Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

TOO FEARFUL

The average player's fear about "losing an ace" — a fear incidentally, which is rarely well founded — can trap him into some very bad defenses! Observe East's fall in today's deal.

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

It may be thought that South "had his nerve" opening the bidding fourth-hand with only 2 1-2 honor-tricks (or, if he was a point-counter, not a very robust total in points), but the fact is that few if any players would consider passing with South's hand.

His possession of the highest ranking suit automatically gave him protection against competition, and although he was not strong, he was nevertheless correct in going on to game when North double-raised. Observe that a more favorable position of the heart ace would have given South a practical laydown.

As it was, with the heart ace offside, South needed some help — but he got it! West opened the heart queen and continued with the jack, dummy having ducked. South ruffed, crashed the spade king and led to the spade ace, then returned a club toward the closed hand. East played properly at this point: he ducked, and South's ten went to West's jack. West persisted with hearts, and again South ruffed.

Now South led a diamond to dummy and returned the other club, and this time East blundered — He put up the club ace! A moment later South ruffed away West's club king, and by thus establishing his own nine-spot for a diamond discard from dummy, ensured the contract.

It is hard to imagine what East was thinking about when he put up the club ace! There could be no conceivable gain from that play even if South (despite the evidence of his previous play of the ten) turned up with the king of clubs!

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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

ADVENTURING

Each day outside life's open gate
You find adventure lies in wait.
—Old Mother Nature

What Old Mother Nature says is true. Life is one adventure after another, and one never knows where or when he will meet with it. This especially true of the furry folk and the feathered folk of the Green Forest and the Green Meadows, of the finny folk of Laughing Brook and the Smiling Pool, and the tiny flying and crawling folk everywhere who wear neither fur nor feathers.

Little Stripes, smallest of Striped Chipmunk's children, and Two Stripes, small son of Jimmy Skunk were out in the Great World. They had left their homee without knowing that they would never go back. It is that way with Mother Nature's children. Boys and girls are years in growing up and during those years they are trained and made ready to go out into the Great World. Even so when they really go adventuring.

But children of the Green Forest and Green Meadow's folk grow up fast. With some it is almost a matter of days instead of years from the time they are born until they must find places for themselves in the Great World. So it is that while boys and girls are watched over and cared for and protected for a long time Peter Rabbit's children are out in the Great World while they are still little more than babies and have had no time to learn of the dangers that may lie ahead. It is the same way with other little folks in fur and feathers. It was just so with Little Stripes and Two Stripes.

They were out in the Great World with no one to tell them what to do and what not to do; without knowing who among their neighbors were friendly and who were to be feared. So they must find these things out for themselves. This meant just simple living was never-ending adventuring. Just by chance they had met shortly after each had left home. They had been filled with wonder by the sound of Thunder the Grouse drumming and had gone to see for themselves who or what was making all that noise.

Just by chance they had met shortly after each had left home.

Thunderer was the first bird they had ever seen and he was so much bigger than they that he filled them with something like awe. But he was friendly, and somehow or other they knew without being told that they need not be afraid of him. Little folks in fur and feathers know many things without being told. It is a strange sort of knowledge called instinct. If they did not have it few if any would ever live to grow up.

Unseen Jumper the Hare stole up just behind them. Then just out of mischief he stamped with his big long hind feet. It made a startling loud thump. Instantly Little Stripes ran. He darted under a fern and was out of sight. The small Skunk didn't run. He turned to face the direction from which that startling sound had come. He threw up his tail in just the same way his father, Jimmy Skunk, would have thrown up his bushy tail as a warning not to meddle with him. He stamped his small front feet just as his father would have done. He tried to look very fierce.

It was funny. It really was funny. Thunderer the Grouse and Jumper the Hare chuckled. Both those little folks with no one to tell them what to do had done the right thing. Little Stripes had had done the only thing a Chipmunk could do in time of sudden fright; he had gotten out of sight as quickly as possible. The small Skunk without knowing why he did it had done just what a big Skunk would have done. In both cases it was instinct. Each had done the right thing without thought and without knowing that he was doing the right thing. It was their first great adventure and they had met it in the right way. They had been in no real danger but they hadn't known this, and had done just what they should have done had there been real danger. Now they were ready for the next adventure.

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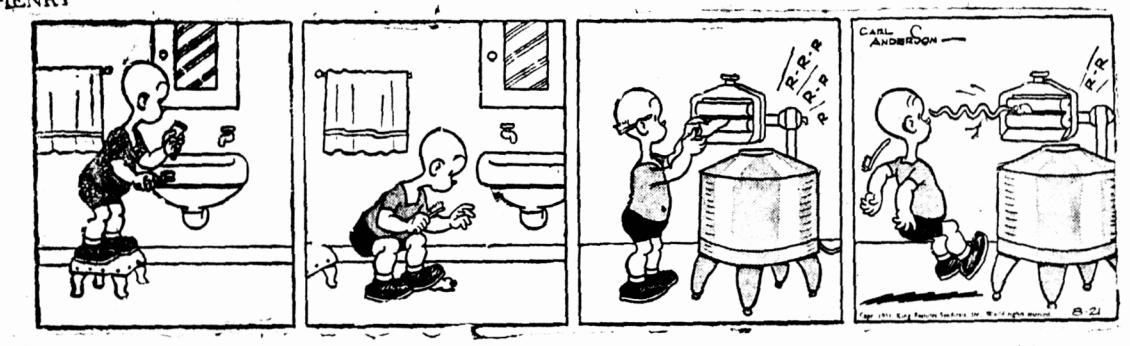

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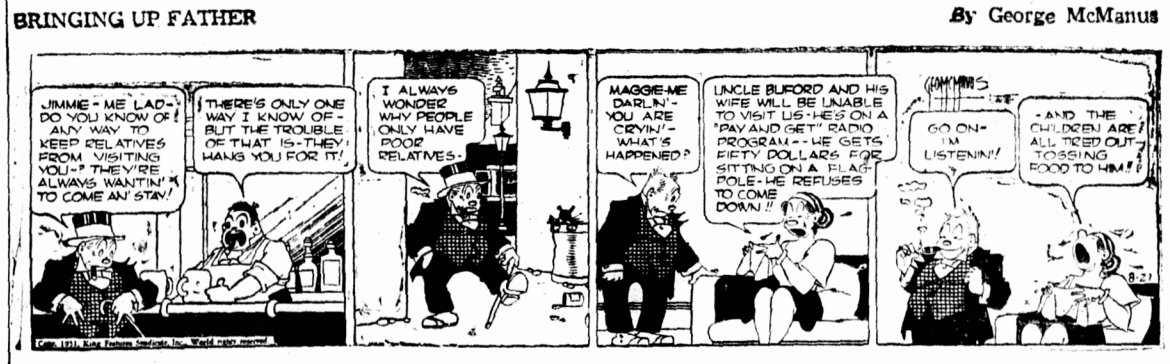

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