

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## JERRY REACHES THE BIG RIVER

Travel you are sure to find, Always broadening to the mind. —Jerry Muskrat.

Jerry Muskrat was traveling. He wasn't very far from home, but he was traveling just the same. That is, he was visiting new places, seeing new sights, having new experiences, and that is what traveling really is. It doesn't mean long miles. It means going to places away from home, even though they are not far away.

Had you followed Laughing Brook from the Smiling Pool down to the Big River, you wouldn't have thought it a long distance at all. In fact you would have thought it a short distance. Distance is sometimes almost wholly a matter of size. To Jerry Muskrat it seemed very far from his home in the Smiling Pool down to the Big River, and now lay partly where Laughing Brook joins the Big River. Jerry had traveled slowly, sometimes swimming and sometimes running along the bank. He had stopped to poke his nose into every hole he found. Once he had poked it into a hole under a mossy old stump where Billy Mink happened to be living for the time being. Billy Mink hadn't liked that, and Jerry hadn't liked it either. Although Billy is much smaller, he is a better fighter than Jerry. When Jerry had managed to get away from Billy, his coat was torn in several places and each of those places were sore and smarting. Billy's teeth had proved very sharp.

All the way down the Laughing Brook, bushes and trees had grown on both sides after Laughing Brook left the Green Meadows. Now Jerry was right out in the open again, just as when he was at home in the Smiling Pool. He climbed up on an old tree-trunk that had washed down from far away in the Smiling Pool down to the Big River, and now lay partly where Laughing Brook joins the Big River. Jerry had traveled slowly, sometimes swimming and sometimes running along the bank. He had stopped to poke his nose into every hole he found. Once he had poked it into a hole under a mossy old stump where Billy Mink happened to be living for the time being. Billy Mink hadn't liked that, and Jerry hadn't liked it either. Although Billy is much smaller, he is a better fighter than Jerry. When Jerry had managed to get away from Billy, his coat was torn in several places and each of those places were sore and smarting. Billy's teeth had proved very sharp.



"I'm going to look around a little first," squeaked Jerry Muskrat.

came flying down the Big River and stopped at the edge of the water close by the old tree.

"Hello, Jerry Muskrat!" exclaimed Longlegs. "What are you doing way down here?"

"I'm minding my own business," squeaked Jerry impolitely.

"I'm sure you are," said the long-legged bird good naturedly. "I'm just wondering what business can take you so far from home."

Jerry Muskrat licked one of his wounds where Billy Mink's teeth had torn his coat. "I'm just looking around," squeaked Jerry.

"Are you looking for anything special?" asked Longlegs. His voice was rather unpleasant, a sort of croak. "Of course, if you happen to be looking for another place to live, I can tell you something that will save you a lot of trouble."

"What is that?" squeaked Jerry. "It is simply that you will find no better place than the Smiling Pool where you have been living. Take my advice, and go back there," croaked Longlegs.

"I'm going to look around a little first," squeaked Jerry Muskrat. "I want to see a little of the Great World."

Longlegs began to make a strange sound way down at the bottom of that long neck of his. Anyway it sounded as if it came from way down at the bottom. It was a hoarse croaking sound. Longlegs was chuckling. "A lot you'll see of the Great World," said he.

# Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

## THE WRONG BID

South's one and only bid in the following hand was highly ineffectual.

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ Q 9 2  
♥ J 6 5 4  
♦ 3  
♣ J 8 3

♠ J  
♥ A Q 9 8  
♦ A K 10  
♣ 7 5 4

♠ A K 7 6  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ A K J 10 5 4

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass Pass

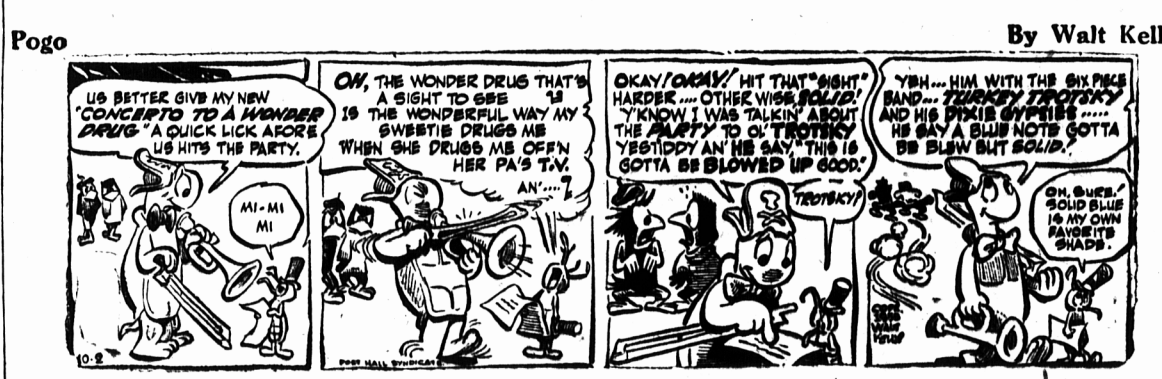
South made an overtrick at his club contract, but even his 100 honors did not provide much compensation for the easy spade game that had been missed.

It is true that South's jump from one diamond to three clubs was a strong bid, especially vulnerable, but it did not convey the right sort of message. A bid of this sort carries a well defined request that partner do one of four things: 1) bid three notrump if he can stop the suit bid by the enemy and has a couple of other scattered honors. 2) Raise the overall. For this a fit and a few potential tricks are required, especially when the suit is a minor and five-odd are needed for game. North had a satisfactory fit for clubs, with only small, but the outside tricks were lacking. 3) Bid a good major suit — one that can stand largely on its own feet. North had no such suit. 4) Lacking the ability to do any of the first three, pass. Do not stretch in order to name a suit that needs extraordinary support. If, for example, North responded with three spades, South would be justified in raising to four spades with A-x, expecting North to have a far more solid spade suit.

Thus, South's choice of bids was more of a warning against spades and hearts than an invitation, and North was correct in passing. The fault lay in the fact that South neglected to double one diamond, in the very hope that North could respond in spades.

## SETS HIGH MARK

GRENFALL, Sask. CP — Alice Cove, grade 11 student, has a high reputation to keep up. For the last six years she has had a perfect school attendance record, not missing one day.



# NOTICE OF POTATO GROWERS MEETINGS

Sponsored by P. E. I. FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

- Monday, October 5th—Morell Hall.
- Wednesday, October 7th—Summerside High School Auditorium.
- Friday, October 9th—Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown.

All Meetings at 8:00 P.M.

The above meetings are called to provide information and an opportunity for discussion and questions on the following matters:

1. Potato Marketing Agreement.
2. The operation of Pools.
3. The Function of the Marketing Agency.
4. Analysis of Market Prospects.

Attendance at these meetings will enable potato growers to form a reasoned decision on marketing policy for this year's crop.

ROLAND MacDONALD, President.  
J. L. DEWAR, Secretary.

## MORE HOUSES

REGINA CP — Residential construction has become one of Regina's biggest industries this year. Value of 1953 home building permits currently exceeds \$10,000,000.

