



By Thornton W. Burgess

MINDS OF THEIR OWN

Too often young folks must confess, Their confidence is but a guess. —Mrs. Grouse.

It was late of a winter afternoon. Already the black shadows had begun to creep out from the Purple Hills, and in a little while they would wrap the Green Forest in darkness. All the members of the grouse family were preparing to go to bed. They do not like to be out after dark. The snow lay deep all through the Green Forest. It was so deep and soft that for a few days four-footed hunters had been unable to get about. And the only hungry folk the grouse had had to watch for were Hooty the Owl and Terror the Goshawk. The latter is very fond of grouse.

Thunder and Mrs. Grouse had decided that they would spend this night in a tree, instead of down under the ground in the snow. Mrs. Grouse had advised the young grouse to do the same thing. The latter were now fully grown, and had minds of their own. Mother and father couldn't tell them that they must do this or that. They could only advise what to do. Mrs. Grouse had explained that there might be a change in the weather. It might rain, and Jack Frost might follow the rain. He might make a crust over the snow before morning. And if they were all sleeping down there they might all be prisoners down there under the crust. "Do you really think there is going to be rain?" asked one of the young grouse.

"I wouldn't say I think so, but I have a feeling there may be. So, I am not going to take any chances," replied his mother.

"It doesn't look like rain to me," said one of the young grouse. "And it doesn't feel like it either," said another.

Now the young grouse had liked sleeping on the ground buried in the snow. It had been a new experience for them, and a most pleasant one. They had felt very safe down there. The wonderful night-seeing eyes couldn't find them down there. There was no danger from Reddy Fox, or Gray Fox, or Old Man Coyote or Yowler the Bobcat, because the snow was so deep and soft that none of them could get about.

"We don't have to do just what father and mother do, unless we want to," said one.

"Mother may be right. Again she may be wrong. Anyway, she does not say that it is going to rain, and that Jack Frost will come. She just says that she isn't taking any chances. I don't believe we'll be taking any chances either if we do to bed down in the snow. We have minds of our own now, and can decide things for ourselves. I, for one, am going to bed down in the snow," declared another young grouse.

"Me, too," said another, nodding his head. So the young grouse talked it over among themselves, and all but two of them decided they would spend the night under the snow. The two others decided that they would join Thunder and Mrs. Grouse up in a tree.

"I hope they won't be sorry," thought Mrs. Grouse, as she watched the young grouse plunge into the snow.



Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A COSTLY CHANGE

North started off well in the bidding of the following hand, but he had a remarkable (and very costly) change of heart.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. ♠ 8764 ♠ 103 ♠ Q108 ♠ J95 ♠ K53 ♠ J1086 ♠ AK3 ♠ 972 ♠ 1086

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

It is obvious enough that North had a change of heart between his first and his second call. He was probably impressed at the start with his own 4-3-3-3 distribution and honor holding, but then he probably felt guilty over not hav-

ing raised partner with four-card trump support and decided that he had better do so. This was too bad for his side, because three no-trump would have been ironclad. West had played against this particular North many times before and knew that while his bidding might be inconsistent, he never greatly exaggerated his high-card values. West felt sure that if the heart queen was held by either opponent, as it figured to be, it would turn up in dummy rather than in the closed hand. Moreover, the bidding had made it clear that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to defeat four spades, since it was scarcely to be hoped that East had as good a hand as West held.

Even with all this reasoning it required considerable luck, as well as nerve for West to hit upon the one opening which could have routed the enemy: he led a low heart!

South cannot be criticized for the outcome. He put in dummy's ten, and of course lost the trick to East. The latter returned a heart, and West cashed the king and ace, then persisted with a fourth round of that suit. When East ruffed in with the spade ten, South was helpless, since an overruff would promote West's spade jack.

Announce New Way To Shrink Painful Piles

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Now this new healing substance is offered in ointment form for hemorrhoids under the name Preparation H*. The price is only \$1.19 a tube including an applicator. The name to ask for is Preparation H—at all drug stores. And remember — if not entirely satisfied — your money will be refunded promptly.

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Page 12 The Guardian Friday, December 31, 1954. GET YOUR FREE DIGEST OF THE Culbertson Point-Count Method. Simply send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the J. C. Winston Co., 1010 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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I. O. O. F. NEW YEAR'S DAY The Officers of St. Lawrence and Willey Lodges invite all members to a reception in Lodge Room New Year's Day from 2 to 5 o'clock P.M.

ANNOUNCING The APPOINTMENT OF FRED F. KITSON as OLIVER DEALER FOR CHARLOTTETOWN AND DISTRICT Office and Showroom located at 125 Kent Street. We will carry a complete line of Parts and Machinery.

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DAILY CROSSWORD ACROSS 1. Extra leather used for sharpening 11. Bishops of Rome 12. Belgian province 13. Uprising 14. Sufficient 15. Finishes 16. Soap-substituent plants 17. Actinium (sym.) 18. City in Iraq 19. Part of pedestals 22. Bounder 25. Ireland (poss.) 26. Irritate 28. Property (L.) 29. Chiller 30. A chocolate drink 33. Nickel (sym.) 34. Enthusiasm 36. Cushions 38. Large body of water 39. Half diameter 40. Rugged mountain crest 41. Acids which are the basic constituents of proteins 42. Musical instruments 43. Eucharistic plate

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it: A X Y D L B A A X R is L O N G F E L L O W 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.

The Lone Ranner comic strip panels showing a man in a hat talking to another man.

Joe Palooka comic strip panels showing a man in a suit talking to a group of people.

Secret Agent X9 comic strip panels showing a man in a suit talking to another man.

L'il Abner comic strip panels showing a man in a suit talking to a group of people.

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