

# The Tiny Folk

(A real story of real children for very young children)

David Dale had had a birthday not very long ago, and one of his presents was the darlings little black puppy. It was a spaniel pup, with long silky ears, a shiny coat of black navy hair, and twinkling little sharp black eyes above a saucy nose. He was so lively and full of fun that Mr. Dale named him Perky.

Perky was growing well for each day he had milk and dog biscuit, also vegetables and dog food from a can. David pointed to the picture on the can and said, "That's my puppy. That's Perky. Perky eats this."

Each night the pup curled up on his warm blanket in the corner of the back porch. Mrs. Dale had stuffed an old stocking to make a rag doll for him to play with. To be sure, this rag doll had no eyes nor mouth, not even arms or legs, but Perky thought it was wonderful. He could chew it, shake it, growl at it worry it, race with it, then cuddle with it when he was tired. Susan was glad Perky had his own toy for he had been always after her teddy or David's panda.

Winkie, Susan's blond kitten, was very pleased to have Perky as a playmate. The two romped together, rolling over and over. Winkie's favorite trick was to hide under a chair and when Perky went by, jump out at him and grab his ear. Usually after supper the family just sat and watched the antics of the two as they romped and played together.

Susan and David had been playing house together, and Susan had been busy getting supper ready. She had set her little table with her doll's dishes and was using one of her little red chairs as a stove. On it she had placed an empty coffee tin for a pot, covered with a large tin cover.

Just then Perky came in from the back porch and Winkie jumped out of the doll carriage to play with him. They had a fine game of tag around the table, behind the stove, and across the floor.

Winkie ran in under Susan's little red chair. Perky could not wriggle his little fat self in under the rung so he had to stay there and bark. "Yep, yep, yep," he barked in little sharp barks. He flattened himself right down with his head on his paws, and his little tail sticking up in the air. He jumped from one side to another while Winkie teased him by reaching out with one white tipped paw and slapping his nose.

Then Winkie stood on his hind legs and reached over the rung to grab Perky's ear. What a barking there was then! Perky made a great race around the chair, scolding at the top of his voice. "You just come out of there so I can catch you," he barked. "You try to catch me," he whined. "I'm coming in after you," yipped Perky. "Come along and try it," Winkie said in kitten language. Perky backed off and made a race for the chair. Now the chair

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thorton W. Burgess

## TOUSLEHEAD'S FIRST FISH

It isn't yours, but just a wish. Until you've really caught the fish. —Rattles the Kingfisher.

Rattles ought to know. He has been a fisherman all his life. While he does eat other food sometimes, he prefers fish, and he is a famous fisherman. Through long experience he learned not to count a fish as his until he has it in his bill.

Touslehead was one of the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Rattles. They had been born in an underground home in a bank of the Big River. Now they were out in the Great World with everything to learn about taking care of themselves. Touslehead had been the first one out. He had been looking out the doorway. An impatient brother behind him had pushed him out. Now he was sitting on the stump of an old dead tree on the bank. From it he could look down in the water. It was rather shallow there so that he could see to the sandy bottom.

There was so much to be seen all about him that at first Touslehead hardly glanced down below. Father had brought him a small fish just after he had perched on that old stump. Fish was the only kind of food he knew anything about. It was the kind of food that had been fed to him by father and mother from the time he broke out of his shell. But of course the only fish he knew anything about were the ones that had been caught. In the beginning they were fed to him in rather small pieces. Later they were given to him whole. Never

was still as low as it had always been, and Perky was just as fat as he had been before, so of course he did not get under. He banged against the rung, and at that instant the tin pot cover slid off the coffee can and clattered to the floor. The unexpected bang sent Winkie flying for his box and Perky flashed like a black streak for the corner and crawled between Mr. Dale's rubber boots. How Susan and David and Mrs. Dale laughed! Not even the tip of Winkie's yellow ears could be seen above the box, while Perky had flattened himself as flat as he could between the rubber boots.

"Come on out, Winkie," coaxed Susan as she picked up the kitten from his box. David went over to get Perky, but the little dog would not take his eyes off that pot cover.

