



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

FARMER BROWN'S BOY PREPARES A TEST

The keen of wit will strive his best To meet the most exacting test. —Old Mother Nature.

Farmer Brown's Boy is very fond of Striped Chipmunk, even though the latter had carried off the only pair of his white shoelaces. On his part, Striped Chipmunk knows that Farmer Brown's Boy is his friend and trusts him at all times. He does not hesitate to take food from the hand of Farmer Brown's Boy, and the latter takes him many treats. "That rascal is one of the smartest of the little folks in fur. If he wasn't smart, he wouldn't live long as neighbor to a Cat and two Dogs. He would have been caught long ago," said Farmer Brown's Boy to Mother Brown. "I suppose you think he's extra smart because he's got away with that pair of shoelaces," said Mother Brown. "I would like to know just what use he had for them."



Sure enough, Striped Chipmunk was coming across the dooryard.

several peanuts in that way, then dropped two or three on the ground. He went over to the old wall and on Striped Chipmunk's favorite stone he placed two peanuts.

"He will be sure to find those, and when he tastes them, he'll go looking for more," said he to Mother Brown.

"You don't really expect him to get peanuts hanging from that string, do you?" asked Mother Brown.

"I won't say that I really expect him to. That may be expecting too much. I just want to see what he'll do. There is only one way in which he can get them, and it is a little too much to expect him to do that," said Farmer Brown's Boy.

Mother Brown looked the arrangement over. "There isn't even one way," said she.

"Your mistake," said Farmer Brown's Boy. "There is one way. He can climb one of those strings, and pull up one of those short pieces until he gets the nut."

"You mean he will have to be a tight-rope walker?" asked Mother Brown.

Farmer Brown's Boy nodded. "Something like that."

"Well, I can tell you right now."

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Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

CONCERNING "FREAKS"

The greatest advantage enjoyed by experts over average players is supposed to be in the handling of "freaks" — the theory being that said experts can better protect themselves against extraordinary suit-breaks.

This theory is not, however, always borne out in practice. Consider the following hand, taken from a pair tournament in which almost all the participants were experts.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South, West, North, and East.

It goes without saying that there were many different bidding sequences around the room, but this was one popular variety:

9-27B

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South, West, North, and East.

When North led a heart, West went down an astronomical number of points, and even when North (inspired by partner's double) opened a diamond and gave the enemy seven tricks which would have withered on the vine the defense collected 300 points.

Few East-West pairs escaped injury altogether. The pair which exercised super-caution and ended up at four spades, undoubtedly, came out with top score. Their bidding was:

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South, West, North, and East.

On North's heart opening, West won with the blank ace and laid down the club ace. West gasped when North ruffed, but actually this was not as fatal as it appeared to be. Now dummy had an entry in its third trump, and declarer took all the rest of the tricks except another trump.

Experts have one failing in common with lesser mortals — they do not always make allowance for misfits and freak distributions. Those East-Wests who landed at notrump on this freak deserved what happened to them.

By Rutford

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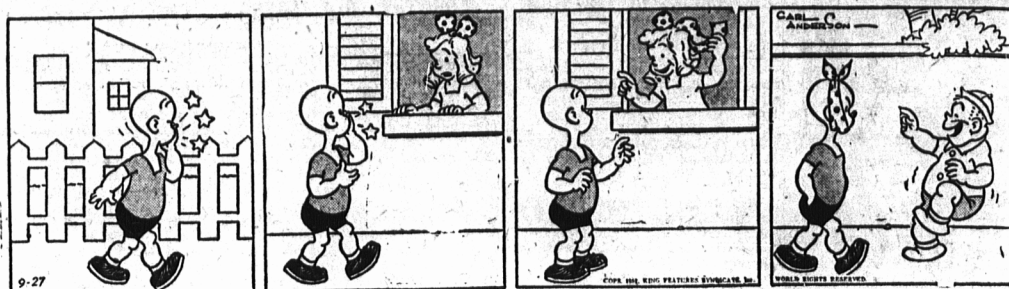


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