

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

A STICK COMES TO LIFE
Who guesses things are thus or so. Will thus admit he doesn't know.

—Old Mother Nature.
Snowfoot and Tinklemouse, the two little Wood Mice who were making their home under the roots of the big hickory tree over by the Smiling Pool, felt that they had almost made the acquaintance of a cousin. They had seen a Meadow Mouse in a tiny little path cut through the grass. When they had first seen him he was coming toward them. Then he disappeared behind a bunch of grass, and though they waited and watched, they didn't see him again. They were disappointed.



It was Mr. Blacksnake.

"Anyway, I'm glad he wasn't anybody to be afraid of," said Tinkle.

"Perhaps he was the one who used to live where we are living now," suggested Snowfoot. "He might even have tried to put us out."

"He couldn't have done it," declared Tinkle flatly. "No, sir, he couldn't have done it."

"He might have," said Snowfoot. Tinkle shook her head. "No such thing," said she. "It would have been too one."

Little Snowfoot changed the subject. "That funny old stick is still out there in the grass," said he.

Tinklemouse looked. Sure enough, there lay the long black stick. It looked just the same as when she had last looked at it. That is, it did at first glance.

Then her bright little eyes made a discovery. That stick didn't seem to her to be as straight as it had been. There was a little curve near one end which she didn't remember.

"There's something queer about that stick!" she squeaked. "I don't see anything queer about it except that it is black," retorted Snowfoot.

"Look!" squeaked Tinklemouse. "Look! It moved!"

"You're seeing things, my dear," declared Snowfoot. "Sticks don't move unless some one moves them."

Just then the stick really did move. One end of it lifted. Then

ABOVE AVERAGE

Japan's 1955 wheat crop is estimated at an above-average 51,000,000 bushels, about 5,000,000 below last year's large crop.

A new assault on Canada's Arctic

Thousands of men and millions of dollars, right now, are being used in a fantastic assault on Canada's north. Two lives have already been lost.

An eyewitness account, in September Reader's Digest, brings you details of this great adventure. Building a "radar curtain" in the Arctic to protect you! September Reader's Digest tells you, too, how radar works, why it is used. Get your copy today: 41 articles of lasting interest condensed to save your time.

NOW IN THE GIANT FAMILY SIZE



Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Every time we give the other fellow a piece of our mind, we add to our own vacuum.

Mrs. V. L. Sanders of Sulphur Springs, Texas, says that her mother's maiden name was Cross and her father's name was Rhodes, so they named their first son Cross Rhodes.

It's just as well to forget your troubles because there are always more coming.

In many parts of Tibet "ghost traps" are used to ensnare evil spirits and demons. Threads of various colors surround the trap and are supposed to snare the spirit. All Tibetan spirits are considered to be liquid in form. Once snared they are believed to be absorbed by the threads.

Those people place their ghost traps on the rooftops of homes and monasteries.

Henry Durand won first prize as the best oyster opener in Paris in competition with scores of others. Henry opened 100 oysters in 6 min. 22 seconds.

The young of the Big Horn sheep are grouped into nurseries and tended by one ewe while the others forage.

If you were to drive along Highway 96 near Augustine, Texas, you would see a strange sight—a 20-foot tall cedar growing straight up from the limb of a china tree.

To keep it from splitting off highway department workers braced it with wire.

Before the days of modern filing systems, important papers were stored in packages and tied up with red tape instead of string. If a document were not immediately available it was said to be tied up in red tape. Hence, today, when action is slowed down for any reason, we say "all red tape."

The word "facetiously" contains all the vowels in the order in which they appear in the alphabet.

The Channel Islands grow the biggest cabbages in the world. Some of the plants reach a height of 10 to 16 feet. And stranger still some of the Islanders use the big strong cabbage stems for rafters in their thatched cottages.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

"PSYCHOLOGY" TO THE RESCUE
The slam contract in the following hand had no real chance of success, but "psychological plays" such as the one used by the declarer can sometimes work wonders.

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
♠ Pass 1 NT Pass Pass
♥ Pass 4♣ Pass Pass
♦ Pass 4♠ Pass Pass

North's bidding was very bad—both of his responses were wrong. His one-trump response would have been correct if South had opened with a spade or a heart, but over the actual club opening North's proper call was one diamond. The notrump response to a

club, specifically, is used by good players to denote a very fair hand (at least a queen stronger than North held), the theory being that one-trump is not a cheap response to a club since it keeps partner from rebidding the other suits at the one-level.

When, on top of this response, North then carried South's three-club rebid past the notrump game level, South naturally expected to find a much better dummy.