"Perky expects that cover to jump at him again," laughed Mrs. Dale. "That certainly quieted the pup and kitten. Now if I could only think of something that would work this way with you and David, wouldn't it be wonderful?" But Susan and David just grinned.

had he seen more than one at a time. Looking down in the water Touslehead saw something moving. The water was very clear. There, slowly swimming below him, was a small fish called a minnow. It was just the right size to be swallowed whole. The eyes of Touslehead looked as if they might pop right out of his head. He didn't know what to make of it because that fish was down in the water. As a matter of fact he didn't know what to make of the water. You see, everything was new to him.

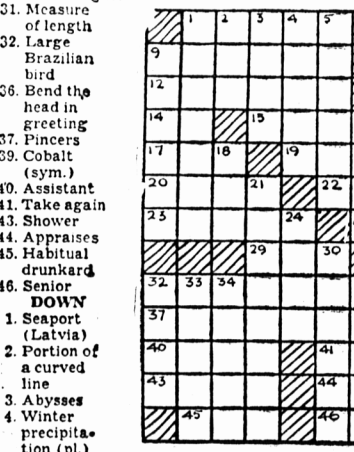
That minnow down there was really his first fish. That is, it was the first fish alive that he had ever seen. He wanted it. Right

when he wanted it more than anything he had ever wanted in his short life. But how was he to get it? He just didn't know.

Another little fish joined the first one, and then another and another, until there was a small school, as a group of fishes is called, slowly swimming about just below him. All those minnows were just the right size to be swallowed easily, yet he couldn't swallow one of them because he didn't know how to catch one of them. Suddenly all those fishes darted out of sight. Something had startled them, and they had darted out into deeper water. Touslehead didn't see where they had gone. For a long time he sat staring down in the water. Then something else caught his attention, and for the time being he forgot about those fishes. When again he looked down in the water there they were right back almost under him. It seemed as if all he needed to do was drop right down and pick one up. But he didn't yet know how to drop right down. You see, he didn't yet know how to use his wings except in a straight flight.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- To pass slowly
  - Resort
  - Discharging
  - Pills
  - Minister
  - Region
  - Spring month (abbr.)
  - Sugars
  - Crown
  - Roads
  - Partly open
  - Turf
  - Cut, as wood
  - To the right!
  - Measure of length
  - Large Brazilian bird
  - Bend the head in greeting
  - Pincers (sym.)
  - Assistant
  - Take again
  - Shower
  - Appraise
  - Habitual drunkard
  - Senior
- DOWN**
- Seaport (Latvia)
  - Portion of a curved line
  - Abysses
  - Winter precipitation (pl.)

