

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

A DREADFUL LESSON

That which you learn the hardest way is in your mind to stay.

—Old Mother Nature.
"Caw, caw, caw!" shrieked Blacky the Crow as he circled above a little stretch of open water in a small brook flowing through the woods. "Caw, caw, caw!" Blacky was excited. He had just seen a dreadful thing happen. A wicked steel trap had leaped out of the snow and caught a young Mink by one leg. He had plunged into the water and now was down out of sight making the water boil and swirl as he struggled to bear himself free from that frightful trap.

There wasn't a thing that Blacky could do. Of course not. He was helpless to help. He circled about in small circles overhead screaming at the top of his lungs. Perhaps he thought that would bring some one who could help. The head of the young Mink appeared above the water as he gasped for air. Then he disappeared again. The weight of that steel trap was pulling him down. That trap had been set in such a way that any one caught in it would be likely to plunge into the water. That is what the trapper wanted. Whoever was caught would be likely to be drowned. It looked very much as if this was what was going to happen to the young Mink.

His head appeared above water again as he struggled to reach the bank. Just then Billy Mink shot out from under the ice. At a glance he knew just what had happened. He had seen such dreadful things happen before. He had learned a lot about traps. More than once from a hiding place he had watched a trapper set his traps. Now he swam straight to where his young son was struggling pitifully. Blacky stopped cawing. He



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was so intent watching what was going on below that he held his tongue. Billy Mink was doing his best to help that unhappy son of his crawl out of the water. He got under him and that dreadful trap. Between them the young Mink managed to crawl out on the snow-covered ice.

He lay there panting, trying to get back the breath he had lost almost completely under the water. In his eyes was fright so great that it was terror. He didn't understand at all what had happened to him. All he knew was that a pair of hard, dreadful jaws had grabbed him by the leg and they still held him, hurting terribly. He whimpered as he lay there. Billy Mink climbed out after him. He followed the chain that held the trap back to where it was fastened. There was no way in which he could get it free. He hadn't thought there would be. He had seen folks in fur trapped before. He knew just what would happen if his young son could not get free. He knew that he would have to lie there and suffer all day and all night until the trap-

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per should come the next morning.

That is, he would have to unless Reddy Fox or some other hungry hunter in fur should find him. Then he would be promptly killed and eaten. It was dreadful to think of, but this would be better than lying there suffering pain and dread and fright until that trapper should come to put him out of his misery.

Carefully Billy looked at that leg where it was held tight in the wicked steel jaws of the trap. He shook his head sadly. "If you are to get free, you will have to lose that leg or part of it," said he.

"Whoa-whoa-what?" faltered the young Mink in a voice that could barely be heard.

Billy Mink repeated what he had said. The young Mink shivered. "But-but-but-but I can't do that," he whimpered. "How can I get along without that leg?"

"You'll have to or else—" replied Billy Mink.

"Else what?" cried the young Mink.

"You will lie right here and suffer until you are killed," explained Billy Mink, and somehow the young Mink knew that his father knew, and what he said was true.

Meanwhile, Blacky the Crow had flown down and was walking about on the snow a little way off. He couldn't keep still. Would that young Mink be able to get away? If so, how would he do it? "If he does get away, he has learned a lesson he will never forget," thought Blacky.

Barrow - in - Furness, England, Jan. 29 - (Reuters) - Vickers Armstrong shipyards here launched its 1,000th ship today - the World Concord, a 15-knot, 31,000-ton, all-welded oil tanker for the North American Shipping Company of London.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BETTER PLANNING NEEDED

Better planning by declarer would have overcome the bad breaks he found in the following hand.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ A J 8
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ K J 4

♠ 2
♥ A K J
♦ 10 9 6 4
♣ 9

♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 8 2
♦ J 10 8 7
♣ Q 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 4 ♥ 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

West, well acquainted with South's style of bidding, was sure that South had told the truth when he showed heart control and so West made the desperation lead of his singleton diamond. This selection should have been a strident warning to South that he could not depend on a break of the outstanding diamonds, but, ignoring the danger signals, he went right ahead and drew three rounds of trumps and then cashed the diamond ace. (He had won the opening lead in dummy.) When East turned up with the diamond stopper, South tried his luck with the club finesse, but that failed and he was now helpless.

It would have been a good idea for South to do a little "testing" in the play! The bidding itself strongly indicated that West had at least seven hearts, and so declarer should have taken the pains to extract East's cards in the heart suit by ruffing. All South had to do was put dummy's entries to work so that he could ruff away three hearts; then, after drawing trumps, it would be easy to play out the diamonds and, when East turned up with the stopper, to throw him in with the last diamond and force a club return up to dummy's tenace.

This strip-and-throw-it plan would have been absolutely foolproof if trumps had broken 2-2, but even with the 3-1 break, it would have been safe enough, since the chance that East might hold more than three hearts was exceedingly remote.

GRIMETHORPE, England - (CP) - George Harry, a 70-year-old Yorkshire miner, did not attend the official tea party to be presented with a certificate for 50 years in the industry. He was working an extra shift.

