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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

REDDY MAKES A MISTAKE

Far more often than we dream trifles are not what they seem. Old Mother Nature, Doubts are like plants. They are very small to begin with just as are plants when they spring from the seeds. As plants grow and grow, so do doubts. Little Stripes, the small Chipmunk just starting out in the Great World, was finding it so. He was lost and wanted, oh so much, to go back home. Never in his short life had he wanted anything more. The trouble was he had no idea where home was. Now a handsome stranger in a red coat, with a white waistcoat, and wearing black stockings, had offered to show him the way home. He was very pleased, and this stranger, who had a smooth tongue, which means that he said the nicest things in the nicest way.



He continued to smile. That is, he meant it for smiling.

Little Stripes wanted to believe everything the stranger said. He wanted to believe, and he almost did. That handsome, pleasant-sounding fellow was all he seemed to be. It was when he was just about ready to jump down off the stump on which he was sitting that a bothersome little doubt crept into his mind and kept him from jumping down.

Of course, you know that the handsome stranger was Reddy Fox. Reddy is nothing if not pre-scient. It was most provoking to see this little Chipmunk just out of reach, but he was careful not to show it. It was still more provoking to have Little Stripes make ready to jump down and then fail to do it because of a bothersome little doubt. But Reddy managed not to show his disappointment and impatience. He continued to smile. That is, he meant it for smiling. Really he was grinning, and a grin doesn't mean what a smile does. They are alike, yet different.

A true smile may always be trusted. A grin cannot. It may mean ill when it seems to mean good. That bothersome little doubt began to grow. It grew and grew. Little Stripes didn't know why he doubted. He didn't know why he was distrustful. He didn't want to doubt. That was the last thing in the world he wanted to do. What he wanted most of anything was to jump down and join Reddy Fox and be shown the way

home. But every time he got ready to do this, that bothersome little doubt, each time a little bit bigger, stopped him.

It was a little thing, a thing so small that it might be called a trifle finally decided Little Stripes to stay right where he was. What was it? It was something that Reddy did. It happened when the little Chipmunk turned his head to look away for an instant. He looked back at Reddy Fox just in time to see him lick his lips. Perhaps the doing of it was just a trifle. But it was that trifle that decided Little Stripes. You see Reddy had been looking right up at him and somehow Little Stripes had a feeling that that licking of Reddy's lips had something to do with himself, and it was something unpleasant. It was right then that that bothersome little doubt became a big doubt, so big that it was no longer bothersome. It was no longer bothersome because it made up the mind of Little Stripes for him. He wouldn't because he couldn't, trust this handsome stranger. He would stay right where he was as long as this stranger was about.

Perhaps Reddy saw the change. Perhaps he saw it in the eyes of the little Chipmunk. Anyway all in a flash he changed. He was no longer the friendly smooth-tongued would-be-helper. He no longer grinned. With a snarl he made a sudden leap that almost succeeded in knocking Little Stripes off that stump; but only almost. In licking his lips Reddy had made a great mistake.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BREAKING A "RULE"

A hand from the recent National Tournament in Washington proves — if proof were needed — that all bridge "rules" are made to be broken.

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

♠ 532	♥ K74	♦ A87	♣ AK3
♠ Q986	♥ N	♦ 107	♣ AKJ
♠ 53	♥ W E	♦ KJ10	♣ AQ10
♠ KJ10	♥ S	♦ 964	♣ Q2
♠ 2	♥ 107654	♦ 4	♣ J9A
♠ 4	♥ 107654	♦ 5	♣ 107654

This was the bidding at a great many tables in the Open Pairs:

East	South	West	North
1♠	Pass	2♠	Double
2♠	Pass	3♠	Double
Double Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

It will be seen that East-West bid as high as they could before switching to a defensive position. The singleton diamond in South's hand, which would undoubtedly have been led against the spade contract, would have resulted in a loss of three tricks. Thus it was correct for the various East-West to double the enemy at the five-level. As it happened, five diamonds could have been made, but at match-point it was natural for East-West to emphasize the major suit.

Obviously enough, an opening heart lead by West would have resulted in a third-round ruff, but the bidding made this lead almost unthinkable, and most Wests opened the fourth-highest spade. This is the conventional and usually logical selection from the suit bid by partner and supported by the leader, but observe the effect of that lead in this particular case. East had to take the first trick, and he could do nothing constructive in the heart suit. The upshot was that the South players at these tables lost only one spade and two hearts tricks, for a 100-point penalty.

The more thoughtful and imaginative West laid down the spade queen! They realized that with South announcing at least ten cards in heart and club, whatever spade strength the enemy might hold would turn up in dummy, and thus nothing could be lost by the selection of the high spade. The excellent by-product of this lead was that East played the spade jack under the queen, and this permitted West to make the marked shift to hearts and get his ruff, raising the penalty to 300 points.

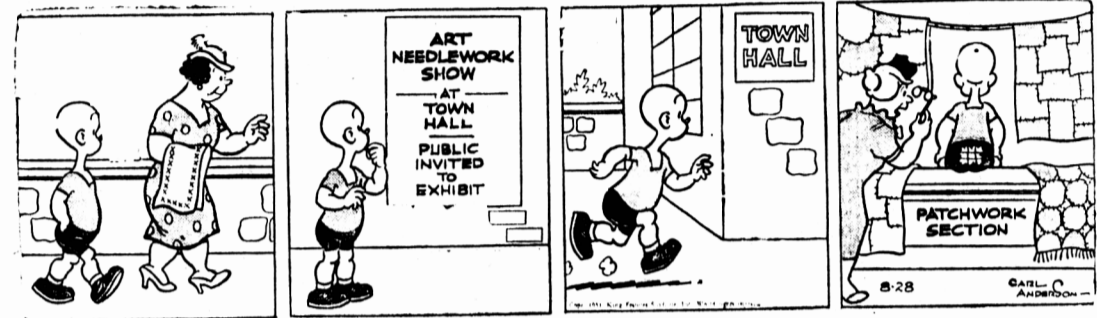
KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



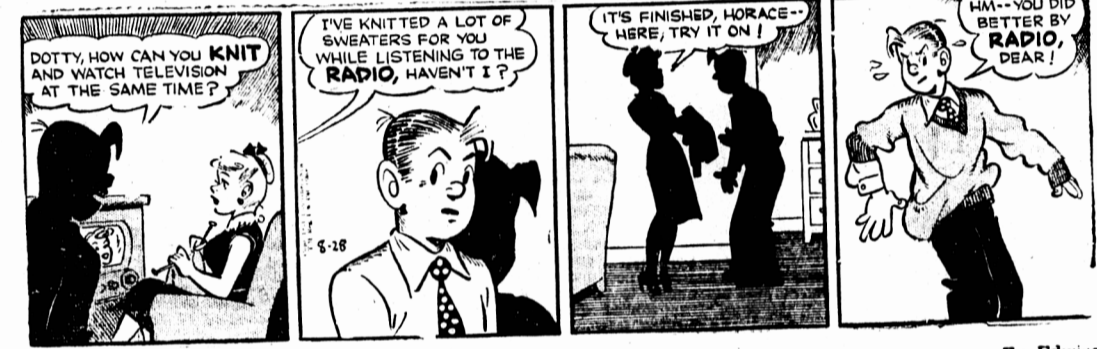
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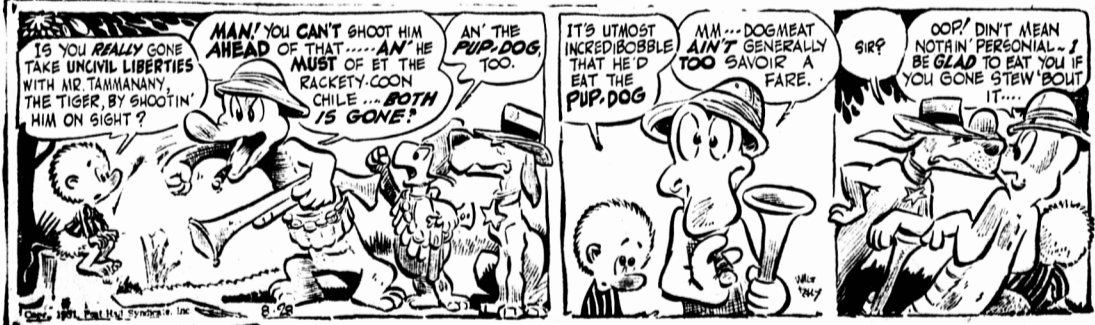
BINGO

Holy Redeemer Hall TONIGHT 8.30

The prizes are the same as those prevailing at other Bingos in the city.

POGO

By WALT KELLY



L'L ABNER

By Al Capp



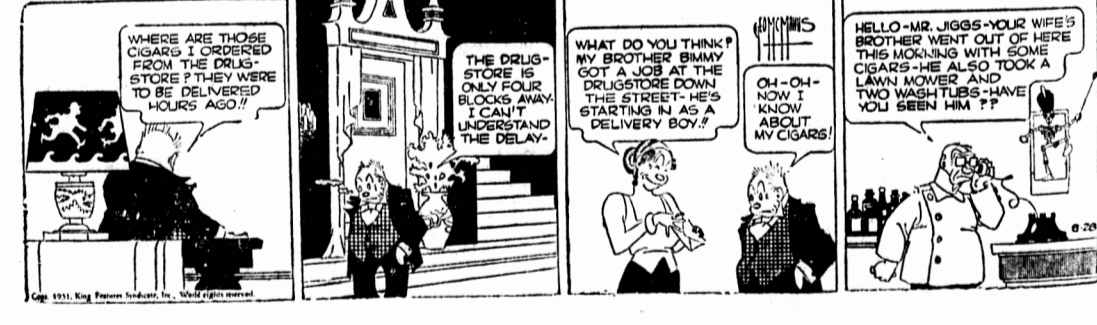
RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond



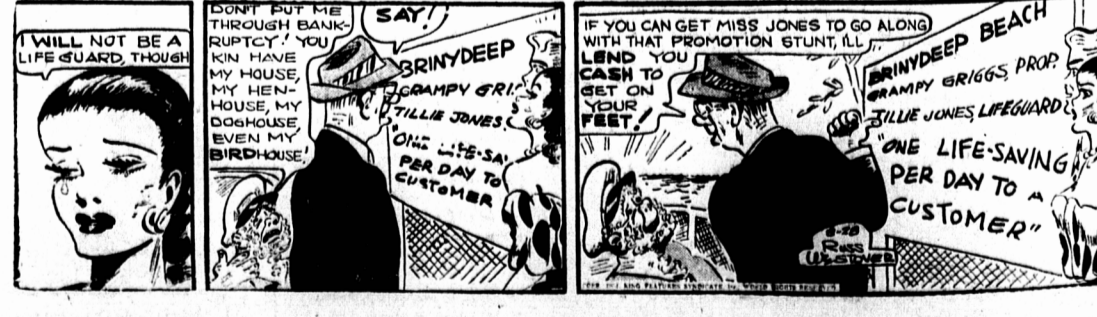
BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManis



FILLY THE TOILER

By Westover



GENNY

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