(By Thornton W. Burgess)

BUSTER BEAR OVERLOOKS SOMETHING

The seeming may not e'en exist
And yet in being still persist.
—Old Mother Nature.

Buster Bear grunted. Buster was working? Buster was digging around the roots of an old stump. He was trying to dig a hole under that old stump. But he wasn't trying too hard. Lazy workers never do try too hard. He would dig his big claws into the ground and pull out a little sand, then rest a bit. Then he would sit with his head swinging from side to side pretending to be looking all around, but in reality doing no real looking at all. He was just happily lazy, and there is no happier feeling than that of being happily lazy, always providing you can afford to be so. Buster could. He always can.

Buster began digging again.

"Stupid! Stupid! There isn't any Mouse there," croaked Blacky the Crow's big cousin, Croaker the Raven. "You are digging for nothing, and what could be more stupid than that?"

Buster looked up at Croaker. "I am not paying any attention to a black robber who wants that Mouse himself," he retorted.

Croaker said nothing. He really didn't know if there was a Mouse down under that old stump. He knew there had been, but it had been quite a while since he had seen that Mouse, and he doubted if it was still there. If it was he didn't want Buster to find it, because he himself then would have no chance, and he had been watching for that Mouse a long time. Buster began digging again. He dug a short time, then, growing tired of digging, he wandered off. By and by he came back. He dug a little more. Digging can be fun, you know. Buster rather enjoyed digging that hole, just as boys and girls enjoy digging holes in the ground. Something caught his attention back in the woods, and curiosity led him over there. When he came back he dug a little more. That was quite like Buster Bear.

Now what had started Buster to digging in the first place was the faintest of faint odors. It was the Mouse oder. Buster has a very long nose. It is a nose that can be trusted. The moment that nose picked up that odor Buster knew that a Mouse had been around there not long ago, and might still be near or around that old stump. That is why he had started digging. But by now he he had forgotten all about that Mouse smell. You see, he couldn't smell it any more, so he really was digging for the fun of digging than anything else. He knew if he dug long enough and deep enough, he would by and by be able to push that old stump over, and that would be fun.

Now all this time there was a Mouse down under that old stump. It was Nimbleheels, the Jumping Mouse, the little Mouse with the long tail, the long hind legs, and the short front ones. Of all the folks in fur who sleeps all winter, or a part of the winter, little Nimbleheels is the champion sleeper. That is to say, he sleeps longer than does any one else. He sleeps all winter so that he really doesn't know anything about winter. Of course,

(Continued on Page 16)

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BOLD AND UNCONVENTIONAL BIDDING

There are few players who would make the same sort of speculative bid that South made in the following deal, but South was a well-known expert and it goes without saying that there was a logic in his decision.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

North: ♠ J 4 3 ♥ Q 9 7 6 ◆ 10 2 ♣ Q 8 3 2

West: ♠ K 8 7 ♥ A K J 3 2 ◆ 9 6 ♣ J 9 6

East: ♠ Q 10 9 5 ♥ 10 5 4 ◆ 8 5 4 ♣ K 7 4

South: ♠ A 6 2 ♥ 8 ◆ A K Q J 7 3 ♣ A 10 5

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ◆	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
3 N T (!)	Pass	Pass	Pass

Most players, holding South's cards, would not dream of launching out into notrump, especially after hearing an adverse heart call — their singleton heart would induce them to search almost anywhere else but notrump for a makable game. In this case, however, it is obvious that they would be disappointed. There would be no play for five diamonds, and that would be the only suit available.

The actual South (as he explained later) risked the leap to three notrump largely because he had only one heart! If this seems paradoxical, consider his reasoning. It was unlikely, to start with, that West held a solid heart suit, and since East had remained quiet, there was no indication that he had the heart honors to solidify his partner's suit. In all probably, then, North had some length in hearts, and even as little as the guarded jack might suffice as a stopper. Finally, there was the chance (which was not nearly as small as one might suppose) that West would be "talked out of" opening his own suit if South made his huge leap in notrump. Certainly, this leap would sound as though South were expecting the heart lead and were quite prepared for it!