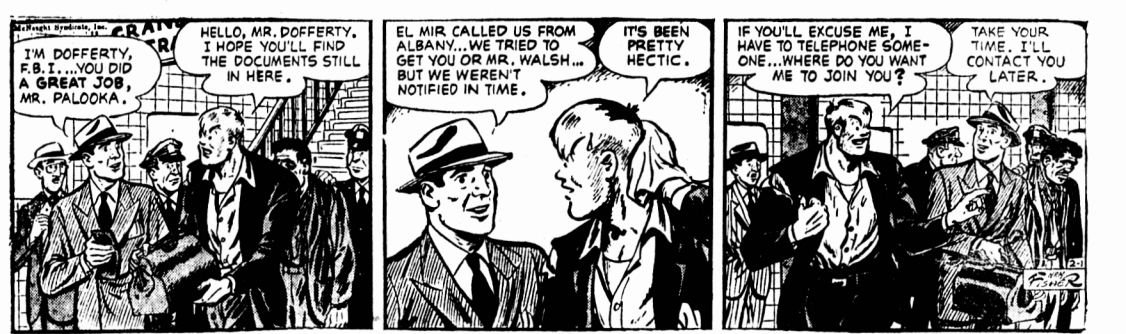
KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zane Grey



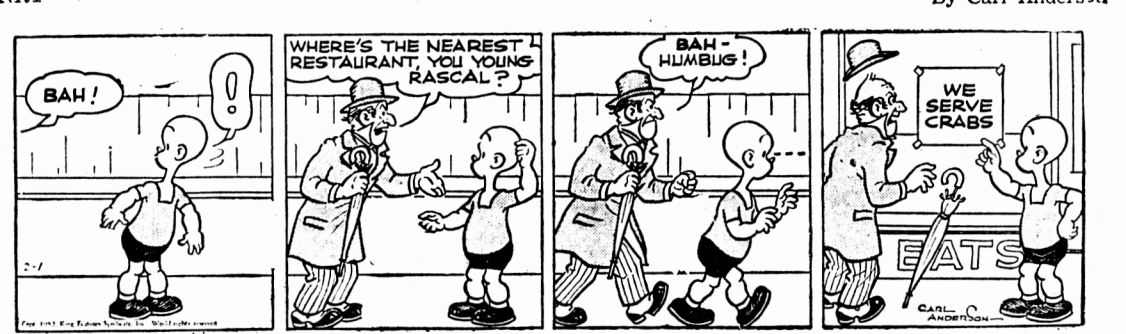
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



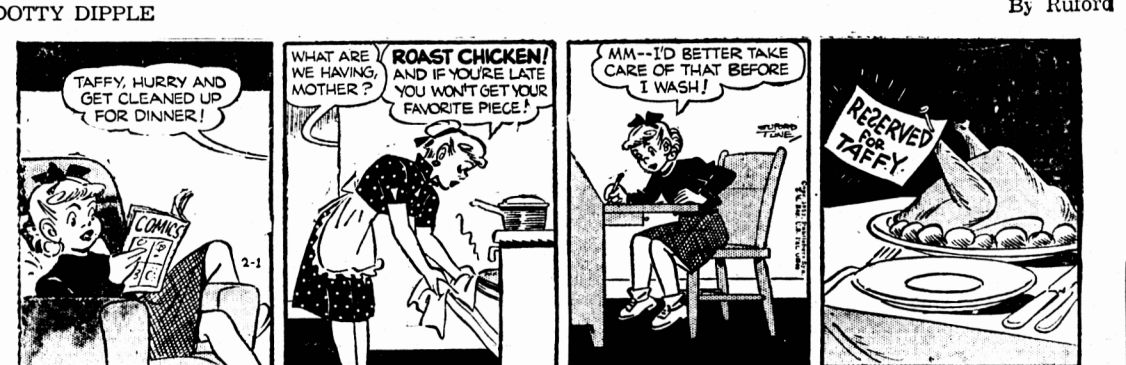
HENRY

By Carl Anderson



DOTTY DIPPLE

By Ruford



TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina

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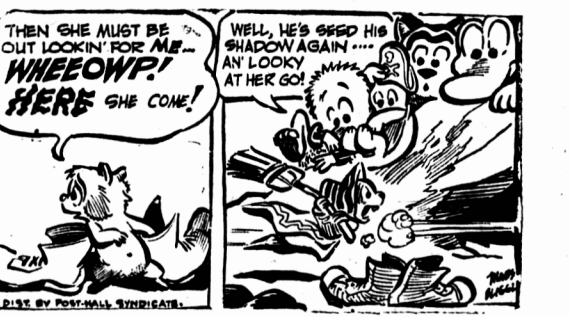
Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Clifford McBride



POGO



By Walt Kelly



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



LIL ABNER



By Al Capp



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



R.D. KIRBY



By Alex Raymond



PENNY

By Harry Hoehnigen