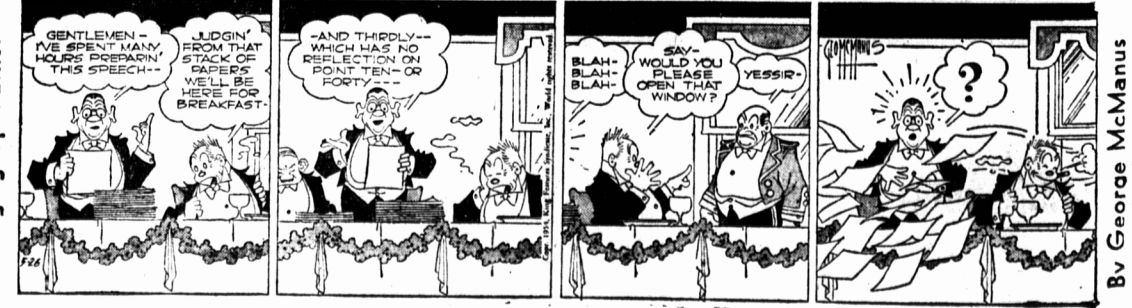
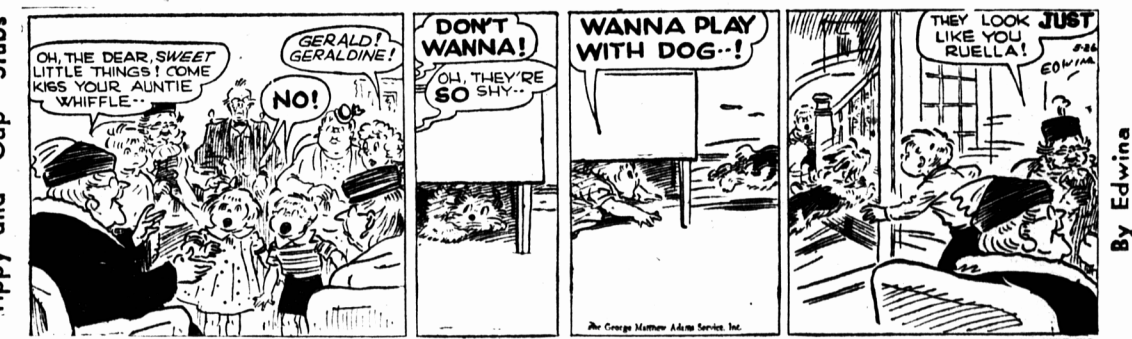
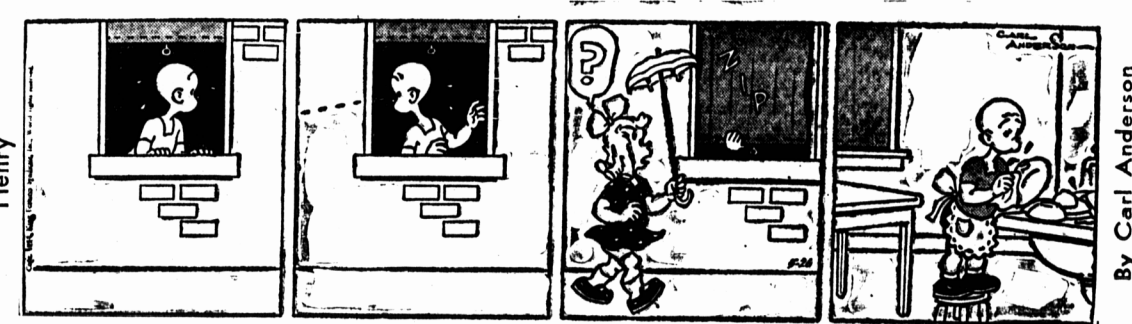
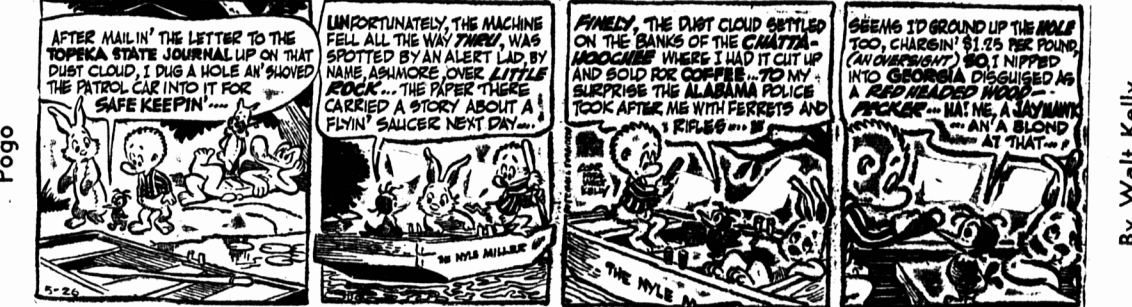


- ACROSS**
- Long-legged birds
  - Avowedly
  - A thick soup
  - Deputy
  - Uproar
  - Dialect variant of "saucer"
  - God of love
  - Animal's foot
  - A unit of ground forces (military)
  - Profound
  - Man's name
  - Black-headed gull (Eng.)
  - Bible roots of the Taro
  - Come into view
  - Cicatrix
  - Biblical name
  - Mature
- Yesterday's Answer**
- Means of communication
  - Of an area
  - Boss

**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE**—Here's how to work it: **AXYDLBAAXR** is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**A Cryptogram Quotation**  
 SHQK OENSG HA OKDEGF IHHA, DI OKDEGF PNKI-PHAAK.  
 Yesterday's Cryptogram: IN THIS WORLD HE FOUND NO FIT COMPANION—COLERIDGE



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By Bob Gustafson  
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 By Walt Kelly  
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