At any rate, South was not satisfied to settle for a part-score, with eight tricks in his own hand, so he took the plunge, and he fulfilled the contract by executing a throw-in play which brought him an extra club trick.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Book clasp
5. Garment
9. Little island
10. Always
11. Let it stand (print.)
12. Scorch
13. Debates
15. River (Sov. Un.)
17. Girl's nickname
18. Kind of cap
21. Shades of a primary color
23. Undivided
25. Mother
26. Forward
28. Friend of Pythias (Class. Myth.)
30. Dutch (abbr.)
31. Dancer's cymbals
33. High
34. Organ of hearing
36. Swabbing implement
38. Marshal of France (1815)
39. Oriental
42. European river
43. Perishes
45. Barrier
46. Measure of land
47. Holes in needles
48. For fear that

DOWN

1. Belonging to him
2. Astraddle
3. Cradle for a ship (obs.)
4. Part of a flower
5. Echo
6. Baking chamber
7. Animal
8. Blunder
14. Sault Ste. Marie (local name)
15. Sultan's decree
16. Flowering tree (P. I.)
19. Detergent plant
20. Like a man
22. Perched
24. Consume
27. Young maidens
29. Behavior
32. Piece of property
35. A kind of race
37. A foot lever
40. Competent
41. A cereal grain
42. Female sheep
44. Clique

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
	9					10				
	11					12				
		13			14					
15	16			17				18	19	20
21			22		23		24		25	
26				27		28		29		
30			31		32		33			
34		35		36		37		38		
		39	40				41			
	42					43			44	
	45					46				
	47					48				

	C	R	A	W		B	E	A	R	
	R	O	U	G	E		I	N	R	O
	E	M	D	E	N		O	V	A	T
	S	P	E	D		S	T	I	L	E
	E	L		B	O	A	R			
	N	A	I	L	E	D		O	R	D
	T	I	T	A	N		S	N	E	A
	S	N	O	B		P	A	S	T	R
			R	O	A	N			R	W
	A	S	L	A	N	T		A	S	I
	R	O	A	D	S		A	L	L	E
	C	A	N	O	E		D	E	A	R
	P	E	R	T		D	E	Y	S	

• Saturday's Answer

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 ● 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

MJZ YEE OXO EJIK SXG JHTK, HJD, AXDSJZD TYZNK—NSYCKNFKYLK.

Saturday's Cryptoquote: NO INCLINATIONS ARE SO FIERCE THAT THEY MAY NOT BE SUBDUED BY DISCIPLINE—PROVERB.

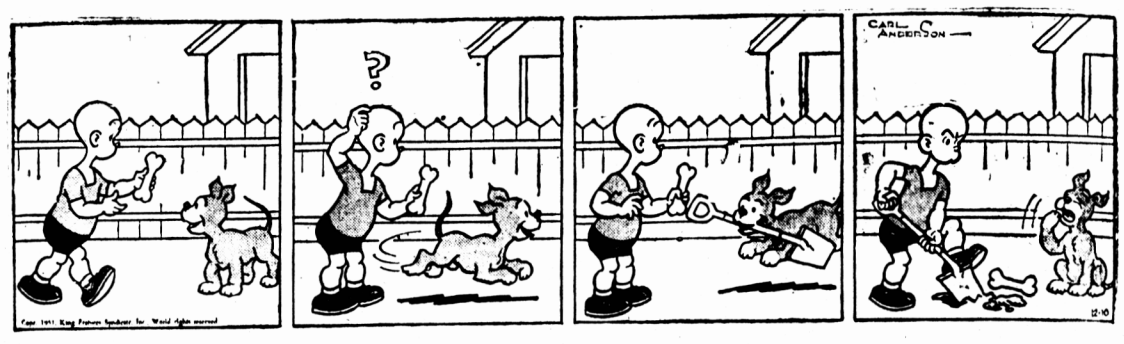
KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Ham Fisher

JOE PALOOKA

By Ruford

HENRY



By Carl Anderson

DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Edwina

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By George McManus

BRINGING UP FATHER

By Westover

POGO

By WALT KELLY

LI'L ABNER

By Al Capp

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

TILLY THE TOILER

By Westover

PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen