

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

MRS. HAPPY JACK GROWS THIN.

Worries nothing ever gains; Loses more than it attains. — Old Mother Nature.

Mrs. Happy Jack was a worried squirrel. Mothers of helpless babies usually are worried, and Mrs. Happy Jack had four babies as helpless as babies could be. They were so helpless that they couldn't do the least little thing for themselves. They had been born with their eyes tightly closed. They were closed, and would be for some time to come. After all there was no real use for those eyes in the darkness of their snug home in a hollow in a tree.

One of mother's greatest worries was the fear that her secret would be found out. As it was, no one knew about those babies. Happy Jack, the father, had almost found out. He had been poking his head in at the doorway when Mrs. Happy Jack came up behind him, and nipped him with her sharp teeth before he had time to discover those babies. He had left in a hurry. Now Mrs. Happy Jack worried for fear he would come back when she was absent, and there was no knowing what he might do to those precious, helpless babies.

You wouldn't think he would harm his own babies? Well, he wouldn't know they were his. Many Green Forest fathers don't know their own children, not at first, anyway. Had Happy Jack been able to see them a day or two after they were born he couldn't have been blamed for not knowing them. They had no little fur coats. They had no little fur coats. They didn't have ears that could be seen. Their little legs hardly looked like legs. Of course they didn't have bushy tails. Probably had you seen them then, and not seen their mother, you wouldn't have known what kind of babies they were, and you certainly wouldn't have thought there was anything pretty about them. Goodness, no! But to



He was sitting on a limb just above the doorway to her home.

their mother they were the loveliest babies in all the Green Forest. That is what mother love does to mother eyes.

Mother wanted to keep her secret just as long as possible. She would like to keep it until the babies were old enough and big enough to poke their heads out of the doorway. Of course there would be no keeping the secret then. When she was with them she didn't worry, but she never left them alone even for a few minutes without worrying. Their little fur coats grew rapidly. That was a good thing, because it was still cold. You see, winter wasn't really over when they were born.

Mrs. Happy Jack wasn't looking her best. No, sir, she wasn't looking her best. Indeed, she looked far from it. You see she was growing thin, and she had little time to keep her coat and big bushy tail looking their best. The fact is she didn't think about it. She didn't think about herself at all. All her thought was for those precious babies. She didn't care a flirt of her tail how she looked.

With four babies to nurse she had to eat fairly well herself, and that meant that she had to go out to get her food. How she did hate to do that. She worried, worried, worried all the time she was away from home. Every once in a while she would run back to where she could look up at the doorway and make sure that nobody was trying to get in. Once when she looked up she saw something that made her heart jump right up in her throat. It was Redtail the Hawk. He was sitting on a limb above the doorway to her home. There really wasn't anything to worry about. He didn't know about those babies, and if he had known he couldn't

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

CLOSE DOUBLES NEED FINE DEFENSE

A close double would have paid off in the following hand if the defense had been more intelligent.

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| ♠ KQ54 | ♥ A J 9 4 |
| ♦ K 7 | ♣ A J |
| ♠ 10 6 5 3 | ♥ Q 9 8 4 |
| ♦ A 6 2 | ♣ J 10 7 |
| ♠ 8 3 | ♥ 10 7 2 |
| ♦ 6 5 3 2 | ♥ Q 10 9 8 4 |
| ♠ K 8 5 4 | ♥ K 2 |
| | ♦ Q 9 3 |

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
Pass Dbie. 2♥ Pass
Pass Pass Pass

North's one-spade opening was not only too weak but also "unprepared" in respect to possible rebidding necessity. If North insisted on opening such a doubtful hand, it would have been wiser to start with one club.

West's double of two hearts (to repeat) was obviously speculative, and its possible reward was cut down when West chose a low club as his opening lead. Ducking in dummy, declarer won with the queen; then he led a spade to the king, and East shifted to his fourth-highest diamond; South put up the king and was annoyed to see the ace another trick.

Now, in another gesture of friendship to declarer, West shifted to trumps, and East's jack (which he otherwise might have won on a finesse by declarer) was captured by South. The latter returned a trump, and East was in again. This time East decided to return his partner's original lead; his club jack was taken by the ace, and another club lead from dummy went to West's king.

West saw no reason for falling to force declarer, so he led the thirteenth club. South ruffed and took out West's remaining trumps, and now East joined his partner in crime! Faced to reduce to three cards, East was so indiscreet as to keep the diamond queen, along with his necessary J-9 protection in spades. That was exactly what declarer had been hoping for; convinced that the spade jack was not going to fall on the king, he exited with the deuce of diamonds, and East had to give the enemy two spade tricks. So a contract which should have been beaten at least 500 was fulfilled, for game and rubber!

