



By Thornton W. Burgess

LITTLE TOO-SMART FORGETS TO BE AFRAID

A fear is sometimes put to flight by something causing greater fright.

On a big flat stone in the middle of a brook, Little Too-Smart, son of Reddy Fox, was a prisoner of his own fear. He thought that to get ashore he would have to swim and he was afraid. Yes, sir, he was afraid of the water. How did he happen to be out there on that big flat stone? He had tumbled down a steep bank into the brook higher up, and the current had brought him down. He had scrambled out on that big stone, and then been afraid to try to get a-

shore. The brook was wide at that point it was wide and shallow. He could have waded ashore, but he didn't know that. Just now, he was excited. He had seen a fight between two fishermen, Longlegs the Heron, and Billy Mink. That fight had come to a sudden end when big Buster Bear had come out of the woods. Longlegs had taken to his wings, and Billy Mink had dived into the water, and now had disappeared. Over on the shore, Buster Bear stood swinging his head from side to side, and grumbling away down in his throat. Swinging his head that way is a habit of Buster's. He was undecided what to do next. Should he go up the brook, down the brook, or across the brook? He couldn't make up his mind.

Little Too-Smart had been standing perfectly still. Buster Bear hadn't seen him, but now the young Fox started to lie down again, and the instant he moved Buster Bear saw him. Buster stopped swinging his head from side to side. He started across the water at the little Fox. Perhaps he guessed why Little Too-Smart was there. Of course, it was a queer place for a Fox to stay. It was a queer place for a Fox to stay.

"Woof, woof!" said Buster Bear, way down deep in his throat "Woof woof!" The little Fox scrambled to his feet again. He didn't like the sound of that "woof, woof." No, sir, he didn't like the sound of it one bit. He wondered if Buster was afraid of the water; he hoped he was.

Buster moved a few steps along the shore until he was just opposite the big flat stone where Little Too-Smart now was shivering with new fright. Buster stopped. For a moment he sat up. Somehow, when he did this, he looked bigger than ever. What was Buster going to do? He propped down on all fours again, and stood there looking very hard at Little Too-Smart.

The longer Buster looked, the more Little Too-Smart shivered.



He started to wade into the water.

and shook. He was sure there was a hungry look in Buster's eyes. He wasn't mistaken; there was a hungry look there. Buster put a black paw in the water. He put the other black paw in the water. Once more he stood still. "Perhaps he does not like the water," the little Fox thought hopefully.

"Woof, woof!" said Buster Bear once more. His voice sounded as hungry as his eyes looked. He started to wade into the water. He began to splash through the water straight for that big stone. He wasn't afraid of the water. He did not mind getting his feet wet. He just splashed straight ahead.

Right then and there Little Too-Smart forgot something. He forgot he was afraid of the water. He was more afraid of Buster Bear than he was of that water. Frantically he jumped out into the water toward the other shore. He expected to have to paddle with all his might as he had had to when he tumbled into the water. Perhaps you can guess how surprised he was when he found he didn't have to paddle at all; that the water was only half way up his legs. He could wade across. He could almost run.

Splash, splash, splash! Little Too-Smart didn't have to look back to know what that meant. He did some splashing himself. He had forgotten that he even was afraid of the water. "Woof, woof, woof," said Buster Bear behind him.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

AN EASY PROBLEM

Fulfillment of the game contract in the following hand required nothing but the use of elementary arithmetic.

West dealer: North-South vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North and South.

The bidding: West Pass, North Pass, East 3♥, South Pass.

West opened his singleton heart, and declarer took East's ten with the ace.

Prospects did not look to declarer. Dummy's only strength was unreachably because of South's void, and the opponents would scarcely be so accommodating as to lead clubs. Thus, it seemed all too likely that South would come out with four losers — three hearts and the spade ace. There was no point in returning a heart immediately; even if East did not lead a trump, dummy's lone trump was too low for a ruff.

Probably hoping against hope, South laid down the spade king. West won and exited with the jack of diamonds. Declarer won, drew the outstanding trumps and cashed his other diamonds, but he did not discard any high hearts, and so declarer finally had to surrender.

Now to get back to the arithmetic mentioned originally. Barring not-to-be expected help from the enemy, South could count that he would end up a trick short of his contract, with only five spades, one heart and three diamonds. So he should have tried a different approach. West was marked with a singleton heart, so South should have led only three high trumps, cashed all three diamond honors, and then made West a present of a second trump trick by throwing him in with the deuce of trumps!

By giving up this second trump trick in hearts, and end up with an overtrick!

UGLY FISH

All Canadian species of catfish have smooth skins, getting their name from the "whiskers" around the mouth.

BIGGEST ISLAND

Greenland, owned by Denmark, is the largest island in the world with 827,300 square miles.

FIRST TELEGRAPH

The first telegraph system started in the Maritimes was in 1848 between Calais, Me., and Saint John, N. B.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



By Al Capp



By Ruford



By Bob Gustafson



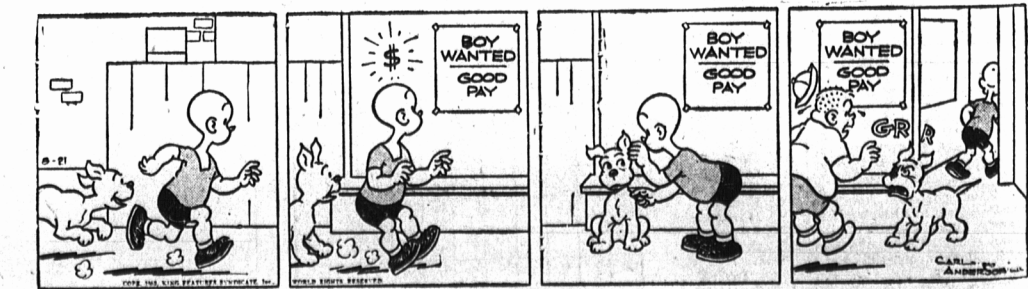
By Edwina



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By Harry Hoening



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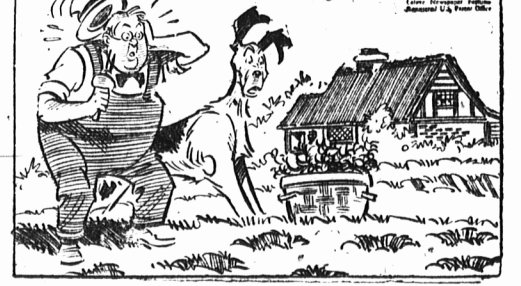
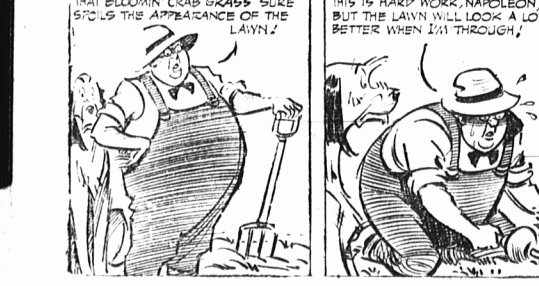
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