

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

GRANDFATHER FROG IS A CROAKER.

There's nothing that is more provoking than listening to another croaking. —Jerry Muskrat.

A croaker is one who delights in getting about all the bad things that happen and then, after getting the latter, Grandfather Frog is the croaker of the Smiling Pool. He delights in croaking. He croaks croaking now to Jerry Muskrat.

"Croak-croak!" said Grandfather Frog. "The worst is yet to come."

"I don't see how things can be much worse," declared Jerry Muskrat. He looked worried. He was worried. There had been an unusually long drought. The Smiling Pool had been growing smaller and smaller, and the end was not yet. "The worst is yet to come," repeated Grandfather Frog.

"How do you know that?" demanded Jerry. "Nobody knows what is to come."

"But I know the worst is yet to come," retorted Grandfather Frog. "I know it because the worst never has come."

"I don't like this hot weather," squeaked Jerry. "Even the water is too warm for a fur coat. Have you noticed that Laughing Brook has stopped laughing?"

"Of course I've noticed," said Grandfather Frog. "What of it? Grandfather Frog. 'What of it?' I've known it to stop laughing before. It probably is a good thing not to laugh all the time."

"It isn't a good thing! Anyway, it isn't a good thing for Laughing Brook. And it isn't a good thing for the rest of us."

"It was true that Laughing Brook no longer made a sound. It didn't even drip. It was hardly a brook at all. The water was gathered in little pools, and between these trickled without so much as a murmur. It was a long and very severe drought that had browned the Green Meadows, and caused the leaves on the trees in the Green Forest to hang limply. Everything seemed to be drying up. Even the Big River was smaller than it had been for a long time.

"I don't see a cloud anywhere," squeaked Jerry.

"Of course you don't. There aren't any clouds," croaked Grandfather Frog.

"There must be some somewhere," said Jerry.

"If there is a cloud somewhere it isn't here, and it isn't doing us any good. You might as well make up your mind. Jerry Muskrat, that things are going to be worse before they are better," croaked Grandfather Frog.

"How do you know?" demanded Jerry.

"Things always are worse before



ANNOUNCE NAVY POSTINGS

OTTAWA (CP)—Lt.-Cmdr. John Barclay Young, 32, of Vancouver and Victoria, has taken command of the frigate Sussexvale, the navy announced Friday. He succeeds Cmdr. Richard Hugh Leir, 33, of Penitence, B.C., who will begin the Royal Navy staff course in Britain.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

GOOD MATCH-POINT TACTICS

EAST'S bidding in the deal below was a model of good tactics, particularly for match-point duplicate.

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

♠ Q 8 4
♥ 10 9 5 2
♦ 8 8
♣ J 10 9 6

♠ 7 7 8
♥ K J 6
♦ A K 9 5
♣ 7 2

♠ 5
♥ Q J 4 3
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ A Q 3

♠ A K 10 9 6 2
♥ A 8
♦ K 8 5 4
♣ 7

This was the auction at the table in reference:

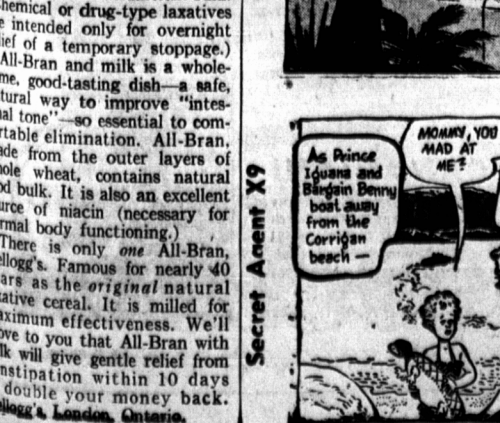
East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Dble.	Pass
2 ♠	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Since East had passed originally, any action by West over one spade was obviously a gamble, but at match-point duplicate most experts habitually take such risks. A two-diamond overcall by West would have been indefensible; the double was much less dangerous. If East could respond in hearts,

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Pioneer Days In P. E. I.

By F. H. MacArthur

Women, as well as men, had to have brave hearts. With their menfolk away all day in the woods, or perhaps fishing eels at some distance from their homes, mother used frequently to be left alone with the children for two or three days together.

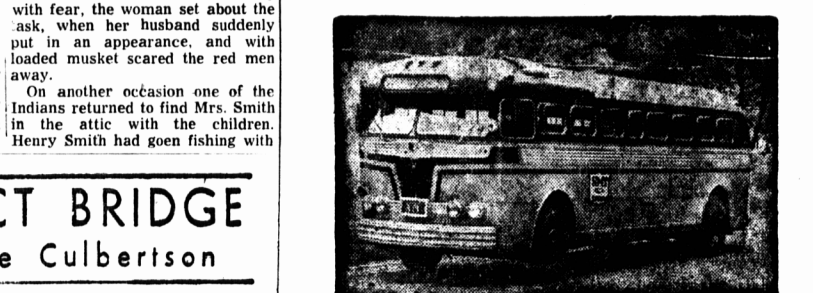
The forests were full of bears and other wild animals that preyed on the livestock and often sent Junior screaming into his mother's arms. And there were prowling Indians, some of them none too friendly, especially when they knew the head of the house was absent, or when under the influence of liquor.

These were but a few of the dangers that beset the lonely housewife as she went about her daily tasks.

Once when Mrs. Henry Smith of Belfast was alone with her two small children, a party of four drunken Indians came to her home and threatened to kill her if she did not hustle them a meal. Trembling with fear, the woman set about the ask, when her husband suddenly put in an appearance, and with loaded musket scared the red men away.

On another occasion one of the Indians returned to find Mrs. Smith in the attic with the children. Henry Smith had gone fishing with

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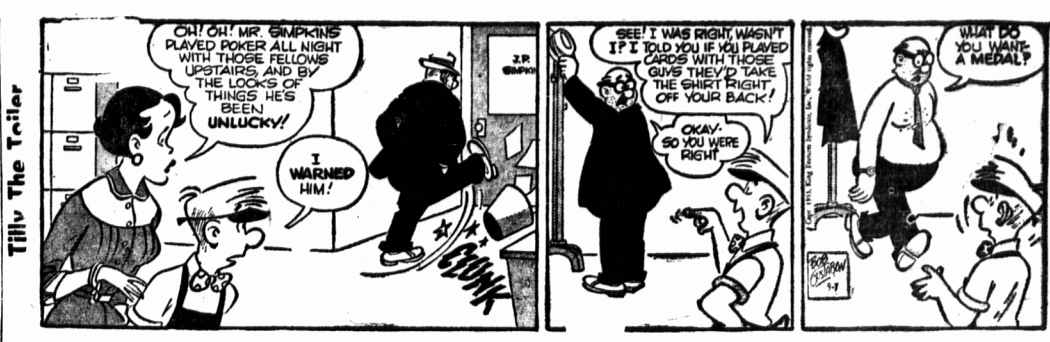
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