Tommy's feet and dropped. Before it reached the ground he caught it in mid-air, and a moment later he was back on that twig and working on that seed again.

"He's a regular little circus performer," said Mother Brown and she was right.

Just then, Sammy Jay arrived on the shelf. He wasted no time. He picked up a seed and seemingly swallowed it. He picked up another, and another, and another, and seemingly all of them. He kept doing this. Farmer Brown's Boy kept count. When he had picked up his seventeenth seed, Sammy Jay flew away. His throat was swelled out in just the way that Striped Chipmunk's cheeks are filled out when he has filled the pockets in them. Sammy hadn't fully swallowed those seeds; they were still right there in his throat. He was taking them off to his hide-away. He was gone hardly two minutes before he was back for another throatful.

"The greedy thing!" exclaimed Mother Brown. "You mean, the thrifty thing," said Tommy Brown. "I suppose," said Mother Brown, "you will tell me that Sammy Jay pays for these seeds he takes." Tommy nodded. "He sure does," said he. "Sammy does some mis-



Tommy Tit the Chickadee landed on the feeding shelf at the kitchen window of farmer Brown's house.

chief, but he does more good. You call him greedy; I say, he is thrifty. He is putting those seeds away just as Happy Jack Squirrel stores away nuts and acorns. And Sammy won't forget where those seeds are. When he really needs them, he'll go get them.

"You should really find some way of making him pay for them because he takes such a lot," said Mother Brown.

"He pays all right," said Tommy. "He may not be paying for them now, but he will be and by I've watched him eat Tent Caterpillars in the spring until I've wondered how he could hold another one. You know what a nuisance those Tent Caterpillars are. They are hairy Caterpillars, and not many Birds will eat hairy Caterpillars. Sammy eats a lot of some of the worst pests our trees have. And how he does love Grasshoppers, and May Beetles. Not only that, but Sammy is a planter too."

Mother Brown gave Tommy another funny look. "What do you mean by saying he's a planter?" she wanted to know.

"I know of several oak trees and nut trees that I am reasonably sure Sammy Jay planted. They are little trees now, but they'll be big trees in time. And all because Sammy buried some acorns and nuts, and then forgot where he buried them; or perhaps didn't need them, so never took them up again. He can come to my feeding shelf just as often as he wants to. He does some mischief, but then who doesn't?" said Tommy. Just then Sammy Jay lighted on the shelf again, and began to stuff his throat with seeds.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluvertson

### NOT THE BEST PLAN

The declarer's plan of setting up a long side suit in the following hand was not well considered.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ 10 5 4  
♥ 8 6  
♦ K J  
♣ A Q J 10 5

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

North went in for a variety of "partner trapping" in this hand. If he was slam-minded, the obviously correct technique was to jump from three to five clubs — not to give a gingerly raise and then, when South went on the game, to bid the slam. There was nothing in South's bidding which implied that he could fill North's spotty diamond suit.

West opened the heart deuce. The ace won, and South decided to establish the diamonds for spade dumps. He drew three rounds of trumps, then cashed the diamond king and led the jack.

West's failure to follow the second diamond was a shock to the declarer, who now was in a hopeless position. It would take two ruffs to drive out East's queen and nine of diamonds, and dummy no longer had the entries for this maneuver. So South had to lose all three of his spades!

This was a hand that called for the ruffing of losers — spades, of course — rather than the suit-establishment plan. Surely, there was only the remotest danger that either defender had started with a singleton heart, and, aside from that success was assured by merely leading the spade jack at the second trick. Suppose East won and returned a trump — as good defense as any. South would simply win in his own hand, ruff a spade, lead to the diamond king and ruff his last spade, then cash the heart king, ruff a heart high, and draw trumps.

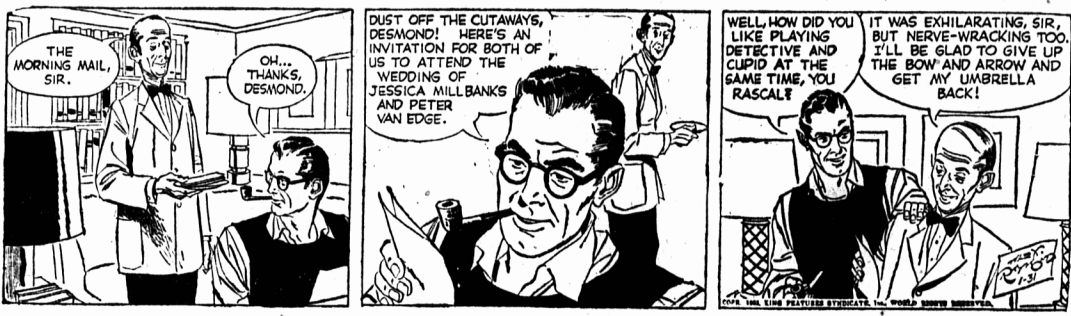
## King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



## Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



## Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



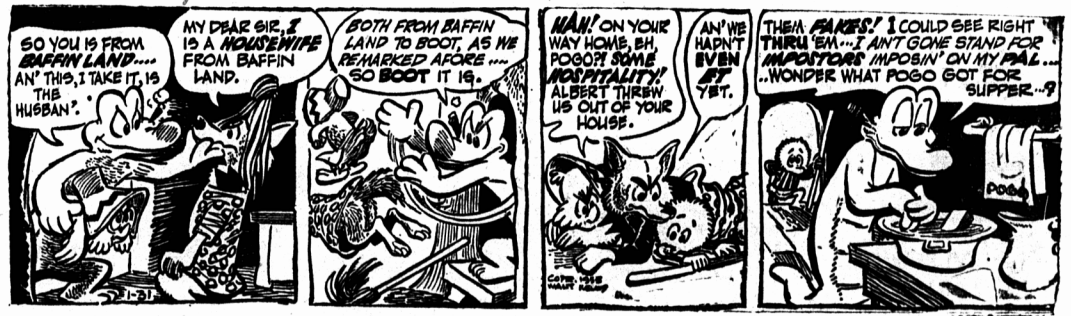
## Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



## Pogo

By Walt Kelly



## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



## Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



## Penny

By Harry Haenigsen



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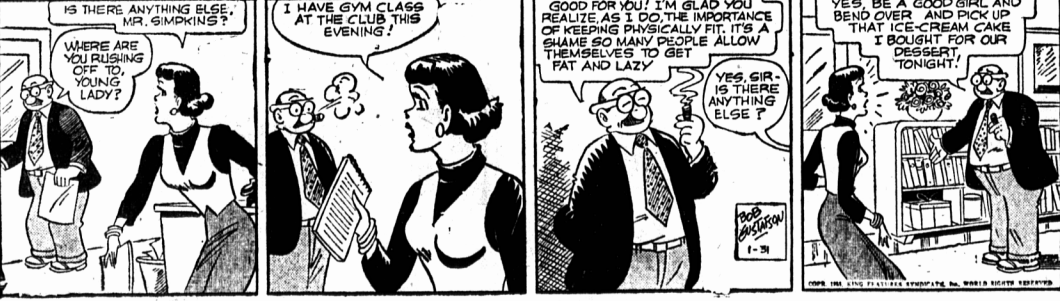
## Lil Abner

By Al Capp



## Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



## Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



## Henry

By Carl Anderson