West opened the diamond king. South ruffed, studied the situation, and then led a club to the king. (He could not afford to lead two rounds of trumps because that might give East the chance to signal emphatically in spades.) Next, declarer led the diamond queen from dummy and passed the trick to West, discarding the heart deuce—not a spade—on this trick.

West, upon winning with the diamond ace, did what almost every other bridge player would do—he shifted quickly to a heart. That, of course, was exactly in line with South's hope. He drew the other trump, cashed his other heart honor, then led a trump to dummy and discarded his three spades on the two good diamonds and the queen of hearts.

Polio Victim On 29,000-Mile Bicycle Trip

QUEBEC, (CP)—A 26-year-old polio sufferer who couldn't walk until 10 years ago is nearing the end of a 29,000-mile bicycle trip across the North American continent.

arrive here at the end of September.

Dube, unable to speak clearly as a result of lingering paralysis, was guided only by route numbers on the marathon trip.

He started out by visiting Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, then headed across western Canada to Vancouver. From there he cut south to California, crossed the United States to Florida, and now is on the last lap up the Atlantic seaboard.

The trip was recommended to Dube, afflicted with polio since infancy, to strengthen underdeveloped muscles.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Undorred
- Send forth, as rays
- Egyptian antelope (var.)
- New
- Bitterly pungent
- Uva
- Peel
- Steele
- Half an em
- Tellurium (sym.)
- Female fowl
- Letter of the alphabet
- Pointed instrument for making eyelet holes
- Insurgent
- Appearing as if eaten
- Scattered about
- City (Pruss.)
- Island in Aegean Sea
- Cirrus (abbr.)
- Tribes of the Naga Hills, Assam
- Particle of addition
- Grapes remaining in the wine press
- A sharp, hard, metallic sound
- Headless bolt
- Capital of Viet Nam

DOWN

- Leaves out
- Marries
- Wages
- Nickname for Ohio
- Hillside dugout
- Shower
- Old times (archaic)
- Greatly in demand these days
- Break of day
- The yellow bugle
- Conical-shaped tent (Am. Ind.)
- A meat moistener
- Smooth (Phonet.)
- Downy
- Capital of Finland (poss.)
- Large bird
- Subsidy
- Sheltered side
- Before
- Mysteries
- Authoritative proclamations
- Old weight for wool
- Every, of two or more
31. A tooth
35. Soon
36. To mimic
37. Greedy
39. God-of-the-sky (Baby.)
40. Petty quarrel

Yesterday's Answer

30. Evenly

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
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, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation
N M N R O O X R D W H F Z X B W N H K K Y
W H K R N H W N F T F S S R K G - V C R E

Yesterday's Cryptogram—WHO PLAYS FOR MORE THAN HE CAN LOSE WITH PLEASURE, STAKES HIS HEART—HERBERT.

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Our Boarding House Major Hoople

EGAD, SNUFFY! TELL ACE AND ERNEST AND SPARROW AND WALDO AND ALL THE BOYS THEY'RE INVITED TO AN OLD-FASHIONED HIGH JINKS TOMORROW NIGHT AT HOOPLE MANOR! THERE'LL BE DINNER, POKER AND A LATE SUPPER—HAR-RUMPH!

SOUNDS LIKE A REGULAR TAFFY PULL, MAJOR! A HOME PARTY WILL BE LIKE HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYBODY—AFTER THEIR VACATIONS THEY'RE ALL IN HOCK, WITH POCKETS AS EMPTY AS A HAUNTED HOUSE!

Out Our Way By J. R. Williams

HERE'S TH' TWO GENERAL DRAWINGS OR THAT NEW CRANE AND THE CHARGING MACHINE! THERE'S A FEW THINGS I WANT TO EXPLAIN ABOUT BOTH!

IF YOU KEEP ON HAVIN' TO EXPLAIN SO MUCH WE WON'T BE A DRAWIN' OFFICE—JUST SEND WORD DOWN WHAT THEY WANT MADE AND WE'LL MAKE IT!

I LOVE THESE WORD BATTLES! TH' BULL GAVE HIM A GOOD DEEP FOR JOLT THERE!

TH' DRAFTIN' BOSS HIT HIM FIRST—BATTLE! HE HAS TO EXPLAIN THINGS TOO DEEP FOR TH' BULL!

UN... I MEAN T'SAY THEM'S MORE CHILDREN... WHY THEY LOOK OLDER AS YOU, MA'AM.

OH NO... NA... WORK YOU... YOU MAY... DEV ALWAYS WORRY... SO LOOK OLDER '555.

REAGS LEE! LEE! LEE! I HATE TO GOIN' FOR AILE.

COAST IS CLEAR PDSST?

GEY US ANCKE OR WE SANGAR YOU!

NOMAN, NID I SHAVE YORSELFS!