Continued on page 12

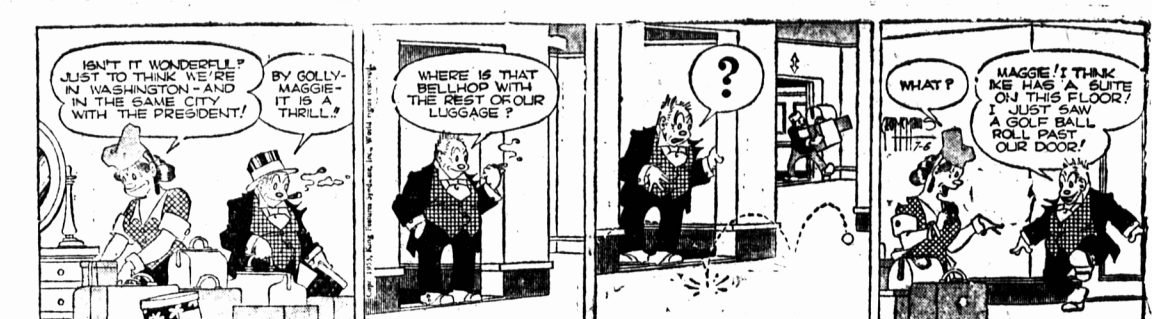
COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION AND ANALYSIS

G. F. HUTCHESON & SON

Optometrists
53 Grafton Street

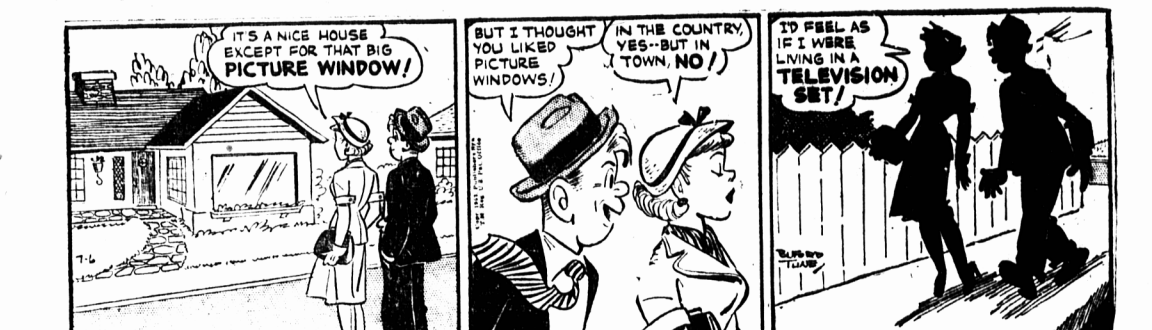
Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



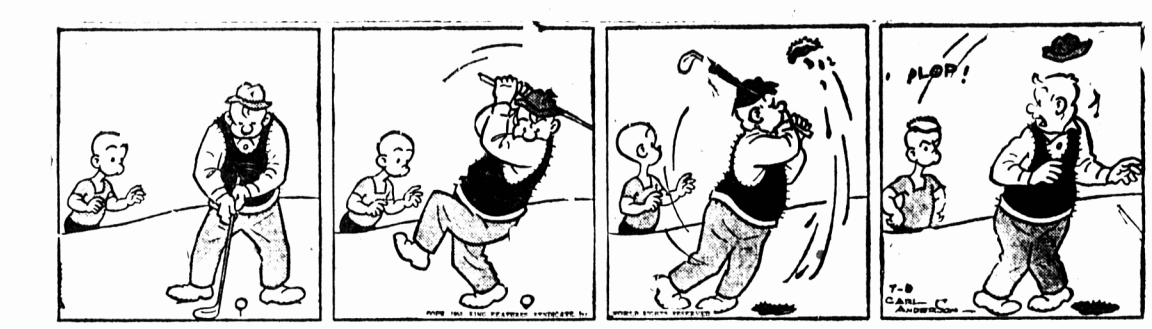
Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



