

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## DRUMMER TELLS ALL

A kindly deed of little cost  
May save a life when hope is lost.  
—Drummer the Woodpecker.

There was great excitement among the feathered folk at the feeding shelf at a kitchen window of Farmer Brown's house. Such a chattering! Such a flitting back and forth between the shelf and the nearest tree! And it was all because of Drummer the Woodpecker. Drummer was there, yet in a way he wasn't there. He was inside that window, while all his friends were outside, and that made all the difference in the world. Yes, sir, Drummer was in Farmer Brown's house, and he couldn't get out if he wanted to any more than his friends could get in if they wanted to, which they did.

Everybody was curious. How in the world did Drummer happen to be inside? What was going to happen to him? You should have heard those tongues chatter on



He perched in the nearest tree to look things over.

that feeding shelf! You should have seen the way those feathered folk stared through the glass! For several days no one knew what had happened. Then Sammy Jay happened to be flying through the Green Forest near where, for a long, long time, a dead tree had stood, a tree in which Sammy knew that Drummer the Woodpecker had been spending his nights in a snug bedroom he had cut out for himself.

Sammy blinked. He blinked again. That dead tree was missing. Anyway it wasn't standing where it had stood for so long. He perched in the nearest tree to look things over. That tree lay on the ground. It had been cut down. Sammy knew it had been cut because there were chips all around on the snow. His sharp eyes looked that tree all over. They made a discovery.

That tree had been cut open right where Drummer's bedroom had been. Once more Sammy sprang his wings. He headed straight for Farmer Brown's house, and the feeding shelf there at the kitchen window. As he hoped, a number of the other feathered folk were there. You see, he had news to tell. There is nothing Sammy enjoys more than being the bearer of news. Good news or bad news is all the same to him as long as he is the first one to spread it around.

"What do you think?" cried Sammy.

"What do we think about what?" demanded Speckles the Starling a bit testily.

"Drummer the Woodpecker's tree is down and his bedroom broken open!" cried Sammy Jay. At that all the birds turned to stare through the window at Drummer the Woodpecker inside. They were excited. Of course that fallen tree must have had something to do with Drummer's being where he now was, in a cage inside that window. If that tree had been cut down by Farmer Brown or Farmer Brown's Boy, why hadn't Drummer flown away before they could catch him? They screamed questions at him, but the window was closed, and if he heard, he made no sign.

Then one morning, when the birds had gathered on the feeding shelf, they made a discovery. Drummer wasn't just inside the window. The cage he had been in wasn't there. Had something dreadful happened to him? Could it be that they never would see him again? How the tongues did fly!

"Rat-a-tat-rat-a-tat-rat-a-tat. All the tongues stopped. Every head was turned toward a tree in the Old Orchard. Then there was a rush of wings as every one of those feathered gossippers headed toward that tree from which the sound had come. There, drumming on a dead limb, was Drummer the Woodpecker. In a jiffy he was surrounded by his excited friends demanding to know what had happened to him, how he had happened to be in Farmer Brown's kitchen and how he happened to be free now. When those excited tongues kept still long enough for him to be heard, Drummer told all. He told how Jack Frost had locked him in his own bedroom by filling his doorway with ice. He told how he had tapped and tapped in vain until he had almost given up in despair. He told how Farmer Brown's Boy had heard him and rescued him,

had fed him and cared for him and finally given him his liberty that very morning. Then they all flew back to the feeding shelf to talk it over.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### SHREWD ANALYSIS

South brought home a "touchy" contract in the following deal by drawing a shrewd deduction from the bidding.

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
North-South 20 part-score.

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

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1♥ 1♠ 1♣ 1♠  
2♥ 4♣ Pass Pass

West opened the heart king. Dummy's ace was played, and declarer carefully noted East's follow-suit play of the eight-spot. The ace and king of clubs dropped the outstanding trumps, and now declarer took stock.

West, he reasoned, must have started with at least a five-card heart suit, and possibly had six hearts. He had shown two clubs. If he had fewer than four spades, East must have started with at least six spades. With that number, wouldn't East have grasped the opportunity to make a weak spade takeout over North's double? Surely, he couldn't afford to wait and show the suit at a higher bidding level; if he did wait, his partner would look to him for genuine values. Thus, East's failure to bid one spade over the takeout double seemed fair evidence that he did not hold a six-card. So he must have four diamonds. Moreover, South knew that with six diamonds at large, the probability was that he would find a 4-2 rather than a 3-3 break. On these sound considerations, declarer played as follows:

He led dummy's low club to his own ten and returned a low diamond toward dummy. West did not make matters easy by putting up the ace but this had no effect on declarer's play. He won with dummy's jack, then returned a low diamond from dummy and ducked in his own hand! West's ace fell, and it was all over. West could take two heart tricks, but declarer had safely provided for his own losing spade on dummy's fourth diamond.

## KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zane Grey



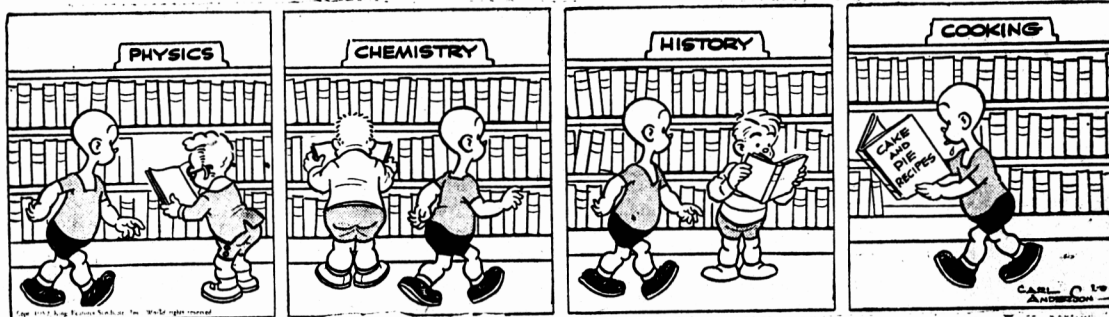
JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



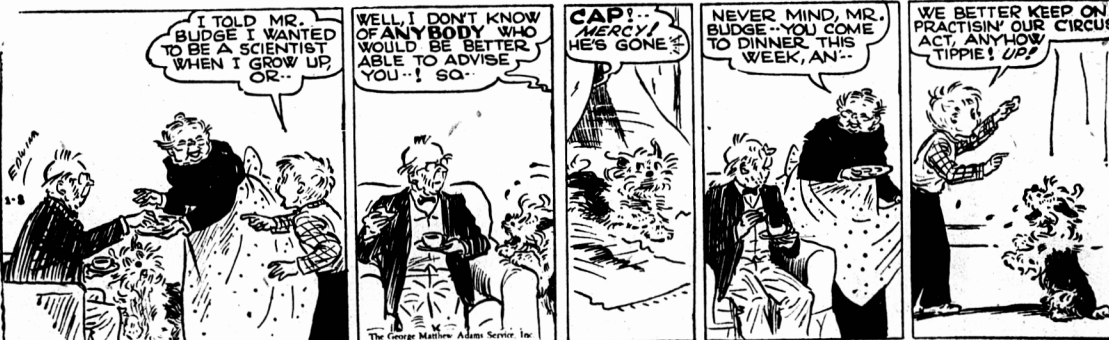
DOTTY DIPPLE

By Ruford



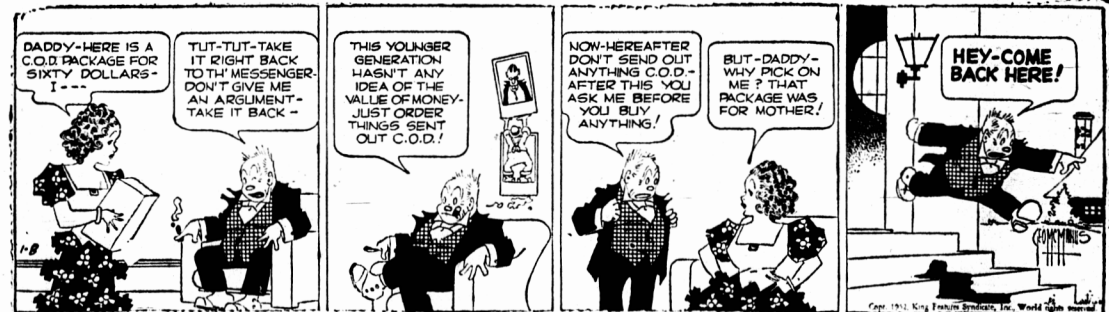
TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



PENNY

By Harry Hoengsen



**BINGO**  
Holy Redeemer Hall  
**TONIGHT**  
8.30  
The prizes are the same as those prevailing at other Bingos in the city.

## HOME MANAGEMENT

The Vocational School, operated jointly by the Dominion Department of Labor and the Provincial Government announces again for public consideration a course in Home Management. This course consisting of instruction in cooking, sewing, first aid, home nursing, crocheting and knitting is open to all young people of the Province and will begin on January 14th, at 2:00 P.M.

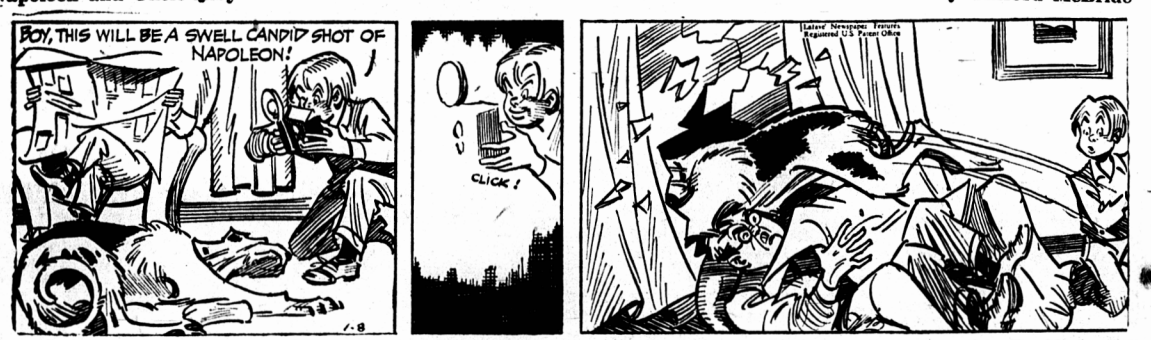
Those between the ages of 16 and 30 are eligible for an allowance of \$6.00 per week to assist in payment of board.

Applications should be sent immediately to the Director, Vocational School.

**OWBRIDGE'S**  
TONIC  
Quick Relief  
for  
**COUGHS - COLDS**

## Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



POGO

By Walt Kelly



L'L ABNER

By Al Capp



RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