SHADDUP! GEE! WE!

ME FOLLOW TRAIL OF LONE RANGER!

HEY! YUH CANT LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!

NO?

LET'S GO!

BITTUM UP, SCOUT!

FERRIS IS COMIN' TO!

GOOD!

MEANWHILE

FOR PETER'S SAKE, TILLY! IF YOU DON'T STEP ON IT WE'RE GOING TO MISS THE SECOND PICTURE TOO!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE LATE—I TOLD MOM I'D WATER HER PLANTS WHILE SHE'S AWAY! I STILL HAVE TO DO THAT BEFORE WE LEAVE!

C'MON! LET'S GO! I WATERED THE PLANTS!

HOW DID YOU DO IT SO QUICK?

IT WAS EASY!

BUT, MOM, I ADORE BRUCE! HE REALLY ROCKS ME!

CHARM RUNS IN THE FAMILY! I HAD A CRUSH ON HIS FATHER WHEN I WAS A GIRL.

BUT HE WAS A HARD LOSER! HE NEVER FORGAVE ME FOR TURNING HIM DOWN AND MARRYING YOUR DAD!

SO, TO AVOID TROUBLE, I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T SEE BRUCE AGAIN!

OH, BUT, MOM, REALLY! ALL THAT WAS UTTERLY YEARS AGO! NOBODY HOLDS A GRUDGE THAT LONG!

SO! I SEE YOU'RE RAIDING THE CEBEX, TOO, SKEETER!

BUT THIS IS NOT FOR ME, GRAMPS!

IT ISN'T?

NO... GRANDMA ASKED ME TO COME DOWN AND GET HER A SNACK!

THAT'S A HEARTY-LOOKING 'SNACK'! DOES GRANDMA ALWAYS EAT THESE BEETLE SNACKS? OH, NO... THIS IS SOMETHING NEW...

...SHE ONLY STARTED THIS SINCE SHE WENT ON HER DIET!

BIZZY DEPARTMENT STORE

SERVICE DESK

SERVICE DESK

I HAVEN'T SEEN HUGO YURWAY AROUND LATELY—I WONDER WHERE HE IS

DINTY, DO YOU EVER SEE HUGO YURWAY?

SURE! HE WAS IN TODAY AND HE WAS FEELING DOWNHEARTED BECAUSE HIS WIFE LEFT HIM!

WHAT? HE WAS DOWNHEARTED ABOUT THAT?

YES, YOU SEE THEY WERE LIVING IN A TRAILER...

AND WHEN SHE LEFT SHE TOOK THE TRAILER WITH HER!

HERE SHE COMES! REMEMBER OUR SIGNALS!

HI, GRANDMA! WHAT A PRETTY APRON YOU'RE WEARING!

THANKS, GRANDMA! TH' APPLES DON'T GET BRUISED THAT-A-WAY!!

ORCHARD

PROGRAMS I WANT TO SEE!

TOO BAD...!

GOOD! MORTY'S BEEN STAYING UP TOO LATE LATELY!

L'L DAWY'S A GOOD INFLUENCE FOR MORTY! HE... MUM?

YOU TOO, MISTER!

L'L DAWY SURE HAS A MIGHTY PERSUASIVE WAY ABOUT HIM!

OH, GRACIE STENGEL!—YO' H-HAINT REAL!

STOP BLUBBERIN', SON. I'S FACED WIF A REAL TRAGEDY!!

WE INVITED THEM MOB TO A 8-DOLLAR WEDDIN', AN' WE GOT'A DEE-LIVER!!

YO' JEST PLAIN HAFTA MARRY SOME GAL, SON—OR OUR NAME WILL BE MUDD!

SON!—AK HOPEFUL MUDD 'MARRY YO'—AN REE-LIZE YO' DON'T LIKE HER MUCH—BUT, AT LEAST SHE'S REAL!

TOO REAL!

LOOK, DARLING—I HAVE BEEN A MAN OF D'WORLD! I AM NOT HANDSOME, BUT I HAVE MONEY AND I AM WEDDY TO SETTLE DOWN...

I COULD BUY DIS ENTIRE LAKE FAN YOU—INCLUDING DE 6-MAN'S P'PROPERTY ON DE OPPOSITE SHORE.

A S-MART HERE ON THE LAKE? I WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? WHAT IS HIS NAME?

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Tilly The Toiler

Etta Kent

Muggs and Skeeter

Henry

Bringing Up Father

Grandma

Mickey Mouse

By Ham Fisher

L'il Abner

By Fran Striker

By Paul Bishop

By Wally Bishop

By Carl Anderson

By George McManus

By Charles Kuba

By Walt Disney

By Al Capp

By M. J. Craft