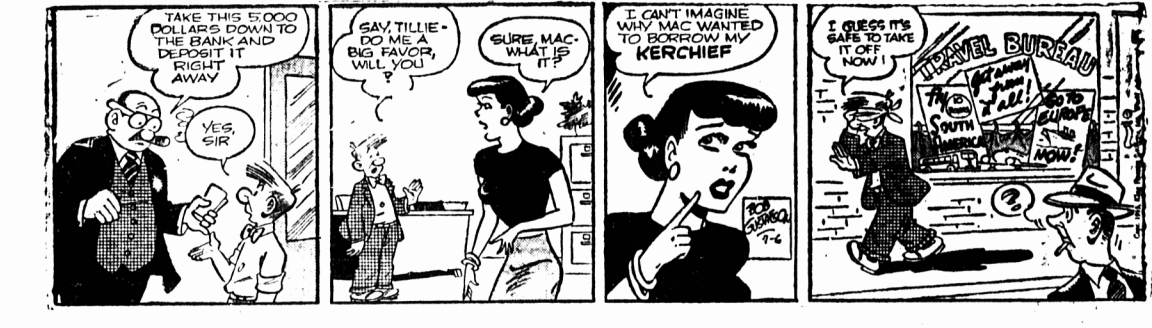
Henry

By Carl Anderson



Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



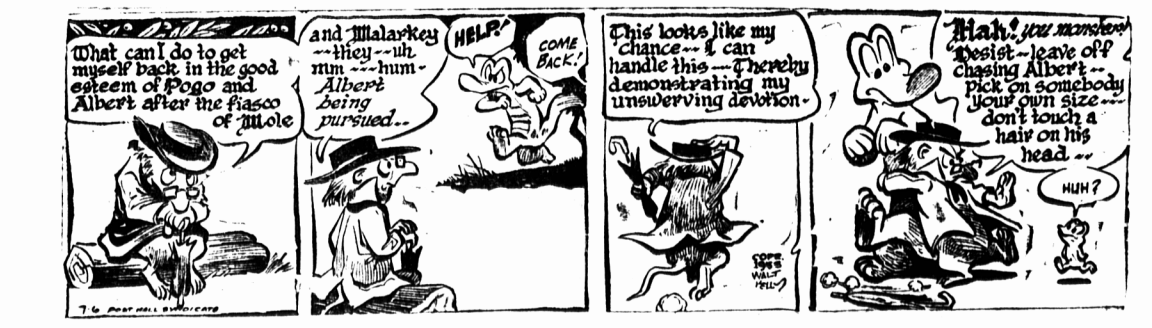
Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



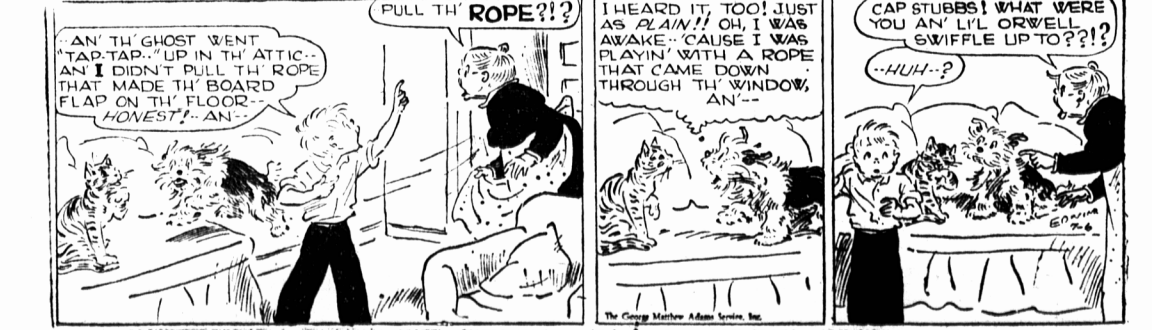
Pogo

By Walt Kelly



Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Al Capp



PENNY

By Al Capp



...3 Flavours!

DR. BALLARD'S

flavoured **PET FOODS**

REGULAR CHICKEN LIVER

Variety is the Spice of a dog's life! Here's truly the taste-tempting, health-giving variety that will keep him in tip-top condition. Nothing's been changed but the added taste appeal. So, no matter whether your pet's preference be... **REGULAR, CHICKEN or LIVER**—he will still be getting precisely the same Dr. Ballard's balanced blend of proteins, minerals and vitamins, in every flavour. Ask your grocer for Dr. Ballard's 3 flavour pet foods today.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Here's the book pet lovers have been waiting for! One hundred and twelve gaily illustrated pages jam-packed with informative material on the care, housing, feeding and training of pets. Mailing instructions on every Dr. Ballard's product. SEND FOR YOUR COPY TODAY!

FOR YOUR PET... YOU'D BETTER GET SOME DR. BALLARD'S TODAY!

King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



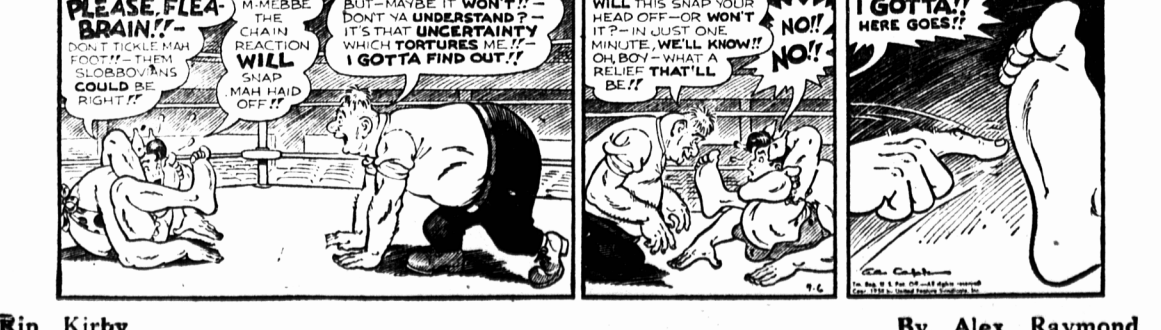
Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Lil Abner

By Al Capp



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond

